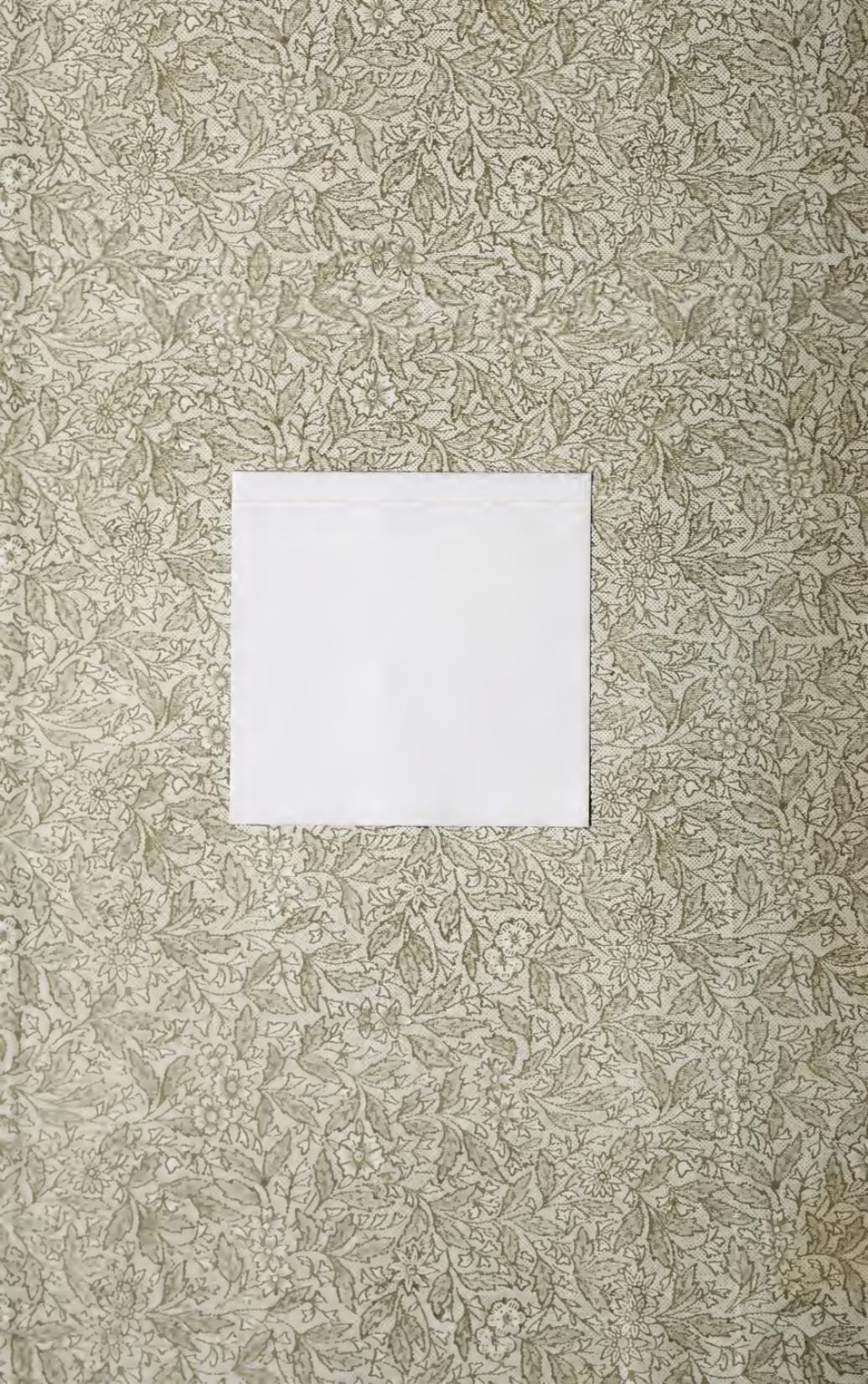


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Somersetshire
Archæological & Natural History
Society.

PROCEEDINGS
DURING THE YEAR, 1893.

VOL. XXXIX.



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CHEAP STREET, FROME.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Somersetshire
Archaeological & Natural History
Society
FOR THE YEAR 1893.



VOL. XXXIX.

Taunton
BARNICOTT AND PEARCE, FORE STREET
MDCCLXXXIX

The Council of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society desire that it should be distinctly understood that although the volume of PROCEEDINGS is published under their directions, they do not hold themselves in any way responsible for any statements or opinions expressed therein ; the authors of the several papers and communications being alone responsible.

P R E F A C E .

THE further progress now made in the still earlier issue of the Annual Proceedings, is due to the activity and capacity of the Society's printers, whose efforts to bring out the volume before the subject is forgotten, deserve distinct recognition.

Thanks are again due to the Rev. E. L. Penny, D.D., for his sketches of Cheap Street, Frome, and the Mells Vestry; to the Rev. F. W. Weaver for the block to illustrate his paper on St. Barbara; to the Rev. F. Hancock and Mr. Samson for the entire cost of the illustrations to the "Ancient Chapels in the Holnicote Valley"; to Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. C. B. Barrett for the sketches of Lullington tomb cover, and Witham Leper-window; to Mr. A. S. Bicknell for the illustration to the paper on the Will of Dame Elizabeth Biconyll; and to Professor Allen for photographs of Mells Church Porch and the Priest's Door at Orchardleigh.

Natural History, which forms so important a feature in the present issue, will be continued by further instalments of the Rev. R. P. Murray's *Flora of Somerset*.

F. T. E.

Nov. 17th, 1893.

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Map to show Botanical Districts, to illustrate *Flora of Somerset.*

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the year 1893.

THE forty-fifth annual meeting of this society was held at Frome at noon on the 15th August, in the Auction Mart, when there was a large attendance of members present. In the absence of the president (Mr. W. A. Sanford), Mr. J. F. HORNER took the chair, and introduced Lord Hylton as the president for the year.

Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY (Hon. Sec.) read the annual report of the Council, as follows :—

“In their forty-fifth annual report, the Council are happily able to repeat their congratulations upon the condition of our society, which now for many years past have led off the proceedings at its annual meetings.

“Numbers remain practically the same ; for although losses have occurred, they have been rather more than made up by the election of new members up to the present moment, and it is reasonable to expect that the meeting being held at so important a centre as Frome there will be a numerous accession. There are to-day 558 members.

“At the end of 1892 there was a balance in hand of £89 17s. 6d. on the General Fund, against £103 4s. 4d. in 1891. On the Castle Purchase Fund the debt had been reduced in

1891 to £164 19s. 4d.; and, as reported last year, a valuable legacy of £100 had subsequently come in from the executors of the late Mrs. Robberds. It is now the pleasing duty of your Council to announce that at the end of 1892 the debt outstanding was but £5 5s. 4d., and that the property is now not merely the society's own, free from liability, but in the future may be looked upon as a source of income. At the present time, however, one portion of the premises is unlet, while substantial repairs are necessary in another.

“The question of the proper restoration of the historical buildings of Taunton Castle may very properly be brought before the county at large, as one altogether beyond the power of the Society. In doing this the Council venture to point to the large and costly works of a similar character carried out at the public expense in Hampshire.

“Although the past year has brought no great increase to the museum and library, yet the fact that no less than 5,328 persons have visited them during the year, proves that their attractions continue to be appreciated by the public, and confirms the abundant evidence on other hands, that the general interest in the society's work is steadily increasing, and that its influence is yearly becoming more widely extended.

“Since the last meeting the society has had to deplore the loss of its oldest surviving secretary. Mr. C. J. Turner, who for so many years was a most punctual attendant at committee meetings, and by his quiet and regular supervision was one of its most valuable members. His interest in, and exertions concerning the purchase of the castle were only equalled by those of his colleague, the late Mr. O. W. Malet, and his constant anxiety was to see the society's property cleared from debt. It is an additional satisfaction to know that he lived to see the accomplishment of what he so earnestly desired, and to learn that the few last days of his life were cheered by the announcement made to him that the castle was finally paid for.

“The death of Bishop Clifford, only announced this morning, is a loss to the society such as can hardly be expressed in the words of a report. He may justly be regarded as one of its most learned, most genial, and most valuable members. Those who have been accustomed to attend the annual meetings will long cherish the remembrance of that when he presided, as well as his frequent and always welcome presence.

“The county history remains *in statu quo* for want of the coming editor. In the meantime new and valuable materials are accumulating by the publications of the Record Society, and the valuable papers in the society’s volumes of proceedings, as well as those of individuals. Among these latter are the important series of papers by Canon Church, printed in *Archæologia*, but which are now promised to be published in a separate form by subscription. By far the most important work preparatory to a county history still however, remains undone. Until Mr. Green’s Bibliography, of which a prospectus was issued with the society’s volume for 1891, is printed, no real beginning can be attempted towards the History of Somerset.

“The photographic survey, discussed at the last two annual meetings, has made no further progress. The Council have offered all the assistance in their power, in the way of taking charge of and preserving results; but it is manifestly beyond both their means and the scope of their duty to attempt the conduct or responsibility of such a work.

“It has been urged upon the Council that a good index to Collinson’s History is a great desideratum, and enquiries, with estimates of the cost, have been made. The society will be asked to consent to its being carried out.

“The very important discoveries at Glastonbury, described last year at the meeting at Wellington by Mr. Morland, have been still further developed by the unwearying labours of Mr. Arthur Bulleid, and present to archæologists a study of surpassing interest. The Council have to announce that Mr.

Bath, the owner of the land at Godney Moor, has generously conveyed the five acres containing the ancient British village to the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, but with the proviso that if, at any future time, that society should cease to exist, then the property is to belong absolutely to your county society, so that we occupy the position of remaindermen expectant. The thanks of the society are justly due to Mr. Bath."

The Rev. J. WORTHINGTON proposed the adoption of the report, and said that though they were nearly out of debt it will be absolutely necessary to spend a considerable sum of money upon the repairs of Taunton Castle. The question of more extensive restoration was only introduced into the report for careful consideration: he trusted that it would not be lost sight of, but in due course would be taken in hand by the supporters of this society in the county at large. Attention should be drawn to the large number of visitors to the museum and the library. Alluding to the death of Mr. C. J. Turner, he said it was probably known only to those who have been resident in the immediate neighbourhood of Taunton what real work our dear old friend did. He was not a man to make speeches at annual meetings; his age and his infirmity prevented him, but he was a man known, respected, and loved. Though a comparatively young member of the society, he was always deeply impressed by Bishop Clifford's ability as an antiquary and his geniality as a man.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES, in seconding, said they had been told that the county history remained *in statu quo*, and he hoped it would remain so for a year or two longer, as they were not yet ready for it. He hoped the meeting would sanction a proposal for a new index to "Collinson." He also alluded in feeling terms to the death of Bishop Clifford, whom he had known intimately.

The motion was carried.

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. BRAMBLE (Hon. Sec.) read the Treasurer's balance sheets as follows:—

Treasurer's Account.

The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1892.

DR.	£ s. d.
1891, Dec. 31st.	
By Balance of former Account ...	103 4 4
„ Members' Entrance Fees ...	16 16 0
„ Members' Subscriptions in Arrear ...	6 16 6
„ Members' Subscriptions for the Year 1892... ..	259 16 6
„ Member's Subscriptions in Advance	4 3 6
„ Excursion Tickets	8 5 0
„ Museum Admission Fees	27 10 4
„ Sale of Publications	7 13 3
	£434 5 5

CR.	£ s. d.
1892.	
To Expenses attending Annual Meeting	35 13 0
„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	20 12 2
„ Purchase of Books, Specimens, &c.	7 5 11
„ Cases, Fittings, Repairs, &c.	15 6 9
„ Coal and Gas	24 0 7
„ Printing and Binding vol. xxxvii	59 15 0
„ Illustrations	31 15 9
„ Postage and Carriage of Volumes	19 14 8
„ Curator's Salary, one year to Christmas, 1892... ..	85 0 0
„ Errand Boy, ditto	9 0 6
„ Subscriptions to Publications of Societies	7 12 0
„ Insurance	4 10 6
„ Rates and Taxes	11 3 9
„ Postages, Carriage, &c.	7 13 8
„ Sundries	1 12 8
Balance	89 17 6
	£434 5 5

1892, Dec. 31st.
Balance 89 17 6

H. J. BADCOCK,
Treasurer.

August 4th, 1893. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Bank Book, and found correct. } W. M. KELLY,
J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurer's Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1892.

RECEIPTS.	£. s. d.
1892.	
By Donation from Mr. Thos. Goodland	0 10 6
„ Legacy from the late Mrs. Roberts, of Cheltenham	100 0 0
„ Rents of Premises	48 1 0
„ Rents of Castle Hall	57 18 0
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, held at Taunton, Dec., 1892	5 17 9
„ Balance	5 5 4
	£217 12 7

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
1891, Dec. 31st.	
To Balance	164 19 4
„ Repairs to Buildings, &c.	22 15 4
„ Advertising	2 3 6
„ Enrolment of Deed of Conveyance of Garden given by Col. Pinney	4 10 0
„ Rates and Taxes	8 6 8
„ Castle Hall Expenses	3 0 2
„ Gas	4 4 2
„ Insurance	3 16 6
„ Interest on Loan	3 16 11
	£217 12 7

1892, Dec. 31st.
Balance 5 5 4

H. J. BADCOCK,
Treasurer.

August 4th, 1893. Examined and compared with the Vouchers and Bank Book, and found correct. } W. M. KELLY,
J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH moved the adoption of the balance sheets, and in doing so said they were two of the most intelligible he had ever seen, and both were eminently satisfactory. The last issue of their *Proceedings* was the thickest as well as one of the most interesting volumes that had been issued; they also had them at a reasonable time after the last annual meeting. If the increased size of the volume accounted for the decreased balance in hand, this latter defect was excusable. They were possessed of real good property in Taunton Castle, and as long as it was properly maintained he believed the society would flourish too. The Glastonbury matter was a piece of very great liberality on the part of Mr. Bath, for the land that he had given up was valuable, and would easily let at £3 per acre even in these bad times. He was sure the thanks of the society were due to Mr. Bath for his kindness.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS was delighted to hear that part respecting the Castle at Taunton. When they considered the historical interest connected with the castle for more than a thousand years, they were to be congratulated on becoming free owners of the property. He trusted the public would help them in carrying out the improvements and restorations which are necessary. He said he hoped when these were carried out that the hall—which was the scene of the “Bloody Assize”—would be left as much as possible in its present condition.

The financial statements were adopted.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER proposed: “That it is desirable that the society should undertake the preparation and printing of a proper and sufficient index to Collinson’s *History of Somerset*, and that the Council be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for that purpose at an expenditure of not exceeding £75.” He said most of them were aware of the necessity for a new index. There were no less than four indices which had to be waded through before one could find the place wanted, and even the four indices were not satis-

factory or sufficiently full. They were not asking in the resolution for a new county history ; he agreed that the time had not come yet for a new history of the county, but he felt this would be a step forward. The Somerset Record Society was putting forth year by year valuable volumes which would go a long way towards the history when they were ready to undertake the work. What was wanted at present was a good index of what they had already. The society was not asked to spend much, because the work would be nearly certain to repay the cost. All the society is asked to do is to find a sum of money—about £75, perhaps not so much—to bring out the work, and then they could sell it to members and others, so as to recoup themselves for the outlay.

Lieut.-Colonel BRAMBLE said the present indices to Collinson were abominable. He looked upon a good index-maker as a benefactor to his country. Though Collinson had a number of mistakes in it, it was the basis of almost all the histories of Somerset they had at present. The society proposed that there should be a proper and sufficient index to the work, and to that end they proposed to employ a proper professional index-maker to do the work thoroughly. Then the new index would be a step towards the new history, which he sincerely trusted would not be a new edition of Collinson. There were something like a thousand copies of Collinson, and if one in eight of the owners of copies will take the new index they would find that the society would be repaid the outlay, and yet have a considerable number of copies on hand, which might be sold.

The motion was adopted.

The British Record Society.

Mr. E. A. FRY, of the British Record Society, spoke of the advisability of the Somerset Archæological Society helping his society to calendar the wills at Wells, and perhaps at Taunton Probate Court. He began by giving a brief account

of the British Record Society and its work, which was started five or six years ago to print indices of calendars and records. They had already published eight volumes of different sorts of calendars. He stated that there were nearly seventy thousand wills in the Probate Court at Wells, and asked that this society should render assistance by giving a grant of £20 per annum for five or six years, or until the work was completed. He did not propose the work should be begun this year or next, perhaps. In connection with the intended county history these wills would be most useful. If the work was undertaken, six or eight sheets per annum would be ready for delivery to the society. They could either wait till the whole was completed or the sections could be sent out as printed.

Mr. ELWORTHY said members would like to know what they were to expect for the £20 a year. A catalogue of the wills would be most useful for the future, but they must know exactly how much they were to get for their money. Did he understand that each member would receive a copy of the catalogue? and would they be so printed as to be bound with the Society's *Proceedings*?

Mr. WEAVER thought it would be a very valuable thing to undertake. The Oxford Historical Society did what Mr. Fry had suggested, and their issues were in the form of the Oxford Society's publications. He hoped the Somerset Society would accede to the request.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH said no money was wanted for two or three years, and he moved that the application be referred to the Council for consideration.

Mr. FRY said the publications could come out in the form of sheets, and it would be very easy to arrange them exactly the size of the Somerset Society's *Proceedings*.

Lord HYLTON said the matter was on the minutes as a statement by Mr. Fry, and not an application. Under the circumstances he did not think it necessary to go to a vote.

Colonel BRAMBLE thought they should do something more than hear the statement. He moved that Mr. Fry's application be referred to the Council, and this course of action was decided on.

On the proposition of Mr. BROOKING ROWE, seconded by Mr. ALFRED RUDD, the officers of the society were re-elected, with the addition of the name of the honorary local secretary, Mr. G. A. Daniel (Nunney).

Mr. HUGH NORRIS proposed, Mr. J. F. HORNER seconded, and it was agreed, that the election of president and the place of meeting for the year 1894 be left to the Council.

A list of twenty-eight candidates was submitted, all of whom were elected members of the society.

Publications by the Somerset Record Society.

The Rev. T. S. HOLMES made a statement regarding the work of the Somerset Record Society. The Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1329-1363, through the kindness of the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the registrar, Mr. Harris, was to be entrusted to that society for publication in 1895. It covered a period full of historic interest, including the visitation of the Black Death and the wars of Edward III, but its size, four-hundred and eighty-two closely-written folios, placed the cost of transcription beyond the powers of the society's annual income. The Council, therefore, was compelled to appeal to the county of Somerset, and others outside the county, for further help to enable it to defray the increased expenditure of transcription, and unless some considerable response is made to their appeal they would be obliged to give up this great opportunity. He hoped to obtain a promise of £30 at once in order to complete the £50 necessary.

Lord HYLTON promised £5 towards the register spoken of by Mr. Holmes, and he hoped others would do likewise.

The President's Address.

Lord HYLTON then delivered the following address :—

The great honour has been conferred on me to address you on this the third occasion of your visit to Frome. I will not, however, venture to dilate on the early history of this locality, or to describe the doings or misdoings of the ancient Britons, their invaders the Romans, the subsequent power of the Saxons, or the inroads of the Danes. All this has been related to you, and is no doubt familiar history to the Somerset archæologist. It is enough to remind you that within short distances of this spot are to be found several most interesting British, Roman, Saxon and Danish remains, most of which have been sought out and pronounced upon by some of your learned members. Some ancient works may, however, have escaped their notice, and it is possible that during our proposed excursions we may be enabled to discover some unnoticed antiquity or perhaps some forgotten ruin. I trust, however, that we shall not attribute to by-gone ages the spoil bank of some deserted coal-pit, or the refuse of an old stone quarry.

Your society, however, does not confine its labours to the search for the handiwork of our ancestors : it embraces besides Geology and Natural History. No county in Great Britain has a more varied and more interesting series of visible formations. Within a walk from Frome can be seen the trap-rock, which has apparently forced its way to the surface through the old red sandstone, the Mendip limestone, and the coal measures. These are exposed over miles of this district—strangely contorted near Mendip. Then we have wide areas covered by the new red sandstone, lias, and oolite. All these soils are fertile, and though each variety may require some special treatment, I do not hesitate to affirm that they are admirably adapted for agriculture. The coal pits on the north side of the Mendips are now worked at great depths by means of our mighty friend the steam-engine, but coal works

were in activity long before the invention of steam power, and the modes by which coal was won in former days are, I think, worthy of the attention of archæologists. But, besides the coal, our county provides some of the best building stone in Great Britain. Bath stone is famous, but Doulting is better; certain beds of the forest marble are excellent. Mells-park consists half of pure marble, and half of the beautiful conglomerate which, when polished, is of the highest possible value for decoration. So much for the practical utility of our geological formations: their deposition, and their subsequent disturbance have been for years, and may be for ages, the wonder and admiration of human beings.

And now a word for the study of natural history in Somerset. No county provides a better field for this. The botany is most varied, and the birds and beasts are curiously interesting. Here I must make a confession. Having spent many happy hours in watching the habits of our permanent residents amongst birds, and in noting the arrivals and departures of our summer and winter visitors, the conclusion I have come to is—we know nothing. What I do know is that the gamekeeper is the worst enemy of our beautiful wild animals.

Having touched upon the subject of the study of geology and of natural history, studies which deal with matters beyond the reach of human beings, because all the knowledge we can hope to gain must be by guessing and surmising, let us take some notice of the strictly human work of architecture. And here we meet with a strange difficulty. How is it that the buildings of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are infinitely better, stronger, and more shapely than those of any succeeding ages? So also the handwriting and the decoration of the beautiful manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are better in every respect than those of later date.

It is true that in the fifteenth century the manufacture of coloured glass (as far as colour went) was very fine, but

where were the artists who designed the windows and traceries of Henry III.'s time? The grandeur and simplicity of the Early English architects seem to have been forgotten in the days of the three Edwards, and the succeeding generations of builders merely went from bad to worse. Perhaps it is better that we should exist without any school of architecture, and that public and private money should be spent in defiance of all the rules and fashions by which we can now distinguish the age of our ancient buildings. Here in Somerset we may, however, still enjoy the beauties of the best of Gothic architecture. I hope the weather will prove favourable for your excursions.

The PRESIDENT also announced that he had received a letter from the Hon. and Rev. A. F. Hanbury-Tracy, regretting his inability to be present to conduct the society through the parish church of Frome, but that he had asked the Rev. F. Vining and Mr. Singer to take his place.

A vote of thanks to Lord Hylton for his address was carried with acclamation, on the motion of Canon CHURCH, seconded by the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD.

His Lordship said thanks were not due to him, but to the local committee.

Green's "Bibliotheca Somersetensis."

Mr. ELWORTHY very urgently appealed for subscribers to the above exhaustive work. It was of vast importance as the true foundation of a real county history, and they would be delighted to see it in print. It was a complete catalogue of the books and literature relating to, or connected with the county of Somerset, which had been prepared, regardless of labour or cost, by Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A. If the manuscript by any means were destroyed, it could never be replaced. Two hundred subscribers were needed to enable the work to be produced.

At the conclusion of the meeting, an adjournment for luncheon was made to the George Hotel.

Soon after half-past two the company visited the

Parish Church

dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

Mr. EDMUND BUCKLE observed that changes had been made in the church in almost every century from its foundation by St. Aldhelm to the present time. He said that though he did not wish to find any fault with what was done in connection with the restoration during the present century, the result was that the archæological interest of the building was to a large extent swept away, and that the great bulk of the church was modern, though it reproduced in form and general lines, and even in matters of detail, what had been in existence before. The Saxon building, constructed by St. Aldhelm at the end of the seventh century, was still standing in the twelfth, when William of Malmesbury wrote. From the wording of his references to this building and to the Saxon church at Bradford-on-Avon (still existing), they might assume that the Frome church was much the larger, for this church is called *ecclesia*, while the Bradford church is in the same paragraph described as *ecclesiola*. In Mr. Bennett's book about the Frome church it was stated that the structure was almost wholly rebuilt in the time of Stephen. Mr. Buckle expressed his doubts as to the accuracy of this statement. He pointed out that the Norman work still remaining consisted of a portion of the Lady chapel (including the doorway leading into what is now known as the chapel of St. Nicholas, and the window at the side of the door) and a part of the north aisle adjoining the Lady chapel, together with the north and south doorways of the church, which were also Norman in design; but the fact that these now stood where they did was no proof that they had always been in those positions. Mr. Buckle made a suggestion that a considerable

portion of the Saxon church of Aldhelm lasted right through the Norman period. If the church had been rebuilt at this period it was almost certain that it would have had a central tower, but before the end of the twelfth century the fashion had changed, and the south side of the nave had got to be the usual position for the tower. This was the position of the Frome tower, the lower part of which was in the Early English style, and it was a fair presumption that the Saxon church had remained until the time when this tower was founded. This much was certain: though the church had grown in almost every direction since the thirteenth century, its plan had not since then been fundamentally altered; the lower part of the tower, the chancel arch, the eastern half of the nave arcade, and probably the corresponding portions of the aisles, were all of that date.

The western part of the nave and aisles dated from the 14th century, but whether this was a re-building or an extension of the former church was a matter of considerable doubt. According to local tradition, the bench tables round these western piers enclosed the Saxon or Norman foundations of the previous piers; but this appeared to be an arbitrary assumption. Of the same date were the arches opening into the lady chapel from the north aisle, and probably the extension northwards of this chapel. These arches were of interest, on account of their arrangement; there was a large arch for the entrance of the people, and to the east of that a small one, clearly intended as a sort of priest's doorway. A similar piece of planning might be observed in the contemporary work at Mells. It was probable that the chapel on the south side of the chancel was also built in this century, as it contained a distinctly Decorated piscina.

Among the later work must be included the upper part of the tower, and the spire, the nave, clerestory, and roof, the window of the chapel on the north side of the chancel, the roof of the lady chapel, and the whole of the chapel which now contained the font.

The heraldry in these chapels was of great interest, on account of its marshalling being entirely different from modern use. On the corbels supporting the Lady chapel roof (of the 16th century), besides the coats of *Stourton* and (?) *Hungerford* or *Grey*, were these two :—

(1). [*Gu.*] *a leopard's face jessant a fleur-de-lys [or]*—ascribed to *Branch*. [The tinctures are supplied from the glass to be subsequently described.]

(2). *Branch* as above impaling *Liversedge* :—[*Sa.*] *a chevron between three dolphins embowed [arg.]*

On the floor there were several *Liversedge* monuments of later date, showing that the family then used the *Branch* coat only. And according to the pedigree in the 1623 *Visitation (Colby)* the *Branch* heiress in the 14th century married a *Winslade*, and their granddaughter and heiress married *Edmond Liversedge* of *Vallis*, so that an impaled coat of *Branch* and *Liversedge* would according to modern ideas be quite meaningless. But a clue to its meaning might be found in the glass (also of the 16th century) now remaining in the baptistery window.

Here we had—

(1). *Liversedge, a chief of Branch.*

(2). *Cabell* :—*Sa.*, *a horse upright arg. bridled or impaling Liversedge, a chief of Branch.*

(3). *Cabell* impaling (? apparently a badge, possibly intended for *Branch*).

(4). *Cabell* impaling a *Cabell* rebus; viz. *Arg.*, *a text K and a bell united by a cable or.*

Here the coat No. (1) was clearly compounded of those of *Branch* and *Liversedge*, and was equivalent to the impaled coat in the Lady chapel; while the coat No. (4) showed that coats were impaled with other significations besides that of matrimony.

Another interesting question related to the dedications of the various chapels. There seemed no reason to doubt that

the Lady chapel was correctly assigned, and the Leversedge monuments and escutcheons were naturally enough found in this position, since the advowson of the chantry lay with them. The chantry of St. John Baptist at the altar of St. Andrew, endowed in 1377 (*Collinson*) and afterwards in Leversedge patronage (*Somerset Incumbents*), was perhaps situate on the south side of the chancel where there was a Decorated piscina. The corresponding chapel on the north side of the chancel might have contained the chantry of St. Nicholas, founded in 1419, by Twynho (*Somerset Incumbents*). Certainly this service could not have been held in the building now used as a baptistery, for this was not erected until a hundred years later. It was true that a Cabell chantry was founded in 1517, at the altar of St. Nicholas, and that there was now Cabell glass in the baptistery, but the glass might have been moved, or have been put there for some other reason.

The most interesting monuments in the church were the *Memento mori* in the Lady chapel; the Champneys brass of date 1506 on the tower wall; a copper plate in the north aisle to a Mr. Avery, who was recorded in the churchwardens' books to have received a shilling for writing a certificate to send to the Parliament to certify them that the painted glass in the church windows had been taken down; and the tomb (against the outside of the east wall of the chancel) of Bishop Ken, who died at Longleat in 1711, and desired to be buried as close as possible to the altar of that church, in his old diocese, which happened to be nearest to the place where he died.

The modern adornments of the church might be supposed to have no bearing upon archæology, but in this case they had been carried out in such a medieval spirit that they certainly did in some degree help us to appreciate what was the richness of the interior of our ancient churches. In particular, the Rood screen was, in its general lines and ideas, a reproduction of what formerly stood in that position, not only in that church, but in every parish church throughout the kingdom. Some

persons objected to this rood screen, on the ground that it hid the chancel from view, and cut across the chancel arch in an awkward manner. Whether or not this was sound criticism, the interesting feature, from the archæological standpoint, was the undoubted historical fact that in this case (as in many others) the rood screen was always intended to cut across the chancel arch, and hide the chancel in just this manner. This was proved by the existence of an Early English doorway and piscina—a most unusual feature—on the south side of the chancel arch, which determined with certainty the level of the Rood screen floor. The position of the door, however, shewed that the gallery over the screen originally extended further west than in the modern example. Besides the Rood screen another modern example of medieval feeling might be found in the *Via dolorosa* in the churchyard, a feature perhaps more continental than English.

Mr. WEAVER made a few remarks, in the course of which he expressed similar ideas regarding the Norman work, and the names of the chapels, to those advanced by Mr. Buckle. A reason he adduced in support of the contention regarding the names of the chapels, was, that as the high altar was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, it would be unlikely that an adjoining chapel would be dedicated to him also.

Mr. ELWORTHY said, Frome church was one of the oldest of the well-known Saxon foundations. It was mentioned in Domesday, an almost unique thing for a parish church, and in connection with the land belonging to it, contained one of the only two entries relating to Somerset, according to Eyton, in which carrucate was used to express its area.

Meetings for Discussion on Papers.

In the afternoon, the Auction Mart was well filled, the chair being taken by Canon CHURCH.

St. Barbara.

The first paper, read by the Rev. F. W. WEAVER, was entitled, "A painting of St. Barbara, in the church of Cucklington." (Printed in Part II.)

In the discussion which followed, Mr. ELWORTHY referred to the well-known adjective, tawdry, which arose from the laces and frippery furbelows sold at the great fair of Saint Etheldrida or Saint Audry, at Ely. Also he referred to the famous well under the centre of Winchester Cathedral, in which more than one Saxon king was baptised, and to that in the Mamertine prison in Rome, where St. Peter baptised his gaoler.

Canon CHURCH said there was one very important omission which he could not let pass without notice. The great spring at Wells, which came from the well of St. Andrew, and which, with its three or four converging streams, ultimately supplies the moat which runs around the palace. To him, that was one of the most important springs in England.

The Excavations near Glastonbury.

The Rev. GILBERT SMITH said, in reference to the recently discovered village near Glastonbury, that the excavations were going on with interesting results, and a short report would be issued at the end of the season. Mr. Bulleid had undertaken very extensive diggings, in addition to those that were mentioned in the paper read at their meeting last year, and there had been many finds, amongst which were four querns, or handmills, two of them discovered quite recently. It appeared that there were no traces of any weapons at all. The articles principally found were implements of various kinds for weaving and spinning, and nearly a complete loom had been found ; of course, in a very rotten state. There had also been found a large number of combs for combing wool. The ornaments found were curious, consisting of jet rings,

amber rings, and a considerable number of brooches made of bronze and in different forms. Bones of many animals had been found, such as those of a cow, sheep, horse and pig ; but nearly all had been cut or used in some way ; and the ingenuity with which different implements had been formed out of these bones was great. No coins had been found. A pathway at the village of Godney had been discovered, but at present no discovery had been made which would establish the age of the village. He pleaded for funds to enable the work of excavation to be continued.

Churchwardens' Accounts.

The Rev. D. L. HAYWARD read a paper entitled "Old Churchwardens' Accounts in the parish of Somerton." (Printed in Part II.)

Old Will.

Mr. A. J. MONDAY read a paper entitled "The last Will and Testament of Dame Elizabeth Biconyll, widow of Sir John Biconyll (or Bicknell), Knight." (Printed in Part II.)

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER stated, on the authority of Leland, that Sir John Biconyll was buried within the precincts of Glastonbury Abbey.

The party dined at the George Hotel ; afterwards

The Evening Meeting

was held in the Auction Room.

Prebendal Psalms.

Canon CHURCH, who presided, read a paper on "The order of the daily recitation of the Psalter in the ancient statutes." (Printed in Part II.)

Chapels in Holnicote Valley.

This was the title of a paper read by the Rev. F. HANCOCK, rector of Selworthy. (Printed in Part II.)

The Rev. F. W. HOLMES read a paper, prepared by Bishop Hobhouse, which had for its title

“*In Gordano.*”

(Printed in Part II.)

Mr. HUGH NORRIS read a paper entitled “Some observations on the place-name

‘*Frome.*’”

(Printed in Part II.)

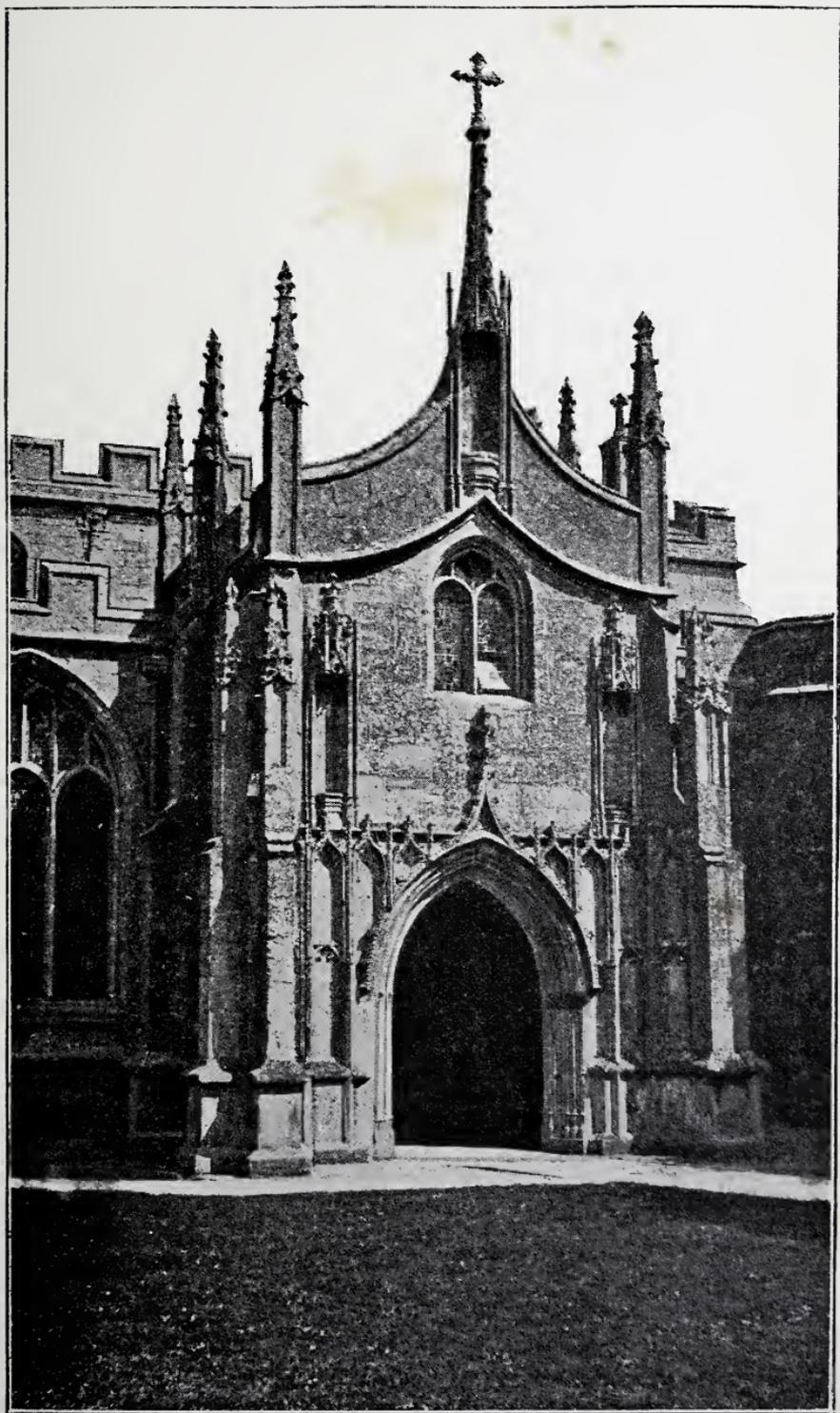
Professor F. J. ALLEN said he thought Frome an Anglo-Saxon pronunciation of a Celtic word “Hrom” (*i.e.*, “Rhom”), cognate with the Latin “Roma” and Greek “Hreuma;” also with words like Rhine and several others, all of which meant “a stream.”

Wednesday.

Shortly after 9.30 about one hundred members and friends were seated in eight well-horsed breaks, which were joined *en route* by private carriages, and drove to

Gells Church.

Mr. J. F. F. HORNER (in the absence of Mr. E. Buckle) kindly described the principal features in this admirably restored edifice. In some respects, he said, his task was a simple one, because the church embraced only one style of architecture, to which, he thought, their President, on the previous day, did not quite do sufficient justice, for here in Somersetshire they could look with pride upon the Perpendicular style. Though he did not think that church was equal to many others in the county, it might be taken as a good illustration of what Perpendicular architecture could, and could not, do. They knew to a certain extent when the church was built, because Leland spoke of it in the sixteenth century as built “in time of mind.” The church did not display



CHURCH PORCH, MELLS.



the exaggerations which the Perpendicular style subsequently introduced. The arcades were good and solid for Perpendicular, and were well able to support the weight they had to bear, instead of tapering away almost to nothing to show upon how little a builder could support his roof. It was said that the font was a Norman one, but it looked as if its base had been cut and altered at a later date. The east window was just as it was before the restoration, but had been raised. They would notice that the style of the windows in the chancel was different from that of the other windows. He used to be told that they belonged to an earlier date than the others; but the latest idea was that they were possibly put in during the time of the Laudian revival, when Wadham College, Oxford, was built in a style worthy of himself by William of Wykeham. The side screens were, he believed, nearly a facsimile of those which were partially *in situ* about fifty years ago. The chancel screen was modern. There had been a rood-loft similar to the one in the parish church at Frome. The staircase leading to it was once used as a chimney, and it was not now in the best condition. The chapel at the end of the North aisle was of a rather later date than the church. The wainscoting round the church consisted of the old Jacobean seats which did service until 1876. All the patterns at the ends of the pews were different. They were carved about forty years ago, and kept in waiting until the restoration. The roof was new. He could remember when there was a ceiling in the chancel, but not in the other part of the church, although he had been told that formerly there was one there too. When the ceilings were taken down there were no carvings to be seen. The roof of the nave was considered good—better than that of the chancel, which was cut in two by lateral bands. His brother completed the restoration commenced by his father. He ought to apologise for the painted windows, but they were made in Mells. Not many places could say that their painted windows were made in the parishes where they existed. The firm that

made the Mells windows was now in Frome. Some of the glass in the canopies was old ; but the more part was new.

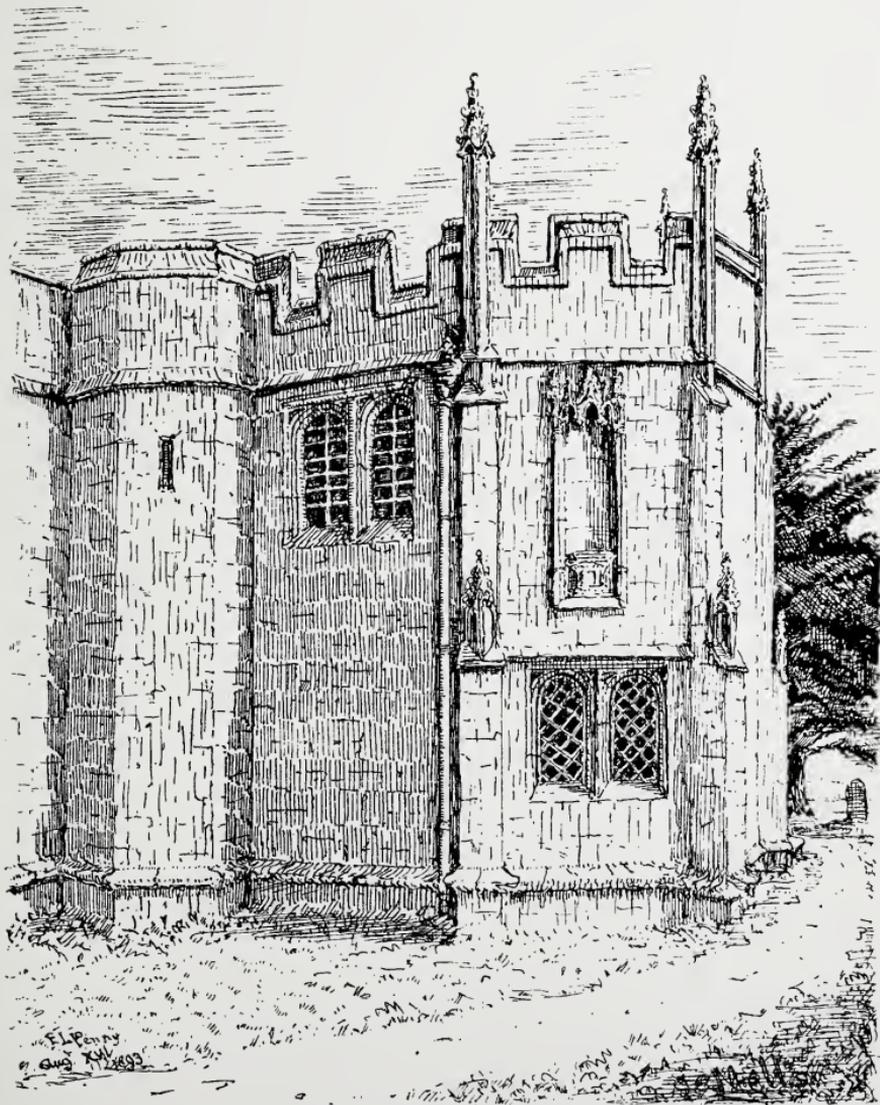
Mr. ELWORTHY elicited the fact that the church was dedicated to St. Andrew, and that the Lye Chapel referred to in historical works was at Leigh-on-Mendip. The living in fact was Mells-cum-Leigh. Leigh Church was dedicated to St. Giles.

The Rev. E. D. LEAR, rector of Mells, called attention to the parvise and chapel vestry. He had been informed that when the church was built the architect was told to beat it if he could ; and then he built Leigh Church. In the north-east corner they would notice that a small piece of the battlement was carved work ; and at Leigh Church it was all carved, except one small space corresponding to the portion at Mells. It was supposed that the mother robbed the daughter. Mr. Lear also raised the question as to the chancel arch having been cut off by the rood-loft. The stone cross that was let into the wall in the south-east corner was supposed to have been blessed abroad, and then brought to Mells. There were some old relics in the vestry.

The cross referred to was afterwards pointed out ; also the carved armorial bearings of an ancient family named Sharland, cloth-workers, who lived in the village, but were known as London merchants. It appeared to consist of three tents.*

Mr. BUCKLE, who unfortunately was prevented from arriving in time to give a description of Mells Church, like those which he gave so admirably at the other churches afterwards visited by the Society, pointed out to some of the party, who lingered in the church after the rest had left, that, in his opinion which was based on a previous examination of the mouldings, both the nave arcades and also that which separates the chancel from the South aisle were not "Perpendicular" at all, but "Decorated," and were the remaining parts of a

* A tent between two Parliament robes, on a chief an Agnus Dei en soleil ; probably some *Taylor's Company*.



THE VESTRY, MELLS.



previous church at least 100 years older than the rest of the building as it now stands, and that, therefore, it might well be that the chancel windows are really earlier than the others, and need not be attributed to an imaginary alteration in the 17th century. This view is supported by certain fragments of decorated work which were found built into the East wall during the recent restoration.

The next move was to the

Manor House,

close by, which was described by Mr. HORNER, who said that only one-third of the former building now remained. He believed it formerly occupied three sides of a square, and that the entrance was where the present avenue exists. The courtyard was in the same position as formerly. The two-thirds of the building that had disappeared were pulled down a little over one hundred years ago by his great-grandfather. The remainder then became a farm-house. It was afterwards converted into a school, and it had its small chapel, where about twenty boys were trained for holy orders or mission work abroad. It next became a dwelling-house for members of his own family or let to tenants. If they could explain where the demolished wings joined the present building it would be most interesting.

The Rev. E. D. LEAR invited the party to enter the building, and its many points of interest were carefully examined, including the wide fireplace down which the moon sometimes shines, the chapel, a Stuart picture, and the Latin inscriptions in old English characters over the fireplace, doorways, etc. It was stated that Charles I. held his court in the house, and obtained £100 and a supply of boots from Wells. Mr. Lear said he believed that the house was built in the form of an H in the time of one of the Henries, and that the chapel was added when the house was altered.

Returning to the vehicles, the party passed Upper Vobster, Babington Park, and Ammerdown Park, to

Kilmersdon,

where the church was visited, the party being received by Lord Hylton and the Rev. H. G. J. Veitch.

Mr. E. BUCKLE, speaking in the churchyard, on the south side of the church, pointed out the large remains of Norman work visible from that position. The Norman corbel table, consisting of a fish-scale moulding alternating with boldly-carved corbels, ran with some breaks along the whole of the nave wall and round the chancel, thus apparently defining the plan of the old Norman building; and in the nave wall might be seen a narrow slit, with a lintel over, carefully marked off by sham joints into a semi-circular arch head, an example of sham construction of the Norman period. In the Perpendicular period the walls had been raised, so that the old corbel course was left about half way up the present wall, and the windows were inserted in two ranges, some below and others above the corbel course; the upper ones answering to the clerestory windows on the opposite side, where a Perpendicular aisle had been added, and all the Norman work destroyed. The tower was one of those with a group of inter-penetrating buttresses at each angle; it was slighter in proportion than Mells (another tower of the same class), and had one feature peculiar to the towers of North Somerset, viz., the short string-course under the window-sills, with stopped and carved ends.

Inside the church he drew attention to the Norman fragments in the chancel and the south doorway; and showed that all the rest of the interior was of late Perpendicular date. The roof cornice was similar to those at Mells and Hemington and in the lady chapel at Frome; a fan vault seemed to have been intended under the tower; the aisle was very late, and retained on its roof part of the old painting, perfect or

nearly so; some of the benches were curiously rough carpenter's work, but of very massive oak.

A question was raised as to the history of the stone screen at the east end of the aisle, and the Vicar replied that this screen was traditionally supposed to have been brought from St. Andrew's, Holborn. Certainly it is a misfit in its present position.

Symonds relates in his Diary that the east window was in his time very old, and contained the two following coats:—

(1) *Arg., a chevron between three eagles displayed sa.*

(2) *Arg., a griffin segreant gu. armed az. [Botreaux].*

The next move was to

Ammerdown,

the seat of Lord Hylton (President); the drive through the picturesque and well-wooded park, from the lodge near the railway, being a charming variation in the day's proceedings. The party of about one hundred-and-twenty were heartily welcomed by Lord and Lady Hylton, to a bountiful and most acceptable luncheon. Ample provision was made for all, and nothing was wanting to the comfort of the visitors. The paintings, ancient indentures relating to the estate, the terraces, gardens, conservatories, and a fine fountain situated in a shady grove near the mansion, were all visited and examined. Before leaving, the DEAN OF WELLS, in felicitous terms, proposed a very cordial vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Hylton. He said they had hitherto known Lord Hylton as a man of war, and they had been deeply interested in seeing the saddle upon which he rode as one of England's heroes, in the famous charge of the Light Brigade at the battle of Balaclava, but now they knew him as a man of peace. They were greatly indebted to him for having come down from his home in Surrey to entertain them so hospitably in Somerset.

The next halt was at

Hemington Church.

Mr. BUCKLE said this was a charming example of a country church, set in beautiful surroundings. Its special interest was to be found in its Early English aisle. He drew their attention to what was a typical example of a Norman chancel arch. It was very small and very low. The position of the rood loft door showed that only sufficient room was allowed beneath the rood loft for a person to walk under it. In old times it would not have been possible to see from the nave into the chancel at all. It was remarkable how completely the chancel was screened off from the nave in former times. This arch was the only part of the Norman work left, as the church was rebuilt in the 13th century. The aisle and arcade on the north side was exceedingly rich. The shafts of the windows were something like Purbeck marble, but he thought it was a local marble, as the "forest marble" had been known to exist near that spot. The trefoil arches of the windows were pretty. The arcade of the chancel had four marble shafts. There was a piscina set in the respond, and from its position it might possibly have been intended to serve both altars. The church was subsequently raised, the later portion being in the Perpendicular style, and a flat roof was placed over it, instead of the old pointed roof rising from comparatively low walls. The corbels were carved to represent angels, as at Kilmersdon and Frome. The next most important feature of the church was its tower, which, in some respects, was very unlike Somersetshire towers generally. Though it was a beautiful one, both in design and colour, he felt bound to say that the arrangement of the windows was unsatisfactory, and weak in appearance, owing to there being two large openings in the middle storey of the tower, and only one on each side of the bell chamber over. In the floor of the aisles there were some nice lias tombstones, with deeply-cut heraldic designs upon them.

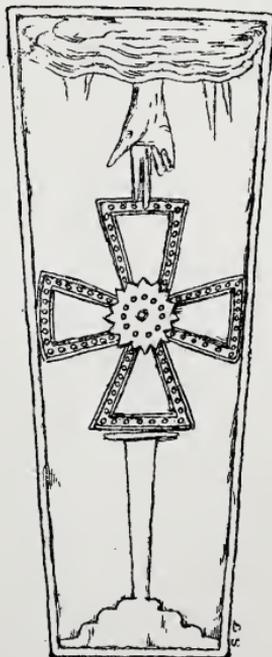
Another longish drive brought the party to

Lullington Church.

This church has been well described by the Rev. D. M. Clark, in the volume for 1851. A second visit to it was paid by this Society in 1875, when remarks upon it were made by the late Prof. Freeman and Mr. J. H. Parker, which will be found in the *Proceedings* for that year.

The date of the chantry chapel was 1280, and that of the chancel 1320. Returning to the font, Mr. BUCKLE described it as a magnificent relic of the same period. It has a plain base, above which it is encircled with an arcade of semi-circular arches interlacing. Round the upper part is a line of ornament with masks, which are considerably defaced. On the top edge is another inscription, of which, however, only portions can now be deciphered, and which, the speaker said, no one can make out.

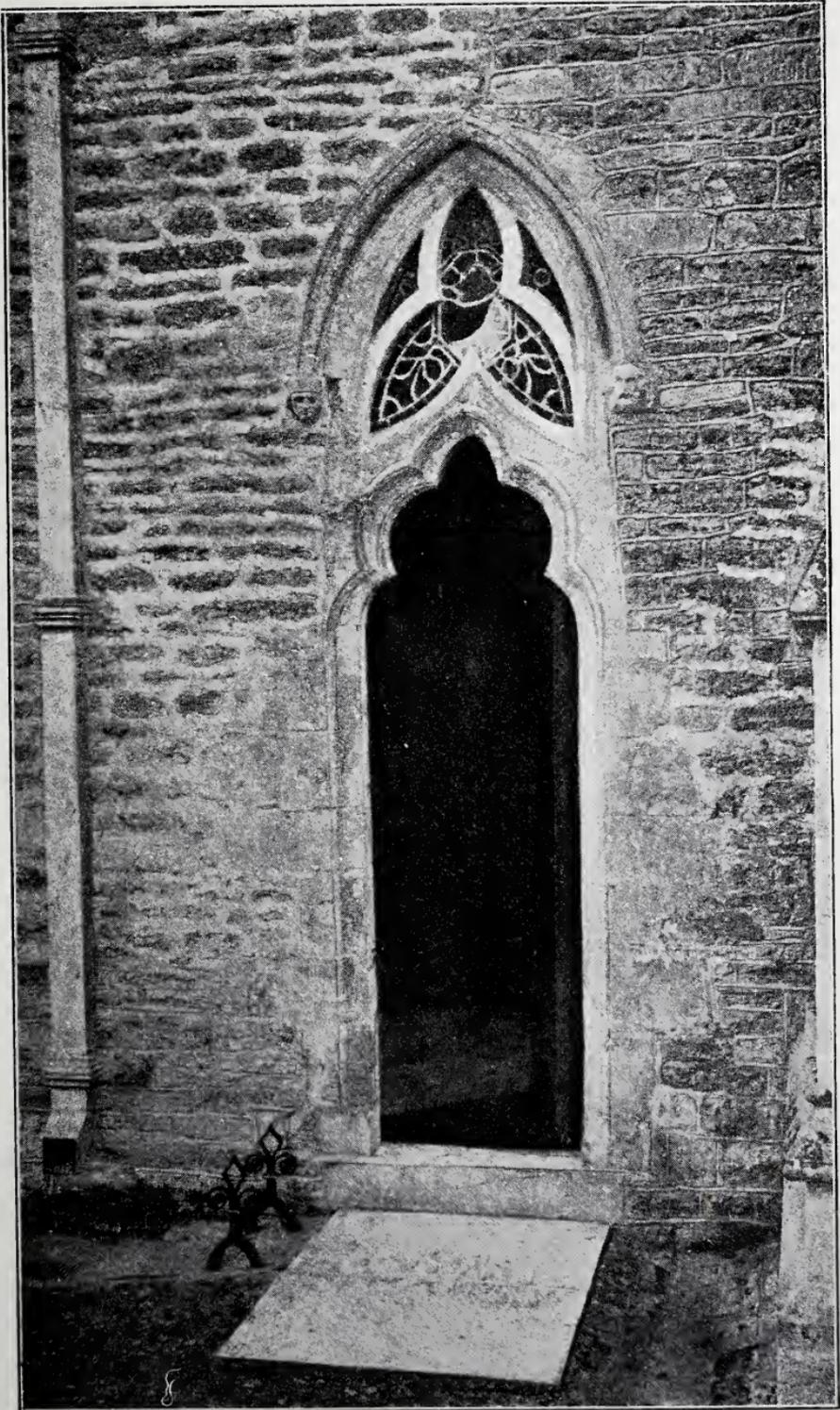
Against the wall in the vestry is a large stone, apparently the cover of a tomb: on this is carved an unusual type of cross, above which is a hand in the attitude of benediction, reaching down from a cloud—a very frequently used emblem of the Almighty Father, especially in the early middle ages.



Again entering the vehicles, another lovely drive through the park brought the party to Orchardleigh House, where they were cordially received by Mr. and Mrs. Duckworth. Tea was spread on the lawn near the terraces, under the welcome shade of some wide-spreading trees. After a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Duckworth, proposed by the Dean of Wells, a delightful walk through gardens and park led to

Orchardleigh Church.

The Rev. J. B. MEDLEY first described the external features of this church, beginning at the west end, because, he said, the church had been entirely altered in appearance, and it was well they should try to realise what the church was like before it was restored in 1879. It was then entered by a west porch, which cut off the beautiful window at that end. From the photographs of the interior they would see how completely the church had been altered. When Sir Gilbert Scott came there in 1878 he got men to dig down four feet on the south side of the church, and at that depth they found the jambs of a south porch, the soil at that time being four feet higher than at present. On the right side of the porch was found the chalice exhibited at the museum at Frome. The man who found it said it was an old candlestick; but on taking it to Mr. Singer he pronounced it to be a chalice 600 years old. It was probably buried with the first priest who lived there, and who was laid to rest on a very rough plank, with the bark still on the wood. They ought to pass round the outside of the church and see the priest's door on the north side. One thing of interest found in the church was the skeleton of a dog in the Champney chapel. There was a tradition to the effect that a member of the Champney family was rescued from drowning, off the coast of Denmark, by a large and skilful dog. A monument was erected to its memory in the park. The stone had been destroyed, but the only word it bore was known to have been "Fidèle." It was said that a former bishop ordered the body of the dog to be exhumed and buried elsewhere; but as the skull and skeleton of the animal were found in the church, the order must have been disobeyed and the monument erected as a blind. Attention was called to the remains of a large and ancient tomb-stone, found in the course of the excavations, and now placed in the churchyard. In-



PRIEST'S DOOR, ORCHARDLEIGH.

side the building, Mr. Medley said he would simply refer them to the alterations made in 1879. All the old seats had been done away with; the west window was formerly blocked up by an organ gallery, which had been removed; one window had been inserted by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, the glass of which though new was an imitation of the old. The other glass was old, but newly arranged. There were only eight figures of the apostles, four having been destroyed accidentally by a gamekeeper. In the window over the North door (1480) the Father was represented seated on a rainbow, the Son on the cross, between His knees. The central piece was quite new, for there were only the Father's hand, face and feet, and one side of the rainbow left. The apostles in the North and South windows of the chancel were all labelled with sentences, and there were emblems of each. St. Philip held an osier basket, an emblem of the basket of bread. There was a similar instance at Norwich. There were also in the west window a figure of a king, very much decayed, and another of St. Michael overcoming the Evil One. Mr. Medley also called attention to the font. The work, he said, though rough, was fine. The stone for that, as well as for the Lullington font, was supposed to have been brought from the Oldford quarries, and it was stated that Longleat House was built of the same stone; but there was no hard stone now found at Oldford, that now quarried was chiefly used for lime-burning.

Col. BRAMBLE briefly thanked Mr. Medley for his descriptions, and Mr. MEDLEY responded.

The party then returned to Frome, and in the evening attended a *conversazione* at the Frome Literary Institute, where the local museum had been collected by the local committee, and which was prettily decorated for the occasion. This lasted from about 7.30 to 10.45. The proceedings commenced with a pianoforte recital by Mrs. Harrold, who also acted as accompanist to most of the songs subsequently

sung. Those who rendered songs during the evening were—Dr. Rattray, Miss Barrington, Miss M. Cuzner and Mr. Welham. Miss Penny contributed a violin soló. All these musical items were much appreciated.

At an early stage Lord HYLTON, the president of the Society, alluded to the extraordinary collection of beautiful articles arranged in the temporary local museum, which, he said, must have taken much time to get together. He also thanked the local committee for their kind invitation.

During the evening two papers were read. The first was by Mr. W. DUNN, the Clerk of the Peace for Somerset, entitled "Ancient Records of Local Interest." At the commencement Mr. Dunn said he could hardly with justice use the word "ancient" in regard to the Sessions Records (on which his paper was founded), for the year 1646 was the date of the oldest, but from that time to this there was an unbroken series, excepting for the years 1655 to 1665. Speaking of the books as books, Mr. Dunn called attention to the clearness of the writing, and the almost perfect preservation of the paper. For his paper he laid two volumes under contribution—those for the years 1646 to 1655 and 1655 to 1676. First of all Mr. Dunn remarked on the varying "captions" or headings of the Sessions rolls in consequence of the successive changes in the government of the country during the period under review. The principal materials of Mr. Dunn's paper consisted of petitions presented at the Sessions from different parts of the county; of the punishment meted out in certain cases, and of orders made in reference to various matters. These illustrated the history of the times in regard to Somersetshire.

The Rev. W. E. DANIEL, vicar of East Pennard, read a paper on the accounts kept by the Frome Churchwardens from the year 1567 till the time of William and Mary. He said that with one exception in Latin, all the entries were made in English.

Towards the end of the evening Mr. E. THOMPSON exhi-

bited a collection of some two hundred specimens of dried wild flowers from the neighbourhood of Frome, the object being to present a general idea of the local flora. The principal flowers were accompanied by observations, including a reference to the local geology in relation to the distribution of plants.

A continual source of pleasure to those present during the evening were the many objects of interest and beauty in the local museum.

The papers read at the conversazione were published in full in the local press, immediately after the meeting.

Thursday.

On Thursday morning the second excursion was commenced by a visit to

Longleat.

Here the Marquis of Bath received the visitors, and personally conducted them over the mansion, pointing out and explaining the many objects of interest, such as the numerous and valuable pictures, tapestry, old armour, etc. The portions of the house visited included the great hall, the little dining-room, the lower dining-room, and the upper dining-room, the drawing-room, the saloon, corridors, grand staircase, etc. A large number of the party went on to the roof, whence is obtained the best view of the magnificent gardens and the noble park.

The DEAN of WELLS expressed in fitting terms the company's thanks to his lordship.

Witham Friary Church.

A pleasant drive took the society to Witham Friary. Previous to entering the church, the Rev. J. T. WESTROPP (Vicar) gave some interesting details concerning the fishponds which belonged to the Carthusian monastery formerly existing in the parish, the church, and the manor of Witham. He

pointed out that the stream which supplied water to the ponds was the river Frome, and rose in that parish. In speaking of the manor of Witham, Mr. Westropp said he was told that about 1820, when the place belonged to Alderman Beckford, the park was enclosed with palisading, and a man who stole one of the palisades was tried, and sentenced to be whipped from one end of the parish to the other, at a cart's tail; he was informed of this by an eye witness. The land of Witham was worthless at the time of the foundation; and not one of the religious orders then established in the country would accept it. It was then offered to the Carthusians, one of the most austere orders, who, up to that time, had no settlement in England. Hugh, the prior, built or completed the building of the church. The structure was in the Norman style, and the splay of the windows was peculiar: inside the splay was two feet ten inches wide, whilst outside it was one foot eight inches, instead of about five or six inches as in ordinary architecture. It was found that the walls were not strong enough* to support the stone roof, and an outer skin was run up, making the walls about twenty inches thicker than they would otherwise have been. When the church was restored in 1876, the architect went to Lincoln Chapter-house to see the buttresses erected there by St. Hugh, and made the buttresses around Witham church exact copies of them. Mr. Westropp observed that it was unusual to see two fonts in a small church like that of Witham. He said that from 1174 (the probable date of the erection of the building) to 1458 there was no font in the church. In the early part of the present century the font had disappeared, and the church did not possess one till 1843, when a Mr. Jonathan Hooper Masters wished to be baptized. He presented a font, and it remained in use till the church was restored in 1876, when the original Norman† font

* See Note (31) post, Part II., p. 17.—[ED.] See Illustration.

† This cannot have been a Norman Font, unless an old one were brought to Witham, and there erected; for this particular font was not in existence at Witham till 1459. See post, Part II., p. 13.—[ED.]

was discovered to have been used as a building stone in the tower that was erected in the year 1832. Mr. Burney, who was vicar of the parish in 1876, had the old font taken out, and restored to its former place, the font given by Mr. Masters being removed to a niche in one of the side walls of the building. Mr. Westropp said a beautiful old rood screen formerly existed in the church, taken down in 1832 during the restoration carried out by the Rev. C. G. R. Festing. Mr. Westropp asked the meaning of a double piscina; there was one in Witham Church, as well as in other Somerset churches. When the exterior of the church was reached, Mr. Westropp showed that three of the existing bays belonged to the original structure, whilst the one nearest the entrance was added during the last restoration; this latter was constructed on the same general principles as the older portion, but was of a somewhat different pattern, so that it might not be a sham antique. He also said there was formerly a leper hospital at Maiden Bradley, and he pointed out the small window through which the lepers received the Holy Communion. The old guest house of the monastery was stated to be a building which had been converted into two cottages. Mr. Westropp said the community of monks residing at Witham never numbered more than twelve; in 1178, there were only eight monks.



LEPERS' WINDOW.

Mr. BUCKLE then gave an account of the architectural history of the building, following the papers by the Rev. W. Hunt and Mr. W. White in Vol. xxiv. of these *Proceedings*.

Mr. ELWORTHY said he disagreed with Mr. Buckle regarding his statement that the building in which they were, was a parish church previous to the establishment of the charter-house. It was never a parish church till two hundred or two hundred-and-fifty years after Hugh's time. (*See paper in Part II.*)

Luncheon was served at the *Seymour's Arms Inn*, after which

Holwell Quarry

was visited, and was described by Professor ALLEN.

Dunney Church.

When this church was reached, some explanatory remarks were made by Mr. BUCKLE, who said that the church and the neighbouring castle formed the subjects of a long and interesting article by Mr. Green, published in their *Proceedings* shortly after their last visit to Frome. (Vol. xxii, 1877.) The greater part of the church was in the Early English style, including the chancel, both aisles, and the north transept arch; the windows under the gables of the two transepts were Early Decorated with reticulated tracery; Perpendicular work remained in the tower, the south porch, the screen and squints, and the east windows of the transepts. The westward extension of the aisles was modern; and so were many of the windows, but they seemed to be reproductions of the old ones. The date of the arcade was difficult to decide. The oak Rood screen had a special interest to the members of the society; for at their last visit to the church this screen was missing, though it was stated to be still in existence in Frome. In consequence of what was said upon that occasion the screen was brought back and replaced in its original position. It

was satisfactory to find that the visit of the society had thus brought a practical benefit to the church. On the west face of the tower there was a remarkable panel representing *a key and a knotted cord*, probably a Delamare badge, as it occurred also (in a slightly different form) on the cornice of one of the monuments.* These monuments were the most interesting features of the church, but they had been so thoroughly described by Mr. Green that there was no need now to dwell on them at length; though his identification of the figures needed revision. The oldest monument represented a knight of the camail period, and was described by Symonds with sufficient accuracy as being "In the form of the Black Prince." Symonds further stated that this was the tomb "of Delamare who temp. Edward II built the church and castle," putting by a clerical error Edward II for Edward III, and alluding apparently to Sir John Delamare, who obtained license to crenellate in 1373. It was difficult to see what part of the church could have been built by Sir John, but it ought to be recollected that Symonds (in a matter of that kind) was only able to preserve the traditions of a period which was three centuries removed from the time of which he wrote. Probably this monument represented Sir John Delamare, though it might possibly have been intended for his father or for his son Philip.

The other Delamare tomb was surrounded with heraldic shields, and supported two recumbent figures, those of a man in a tabard and a collar of SS, and a lady with a long flowing veil over her head. Among the coats of arms was one of *Poulet and Delamare quarterly*, showing that it must have been erected after the marriage of the heiress, Constantia, to John Poulet, which took place about the year 1427, and presumably commemorated her father and mother, the last generation of the name of Delamare. Mr. Green considered her father to

* The Rev. E. Peacock believes that this stone is one of the panels of the tomb, and was let into the tower at the time when the tombs were shifted.

have been Philip, the founder of the chantry, and that he died about 1395, a date which fitted badly with Constantia's age, and with the style of the tomb. But the evidences for this part of the pedigree were very scanty, and they would apparently be better satisfied by the assumption that Constantia was the daughter of John, and granddaughter of Philip. If this were the true state of the case the tomb might naturally be assigned to this John and his wife.

As regards the Prater monument, Mr. Buckle had nothing to add to Mr. Green's description.

Dunney Castle

was also visited.

Mr. ELWORTHY said that the building they were now in had been fully described by Mr. Green in the article before alluded to by Mr. Buckle. Properly speaking, it did not fall under the technical designation of a castle. It was in fact, a fortified dwelling house or manse, and was so called in the original document of 1373, by which Edward III licensed Sir John Delamare to fortify and to "kernellate" his house.

Whilst the party were inside the castle, the DEAN OF WELLS proposed, in eloquent terms, a warm vote of thanks to Col. Bramble, who had acted as director of the excursions, and who, by the admirable manner in which he had done so, had contributed greatly to the pleasure, comfort and instruction of them all. The Dean spoke of the debt which the society owed to him for the excellence of his arrangements, and for the firm, yet courteous way in which Col. Bramble carried them out.

In responding, Col. BRAMBLE said he was pleased his efforts had met with their approbation; he added that they were very much indebted to the local committee, with Mr. George Daniel as secretary, who had not spared time or trouble in helping them, and rendering their visit to that district an enjoyable one.

Mr. HUDD said they also owed thanks for the hospitality shown in connection with the conversazione the previous evening.

Whatley Church

was next visited.

The Rev. W. E. WHITAKER (Rector) received the party, and gave a brief account of the church, which is dedicated to St. George. It was stated to be of Early English, or possibly, Norman date, and was restored in 1870. It is a rather small structure, having chancel, nave and chapels, with a tower and spire at the west end. The font is Early English, much restored; and in the church is a fine effigy of a recumbent cross-legged knight.

The grave of the late Dean Church, of St. Paul's Cathedral, formerly Rector of the parish, situated outside the south wall of the chancel, was an object of much interest, and indeed seemed to be the greatest attraction to the whole party.

The remains of the Roman Villa existing on Mr. J. H. Shore's estate were next visited. The pavements of what was formerly the *triclinium* or dining room, and of another apartment, with the curious patterns in the mosaic walls, were examined, and also the ruined walls of the Roman baths belonging to it.

On returning to Frome, the members dispersed, and thus closed the very pleasant meeting of 1893.

The Local Museum.

IN connection with the *Conversazione* given by the Frome Literary and Scientific Institution, a local Museum was formed in their rooms. The arrangements were made by a sub-committee, to whom Mr. J. W. Singer acted as Secretary. The large reading room was fitted up with a glass case on one side, and round the walls were hung pictures and portraits of local interest. Mr. Singer was instrumental in bringing together a very large collection of Church books, plate, etc.

The plate, etc., from the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Frome, included chalices (one of which Bishop Ken presented to the Vicar of Frome), two ciboriums, and the processional cross.

There were also chalices and other church plate from St. Mary's, Frome; Beckington; Tellisford; West Bradley; Holcombe; East Pennard; Leigh-on-Mendip; and Downhead.

Mr. A. Mackay, of Holt Manor, lent a valuable and interesting collection of old English plate, which came into his possession some years ago by purchase. There were fifteen pieces, besides a dozen each of forks and spoons. It appears to have been deposited at Child's Bank for a great number of years, until the box containing it fell to pieces. A letter was found therein, and to a lineal descendant of the writer the plate was handed.

Mrs. Penny lent four cases of mediæval keys.

Mrs. Knatchbull exhibited a watch which formerly belonged to James II.; it was left at Babington House on his visit, when coming from Bath; also four miniatures; and a very beautifully jewelled needle-case.

Major Sheppard lent a gold medal given to Sir Thos. Bayard for a victory over the Dutch.

Mr. Singer lent seven old processional crosses, two thuribles, and a large number of very beautiful examples of silver work ; also seven views of old Frome.

Miss L. Beatrice Thompson and *Miss Wilfred H. Thompson* lent drawings of old houses in Gentle Street and on the bridge.

The Rev. H. Prince lent a pewter flagon from Norton St. Philip ; and two stone heads of the "Fair Maids of Foscott," (mentioned by *Pepys* in his diary).

The Registers and Churchwardens' Books of Accounts relating to Churches in the Deanery of Frome, brought together by *Mr. Singer*, included one Register from Tellisford, commencing 1538 ; four from Witham Friary ; two from Mars-ton Bigott. Also Churchwardens' Books from Frome, 1567 : Norton St. Philip ; Berkeley ; Buckland Dinham ; Leigh-on-Mendip ; Road ; Overseers' Book of Frome, 1655 to 1678 ; Books of Accounts from Mells, including a Court Roll of the Manor ; a Terrier from Doultling, dated 1525 ; and papers from Whatley Church.

Portraits of local worthies were lent by *Mr. Horner*, *Major Sheppard*, *Mrs. Sheppard*, *Miss Bennett*, and many others.

Mr. F. J. Parsons lent some choice water-colours by his brother, Mr. Alfred Parsons.

A large collection of books written by Frome men ; specimens of china, plate, wood-work, fossils, etc. were exhibited in the upper room of the Institute, where the ordinary Museum also created much interest.

Additions to the Society's Museum and Library

During the Year 1893.

THE MUSEUM.

Head of an Ichthyosaurus, and a miscellaneous collection of minerals and fossils.—From Miss PORTMAN.

A number of flint implements, flakes, etc., found at Wellisford; old adze found in ploughing a field at Wellisford.—From Mr. T. H. R. WINWOOD.

Twelve photographs of antiquities found at Hamdon Hill.—From Mr. W. W. WALTER.

Moorish Pipe.—From Mr. GARDNER.

Lease of Ham Mills, Creech, 1767.—From Mr. SHOWERS.

Guinea of George II., 1733, and two silver coins found under the window sill of the old poor-house, now the laundry cottage, at Bathealton, July, 1893.—From Mr. MOYSEY.

Print of the Old Guildhall, Chard, now destroyed.—From Mr. LOCOCK WEBB.

Small gourd and silver-plated tube for drinking, from South America.—From Miss AMY AYSHFORD.

THE LIBRARY.

Catalogue of the Library. List of Officers and Fellows. Abstract of Proceedings, 1891-2.—From the Geological Society of London.

The Underground Life.—From the Author, Mr. D. Macritchie.

A Fortnight in Switzerland. Three Months in the United States and Canada.—From Mr. TITE.

Wiclif's *Latin Works: De Eucharistia.*—From Mr. Standerwick.

Daily Weather Reports from June, 1872 to December, 1891.
—From Dr. PRIOR.

Chanter's *Lundy Island; History of Guy, Earl of Warwick*; and a water-colour drawing of the old Poor-house, Bishop's Lydeard.—From Dr. F. H. MEAD.

Extension of the Borough of Chard: Public Celebration, August 20th, 1892.—From MESSRS. YOUNG AND SON.

Every Man's Own Lawyer.—From Mr. PEACHEY.

Kirby's *European Butterflies and Moths; The Entomologist*, nos. 99 to 111.—From Mr. W. B. BRADBURY.

Churchwardens' Accounts of Stogursey; Will of Thomas Overay, Precentor of Wells, 1472—1493.—From Rev. F. W. WEAVER.

Penological and Preventive Principles.—From the Howard Association.

West Somerset Free Press, 11 nos., containing *History of Winsford.*—From Mr. COX.

Trésor de Numismatique et de Glyptique, 2 vols.—From Miss PORTMAN.

Western Antiquary, Index no., vol. xi.; vol. xii., pt. 1.—From Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT.

Taunton Guide and Directory, nos. 1, 2, 3.—From Messrs. GOODMAN AND SON.

A Mendip Valley: its Inhabitants and Surroundings.—From the Author, Mr. THEODORE COMPTON.

St. Anne's Chapel, Ferry, and Paths through St. Anne's Wood.
—From Mr. WM. GEORGE.

Some Notes on the History of Wellington and 'Canonsleigh.'
—From the Author, Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY.

Encaustic Tiles of the Middle Ages.—From the Author, Mr. B. W. GREENFIELD.

Congrès Géologique International 4me Session, Londres, 1888 ;
Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, nos. 186, 188, 189,
190, 192-3-4.—From Mr. W. A. E. USSHER.

Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, vol. ii., pt. 12 ;
vol. iii., pts. 1, 2.

Collections for a Parochial History of Flax Bourton.—From
the Northern Branch of the Society.

Proceedings of the Holmesdale Naturalists' Field Club,
1890-92.

A Short Account of the Bells of St. George's Church, Wilton.
—From the Author, Rev. D. J. PRING.

*Sixtieth Annual Report of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic
Society*, 1892.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society Report, 1892.

Ecton's Liber Valorum, 1711 : Presidential Address to the
Devonshire Association, on Devonshire Literature (by T. N.
Brushfield).—From Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY.

The Rise and Growth of the Chapter of Wells, A.D. 1242
to 1333.—From the Author, Rev. CANON CHURCH.

*The Gentlemen's Society at Spalding, with Catalogue of their
Library*.—From the Rev. T. A. STOODLEY.

*History of the Church of Porlock, and of the Patron Saint,
St. Dubritius*.—From the Author, Rev. W. HOOK.

Nova Scotian Institute of Science, vol. i., pt. 2.

About thirty volumes of miscellaneous literature, including
the works of Shelley, Dean Swift, Walton and Cotton's
Angler, Earl Derby's *Homer*, *Tom Poole and his Friends*,
Autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Carlyle, *Swedenborg*, and some
poems and dramatic works.—From Miss ATHERSTONE.

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*Received from Societies in Correspondence, for the Exchange
of Publications :—*

British Archaeological Association—*Journal*, vol. xlviii, pts. 3,
4 ; vol. xlix, pts. 1, 2.

- British Association—*Report*, 1892.
- Society of Antiquaries of London—*Proceedings*, vol. xiv, nos. 2, 3. *Index of Archæological Papers* published in 1891.
- Society of Antiquaries of Scotland—*Proceedings*, vol. xxvi.
- Royal Irish Academy—*Transactions*, vol. xxx, pts. 3, 4; *Proceedings*, vol. ii, nos. 3, 4, 5; *Todd Lecture Series*, vols. 3, 4.
- Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland—*Journal*, vol. ii, pt. 4.
- Associated Architectural Societies of Northampton, etc.—*Report*, 1891.
- Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History—*Proceedings*, vol. viii, pt. 1.
- Surrey Archæological Society—*Collections*, vol. xi, pt. 2.
- Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Magazine*, nos. 77, 78, 79; *Catalogue of Wiltshire Trade Tokens in the Museum at Devizes*.
- London and Middlesex Archæological Society—*East Barnet*.
- Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society—*Report*, vol. xi, pt. 3.
- Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. xvi, pt. 2.
- Powys Land Club—*Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. xxvi, pt. 3; vol. xxvii, pt. 1.
- Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Journal*, vol. xv.
- Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Transactions*, vol. iv, pt. 3; vol. v, pts. 1, 2; n.s. vol. i, pt. 3; *Calendar of Wills*, pts. 1 and 4.
- Hertfordshire Natural History Society—*Transactions*, vol. vii, pts. 3, 4.
- Essex Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. iv, pt. 3.
- Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. vii, pt. 5.
- Royal Institution of Cornwall—*Journal*, vol. xi, pt. 2.

- Yorkshire Archæological and Topographical Association—*Journal*, pts. 47, 48.
- Buckinghamshire Architectural and Archæological Society—*Records*, vol. vii, no. 2.
- Northamptonshire Naturalists' Society—*Journal*, nos. 49 to 52; Title and Index to vol. vi.
- Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club—*Proceedings*, vol. vii, no. 4.
- Geologists' Association—*Proceedings*, vol. xii, pts. 9, 10, Title and Index; vol. xiii, pts. 1, 5.
- Bristol Naturalists' Society—*Proceedings*, vol. vii, pt. 2.
- Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society—*Memoirs*, vol. vi; vol. vii, nos. 1, 2, 3. *James Prescott Joule*.
- Essex Field Club—*Essex Naturalist*, vol. vi, nos. 11, 12; vol. vii, nos. 1 to 5. *Transactions*, vol. iv, pt. 1. *Journal of Proceedings*, vol. iv, pt. 1.
- Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne—*Archæologia Æliana*, parts 28 to 42.
- Cambridge Antiquarian Society—*Communications*, no. 32.
- Chester Archæological and Historical Society—*Journal*, vol. iv.
- Clifton Antiquarian Club—*Proceedings*, vol. ii, pt. 3.
- Hampshire Field Club—*Papers and Proceedings*, vol. i; vol. ii, pts. 1, 2: *Bibliotheca Hantoniensis*.
- Canadian Institute—*Transactions*, vol. iii, pt. 1.
- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.—*Reports U.S. National Museum*, 1890, 1891; *Bulletin do.*, no. 40; *Directions for Collecting Birds, Eggs and Nests, Reptiles and Batrachians, Recent and Fossil Plants, Mollusks, Insects, and Notes on the Preparation of Rough Skeletons*.
- Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, U.S.—*Bulletin*, vols. xxii., xxiv; vol. xxv, pts. 1, 3.
- New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, U.S.—*Register*, nos. 184 to 188.
- Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, U.S.—*Proceedings*, 1892, pts. 2, 3; 1893, pt. 1.

Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles, Lausanne—*Bulletin*, nos. 109 to 112.

Société Archéologique de Bordeaux—*Bulletin*, tom. xiv, fas. 4 ; tom. xvii, fas. 1

Purchased.

Somerset Record Society, vol. vi.

Harleian Society—*Registers of St. John's, Clerkenwell.*

Hampshire Allegations for Marriage Licenses, vol. i.

Marriage Licenses, Vicar-General, 2 vols.

Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, part xx., 21, 22, 23.

Whitaker's Almanack, 1893.

Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses.

Oxford Historical Society, vols. 23, 24, 25.

How to Write the History of a Parish.

Somerset Religious Houses and their Suppression.

Cartularium Saxonicum, part 31.

Index Library, nos. 2 to 12.

Ray Society, vols. for 1891, 1892.

Memorabilia, by Jas. Savage.

Dana's Manual of Mineralogy.

Quekett on the Use of the Microscope.

Owen's Anatomy of the Vertebrates, 3 vols.

A Short History of Frome Selwood.

Pipe Roll Society, vol. xv.

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
1893, *Part II.*

PAPERS, ETC.

Witham Friary.

BY F. T. ELWORTHY

With an Appendix by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hobhouse.

THERE are many places whose importance is wholly disproportionate to the special story of their buildings or the site on which they stand. They have derived it through their intimate connection with great events or personages who have become famous in the wider history of the nation.

Among such in our County of Somerset, perhaps few of the lesser known spots can claim a larger share of attention than Witham. It may be safely maintained that only to a minority of the members of this Society is it more than a name: yet a glance at the circumstances which led to the establishment of a monastery at this place, at the time when this was done, and at the men who were directly or indirectly connected with it, will bring us into contact with one of the most decisive and important epochs of English History.

The details relating to the building and endowment of the house; the boundaries of the domain, and the liberties conferred upon it; its ultimate dissolution and spoliation, have

been fully dealt with by Bishop Hobhouse, a part of whose interesting lecture delivered in 1885 is printed as an appendix to this paper. Those who require more precise particulars upon these points are referred to Eyton, Dugdale, Tanner and Sir Richard Colt Hoare, with the various authorities cited by them; but above all to the "*Magna Vita Sancti Hugonis*," published in the Rolls series. This paper, therefore, deals only with the historical connection of the place, and but incidentally with its archæology.

In order to form a just appreciation of the events which led to the foundation of Witham, it is necessary to go back and to sketch rapidly what had been going on in the Church during the hundred years previous to its foundation.

The people had been put under the yoke of a masterful Norman conqueror, who, though he had completely subjugated their Saxon thanes, had wholly failed to subdue the clergy.¹ Notwithstanding the countenance and assistance given to William by Popes Alexander II. and Hildebrand, notwithstanding ejection of the bishops and clergy from their offices, perhaps from resentment at these marks of conquest, a stubborn and sullen resistance had been maintained, the effects of which were made evident long after political affairs seemed to have settled down.

The new French primate, Lanfranc, ignorant of their speech, lent his master a willing hand. Even the saints of the conquered English, because their Saxon names sounded uncouth and barbarous, and would not readily Latinise or Frenchify, were struck out of the calendar.² Moreover, at this time, when monasticism had become triumphant everywhere, the English secular clergy, in spite of the severe laws of Edgar and Canute, still persisted in their ancient right to marry, and thus from pre-Norman days we are able to trace a feeling of separateness in the English Church, and an im-

(1) *Milman*, *Latin Christianity* (ed. 1872), vol. v., p. 14.

(2) *Milman*, *Op. cit.*, p. 15.

patience of the papal yoke, on the part of the people as well as of the native priesthood, which was constantly breaking out, long before the great and final rupture of the sixteenth century.

The bestowal of the prizes of the conquered church by the Norman kings upon their own followers, upon men who were more warriors than priests, resulted in the fact that the bishops were great barons rather than prelates ; consequently the clergy became more and more arrogant as they became more and more powerful, and at last, under Stephen, the bishops boldly claimed the right to elect the king himself. These prelates being great nobles, all wearing arms, leading their retainers to battle, and mingling in the cruelties of war, it is not to be wondered at that the lower clergy were often lawless and violent men.³

Our own unique Bishop's Palace, although later in date than this period, is yet a living monument of those troublous times, when it was sought to maintain the sacerdotal order as a sacred caste, above the common law, and independent of the state. Such had been the outcome of the Norman policy.

The separation of the courts of justice into civil and ecclesiastical—whereas in Saxon times one court had had jurisdiction over clergy and laity alike—was another important factor in the then state of the church.

At the time when our subject rightly begins, affairs had reached such a pitch that the clergy of all ranks laid claim to an inviolable sanctity. The most heinous crimes were committed by a priest with comparative impunity, for the state had no jurisdiction ; and so far was this carried that even in a case where a layman had murdered a priest, the church claimed the right to try the culprit. Later we shall see how singularly this assumption recoiled upon the heads of the arrogant churchmen. Every priest practically possessed absolute immunity from capital punishment, because ecclesiastical courts could award no

(3) *Milman*, Op. cit., p. 20.

greater sentence than deprivation or excommunication, which could be, and often were reversed. Yet all this time the laws of the state were of the most Draconic kind, and life was taken from the common people for comparatively trivial offences. Even Stephen, the defender of the church, had to do penance for having laid impious hands on the Lord's heritage in seizing on proud bishop's castles. We in the present day can scarcely conceive to what lengths an ecclesiastical hierarchy could go, when once their power had become equal to that of the State.

It was then in times so troublous, when the schism in the church had produced an Anti-pope, with all the consequent weakness of a divided and contested authority, that events arose which led ultimately to the founding of Witham; events which threw into the shade all others, and absorbed the whole mind of Christendom.

It was the last ounce which broke down the overweighted camel; it was the inflexible attitude of Becket, the man whom Henry had himself raised up to the primacy, which led to the great strife between King and Church, a strife that may undoubtedly be termed the beginning of the Reformation.

Of the characters of Henry and of Becket, when so many, and just now so popular means of studying them are at hand,⁴ it would be out of place here to enlarge.

Both were strong and able men; both were obstinate, and above all, each entertained the highest possible ideal of his own office and prerogative. When, after his preferment to the primacy, Becket began to assert that "whatever had once belonged to the Church might be recovered at any time,"⁵ while the Church's courts remained the sole adjudicators in such causes; it followed that the church thus became at once plaintiff, judge, and, above all, executioner of its own judgments. The demand of the castle of Tunbridge from the

(4) *Irving's* production of Tennyson's play.

(5) *Milman Op. Cit.* vol. v. p. 41.

De Clares, which had once been church property, though it had been exchanged generations before, in the Conqueror's time for a Norman castle, seems to have brought matters to a head; and the king with his nobles, perceiving this to be a menace to the whole feudal nobility, determined to make a firm stand. They wisely rested their main contention upon the ground which would best enlist the sympathies of the common people, namely, the immunities of the clergy from all the temporal jurisdiction to which they, on the other hand, were so constantly amenable.

Proceedings were begun in 1164, by an assembly called by King Henry, first at Westminster, and afterwards at Clarendon near Salisbury, where the famous Constitutions were drawn up; to which, after much opposition on the part of Becket, he and the other bishops with a large number of nobles agreed.

It is not necessary here to follow all that happened subsequently. The great event was the tragedy of Becket's murder; the instant effect of which became evident in the public conscience. It cast a veil over all his failings; his pride and spiritual arrogance were at once forgotten; and the holiness of his private life, against which no breath of calumny had ever been raised, even in those days of blood and licence, was brought into the fullest relief. Horror at the crime was the one feeling throughout Christendom. His fortitude and calmness in the presence of his assailants, at once raised him to the rank of a Martyr for his Church; and within three or four years of his death⁶ he was not only canonised, but became immediately the most popular saint in Europe, and his shrine the most famous resort of pilgrims in all the middle ages. Milman remarks,⁷ "the worship of Becket, and in these days it would be difficult to discriminate between popular worship and adoration, superseded not in Canterbury alone,

(6) The murder was on Dec. 29th, 1170.

Latin Christianity, vol. v. p. 22, ed. 1872.

nor in England alone, that of the Son of God, and even of His Virgin Mother.”

Of the four knights who took part in Becket's murder, it is of interest to us to note that two, if not three, were Somerset men, while all four were connected with or had property in the county.

Reginald Fitzurse, of Williton, struck the first blow,⁸ and his family gave part of its endowment to the Church of St. Decuman's, together with land for a manse at Williton.⁹

Richard Brito, or le Bret, of Sampford Bret, gave the last blow,⁸ and his family gave the Church of St. Decuman's for a prebend in Wells Cathedral.¹⁰

William de Tracy,¹¹ who gave the first mortal wound,⁸ and with whom Becket struggled before the altar and dashed on the pavement, was the third.¹² His family also endowed the church with Bovey, in Devon.

Hugh de Moreville, the fourth, was also connected with Somerset,¹³ but there is scant evidence that he actually struck at all.

The desire of the various families of the assassins to make atonement is further proved by the foundation of Woodspring Priory, which was built by Courtenay, a near relative of Tracy, avowedly as an expiatory act. The house was dedicated, moreover, to St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Nothing, perhaps, shows more decisively the immense revulsion of feeling in the country which the outrage on Becket had produced against the rising tide of resistance to the arrogant assumptions of the church, than the varied and remarkable acts performed by the king himself and the families of the assassins by way of expiation. Yet, on the other hand, perhaps, no other fact so strongly proves the

(8) *Milman*, Op. cit., p. 126.

(9, 10) *Church*, Reginald Bishop of Bath, p. 23 (*Archæologica*).

(11) *Eyton's Doomsday Studies*, Somerset, vol. 1, p. 64.

(12) *Milman*, op. cit., p. 125.

(13) *Som. Arch. & N. H. Soc. Proc.*, vol. xxi., p. 35.

great strength of the movement which had culminated in the famous Constitutions of Clarendon, than that the murderers themselves were not sacrificed. Later legends, indeed, "impose upon them dark and romantic acts of penance," but history shows them subsequently in high places of trust and honour.¹⁴

It is true Henry issued orders for their apprehension, but as seen before, the contention of Becket and his party that the murderer of a priest could only be tried by a clerical tribunal, by the irony of fate was used by his own murderers, who would naturally claim to be so tried, with the result that only ecclesiastical and not capital punishment ensued.

It is not the place here to repeat the proceedings of the legates Theodino di Porto and Albert, who nearly drove Henry into open defiance of the Pope.¹⁵ In the end they wisely lowered their terms, and the famous reconciliation took place in the Cathedral of Avranches, May 21, 1172, where Henry swore on the Gospels that he was not responsible for Becket's murder, and where he entered into certain undertakings, more or less important as regards the subsequent history of the kingdom, but all of an expiatory character. The result was to undo much that had been accomplished in the way of remedy of abuses. The church was, so far as the king's power went, re-invested with all its previous possessions and privileges, and became thenceforth so strengthened that it was able to postpone the final disruption from the central authority for nearly four centuries. Had it not been for Becket's murder that great event would surely have dated from the reign of the second rather than of the eighth Henry.

No one can doubt the sincerity of Henry II., for though weighed down by his family troubles, and, of course, con-

(14) *Milman*, Op. cit., p. 127.

(15) *Hume*, Vol. 1, p. 88, ed. 1886.

stantly prodded with the taunt that all his misfortunes were judgments for the persecution and martyrdom of the now sainted Thomas, yet the personal penance he performed at the shrine within three years of the murder¹⁶ seems to have been voluntary, and strong man that he was, this act shows how deeply Becket's death had changed the spirit of revolt against spiritual authority into one of almost abject personal submission.

Further evidence of the marvellous effect on public opinion caused by the martyrdom, is that Bartholomew,¹⁷ Bishop of Exeter (1161-1184), who with Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of London,¹⁸ had always been one of the greatest opponents of Becket and his policy, was the person above all others, selected to preach the sermon at Canterbury upon the occasion of the service for the "reconciliation" of the Cathedral from the stain of blood. Some reason for this selection may be found in the fact that when Becket had excommunicated Foliot and others, the Bishop of Exeter, though he declined to join in an appeal against the Archbishop (Becket) to the Pope, yet proved his sympathy by giving "the kiss of peace" to the then outlawed Foliot,¹⁹ perhaps under the circumstances even a stronger act, than that which he declined.

It is of much interest now to note that notwithstanding all the concessions re-granted to the papal power, and even at the climax of its assumption, the Pope even then yielded his claim to appoint the English Bishops, and required Henry, the penitent King, to exercise his Royal right, and to fill up the sees kept vacant during his quarrel with Becket.²⁰

The events here hinted at took place at a time when the disorders and open violence of the secular clergy had led men

(16) The Bull for the canonisation of St. Thomas is dated Mar. 13, 1173, less than 27 months after the murder on December 29, 1170.

(17) *Brushfield*—Address to Devon Association, 1893, p. 6.

(18) *Milman*, Op. cit. p. 37.

(19) *Milman*, Op. cit. p. 98.

(20) *Church*, Reginald, Bishop of Bath, p. 6.

more than ever to the conclusion that a religious life could only be lived by renunciation and retirement from the world ; hence it was *par excellence* the age of monasticism.

Great numbers of monasteries, since become famous, were founded at this period, and it is not surprising that part of the expiatory work to be performed by Henry consisted in the undertakings to found three new religious houses in England. Two of these were satisfied by reconstruction of the Benedictine Nunnery at Ambresbury,²¹ and the change of order with enlargement at Waltham, Essex, from secular to regular Canons of St. Augustine.²² The third was the subject of this paper.

It may be well supposed that the King, suffering as he had, from a proud and exacting clergy, depressed in spirits by his own difficulties and disappointments, would feel a desire for some sterner and more ascetic practice than had hitherto been the custom of the Benedictines or Augustine Canons. He seems then to have determined to plant in England the strictest and most austere of all the Orders—the Carthusians ; which had existed about one hundred years, at the Grande Chartreuse, founded in 1081, by St. Bruno, of Cologne, the fame of whose special sanctity had spread over Europe. For many reasons the rule would be likely to commend itself to Henry. Their three great precepts were silence, solitude and prayer. Their houses were specially constructed, so that each brother was practically a hermit, though living in communities ; each having separate cells, usually one for day, and one for night.

They had no common refectory or great dormitory. They might not enter each other's cells except by leave of the Prior. Their church was in the centre, with the cells opening into the great cloisters surrounding it. They had a second house and church for the lay brethren attached to the convent, yet

(21) *Church*, Bp. Reginald, Op. cit. p. 8.

(22) Bp. Tanner, p. 119.

separate from it. The entire system may be described as solitary confinement on bread and water, literally so on Fridays. Their heads were not merely tonsured but completely shaven. They were forbidden to wear linen; one garment only of coarse woollen was allowed. Flesh was entirely eschewed, and there was a peculiar small door in the corner of each cell, so contrived that food could be handed to the occupant by a serving brother without either of them seeing the other. They could only leave the house by special leave on urgent occasions, and perfect silence was to be kept by all, except at certain hours, when "conversations" upon the rules of the order, or prescribed religious subjects, were alone permitted. Their habit was entirely white, or as nearly so as their other habits permitted. Strange to say, this most severe of orders is the only one which has at all consistently observed its rule, and remains to this day practically unchanged in ideal, though it has long since relaxed its practice of having two separate establishments.

Such an order would be attractive to Henry, not alone as suitable to his mental depression, but as likely to give him no political trouble, and perhaps to prove as a useful example. Moreover, between his penance in 1174 and 1181, when he is said to have founded Witham,²³ Henry had had time for reflection, and he may have thought so quiet and self-denying a brotherhood would require little in the way of means. Doubtless, too, he had by this time felt the smart of the undertakings he had given, and the pressure of his wars. In any case he provided a site for his new foundation suitable to the

(23) There is great discrepancy as to the date of the foundation of Witham. Dugdale puts it at 1181, and in this he is followed by Sir R. C. Hoare, Bishop Hobhouse (*see* appendix), and many others. On the other hand in Vita S. Hugonis, Rolls Ser., p. xxii., it is said the date of St. Hugh's arrival cannot have been later than 1176, so that the monastery must have been founded at latest in 1175. This view is adopted by Canon Church (*see* Reginald, pp. 8, 9), and, seeing that St. Hugh was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln in 1186, after eleven years' residence at Witham, it follows that the foundation was in 1175 or before.

ideal of its order—a veritable forest wilderness, as described by Bishop Hobhouse (*see* appendix).

Thus far we have sketched in the merest outline the circumstances which led to the foundation of Witham, and a suggestion of the reasons for the introduction of the Carthusians, who were thus first planted in England here in Somerset. We have now to trace its subsequent history, and the causes which have made it memorable, not *per se*, but through its connection with the great, if not the greatest, event in English mediæval church history—the murder and canonisation of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Witham²⁴ Priory, commonly called Friary, was dedicated to the honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John Baptist and all Saints ;²⁵ but the King was so niggardly of endowment, for there seems to have been none at all beyond the five thousand odd acres of wilderness, that the first Prior sent over with the brethren gave it up in despair and returned to Dauphiné. The second died soon after his arrival ; and there seems to be no record of their names or of anything beyond their failure.

It is said by Dugdale and repeated by Tanner upon the authority of Leland, that there was a nunnery at Witham previous to the coming of the disciples of St. Bruno. Leland in his *Collectanea*, vol. i., p. 84 (ed. 1770), merely says :—“Henricus 2^s fundator domus [quære Hen. 3 fundator per Camd.] Primum cœnobium monalium, quod postea fuit primum monasterium Carthusianarum in Anglia.”

Here it may be remarked that although another Carthusian house was soon founded in our county at Hinton in the Mendips, yet the order never became thoroughly popular in England ; and, including the two houses in Somerset, there

(24) On the name Witham, it is curious to note the antiquity of place-name etymology, for the old thirteenth century chronicler says the word had been given by a species of prophetic instinct : that it is Wit-ham, the home of wisdom. See *Vita S. Hugonis*, R S. p. 67.

(25) *Dugdale*. On Dedications, see remarks in *Notes on Wellington*, p. 25, and *Canonsleigh*, p. 11.

never were more than nine in all England, viz.:—Witham and Hinton in Somerset; Charterhouse, London; Epworth, Lincolnshire; Shene, Surrey; Mountgrace, Yorkshire; Beauvale, Notts; St. Anne, Coventry; and Kingston-upon-Hull. Of these, only the six first named were in existence at the time of the dissolution. Moreover, there have been very few Carthusian nunneries anywhere, and there was never one in England.^{25a}

At the recent meeting on the spot it was stated by Mr. Buckle, and at the previous meeting of the Society in 1878 by Mr. Hunt (*see* vol. xxiv, p. 21), that the present building had been the parish church of Witham before the arrival of the Carthusians, and that the work performed by Hugh of Avalon (of whom more anon) was by way of casing to the walls, to enable them to bear the vaulted roof which he erected; but it is contended that whatever building may have stood here previously, it could not have been a parish church in Hugh's day. That a religious establishment did exist at Witham, and possibly on the present site, is confirmed by many authorities; the only uncertainty is whether "cœnobium monalium" may without question be translated nunnery, as rendered by Dugdale and others. The present building may perhaps be the chapel of the earlier recluses, whether male or female; though that is rather contradicted by the statement of Mr. Dimock, in the preface to the *Magna Vita*, that on Hugh's arrival, no sites, whether of convent or churches, had even been marked out.^{25b} Supposing then this to be the chapel

(25a) In the Louvre are twenty-two pictures by Le Sueur, painted in 1649 for the Chartreuse at Paris, portraying incidents in the life of S. Bruno. The same subjects have also been treated by the great painter of the Carthusians in Spain, Zurbaran. Much of interest relating to them may be found in *Mrs. Jameson's* "Legends of the Monastic Orders," pp. 124 et. sq.

(25b) "Neque enim diffinitum erat usque adhuc, ubi major, ubi minor ecclesia, illa monachorum cellis et claustris hæc cum fratrum domunculis et hospitum diversoriis, aptius construi debuisset." *Magna Vita S. Hugonis*, Lib. ii., cap. v., p. 67.

of an earlier convent, that alone would prove that it could not have been a parish church.

At that date, parish churches were few and far between. Manors had but recently grown into parishes, and if the peasantry had then been so numerous as to have required such a new thing as a parish church in the desert wilderness which Witham is described to have been, it is most improbable that they could have been removed in a body from the manor, as we are told^{25c} they were, merely to create a true solitude for the monks. But the very conclusive fact that there had been no burial ground and no font down to so late a date as 1459 should convince any candid mind that at that time there had been no parish church. In consequence of the monks having somewhat relaxed their rule, and having permitted a resettlement of the laity for cultivation of their manor, they petitioned for leave to erect a font. On May 29, 1459, the Bishop of Bath and Wells granted a licence to the Priory for a baptismal font to be erected "in capella de le Frery," with directions to William of Sidon, Suffragan, to dedicate a churchyard.²⁶ This then may be taken as the date of the first erection of Witham into a parish, and the present font being by tradition the same as then erected proves that the present parish church is the "capella de le Frery," or the inferior church built by Hugh according to Carthusian custom for the *fratres conversi* or lay brethren.^{26a}

We shall see that it is mere confusion to speak of the whole establishment of Witham as a Friary, simply from the fact that its serving brethren were called *le Frery*.²⁷ The place is

(25c) *Magna Vita S. Hugonis*, p. 68.

(26) Dugdale quotes Harl. MS. 6,966, fo. 91.

(26a) This is confirmed by Dimock. Pref. to *Magna Vita*, p. xxiii.

(27) Since this paper was written, the Rev. Henry Gee writes that "Friary is a case of false analogy started in days when the old meaning of Fraterium had passed out of recollection."

now known as Witham Friary, and even Bishop Hobhouse²⁷ uses this name more than once; but no sort of authority for this can be found, nor can it be ascertained when first it was so called.

The Carthusians were essentially monks belonging to the older orders. They were Benedictines who had adopted the severe rule of St. Bruno. The Carthusian monk was the typical recluse whose idea was that to save his own soul by leading a holy life he must absolutely retire from all intercourse with the wicked world into some such remote and desert place as the forest of Selwood. It was not till after the foundation of Witham that the selfishness of pursuing their own salvation, while leaving all their fellow creatures to the care of the secular priesthood, became apparent; a priesthood, moreover, as we have seen, anything but saintly. We have hinted at the condition of the secular clergy; their violence, their lawlessness, their licence naturally brought about a reaction and a desire for better things, which resulted in the formation of new orders by St. Dominic and St. Francis, whose lives were to be devoted not to seclusion but to going out into the world and ministering to mankind. These new orders alone were friars, and their coming was just as distasteful to the previous orders of clergy, whether regular or secular, as is now the ministration of an intruder in a modern parish. They assumed the task of visiting the sick, of preaching in parish churches wherever permitted, and especially at markets and fairs, or wherever men most congregated. So very strict a body as the Carthusians could not fail to feel angry and jealous at the new orders; the hostility between monks and

(27a) Bishop Hobhouse writes: "In the seventeenth century contemporary correspondence shows that 'The Frary' was the current name. . . . In my boyhood there was no other name *in ore hominum* but Vrary." Precisely so, and hence the impropriety of the learned and the map-makers, who, by improving on the despised vernacular by the insertion of an *i* to make the word sound properly, and like the well-known name of something totally different. have produced much confusion, and a conspicuous example of historical inaccuracy.

friars was so acute that the last thing the Witham brethren would have called themselves would be by the hateful name of friars. The organization of the two bodies was totally distinct and different: while monks of the old orders resided in a separate house, each with its own separate rules, independent of all others, and governed solely by its own abbot, subject only to the general rule of the order; the friars of each order were subject to one great central authority, a system which in the end led to great abuses and much disorder. Whereas the monasteries were mostly placed in retired spots away from the wicked world, the friaries were always in the suburbs of great towns, from which preachers went forth singly without purse and without scrip. These were the true mendicant orders, whose vows, though including much in common with those of monks, were wholly different in object and in practice. When, later, the friars in their turn relapsed from their vows and became scandalous, there arose another, and this time a schismatic sect of preachers, the Lollards.

In Somerset the friars had three houses only, viz., that of the Dominicans at Ilchester, the Franciscans at Bridgwater, and the Augustines at Bristol. The Austin Friars must on no account be confounded with the Canons of St. Augustine,²⁸ but were a new order adopting the looser rule of the older Augustines. From their habit the Dominicans were called the Black Friars, the Franciscans Grey, and the Carmelites the White Friars. The Austins also wore black, and the Crutched Friars blue. The latter were an offshoot of the Trinitarians, whose proper habit was white. They, however, adopted a partly blue habit, on which was a cross, or *crutch*, in red, on breast and back—hence their name.²⁹

From the fact that very few monks were ordained priests, they were severally known as *frater*, not *pater*. The same

(28) See Canonsleigh, pp. 5, et sq.—Dev. Assoc., vol. xxiv., p. 364.

(29) See Mrs. Jameson, Legends of the Monastic Orders, p. xxxi., also *Cutts'* Dictionary of the Church of England, S.P.C.K.

may be said of the friars. St. Francis himself was never a priest, and consequently never said Mass, or communicated the viaticum to the dying. It is then by mere confusion of the orders that all regular clergy have been conventionally called friars in these latter days, even by so careful and precise a writer as Bishop Hobhouse. It would be of much interest to ascertain the first use of the term *Witham Friary*. It will probably be found to occur in moderately recent times, *i.e.*, long since the Dissolution, and that the term *Friary* does not belong to, and ought not to be applied to *Witham*. It was always *Prioratus de Witham* in official documents.

Sir R. C. Hoare's account of this monastery is most unsatisfactory and disappointing. It is "but one halfpennyworth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack;" for by far the largest part does not concern the Priory at all, but only the pedigrees of the families who have possessed the property since the spoliation, who have destroyed the monastic buildings, as at *Canonsleigh*, to provide materials for a modern manor house. This latter has also been pulled down by the owner, *Beckford*, in the last century.

We are not here concerned with *Witham* in its fall and debasement, but with its life and time of prosperity, about which very little indeed is to be learnt from *Hoare*.

We have tried to show the reasons which led *Henry* to bring over the *Carthusians*, and how at first the scheme failed. He then ordered *Reginald*, Bishop of *Bath*, who had gone to *Rome* on his business, and who, on his return, was actually consecrated at *St. Jean de Maurienne*, in the neighbourhood of the *Grand Chartreuse*, to petition that *Hugh of Avalon* (in *Burgundy*) might be sent over from that house to take charge of the new foundation. On *Hugh's* arrival he found the two or three monks, left by their deserting and dead priors, living in wooden sheds, and that none of the buildings had

been begun, or, as we have seen, even marked out.³⁰

The character of the famous new prior is shown by his having gone straight to Witham and not to court, whither, indeed, he did not go until he had failed to obtain funds from the king, and was consequently obliged to make a personal appeal. But once there, his presence seems to have acted like magic upon Henry, for he at once obtained all he wanted; so much so, that the building of the upper house for a prior and twelve brethren with their church, and a lower house and church for the lay brethren, or *fratres conversi*, were completed in eleven years.³¹ Not only was the monastery finished, but the fame of the piety and austerity of the newly arrived order, especially that of their prior, had spread far and wide.

In 1186 the Bishopric of Lincoln had been vacant for a year and a half, and at a council held at Eynsham the election of a new bishop was taken in hand. Both the King and Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, had determined that Hugh, prior of Witham, should be the man; but the council derided the idea of promoting a savage monk from the backwoods to be their bishop, and the Lincoln canons were horrified when they found the masterful Henry was in earnest. In the end they yielded and accepted Hugh, who at first declined to leave his solitude, and pleaded that the election was invalid on the ground that it could only take place in the chapter of the Cathedral. In fact he obstinately refused until he received the commands of the Superior of his Order at the Grand Charterhouse, and was compelled to obey. His insistence on regularity of election seems to have pleased the canons, who had at first so strongly objected, and they regularly elected him. He was consecrated at Westminster on St. Matthew's Day, September

(30) For a full account of his life before coming to England, see *Magna Vita S. Hugonis*, in Rolls Series. Also a more popular account taken from this in *Cutts' Dictionary of the Church of England*, S.P.C.K.

(31) Is it not possible that the casing of the present walls may have been added by Hugh to his own earlier building, by way of completion to a slighter one erected when funds were scanty?

21, 1186, by Baldwin, the primate. He set out immediately to his new home, amidst much pomp and many retainers provided by the King. He himself sat on a mule, with all his worldly goods tied in a bundle behind him. It is said that his followers, mortified at the mean appearance of the bishop, cut away his bundle unknown to him. He reached Lincoln on the eighth day, and entered his Cathedral by the west door, walking bare-foot, and in his monk's habit. His life at Lincoln was but the continuation of that at Witham. "He brought with him all his Carthusian simple devotedness to God's service, all the Carthusian contempt for the things of the world." Nor did he neglect his priory for his bishopric. He used to visit Witham once or twice a year from Lincoln, a very serious matter in those days, and no doubt looked well after the brethren he had been constrained to leave.³² Sometimes he stayed at Witham a month or two at a time.³³ He also made several journeys to his earlier home at the Grande Chartreuse, and it is recorded³⁴ that on one occasion he strongly rebuked the brethren there for asking on his arrival—"What news?"

His influence was quickly felt, not only in his diocese of Lincoln, but throughout the country. He stands alone among the bishops of that day as the one man sure to follow the straight path of duty, sternly regardless of consequences, yet withal cool in judgment, wise and clearly perceiving the right path to take, from which no influence, either of fear or desire, could turn him aside. Notwithstanding his constant wish to be relieved from his cares, for which he sent repeated prayers to the Holy See, it is evident that Henry, with all his impatience and wilfulness, stood in awe of the inflexible bishop. Upon one occasion the king, on being refused a prebend which he had demanded for a courtier, sent for him

(32) See *Vita S. Hugonis, R.S.*, p. 193.

(33) *Op. cit.*, p. 217.

(34) *Alban Butler—Lives of the Saints.*

and reminded him of all his benefits, upbraiding him for his ingratitude. Hugh undaunted, and with sweet countenance, meekly replied that he could regard the service of God alone.

Moreover, with all his austerities, he was yet joyous and full of talk and fun.

His unselfish yet gallant fight on behalf of the weak against the mighty, his love and care for the poor and the oppressed, combined with his judgment and tact in dealing with men, mark him out in an age of violence as a true and saintly Christian bishop, who, though not a native, may yet be truly ranked as one of England's noblest worthies. It has been well said that "few men deserve a higher and a holier niche" than Hugh, Prior of Witham and Bishop of Lincoln.

It was the sterling character and earnest zeal of Hugh which carried on the real work of the Church, so seriously thrown back by the death of Becket; it was the holiness of his life which helped to raise after his death the national protest against both papal aggression and royal subserviency, which may be said to have re-enacted the Clarendon Constitutions in the more famous document called the Magna Charta; and thus it is that Hugh has left so deep a mark upon the English Church that Witham, insignificant in itself, becomes a spot remarkable as the first home among us of a really great man.

Whether Witham as a building could compare in beauty with Lincoln cannot now be decided; but one of the noblest of our cathedrals testifies that the once obscure monk of Grenoble was not only admirable in his life and character, but had the true artistic taste, which makes him stand out as one of the greatest church builders of the middle ages, of the particular time when art seems to have reached its climax, and to have left us examples which no subsequent period has been able to approach.

No adulation, no prosperity, no contact with the world could sully the purity of his noble humility: his affection still clung to his beloved *alma mater* in Dauphiné, and after attend-

ing King John in London during the summer of 1200, he set out again to visit his old home. Returning to England after a short stay, he was taken ill in London, and died November 16, 1200. He was buried with the greatest magnificence at Lincoln.³⁴ The king, who was then staying there, took part, in the funeral, together with William, King of Scotland, three archbishops, fourteen bishops, and over one hundred abbots, besides a great number of nobles. His holiness of life and greatness of character were felt more than ever when he was gone. In twenty years after his death he too was canonized by Honorius III, and his body transferred to a splendid shrine behind the high altar; and thus Lincoln in the north soon became a place of pilgrimage almost rivalling Canterbury in the south. Sixty years later his body was again transferred to a new and still grander shrine of gold, in the presence of Edward I. and his queen.

Who then shall deny the interest attaching to Witham? It stands as a mark connecting events of the highest importance in our national history: it should ever remind us of its intimate association with two of the greatest figures in the history of the English Church; for of all the men who have lived and died in England the two most famous of British saints are unquestionably St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Hugh of Lincoln.

(34) *Alban Butler's Lives of the Saints.*

APPENDIX.

Lecture delivered in 1885, at Witham, on Witham Friary, by the
RIGHT REV. BISHOP HOBHOUSE.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION :

1. Sir R. C. Hoare's *Monastic Remains*, at Witham, Bruton, and Stavordale—privately printed, very inaccurate.
2. *Hapsden MSS. County History Collections*.
3. *Diocesan Registers* at Wells.
4. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Oxford Ed., 1819.
5. *Bruton Priory Cartulary*, penes E. of Ilchester.

I PROPOSE to consider—1. Domesday Survey, A.D. 1085 ; 2. The estate, as given by King Henry II. to the Friary in 1181 ; 3. Establishment of the Friary, and its progress, 1181—1539 ; 4. The Dissolution in 1539, and its consequences.

(A.D. 1086.) 1.—Domesday Book informs us that the Manor of Witham had been separated from the Manor of Bruham, of which in Saxon times it was a member. It was granted to two Norman lords, but their estates soon reverted to the Crown. In the Crown it seems to have remained. The Domesday valuation shows it to have been, like other forest tracts, of little value for husbandry.

(A.D. 1181.) 2.—The estate, as given by the king, seems to have been one block, now represented by the modern parish of Witham, 5,497 acres. It was—as described by the author of the Bruton Cartulary, a monk of that Abbey—an “*eremus*,” a waste or wilderness, either covered by forest trees, or consisting of the outskirts of the forest of Selwood. The soil is an exceedingly wet clay. The entry in the

Cartulary (p. 1286) I now extract in full :—"Memorandum : Anno Graciæ 1181. From the Passion of St. Thomas An. xi, Alexander being Pope, and Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury ; and Reginald (cognomento Ytalicus) Bishop of Bath ; Henry II being in the 49th year of his age, and 28th of his reign ; the Carthusian House of Witham was founded in the wilderness (eremo) of Witham." Before the foundation, the Prior of Bruton had a chapel there, pertaining to his church of Bruton, endowed with lands in that manor (of Witham). The chaplain received all tithes in the manor. The prior enjoyed rights of commonage and pannage without stint, and for firewood, one whole log at Christmas. The king, desiring to make the friars free from all interference, gave as compensation for the chapel rights, the rectory of South Petherton, and for the commonage, etc., he gave equivalent rights in his wood of Brucombe (*i.e.*, that part of the forest which lay in the Brue Valley, called the Brucombe Walk).

The personages introduced by this extract were all concerned with the foundation. Henry II had been laid under the ban of the church for complicity in the murder of Archbishop Baldwin's predecessor, Thomas á Becket in 1170. Part of the penances imposed as the test of his repentance for this crime was a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This had been commuted by the Pope into the founding of three religious houses. Having enlarged the old royal foundations of Waltham and Ambresbury, he now proceeded to introduce a new order of monks from its nursery at the Grand Chartreuse in the South of France, an order which was designed to escape the mischief accruing from idleness and over-endowment, by having a wilderness for its habitation, and the culture of it for the incessant employment of its members, and for the endowment of its community-life. Complete isolation and independence of all interference from baron or bishop was demanded by a Carthusian community, and these requisites were to be found in all completeness on the

waste outskirts of Selwood Forest. The choice of the site, and not improbably that of the Carthusian Order too, may be owing to the influence of Bishop Reginald, the able Diocesan. He was of foreign blood, and therefore surnamed Italicus, as well as Fitz-jocelin. Being elected to the see, whilst that of Canterbury was vacant, he journeyed into Italy with Richard, the archbishop elect, who went to Rome to receive consecration at the hands of Pope Alexander III, April 11th, 1173, and he received his own consecration from Archbishop Richard's hands in Savoy, at S. Jean de Maurienne, June 23rd. In Savoy he became acquainted with Hugh of Avalon, a noble of Grenoble, who had adopted the Carthusian Order, and he visited its first and greatest establishment at the Grand Chartreuse in Dauphinè. The king was no willing founder. He first planted, in the Witham wilderness, a small swarm of monks from the mother hive. These poor Frenchmen found themselves bare of everything, even shelter, and unable to carry on the cultivation which was to support them. It was probably the intervention of Bishop Reginald that brought the master mind of St. Hugh on the spot, and spurred the king to give something more than the wild lands, which cost him so little to part with.

THE FIRST FOUNDATION.

At this date, 1181-83,* the condition of the infant institution might be thus surveyed. A small body of French monks, with St. Hugh at their head, meanly lodged, and beginning to grapple with their task of raising the means of living out of the waste. They were also engaged in raising the chapel, which was to survive all later buildings. They were possessed of all that afterwards became the liberty and parish of Witham, *i.e.*, the 5,497 acres in block immediately round them, and the tract of dry sheep-run on the top of

* Upon this date see note to previous paper (p. 10), which gives the authority of *Vita S. Hugonis*. [ED.]

Mendip, which the king had superadded to their great behoof as farmers of a very wet clay land. They had exemption from all ecclesiastical visitation or imposts. Civilly, they were free from the claims of the hundred, and therefore from attending the sheriff's tourn, or paying his demands in the king's behalf or the county's, and free also from the officers of the forest, and the vexatious rights of the forest.

The king's charter is not dated. It was granted at Marlborough, in full council, and witnessed by four bishops and by other nobles and officials. John, Bishop of Norwich, having been consecrated in 1175, the date must be subsequent to that year, and is probably the year 1181, as given in the Cartulary.

The proofs of the above statement are found in the charter and in a confirming bull of Innocent IV. In the charter we must note :—

1.—Its dedication : In honorem B. Marie et B. Jo. Baptistæ.

2.—Its relation to the Crown : “ Ut sit mea et hæredum meorum dominica domus, et eleemosina ”—thus settling in the Crown a founder's rights for ever.

3.—Its immunities : “ Libera ab omni servicio ; ” “ In liberam eleemosinam,” *i.e.*, frank-almoigne—freedom from geld, scutage, hidage, pontage, toll, or king's purveyors, suits of shire and hundred, and from all pleas, including “ murdrum,” *i.e.*, the fine exacted from the hundred for murder committed in the bounds. “ Prohibeo etiam ne forestarii aliquami is molestiam faciant infra limites suos, nec ingredientibus vel egredientibus per eos ”—a most important immunity from the operation of the oppressive forest rights, which included the expeditation of dogs, *i.e.*, disabling them from hunting by mangling the claw.

4.—The extent of grant : The boundaries both of the Witham and of the Mendip estates are given in detail. Only a few names can be identified, but the old areas have doubtless

been preserved by virtue of their privileges. The grant of Hill-lands was made expressly "ad pasturas eorum."

In Pope Innocent IV's bull we note :

1.—In the recitals, that Bishop Reginald of Bath (1174-92) had granted "cum consensu capituli Well:" an exemption from tithe, and also the "jus ecclesiasticum" over the lands in the parish of Cheddar held by the Carthusian Friars, and cultivated "propriis laboribus et sumptibus." That Bishop Bytton the First (1267-75) had confirmed (after inspeximus of Bishop Reginald's act) the above grant.

2.—That papal confirmation of these privileges is granted. Ao. xii, Inn iv, *i.e.*, 1254-5.

3.—That Bishop Bytton used the expression "Sub B. B. Petri et Pauli atque Andreae et nostrae, necnon ecclesiae nostrae (*i.e.*, the diocese) protectione suscipimus."

4.—That Bishop Bytton acted with his chapter, as Bishop Reginald had done. Their consent was needed in this case, not only as the Diocesan Council whose consent, carrying that of the diocese, made the bishop's acts binding on his successors, but as patrons of Cheddar, from which parish the upland pastures were taken.

5.—That with these episcopal grants the estate of Charterhouse Mendip was as free of every parochial liability as to tithes, dues, oblation, sepulture, and visitations as the Friary itself. A chapel was built at Hydon, and has sometimes been mistaken for an independent Friary.

AFTER FOUNDATION. 1181—1459.

Little is known of the normal life of the community after its full establishment, and indeed little ought to be known. Isolation from all ties natural, social, and civil, was the aim of the Carthusian rule, and, if faithfully maintained, would needs blot the community out of the roll of current history. Even the peasant population found on the domain when granted by

Henry II. *must have been removed** to some other Crown domain, for the whole labour of the soil was to be done by the friars, “*propriis laboribus*,” and domestic life within the bounds was incompatible with the rule. The only peep we get of the brotherhood is through their contact, as landlords, with neighbours.

In the 44th year of Henry III, a question having arisen as to recompensing the prior and “leprous sisters” of Bradley for loss of commonage in the domain wood at Witham, a right belonging of old to their manor of Yarnfield, a jury was empanelled by H. de Bracton (with Alan de Walton, coroner) consisting of eighteen knights, etc., of Wilts, and as many of Somerset. The jury, in verdict, say that the priors of Bradley always enjoyed the rights of commonage on payment of 14s. per annum, and also that of deadwood, called “Oldwood underfoot,” and are entitled to compensation. They suggest a rent-charge of eight librates on the king’s domain of Milborne (Port), or of the benefice of Tilshead, Wilts, value 15 marks out-taken the vicarage.

Appended to the verdict is a perambulation made by the king’s order, 28th Henry III, “*De bundis Ord. Cartus in Selwood*,” by Gilbert de Segrave, the king’s forest justiciary, and others on oath. The bounds tally with those in King Henry III’s charter. [Note some words which seem to carry

* Bishop Hobhouse says:—“This was probably to Knap in North Curry.” In Wells MSS., p. 162, *Lib. Alb. III*, fo. 81, are notices of exchanges of land at Knappe for land at Witham by a charter of Henry *Senioris* but there seems to be some question as to date, for this document undated follows on the same folio a charter of Edward I, bearing date 1306, and also dealing with Knap. Other evidence, including the names of the attesting bishops, pretty clearly supports Bishop Hobhouse, and proves this removal to have been completed by 1184. The *Senioris* in the above document must have referred to Henry II. himself as distinguished from his son and heir, the younger Henry, who had been actually crowned with his wife, the Princess Margaret, in 1173, by the Archbishop of Rouen. The death of Prince Henry on June 11th, 1183, seems to show that the undated charter was executed by Henry *Senior* during his son’s life, *i.e.*, before 1183, probably about 1180, and that it has been placed in error in its present position in the Wells MS., and really ought to be among much earlier documents.—[Ed.]

a refoundation by Henry III, "Qui nunc est."] Sir R. C. Hoare (p. 18) gives an extract from the Hundred Rolls of Henry III. The jury of the Hundred Court make presentment. 1.—That Henry II gave in Almoigne the Manor of Witham out of Royal Domain. It is now worth £151 per annum. 2.—That the men of Yarnfield, tenants of the Prior of Bradley, used to have common pasture and dry wood in Witham domain for a rent of xiijs now lost to the king. 3.—That Witham Wood is in the forest of Selwood, and has been enclosed with ditch, hedge, and stone wall for the last thirteen years. The monks bann all forest claims "in Vert (Viride) or Venison (Venatione)" within the close, and claim all beasts found there "tanquam domini," to the king's hurt. 4.—That the monks have buried bodies, feloniously slain, without coroner's inquest. 5.—That when thieves were taken with booty in hand, the monks seized the booty, and dismissed the thieves on abjuration of their territory.

Though there is little to record in the centuries spanned by the Plantagenet and Lancaster reigns, there was a change going on which affected all conventual life, and which manifested itself in this isolated Friary† in the year 1459. In May of that year the prior, John Pester, and his brethren, petition the bishop (Beckynton) to consecrate a lay place of burial, a font for the use of the lay people, and to authorise a chaplain to minister to them. The preamble sets forth that the lands given to the House were made parochially exempt by Pope Cælestine; that they were till *late times all* cultivated by the friars; that lately, owing to decay of zeal, they had been obliged to employ lay folk of both sexes, and so a parochial family had grown up, which needed a font, a cemetery, and a chaplain. In answer to this petition, the bishop commis-

† See remarks in previous paper (pp. 13-14), on the use of the term Friary as applied to Witham. The monks may have called themselves *frères* or *fratres*, and the place may in old French have been called a *Frary*, but they would always have repudiated the term *Friar* or *Friary*.—[ED.]

sioned his suffragan (the Bishop of Sidon) to consecrate a burial ground at the west end of the chapel, and a font. He also granted the right to appoint a chaplain. Thus the territory which had been placed under the friars as their working ground, for the discharge of their vows in rigid isolation, began to approach the conditions of an ordinary parish. The chapel—"de la Frary"—dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, is the only one mentioned, with only one dedication. It is quite plain that there was no parish church, and no need of any. The chaplain was endowed. His stipend is returned in the Valor of Henry VIII at £5 6s. 8d. as a fixed deduction from the revenues of the House. He was classed amongst the incumbents and placed in the Deanery of Frome (see Map of the Diocese in the Valor). This was a change. In the Valor of 1292 the Prior "Carthusiæ de Selwood" stands assessed in the Deanery of Cary at £30 per annum for his temporals at Witham. To Cary Deanery Witham must have belonged, before 1181, whilst ecclesiastically dependent on Bruton.

AUGMENTATIONS.

In 1414 the alien Priors, *i.e.*, those which were annexed to mother-houses in Normandy, were, by an Act of the Parliament of Leicester, handed over to Henry V for reappropriation. Some of these endowments, belonging to the Abbey of Preaux, in Normandy, were given by the King, or his son, Henry VI, to the Friary. The properties at Warmington (Warwick), at Spettisbury (Dorset), and Fonthill (Wilts), were thus acquired. The particulars may be gathered by search in the references given in notes to Dugdale's Monasteries. The effect of this added and distant property was to bring the isolated community into landlord's entanglements with the outer world, which in the strict days of the order they would have avoided. They were now becoming assimilated to other landowning bodies.

THE LAST STAGE AND DISSOLUTION.

The return made for Henry VIII's Valor, 1534, must be consulted for a view of the Friary just before its surrender. The management of the estate shows that the manual labour of the monks had nearly or wholly ceased. It was managed very much as any other conventual property after the dying out of the serf system—a portion held in domain, the rest leased to renting farmers. The lands retained as domain at Witham and on Mendip equalled £56 1s. 10d.; the total income, £227 1s. 8d.; the nett, £215 15s. The farms of Billericay, Westbarne, and Quarre, within the territory, were out on lease, no longer tilled by monkish labour. The inclosures (intakes from the forest, I suppose) of Newhichens Hicke-sparke, Drove, the Poundhayes, and Holymead were also rented. The tithes, great and small, with oblations (*i.e.*, from the secular folk) amounted to £3 13s. 2d. The house, unlike other religious houses, had acquired no patronage or impropriation beyond "le Frarye." Henry Man was prior. Nicholas Fitzjames (of the Redlynch family) was seneschal over all the properties, at a stipend of £4.

In 1539 (March 15th—30th, Henry VIII) came the surrender to the king, made in the chapter-house of the Friary, by John Mychell, prior, and his twelve brethren. It is given by Sir R. C. Hoare, p. 125—7, in full, with all its relentless wording. The inmates were pensioned, and disbanded, but the institution, which had lasted for 348 years, was summarily extinguished.

In the 35th year of Henry VIII (November 25th, 1543) a purchaser was found in Sir Ralph Hopton, the king's standard-bearer, who was already a lessee of portions. Sir R. C. Hoare gives in full (p. 126—31) the schedule of the properties of which Sir Ralph Hopton received seisin from the Court of Augmentations, also the prices and a schedule of the woods, signed by William Hartgill and John Horner as commissioners. The annual value of the lands scheduled was

£25 11s. 4d., after deducting £7 for the priest. The price, fixed at 20 years' purchase, was £460 3s. 4d.; for the woods, £112 13s. 4d.; total, £572 16s. 8d. The tithe was valued at £2 11s. 2d. The Holt, a wood of 862 acres, had already been sold to Seymour, Erle of Hertford. The Mendip Grange was granted, in the 36th year of Henry VIII, to Robert May, in whose family it remained till about 1700. Since the Dissolution, the history of the place is easily recorded. The Hoptons built manor houses at Ditchat and Evercreech, and probably had no residence at Witham but the adapted remnant of conventual buildings. King Charles's gallant general, created Lord Hopton, was the last of his name. His property was confiscated by the Parliament, and he died in exile, 1652. One of his sisters recovered her share at the Restoration, and carried it into the family of Wyndham, of Orchard Wyndham. They began to build a very handsome mansion in the first half of the 18th century, but on succeeding to the great Petworth property, they sold it to Alderman Beckford, who, on acquiring the Fonthill property, pulled down the unfinished Witham mansion, and sold the materials. The bulk of the estate passed, about 1812, into the hands of the Duke of Somerset, the present owner.

In the course of his address, Bishop Hobhouse commented on the remarkable character of Bishop Hugh, and on his devoted attachment to the wilderness of Witham, to which he used to run for the sake of religious retreat when burdened with the duties of his vast diocese of Lincoln. He bade the people of Witham regard their church as the work of Bishop Hugh, and as his favourite place of devotion, and expressed his hope that though the labourer-monks were gone, there would never be wanting a body of faithful labourer-worshippers who, though not bound by any other vow than that which binds every baptised servant of Christ, would zealously seek and find their Lord and Saviour in the sanctuary raised to his honour by the devotees of the rigid order of Chartreuse.

The Place-name 'Frome.'

BY HUGH NORRIS.

MORE than once have I been asked, and again and again have I asked myself the question, "What is the origin or derivation of the place-name 'Frome'?"

Collinson (ii, 185) says, "The simple appellation of the town arose from the river Frome, in Saxon 'From,' " an assertion that no one present would be bold enough to dispute, but which is no more to the point than if he were to tell us that the origin of his own name is to be discovered in the fact that his father was called 'Collinson' before him.

In the Domesday Survey the word appears as 'Frome,' both in Somerset and Dorset.

Seeing that there are at least three rivers in the western part of England bearing the name 'Frome,' one is naturally prompted to ask the question, "Has the word anything to do with water which according to its condition, characteristics or situation has given rise to the qualifying words Usk or Axe or Exe, Dwr, Stour, Llyn, Loch, etc., in addition to the general term for rivers, Afon or Avon; and if so, what inherent quality is it that has given rise to the name Frome?"

I can find no explanation in the publications of our Society.

Canon Taylor, in "Words and Places" (p. 145, Ed. 1882), only refers to Frome as one "amongst river names which invite investigation."

Pulman, in his "Local Nomenclature" (p. 19, Ed. 1857), gives it as the Keltic "*Yr Afon Ffrwm*, the river of rank vegetation, a quality with which anglers (in the Dorset river) are soon made acquainted ;" *Ffrwm* being the modern Welsh for rank or luxuriant.

Camden (*Britannia*, Gibson's Ed., 1772, vol. i, col. 56), quoting Asser, in his "Life of King Alfred" (*sub* Wareham), says, "Into the north-west corner of this Bay (*Poole Harbour*) Frome, a famous river of this county (*Dorset*), discharges itself ; for so it is commonly call'd, tho' the Saxons nam'd it *F̄nau* ; and because this bay was formerly call'd *Fraumouth*, later ages have probably imagin'd that the river was call'd *Frome*." This is not a bad shot of our old friend's, but if we admit such mode of begging the question what becomes of the two other Fromes which have no mouth ? Moreover, he altogether fails to tell us what *F̄nau* means.

The Saxon Chronicle (*sub* A.D. 1015) speaks of Cnut's having his head quarters at *F̄nau-muð*, when engaged in harrying the counties of Dorset, Wilts, and Somerset.

The editor of Murray's Handbook of Dorset (p. 180, Ed. 1869) remarks that *War* or *Var* seems to have been the Keltic name of the Dorset river Frome.

In Hutchins's Dorset (Ed. 1867, p. 447, vol. ii) we read, "On the south side of the church rises a spring called St. John's Spring, which is reputed to be the head of the Frome." And then in a quotation he adds : "Mr. Baxter (*Glossarium voce Durnovaria*) derives the British name *Varius* or *Var* *iii. q.d. Profluens Varii, sive undæ Mansuetæ*." (By which I understand him to mean that the river was called 'Var,' because its stream was smooth and placid and its current gentle).

He then says, "It is synonymously called *Frau*, from a dialect of the Scoto-Brigantes, with whom *Frew* is a stream or river. (In British, *Frau* signifies the same ; and in another dialect *Rhig* and *Rhiü*, which agrees with the Latin *Rivus*, from the Greek *ῥεειν*, in the Eolic dialect *F̄πειν*, to flow) ;

whence the ancient palace of the British kings in the Isle of Anglesea was called from the neighbouring river *Aber-Frau*, quasi *Fraumæ Ostium*. That *Varius* was another name for *Frauma* is evident from the modern name of Warham, *ad Varium* a dwelling on the *varius*,"* (the Latinized form of *Var*.)

The writer mentions a number of adjacent places, taking their name from the stream; the oldest being *Wareham* as containing the Keltic root, the rest Saxon or later, comprising five *Fromes* at least and one *Frampton*.

Accepting these remarks as true of the Dorsetshire *Frome*, the question arises, "are there any features possessed by the Gloucester and Somerset *Fromes* that would link their history with that of Mr. Baxter's river?" Camden says that "our river *Frome* washes *Farleigh*, a castle on a hill, belonging not many years since to the *Hungerfords*;" and a glance at the map shews us that there is an ancient market town called *Wickwar*, not far from the head of the Gloucestershire river.

These are instructive facts, and tend to show that the three *Frome* streams are members of one family, in that they possess similar names in virtue of possessing generally similar qualities.

There is yet another remarkable feature common to them all, and this is that neither of these rivers pours its waters directly into the sea; each either flows into or unites with another stream before an estuary is formed, *e.g.*, the *Frome* *Frome* flows in a northerly direction to join the *Avon* at *Freshford*, near *Bath*; the Gloucestershire stream, taking a southerly course, pours its waters into the same river at *Bristol*; whilst the Dorsetshire *Frome* goes nearly due east to join the *Piddle* or *Trent* in forming that queer, winding, muddy estuary which at high water we know by the name of *Poole Harbour*, the ancient *Frau-muð*.

* "*Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicarum, accedunt Edv. Luidii de Fluviorum, Montium, Orbium, etc., in Britannia Nominibus, Adversaria Posthuma.*"—By William Baxter, Lond., 8vo., 1733.

Whether this coincidence may be regarded as a factor, direct or indirect, in giving a similar designation to the three water-courses, I must leave for others to discuss. Unfortunately, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the physical characteristics of either river to offer an opinion as to its deserving the appellation "*unda mansueta*," but it is just possible that the fact of a stream flowing a number of miles under circumstances which cause it eventually to lose its independent existence, may tend to render its course smooth and tranquil, rather than boisterous and rude. The river here, I noticed when approaching the town by the railway yesterday, was winding, and its surface smooth. I was also informed by a Frome gentleman that such is its general aspect until it reaches the Avon.

We may, moreover, conclude that the Dorsetshire river possesses similar features, or Hutchins's remarks as to its earliest recorded name would not have been made.

I am not a Keltic scholar, but I happen to know that in Welsh, as now spoken, the word *Gwâr* means placid or gentle. I know also that by a natural and easy transition *Gwar* may become *War* or *Var*; in fact that the words may in many cases be inter-changeable. This, surely, tends to corroborate the assertion of Mr. Baxter that *Var* in Keltic times had precisely the meaning he assigns it, and which is expressed by the Latin word *mansuetus*.

Assuming this to be correct, I have only to add that if the suggested dialectic connexion between the words *Var* and *F̄pau* commends itself to philologists, and if they can stand sponsors for the legitimate introduction of the final 'm' in the later Saxon word *F̄pau*m or *F̄pou*m, it will not be very difficult to trace the process by which the Keltic *VAR*, of two or possibly three thousand years ago, has become the English *FROME* of the present day.

The last Will and Testament of Dame
Elizabeth Biconyll,

Widow of Sir John Biconyll [or Bicknell], Knight.

BY A. J. MONDAY.

ABOUT three miles from Frome, in the parish of Beckington, stands an old manor house (long since converted to a farm-house), known as Seymour's Court. On the north side of the chancel of the parish church of Beckington, in Collinson's time, were brass memorials on which were represented two figures, male and female, with a Latin black-letter inscription. The epitaph was to this effect:—"Here lies John Seyntmaur, Esqre and Elizabeth his wife, which said John died the 5th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1485. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen." Collinson informs us that Elizabeth Seyntmaur, the lady represented on one of these brasses, was a daughter of Sir Richard Choke, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas.* The Chalke, Choke, or Chokke family, originally from Chalke in Wiltshire, was one of considerable wealth and antiquity, seated at Staunton Drew and Long Ashton, in Somersetshire. The issue of the marriage between these two persons whose figures are represented on the memorial were Sir William St. Maur, Knight of the Bath, who married Margaret, daughter

* Collinson II. 201.

of Sir Richard Edgecumbe (who died, leaving a daughter Jane, who died without leaving issue), and two daughters eventually, co-heiresses to their brother (Sir William St. Maur), viz.: Margaret, married to William Bampfylde, Esq., of Poltimore, county Devon; and Anne, married to Robert Stawell, Esq., of Cothelstone, county Somerset. Elizabeth St. Maur married secondly Sir John Biconyll, so that portion of the memorial, as far as it relates to her, may be regarded as a cenotaph, inasmuch as it will be presently shown she was buried elsewhere. Sir John Byconill [or Bicknell], who was returned in the year 1472, together with Sir John Willoughby, as a member of Parliament, for the counties of Somerset and Dorset—sheriff for both counties in the years 1472 and 1473—was possessed of landed estates in Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, and Wiltshire. He probably lived chiefly at his manor house of Pepilpeis, in the parish of South Perrot, Dorsetshire, not far from Crewkerne (Biconyll Johannes, Miles, 5 Blamyr, Somerset House).* The surname of Biconyll or Bicknell, it would appear, was originally Paveley. The Paveleys held the manor of Bikenhull or Bicknell, near Taunton, from the ninth year of Edward I to the first year of the reign of Edward III, by the service of a knight's fee. In the time of King Edward I, a John de Paveley was the chief lord of the manor of Clapton, in the parish of Crewkerne; but in another contemporaneous record,† the name of the tenant *in capite* of the same manor is returned as John de Bikenhulle. The following is the Will of Dame Elizabeth Biconyll, who as Elizabeth Seyntmaur still appears on the monumental brass in the church at Beckington:—

* The Will of Sir John Byconyll, Knight, of Northperot, Somerset, was proved in 1501 [5 Blamyr].

† Supplementary to supply deficiencies in *Kirby's Quest*, 31st Edward I, Somerset Record Society, vol. iii, p. 52.



Hic iacet Johannes Seyntmaur Armiger et Elizabeth vxor eius qui quidam Johannes &
 obtinuit die Decembris Anno millimo CCC LXXXV Anno die mensis & annu

**BRASS OF JOHN SEYNTMAUR
 AND HIS WIFE (AFTERWARDS DAME ELIZABETH BIGONYLL,)**

In the Church of St. Gregory, Beckington.

Height of Figures 2 ft. 1 in. x 1 ft. 11½ in.

DATE 1485.

In the name of the most gloriouse trinitye amen The last day of June the yere of Crist m v [1500] the xixth yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the vijth I Elizabeth Biconyll late the Wif of Sir John Biconyll knyght beyng hole of mynde but som̄ dele syke but recoūyng helth lauding be to god ordeyne this my laste Will and testamēt as folowith ffirst I bequeth my soule to almighty god and to his blessed moder mary and to all the company of Heven And my body to be buried in the Sepulture of Glastonbery nygh to the place wher as my last husband Sir John lyeth buried It. this is my last testament to beere Witnessse that as to the pfrmyng of my said last husbonds last Will I have truely pformed it according to eūy article as well in mortifying the londs to the Abbot and Covent of Glastonb̄y as in all othyr articles in the same It. I woll and ordeyne that assone as my gostly fader w^t other clerks haue mynistred to me the holy sacramēt vncion That immediatly as by mān erthly it may be pceyved that my soule shuld be from my body separate I hopp in the assignemēt of god by m̄cy and meryte of his payneful passion for my redemption and al manykynde that as sone as the lawe of holy church ordeyneth aft^r the apperyng of the daylight by the advice and consente of myn executors that my discrete preests shall secretly say Dirige and masse for my soule begynnyng the trigentall of saynt Gregory eūy preest to say xxx^{ti} masses and xxx^{ti} Diriges succeeding dayly or other in ther stede till the xxx^{ti} day of ptyng my liff and than from that howre of myn Anele betwixt the howre of the burying of my body in forme afore Written the said iiij preests say for the helth of my soule neu^l cessing but oon of them to be occupied nyght and day in saying iiij tymes the Saulter of David as the holy church doth use it by the ordeynaunce of most holy saynt Jerom eūy of theym to be rewarded as they de..ve

[deserve] by the discrecion of myn seid executors It. I beq̄th to the moder church of Sarum x^s It. I bequeth to Sir John Saunders my Curat of Southpet [Southperot] for negligent tithes and offerings Iiijs iiijd It. I beq̄th to Dame Margaret Seyntmaur late wif to my son Sir Willm̄ Seyntmaur knyght the valure of C m̄rc in plate w^t the bed and hangyng to hir owne chamb^r) next the churchyerde It. I bequeth to the same Dame margarete iij peyre of fyn shets two fyn borde-clothes of twely my best blake gowne of cloth A girdell A payre of beds ij carpetts A coshon of sylke and vj other coshons w^t all myn other stuff at Kainsham w^t an C shepe at Childefrome vpon this condiçon That the seid Dame Margarete do suffer me and myn executors to execute and pforme my said sonys Will in my said sonnes mañs and londs w^tin the Countie of Dorset in eũy thing According to the true intende of the same Will And if she or any other psõn by hir comaundment or agreement or to hir vse vexes or trouble me or myn executors, so that my sonnes Will cannot be pformed in the same londs and mañs that then I will that this bequest in the pmisses made vnto the said Dame Margarete be vtterley voyde and of none effect and that the same goods to be by myn said excutors disposed to the pformance of my said sonnes Will and for my soule and for that I am bound to pray for It. I bequeth to Jane Seyntmaur, daughtr to my said sonne Sir William the value of an C pounds in plate w^t an C shepp at Childfrome and all my napery shets apparell of chambors stuff of kechon and all other vtensiles of my household excepte thos that I haue or shall otherwise dispose vpon this condiçon that if the said Jane and all other hauyng the said mariage and gyding of the said Jane doo suffre me and myn executors to pforme and execute my said sonnes Will vpon the said mañs and londs in the afore-

said Countie of Dorset according to the true intente of the same Will w^tout lett or intrvcion of the aforesaid Jane or of any other that hath the Warde mariage gyding and Rule of the said Jane and also vpon this condiçon that if the said Jane doo leve aft^r my deceste to the age of therten yeres of hir birthe And if she shall fortune to deceste w^tin the said age aft^r my dēth Than I will myn executors dispose that seid bequests the oon half to helth of the said Jane ys soule to hir nexte frends to dispose as they will aunswere afore God And the other half my said executors to dispose it for my soule and the soules that I am bound to pray for and all xpen [christian] soules Or if I or myn executors be vexed or Interrupte by the foresaid Jane or by any other hauyng the Warde gwyding and rule of the said Jane So that I nor myn executors cannot pforme my said sonnes Will vpon the said man^s and lands then I will that this my bequeste made to the said Jane of the p^rmisses be vtterly voyde and of noon effecte And that the same goods to be by myn executors disposed to the pformance of my sonnes Will and for my Soule and for the soules that I am bounde to pray for It. I bequeth to eury place of the iiij orders of ffreeres in Bristoll xx^s It. I bequeth to the ffreeres of Dorchestr xx^s It. to the freeres of Bridgewat^r xx^s It. I bequeth to the freers of Ilches^r xx^s It. I bequeth to the church of Southpēt xx^{li} It. I bequeth to Jone Goold my chambr^r mayde x mrcs It. I bequeth to Elizabeth Rowlys my goddoughtr^r x mrc It. I bequeth to eury householder of my tennts of Southpēt and Northpēt xx^d It. I bequeth to eury of my plough hynds mk iiij^d It. I bequeth to Margery havryes iij^s iiij^d It. I bequeth to Sir Stephen Gooldsborough to pray for my soule lxxvj^s viij^d It. I bequeth to m^r [Mr.] henry Daubney A basin and my Ewer of silu^u w^t iij flysses in the botham It. I bequeth to John Skewis A basin and

an Ewer of silv It. I bequeth to the monastery of Mountague xli It. I bequeth to ij children of my daughter margarete Bamfeld [Bampfylde] xxli in money or plate at the discrecion of myn executors It. I bequeth to ij children of my daughter Anne xxli in money or plate at the discrecion of my executors It. I bequeth to my suster Wroughton A Ring of the passion A blake gowne and A bonet and A frontelett I bequeth to be devided amongs the monks of Glastonbry at the day of my burying xli It. I will ther be ordeyned A sadde preest w^toute cure by the discrecion of myn executors to syng A trentall during my hole yere aft^r my decesse taking for his labor xls It. I will and ordeyn that v children be hadd and founde to gramer^s Schole by the discrecion of myn executors ther as they thinke most expedient for theym to the tyme they be able to goo to Oxford eu^{er}y of them xxvjs viij^d A yere to praye for me and my frends that I am bounde to pray for It. I bequeth to ij highwayes of Southpēt and Northpēt xli It. I Will and ordeyne of this my last Will the forenamed Ric. Bear lord Abbot of Glastonbery John Skewys and Sir Stephen Gooldisborough p^rson of Northpēt myn executors to dispose for my soule toward my burying beside the fore rehersed somes Cli in funⁿall expens And all other of my detts and goods to dispose and distribute for my soule and for the soulis of my goode husband Sir John Byconyll and Jane his wif John Seyntmaur for the soule of Sir Willm Seyntmaur my sonne the soules of my fader and my moder godfader and godmoders the soule of my brother Chock and for my brethern and sustren soules and all xpen [christian] soules that I am Detbounde to pray for as they Woll aunswer, at the day of dome geving and bequething to my forseid lord of Glastonb^y toward the biolding of or lady chapell xxli To the foresaid John Skewys xli And to

the foresaid Sir Stephen V m̄c It. I bequeth to the Chapelle of Glastonb̄y late Biyled by myn husband Sir John Byconyll and me for the mayntenūnce of the ornaments of the same x^{li} It. I bequeth to the highway betwixt Shirborne Shaftynebery x^{li} It. I beq̄th to A high way besids Bekeyngton callid Chepmans slade v^{li} It. I will that such goodes as by me bequethed to Jane Saynt-maur daugh^t vnto my son Sir William Reste in the custody of my ij executors vnto the comyng home of my lorde of Glastonb̄y And aft^r his comyng home the stuffe to be deli^ued vnto hym And so to rest in his hands to the tyme she be of the age of therten yeres afore-rehersed And if it shall fortune hir to decesse then I will they be disposed by myn executors for the Welth of my soule as they woll aunsw^er before god It. I will that such goodes as by me be disposed to my dought^s childern rest in the custody of myn executors to the tyme of their marriage And if it shall fortune theym before the day of mariage to dye then I will they be disposed by the advise of myn executors for the welth of my soule as they woll aunswere at the day of Judgement It. I ordeigne of this my testamēt supervisors and oūsears my lord Daubney and Sir John mordaunte knyght bequething to my said lord for his labor xl m̄s and the said Sir John mordaunte xx m̄s So that they be aidyng and socoryng myn executors to the pformānce of this my last will and of my said sonnes Will It. I will that if any of them to who^m I haue bequethed any of my goodes intrupte vexe or trouble any of m̄yn excutors in the pforming of this my last Will in any of my causis That than I will that my said bequeste be to them voyde In witnefs whereof to this my p̄sent testamēt and laste will I have putt my seale And the day and yere aboue specified thies psons [persons] then beyng p̄sent and heuing this my last Will and testament Redde Robert more

Bernard Oldom clerk John Saunds clerk John Calneley Clerk Richard Hervy John Smyth sen^r wt moo Proved at Lamehith [Lambeth] xv day of the month of July 1504. (Somerset House 13 Holgrave).

The brasses to the memory of John St. Maur and Elizabeth his wife, are now in the centre of the chancel of Beckington church, in front of the altar rails; but the inscription with somewhat strange inconsistency has been separated from the brasses, and placed where it can, with great difficulty be read, on one of the risers of the altar steps. These memorials represent an esquire in armour, together with his lady wearing costume of the period.

The St. Maurs or Seymours of Beckington, like those of Wulfhall, Wiltshire—the ancestors of the first Duke of Somerset and his kinsmen—were descended from the St. Maur family of Penhow and Wondy, Monmouthshire. A very good account of the Seymours of Wulfhall appears in the Wiltshire Archæological Society's Magazine for the year 1875, by the late Rev. Canon J. E. Jackson.

I have referred to the fact of the manor house of the Seymour family, at Beckington, having been used as a farm house. Adam Smith, in his *Wealth of Nations*, in order to show that owing to the increased wealth of the country, not only furniture, but likewise houses, get into the hands of people for whom they were neither made nor built, states that what was formerly a seat of the Seymour family, was then an inn on the Bath road.

To A. S. Bicknell, Esq., of 23, Onslow Gardens, South Kensington, a member of our Society, I am greatly obliged for the use of his valuable notes on this subject.

On a Painting of St. Barbara in the Church of St. Lawrence, Cucklington, Somerset.

BY THE REV. F. W. WEAVER, M.A.

ALTHOUGH there is said to have been a British Church at Glastonbury in very early times, yet from the time when the Romans evacuated Britain, till the arrival of St. Augustine on our shores (410—597), a period of nearly two hundred years, the South of England, at any rate, was plunged in the darkness of heathenism; and it was not for another hundred years that St. Aldhelm flourished as a missionary preacher and church builder in this Wessex of ours.

The see of Sherborne, of which he was the first bishop, was founded in 706, and he also founded a church at Frome, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which was still standing in the time of William of Malmesbury (*circa* 1115).¹

When Aldhelm then first began his missionary labours in Somerset, he was preaching to people who had been heathens for at least three hundred years. Now these people had (as we have) certain sacred spots, among which *wells* and *fountains* may particularly be mentioned, as places especially presided over by various tutelary deities.

The policy of the Christian missionaries was not to uproot entirely the ancient faith, but to consecrate it afresh under a true and worthier patron: thus many of the sacred springs

(1) *The Life of St. Aldhelm*, by the Rev. W. H. Jones, F.S.A. (1878), p. 25.

and wells which we find (for instance) in Cornwall undoubtedly date from pre-Christian times. Cornwall is the most celebrated county for wells and well chapels; but there are sacred springs in Somerset too, for those who will take the trouble to search for them. It is not always an easy task, for the names of Saints have first been turned into *pet names*, and then afterwards frequently corrupted. I give the following as a few out of many examples:—

Agace is a corruption for St. Agatha.

Audrie for St. Ethelreda.

Bittle for St. Botolph.

Bride for St. Bridget.

Leger for St. Leodegar.

Loy for St. Eligius.

Maudlen for St. Mary Magdalene.

Pallets for St. Hippolytus.

Parnell for St. Petronilla.

Tooley for St. Olave.

The meaning of the names of parishes is frequently obscured by their modern forms. Who, at first sight, would suspect that Bethersden (Kent) was really Betrisden from the church being dedicated to St. Beatrice?²

Some of our popular vulgarisms are corruptions; St. Martin was always a very favourite saint in England, and the pious aspiration "*O mihi beate Martine*" is said to be the origin of the saying "All my eye and Betty Martin."³

In the western suburb of Leicester is a well called *St. Austin's Well*: a correspondent of *Notes and Queries* (vi., 152) tells us that he enquired for it under the name of St. Augustine's Well: the oldest inhabitant seemed thoroughly puzzled, and at first pleaded entire ignorance of such a place; at length, brightening up, he suddenly exclaimed, "Oh! you mean *Tosting's Well*!"

(2) Ecton's *Thesaurus* (1742), p. 6.

(3) *The Last Abbot of Glastonbury* (Crake), p. 230.

Some parishes are named from famous springs. Thus we have our own cathedral city, which takes its name from the plenteous spring known as St. Andrew's Well, whose waters, after replenishing the moat round the bishop's palace, run in a refreshing stream through the principal street of the city of Wells⁴; Holwell, now in Dorset, was formerly in Somerset; Stowell (Stone-well) is a small parish near Templecombe.

St. Aldhelm's Well still gives a plentiful supply of water to the parish of Doulling, and the Church there is dedicated to that saint: two other churches are named in his honour, Broadway (Somerset) and Bishopstrow (Wilts), and a chapel on St. Aldhelm's Head in Dorset.

Holwell (Holy-well) is a name frequently to be met with on the ordnance map of this and other counties. There are Holwells at Nunney, Spaxton and Asholt, and Holywell at Wellington. Patwell (St. Patrick's Well) and Ladywell are familiar names to our Bruton neighbours. Herswell (St. Ursula's Well) gives its name to a farm in the parish of Trull. Rumwell (St. Rumbold's Well) is near Taunton, Luckwell Bridge (St. Luke's Well) is in Cutcombe, Skipperham (St. Cyprian's) Well is in Ashill, Kitswell (St. Christopher's) is in Carhampton, Pedwell (St. Peter's) is in Ashcott, while two Ashwells, one in Cutcombe and the other in Ilminster, retain their ancient name, the *ash* being a sacred tree with our heathen ancestors.

A learned writer on Cornish wells⁵ divides them into two classes, namely: those which were used as baptisteries, in connection with the churches near which they are situated; and those which are to be found by the side of some little chapel or hermitage in remote and retired places.

Sometimes these are still resorted to as *wishing wells*. There is such a well at Upwey, near Weymouth, which is a

(4) This sentence was not in the paper as originally read before the Society; it is due to the kind reminder of Canon Church, who was in the chair at the time.

(5) Mr. J. T. Blight, in the *Reliquary* ii. 126—133.

favourite place of resort to the inhabitants of that town, especially on that day in the week which is devoted to the early closing of the shops.

Wells are occasionally to be met with inside the fabric of the church itself. There is a well (now choked up) in the crypt of what is popularly called St. Joseph's Chapel at Glastonbury. There is another in Carlisle Cathedral, another in the nave of Marden Church, county Hereford, and a famous one in the eastern part of the crypt of York Minster, in which King Edwin is said to have been baptised in the year 627.

A sacred spring there was and is in the parish of Cucklington, an exquisitely situated village on the south-eastern border of this county: the spring gushes forth near the church, a little way down the hill, and gives a plentiful supply of excellent water to the whole village. In this water St. Aldhelm himself may very likely have baptised converts to Christianity, for we know that he frequently preached in the immediate neighbourhood; indeed Bruton, where he founded a church dedicated to St. Peter,⁶ is only distant seven miles from the village of Cucklington. What this spring was called in heathen times I cannot say, but there is no doubt that it became in Christian times St. Barbara's Well, now known as Babwell; Bab being the pet short form of the Christian name Barbara. There is no mention of the name Babwell in the Exchequer Lay Subsidy for Somerset in 1327,⁷ but we are assured by competent authorities that nothing among us so is old as our place names, and so I venture to think that Babwell is a very old name indeed.

These ancient springs were considered efficacious in cases of sickness, and in process of time people would think that miracles of healing were performed at St. Barbara's Well, and then some pious rector or parishioner would wish to give

(6) *Life of St. Aldhelm*, p. 24.

(7) *Somerset Record Society*, iii., 98.

permanent form to her cultus in the parish, and this was the origin, if I mistake not, of the very beautiful and interesting painting of St. Barbara, which is to be found in (what I venture to call) her chapel in the south transept of Cucklington Church (see *illustration*). There is another and better known Babwell in England. The Franciscan friars had a house at Babwell, near Bury St. Edmunds.⁸

There were four great Virgin Saints venerated in the medieval church—St. Agnes, St. Margaret, St. Katharine, and St. Barbara. The first three still retain their places as black-letter Saints in the Anglican Calendar. Miss Yonge, the accomplished writer on Christian Names, says that each of these four great saints has been made the representative of an idea.

St. Agnes, of the triumph of conscience.

St. Margaret, of victory through faith.

St. Katharine, of intellectual devotion.

St. Barbara, of artistic devotion.⁹

“Barbara” is a Greek name, meaning “a stranger.” The Greeks called those who did not speak their language, *οἱ βάρβαροι*: the word is supposed to be an onomatopoeia, “bar, bar” being an imitation of the incomprehensible language of foreigners. “Barbe” is the French form of the name: from the village of St. Barbe, in Normandy, the family took its name, which afterwards was seated first at South Brent, and then at Ashington, both in the county of Somerset.¹⁰

Alban Butler’s account of St. Barbara is rather meagre.¹¹ He says that her history is obscured by several false acts. One account says that she was a scholar of Origen, who suffered martyrdom at Nicomedia about the year 235; another

(8) *Bury Wills* (Camden Society). In the Index Locorum (under Bury) there are sixteen references to “the fryers of Babbewell.”

(9) *Christian Names*, i. 260.

(10) Collinson, i. 199; iii., 213; and 1573 *Visitation of Somerset*, p. 73.

(11) *Lives of the Saints* (Dec. 4).

gives Heliopolis, in Egypt, as the place of her martyrdom, and the year 306 as the date. Mr. Baring Gould, in his "Lives of the Saints," gives a fuller account.

It appears that her father was a noble Greek named Dioscorus, who, on account of her exceeding beauty, caused his daughter to be immured in a tower: in this tower a bath chamber was about to be constructed, when St. Barbara, unknown to her father, caused three windows to be inserted instead of the two originally decided upon. On her father's return from a journey she shewed him the three windows, and tried to induce him to accept the doctrine of the Trinity, for she had without his knowledge become a Christian. Her father was exceedingly incensed, and delivering her over to Marcianus, the governor, offered himself to be her executioner. No sooner had her inhuman parent beheaded her with his own hands than he was struck by lightning.

It will be noticed that the tower in our illustration has three windows, and there is also a beautiful emblem of the Trinity in the stem of tre-foil with three leaves, each leaf being itself a similar emblem.

In allusion to this story of the three-windowed tower and the destruction of Dioscorus by lightning, Miss Young remarks, "Here, of course, was symbolised the consecration of architecture and the fine arts to express religious ideas, and St. Barbara became the patroness of architects, and thence of engineers, and the protectress from thunder, and its mimic, artillery."

Another accurate and learned writer on English saints says,¹² "St. Barbara occupied among female saints the same position as St. George among the other sex, and was regarded as the

(12) *Calendar of English Saints*, Oxford, J. H. Parker (1851), pp. 190—2. See also Mrs. Jameson's *Sacred and Legendary Art*, vol. ii., p. 111. The *Calendar of English Saints* contains an illustration of St. Barbara from a MS. in the Bodleian Library; she is holding a palm in her left hand, and has a tower behind her.



ST. BARBARA

(CUCKLINGTON CHURCH, SOMERSET.)

patroness of knights and chivalry ; in later times she became the patroness of fire-arms and gunpowder. From these causes we often meet with her on suits of armour and field-pieces, and in later paintings she has cannon at her feet."

Mrs. Jameson, in her *Sacred and Legendary Art*, thus writes : "It is usual in a sacred group to find St. Catherine and St. Barbara in companionship, particularly in German art ; and then it is clear to me that they represent the two powers which in the middle ages divided the Christian world between them. St. Catherine appears as the patroness of schoolmen, of theological learning, and a contemplative life ; St. Barbara as patroness of the knight and the man-at-arms, of fortitude and active courage."

There is a custom in Italian men-of-war of calling the stoke-room and engine-house "*The Santa Barbara*,"¹³ perhaps because she is the patroness of engineers, and would very likely often have a statue in such a place.

St. Barbara presided as a patron saint over hills,¹⁴ and this may be the reason of her veneration at Cucklington. Those who have been there will remember how the village (including the church) is perched on a hill, and will also call to mind the lovely view of the Blackmore Vale, which is obtained from the road between the church and the rectory. She was also the patron of artillery, engineers, mechanics, married women and captives ; she took care that none died without the viaticum, and was prayed to for protection in thunderstorms. She is also noted as a sea-saint.

"And as for the thunder and the thunderbolts, St. Barbe (their saint for harquebuziers) obtained this office, to beate back the blowes of the thunderbolt."¹⁵

In reference to the interest she was supposed to take in

(13) For this fact I am indebted to a learned antiquarian friend, the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, O.S.B., of Downside Monastery, Bath.

(14) Brand's *Antiquities* (Bohn), i. 360.

(15) Brand's *Antiquities* (Bohn), i., 362.

artillery, she is sometimes represented with cannon at her feet, as in the Church of Sta. Maria Formosa at Venice, but her favourite symbol was a tower or tower-shaped monstrance. It is difficult to determine whether what she holds in her left hand in our illustration is intended to represent the three-windowed tower in which she was immured, or the vessel of precious metal (often shaped like a tower) in which the Host is carried in solemn procession¹⁶: in the latter case the allusion would be to the saint's pious care that none died without the last consolations of the Church.

Barnabe Googe, in the *Popishe Kingdome*, gives the following translation of Naogeorgus under the head of *Helpers*:—

To every Saint they also doe his office here assine,
 And fourtene doe they count of whom thou mayst have ayde divine ;
 Among the which our Ladie still doth holde the chiefest place
 And of her gentle nature helps in every kinde of case.
 Saint Barbara lookes that none without the body of Christ doe dye,
 Saint Cathern favours learned men, and gives them wisdome hye.¹⁷

Although this poem is written in a satirical spirit of unbelief which we neither admire nor endorse, yet it is useful as showing the popular names of Saints at the date at which it was written, and the popular view taken of each of them.

In one instance a likeness of St. Barbara is appropriately found engraven on the pax brede¹⁸ (*osculatorium*), which was a small tablet of ivory or wood overlaid with precious metal, used in the Western Church for communicating the kiss of peace during the service of the mass.

The rule of Sarum was to send the pax just before Communion to all the faithful present, and it was given by kissing

(16) The cross on the top of the tower seems to favour the idea that a *monstrance* is intended ; there is a representation of St. Barbara, seated, holding a tower on her knee, in Mrs. Jameson's *Sacred and Legendary Art* (ii. 105), but the tower is larger and of a different design to the one in our illustration.

(17) Brand's *Antiquities*, i., 363.

(18) *Brede*—board ; mensula, tabella, asserulus. See *Promptorium Parvulorum*, s. v. *Brede*, or *lytlylle borde*.

a small plate of ivory or metal, which was furnished with a handle behind: on this plate was usually engraved the Crucifix or the "Agnus Dei," but occasionally saints were represented on it. Thus St. Jerome is found on one,¹⁹ and the Church of St. Saviour, Southwark (formerly the priory of St. Mary Overie), possessed in 1552 two paxes, one engraved with the crucifix and the other with the likeness of St. Barbara.²⁰

In the inventory of plate belonging to Queen Katharine of Aragon, dated 1533, the year in which she was formally divorced, besides images of St. Peter, St. Margaret, Our Lady, St. Katherine, and St. John the Baptist, is the following "item," the first in the list of images:—"Item, an Image of Seint Barbara, with a towre and a rede in her hand, all gilte, standing upon a fote silver and gilte with a vice [screw] of silver undre the fote, poiz xxxij oz iij qrt."²¹

This seems to have been very like the representation of St. Barbara given in the illustration.

The "rede in her hand" is, we suppose, that palm of victory which was the symbol of triumph after confession of Christ:

"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Rev. vii. 9).

We now come to a consideration of the cultus of St. Barbara as far as it relates to England. She is naturally often represented in Greek Churches, and her relics are very numerous in Germany,²² but her cultus seems never to have taken very deep root in England. As far as I have been able to ascertain, there is only one church dedicated to her in England, namely, Ashton-under-Hill, situated eight miles E.N.E. from Tewkesbury, in the deanery of Campden and the

(19) *Reliquary*, N.S., Vol. V., ii., 113.

(20) *Surrey Inventories*, temp. Ed. vi., p. 89.

(21) *Reliquary*, N.S., V. ii., 113.

(22) Baring Gould's *Lives of the Saints*.

county of Gloucester. It is a chapelry to Beckford.²³

The painting at Cucklington is possibly unique in the South of England, while six churches in Norfolk and one in Suffolk contain sculptures or glass in which she is represented.²⁴ There were gilds named in her honour in the Church of St. Katharine next the Tower of London, at Lynn Regis, and in the churches of the Gray Friars and White Friars in Norwich.²⁵

According to Husenbeth's *Emblems of Saints*, she is represented *carrying a tower* on the roodscreens of the churches of North Walsham, Barton Turf, and Filby, all in Norfolk; *with a tower by her side* on the roodscreen of Yaxley Church (Suffolk), *with a tower and palm* on the north parclose of Ranworth Church, in the north window of the nave of Babur Church (both in Norfolk), and in a painted carving in alabaster in the Church of St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich; in the last church there was a chantry named in her honour.²⁶

St. Barbara is sometimes represented holding in her hand a feather, either a white ostrich feather or a peacock's feather, and, as this is only found in German pictures of the Saint, Mrs. Jameson thinks that it refers to an old German version of her legend, which relates that when she was scourged by her father, the angels changed the rods into feathers.

She is commemorated on December 4 in the French, Spanish, German, Greek, and modern Roman calendars.

In the Exon Calendar, December 16, is given as the date of her *Depositio* or burial, and this too is the date assigned to her festival in the ancient Roman Martyrology; while the Armenian Calendar gives October 8.

We may conclude that December 16 was the date of the

(23) Ecton's *Thesaurus* (1742), p. 184.

(24) *Emblems of Saints* (Husenbeth), 1850, p. 17.

(25) Stow's *Survey of London* (Hughes), Bk. ii., p. 7; *Index Monasticus*, p. 73.

(26) Blomefield's *Norfolk* ii., 635; *Index Monasticus*, p. 70.

ancient feast, and that Rabbanus (A.D. 840) put it for some reason on December 4; and from his time it has been observed on that day.

We have seen that Norfolk was the chief home of the cultus of St. Barbara, and it is interesting to find that there is an allusion to her in the will of a Norfolk knight, Sir Thomas Wyndham, of Felbridge, who died in 1522.

By his first wife, Eleanor Scrope, he had two sons, Edmund and John. The former succeeded his father at Felbridge, and left three sons, but as they all died childless, the manor eventually descended to the heirs of his brother John. Sir John Wyndham, the second son of Sir Thomas, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Sydenham, Esq., of Orchard, in the parish of St. Decuman's; he was the ancestor of the Earls of Egremont, and of the Somersetshire and Wiltshire families of Wyndham; and from him the manor became known as Orchard-Wyndham. The following is the passage in Sir Thomas Wyndham's will to which allusion has been made:—

“and specially to myn accustomed advourrys²⁷ I call and crye, Saint John Evangelist, Saint George, Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Saint Margaret, Saint Kateryn and Saint Barbara humbly beseching you at the houre of dethe to ayde, socour and defend me.”

He also ordered that a thousand masses should be said for his soul in the county of Norfolk, thirty of which were to be “in the honor of St. Barbara.”²⁸

Sacred springs are not altogether a thing of the past: writing in 1870 the late Mr. Hawker, the poet-vicar of Morwenstow, says that the water used for baptisms was still drawn from the “Well of St. John of the Wilderness,” which stands not far from the church of Morwenstow, midway down the cliff, “around it on either hand are rugged and sea-worn rocks, before it the wide sea.”²⁹

(27) A word formed from *advocatores*.

(28) *Testamenta Vetusta* pp. 581-2.

(29) *Footprints in fur Cornwall* (1870), p. 11.

“ Here dwelt in time long past, so legends tell,
 “ Blessed Morwenna, guardian of this well.
 “ Here, on the foreheads of our fathers, poured,
 “ From this lone spring, the laver of the Lord.

“ If, traveller, thy happy spirit know
 “ That awful Fount whence living waters flow,
 “ Then hither come to draw : thy feet have found
 “ Amidst these rocks a place of holy ground.

“ Here, while the surges stormed and raved the blast,
 “ The grain of mustard seed was meekly cast,
 “ Till grew and multiplied that goodly tree—
 “ Shrines in the vale and towers along the sea.

“ Then sigh one prayer, pronounce a voice of praise
 “ O'er the fond labour of departed days ;
 “ Tell the glad waters of the former fame,
 “ And teach the joyful winds Morwenna's name ! ”

[I take this opportunity of thanking the Rev. James Phelps, rector of Cucklington, the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, O.S.B., and the Rev. C. H. Mayo, R.D., for many kind suggestions ; and also the Rev. H. J. Poole and Mr. C. C. Hughes D'Aeth for the excellent photographs which they have taken of the painting. Without their valuable help, we should not have been able to give the illustration which accompanies this paper. F.W.W.]

The Ancient Chapels in the Valley of Holnicote.

BY THE REV. F. HANCOCK.

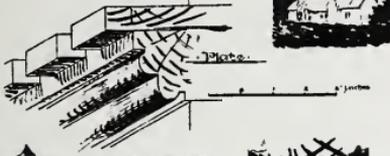
THE Holnicote Valley, which comprises part of the parishes of Selworthy, Porlock, and Luccombe, is bounded on the north by the sea, on the west by the Dunkery Range, on the south by the Grabhurst Hills, and on the east by the North Hill. The valley is about three miles long, and averages about a mile in breadth, and evidently formed at one time an arm of the sea. The rich soil and its sheltered position seem to have made it always fairly populous. At present it contains the following hamlets:—Bossington, West Lynch, Allerford, Brandy Street, Holnicote, East and West Luccombe, Selworthy proper, and Tivington. The manor and advowsons of the two adjacent parishes of Luccombe and Selworthy were held by the St. John family in the thirteenth century, from whom they passed through an heiress to the family of Arundel, from whom they have descended to the present owner, Sir T. D. Acland. The principal landowners in the parish of Selworthy seem, however, to have been from time immemorial to the death of the last direct representative of the family in 1701, the Steynings, of Holnicote. Holnicote was purchased from Mr. Steyning's nephew, W. Martin, of Oxton, in South Devon, by Richard Blackford, of Dunster. This family held it for two generations, and then on the death of its infant heiress it reverted to her aunt, Elizabeth Dyke, of

Pixton, who brought it as her dower to the Sir Thomas Acland of the day.

Within this valley there still remain many quaint old cottages and farmhouses, still unimproved off the face of the earth ; and besides the churches of St. Mary's, Luccombe and All Saints', Selworthy, three tiny chapels. On the south side of the parish, in the centre of the hamlet of Tivington, we find a little chapel, the west door of which, by the way, commands a very beautiful view down over the Holnicote valley and across the channel to Wales, dedicated to *St. Leonard*. The careful plans which Mr. C. H. Samson has most kindly prepared of this and the other chapels give us in full the proportions of this chapel and the two sister buildings.

The chapel had a thatched roof, supported on moulded oak beams rising from behind a pretty oak wall plate, which with the beams, is shown on Mr. Samson's plans. The roof was formerly open, but of recent years boarding has been affixed between the beams. A small window and a door have been blocked up on the south side, and a cottage stands against the east side of the building. During some recent alterations to this cottage the remains of a large square-headed window were found in the east wall of the chapel. I have been unable to discover the builder of the chapel, but it was evidently erected for the convenience of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Tivington, which is situated nearly two miles from the parish church. A very old lane, scarcely more now than a watercourse, leads in a very circuitous fashion from the chapel to the site of the at one time important manor house of Blackford, which was burnt down within the last few years. The ancient pigeon house, very like the well-known one at Dunster, still remains. The history of this manor is not very clear. In 1483 it appears to have been granted to Sir Thomas Everingham, one of the knights of the royal body of the castle and borough of Barnstaple, and his heirs, as part of the estates of Thomas St. Leger, for his services against the

Chapel of St. Leonards
Gvington, Selcorthy.



Section.



Window.



Modified Rib.

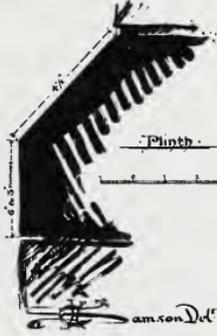
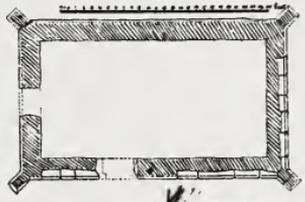


Plan.

A window in ancient building
at Gosh Lynch-Pony Selcorthy.



Chapel of St. Saviours
Taaccombe.
Plan of Remains.



Plinth.

1/2 inch

amson Del.

Lynch Chapel
Selcorthy.



South Elevation.

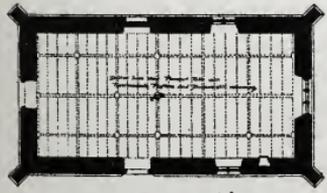


East Elevation.



North Door.

West Elevation.



Plan.



Section A-B.



Elevation.



Label Mould.

Arch Mould.

Profile of Buttress - Window.

Plan of S. Wall.

amson Del.

rebels. Clearly, however, a little later on it was the property of the Steyning family. This family were great friends to the church, They rebuilt the beautiful south aisle of the church in 1490, and it is possible that they may have built the chapel of St. Leonard (supposing it to be of so late a date) or rebuilt it, for the use of their tenants at Blackford and Tivington.

Crossing the head of the valley, we enter the picturesque village of Luccombe; and passing the pretty Rectory, and leaving the church of St. Mary with its fine tower on the left, we ascend a steep hill to a four-cross-way. The road to the north leads to West Luccombe and Porlock; the one on the east to Holnicote; and the highway on the west climbs the side of the moor, clothed at this point with fir woods, towards Cloutsham and Dunkery. And we must observe that, besides these four roads, a very ancient track leads off, through the woods and along the moor side, to the hamlet and church of Stoke Pero. Of this further on. At this point, immediately opposite this ancient way, we find the scanty remains of another chapel, about two miles from that of St. Leonard. When the Archæological Society met at Minehead a few years ago, Mr. Weaver, in an article written shortly afterwards, spoke of the few mounds by the roadside, which alone marked the site of this chapel. The owner, subsequently, kindly gave me permission to excavate the ground plan of the chapel, of which Mr. Samson has kindly made the careful drawing and taken the two beautiful photographs, which lie on the table. At a depth of about two feet below the surface, and beneath the roots of a dead tree, I found some old knives, and a curious silver instrument of which I have been unable to ascertain the use. The chapel had for generations, until recently, been used as a stone quarry, but a few pieces of window jambs were found in the ruins, and the footing of the walls still remains; and a rise in the ground at about two feet from the east end indicates probably the site of the altar. There were apparently three doorways to the

chapel. This chapel is dedicated to St. Saviour, an apt dedication, as the mother church of the parish is dedicated to St. Mary. Through the kindness of Mr. Elworthy, I am able to quote the following extract from the Drokensford Register. August 13, 1316:—"Geoffrey de Luccombe to have Chantry in Chapel 'intra curiam suam' de Luccombe, served at his own cost 'salvo jure matris eccl.'" This can refer to no other place than the chapel of St. Saviour, and gives us the date of its foundation *i.e.* in 1315. The Luccombe family held the manor of Luccombe before it passed to the St. Johns. I cannot but think that "Geoffrey" must be a mistake for "William," who, after John Roges was compelled to resign the benefice of Luccombe, in 1312, was presented to that benefice by John de Luccombe, presumably his father or brother, resigning the richer benefice of Nettlecombe to return to his native village. But he was somewhat of a rolling stone, for we find him in 1324 exchanging benefices with the rector of Over Stowey. It is difficult to see with what object Geoffrey or William de Luccombe could have built this chapel. There is no evidence of there ever having been any population in its immediate neighbourhood; and the lie of the ground seems to forbid the supposition. The chapel, however, commands the first view, coming from Luccombe, of the sea, and lies at the foot of the moor. Is it possible that De Luccombe built the chapel and had masses said there at his own cost, to commemorate his escape from shipwreck or some great peril on the wild hills above? The chapel seems to have been held in considerable repute, and to have attracted the devout offerings of the faithful, *e.g.* Thomas Coppe of Selworthy by his will, dated 20 November, 1533, leaves a "shepe to S. Savyour, as well as to the store of our Lady in Luccombe." But in 1548, no chantry is returned as existing in the parish of Luccombe. Probably by that time, the churchwardens or others interested in the building, had prepared for

the coming storm by selling the sacred vessels and furniture, perhaps even the material of the chapel itself.

It is worthy of note that the chapel of St. Leonards, at Tivington, is situated immediately at the point where a very ancient track from Dunster descends from Grabhurst hill to the main road; and that the chapel of St. Saviour at Luccombe is situated, as I have stated above, where the ancient present way ascends towards Stoke Pero. I cannot but think that these facts point to these two chapels having been served by a priest from some clergy house or from the priory at Dunster, who, Sunday by Sunday, sung mass at these two chapels, and then passed on to the tiny moorland church of Stoke Pero.

Descending the hill to the picturesque banks of the Horner, we pass through the hamlet of East Luccombe, and following a footpath which crosses the main road from Minehead to Porlock at New Bridge, we reach, in about two miles the hamlet of West Lynch, which is separated by the Horner stream from the larger hamlet of Bossington. Bossington belongs ecclesiastically to Porlock, but for lay purposes has been added to Selworthy. Here, in a romantic situation beside the Aller stream which just below joins the Horner, and close to a very ancient house, stands a pretty chapel of the late Perpendicular period. Mr. Samson has prepared such accurate drawings and such good photographs of it that little need be said by me about it. Until within the last few years it was used as an outhouse, but has now been put in order for Divine service by Sir T. Acland. There are nice carved bosses on the roof, and a tradition exists that the beams of the roof were supported as in the south aisle of the parish church by angel brackets, but that these, as emblems of popery, were removed about fifty years ago. The chapel Mr. Samson considers to be of the same date as the south aisle of the church. I have taken considerable trouble to discover its history, but have been unable to find much of interest concerning it. The Manor of

Bossington until the Reformation belonged to the abbots of Athelney ; and it seems possible that one of the last abbots may have built or re-built this chapel for the convenience of his tenants, and that the old house with its carved oak windows and heavy doors and bars adjoining, which appears to be of about the same date as the chapel, and which by tradition is called the priests' house, may have been a grange of these abbots. At all events it seems more than probable that this chapel and the south aisle of the parish church were built by the same architect. The doors on the north, south, and west are remarkable in so small a building. Possibly they may have been so placed for processions. On each side of the altar is a stone bracket on which, no doubt, at one time stood an image.

The altar table, at present standing in the chapel, was removed from the parish church some years ago, and put into the chapel after its restoration.

In Gordano.

BY THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP HOBHOUSE.

THIS term, which still lives as an affix to four parishes near Bristol, has long been a riddle.

Collinson, Vol. iii, p. 147, solved it by attributing it to a family called de Gardino, or Gordein, one of whom, Emeric, lived in or soon after the reign of Henry III ; but he fails to show that their property was ever large enough to designate the six parishes anciently included in the term, and he overlooks the force of the preposition "in," which implies a region, not a family. The family is more likely to have taken name from the region than the region from the family.

The fact of there being such a region, and that, too, before the date of Emeric de Gardino, has been brought to light by the research of Sir Walter Morgan, ex-Chief Justice of Madras, who, whilst renting Naish House in 1884, was kindled by the spirit of enquiry, which carried him into the public records, printed and unprinted. His transcripts have been kindly lent for the present paper.

This is the list of those which bear directly on the term

IN GORDANO.

Extracts from records of thirteenth century onwards, throwing light on the term :—

I. In a schedule in French of charters affecting the property of Easton, belonging to the De Clares, Earls of Gloucester, the manor is described as "*Eston Gordeyne jouste (juxta)* Crockerespulle*," and again "*E. Gordeyne*." July, 1278.

Additional MSS. 7041, fo. 84.

II. July 27. 55th Hen. iij, 1271. Charter Rolls m. 2. Grant by King to Ralph de Bakepuz of a fair for three days in his manor of *Weston in Gordenlond*.

III. Before the 12th of Edw. j, 1283. Addl. Ch. 7772. Grant by Thomas Lord Berkeley, Lord of Porebury, to John Fitzjohn, of *Eston Gordeyne*, of Wede, between Failand and highway from P. to Bristol, with rights on the Down (Duna).

IV. 20th Edw. ij, 1291-2.

Inquisitio ad quod damnum. No. 23.

Verdict—That Maurice de Berkeley was enfeoffed 12th Edw. j by his father, Thomas, Lord B., with the manor of *Portbury in Gordenū* and the hundred and 3rd part of advowson, also the manor of Kingston Seymour, and that Maurice held it till it was seized by the king.

V. 1st Edw. iij, 1327-8. Add. Charters 7799. Thos. atte Hope, of †*Porebury in Gorden*, conveys some parcels of land to the vicar of P.

VI. 1st Edw. iij. Add. Charters 7182. Transfer of Thos., Lord Berkeley, of land in *Eastone in Gordano*.

VII. 1st Edw. iij. Add. Charters 7784. Quit claim by H. de Middleton to Thomas, Lord Berkeley, of all property in *Porebury in Gordene*.

* The estuary or "Pill" of a small stream running into the Avon, where the pilot boats lie, now called "Crockern Pill," or more usually "Pill" only.

† This is the present local pronunciation.

VIII. 4th Edw. iij, 1330-1. Add. Charters 7802.
Conveyance by Agnes Howell of small parcel, and (inter alia) of a small holding in *Eston in Gorden*.

Dated at *E. in Gorden*.

IX. 6th Edw. iij, 1332-3. Add. Ch. 7806.
Transfer by Thos., Lord Berkeley, of a lifehold in "villâ de *Weston in Gordoñ*."

X. 6th Edw. iij. Add. Ch. 7807.
Transfer by same of lifehold in *Weston in Gordene*.

XI. 14th Edw. iij, 1340-1. Add. Ch. 7818.
Quit claim to Thos, Lord Berkeley, of lands, etc., in villâ de *Portesheved in Gordene*.

XII. 25th Edw. iij, 1351-2. Add. Ch. 5455.
Grant of land in Nailsea by *De la more, of *Wroxhale intra* (or *juxta*) *Cordeyn*.

XIII. 13th H. IV, 1411-2. Add. Ch. 7856.
Quit claim to Thos., Lord Berkeley, by Widow Alice Halle, of Bradford, of Goreacre in *Porteshevede in Gordene*, and of the advowson of the Church of *Do. Do*.

To these may be added, from other sources, the following evidences :—

XIV. In the will of James King, Jan., 1531, published in Weaver's *Wills*, p. 192 (Kegan Paul, 1890), James King is described twice as of *Weston in Gorden*.

XV. In Vol. vi *Söm. Rec. Soc.*, p. 229, is found the record of a fine passed in the King's Court A.D. 1270, touching the manor of *Weston in Gordeneslond*.

XVI. And in p. 291 of the same volume a record of a fine touching property in *Eston in Gordon*.

These documents show—(1) That in the thirteenth century there was an area called Gordenland, or some equivalent name.

* This family were of what is now known as "Birdcombe Court," on the edge of Nailsea Moor.

(2) That it comprised the following manors or parishes:—

Weston	} in Gordano, still so called.	Portishead
Easton		Portbury
Walton		perhaps Wraxall, or that portion of it which lies on the top and N. W. side of the ridge enclosing the Gorden Valley on the S. E.
Clapton		See No. XII, where Wraxall is described as either “intra” or “juxta” Gordeyn.

(3) That the form of the name has varied largely.

(4) That the forms nearest to Gorden preponderate.

The variations are thus classified—

Gordeyne	} 4 times.	Gorden, 4 times.
Gordeyn		In Gordano, 1.
Gordenland	} 2.	Gordene, 5.
Gordenesland		Gordoñ=Gordoniâ } 2.
Gordenñ=Gordenniâ	} 1.	Gordon
<i>i.e.</i> , Gorden latinized		Total—19 times.

THE AREA OF THE REGION.

The only doubt about the area is whether it included Wraxall or, if not all, some part of it. It turns upon the indistinct word in No. XII. If that be “juxta” the whole of Wraxall is outside. If “intra,” it is inside, or at any rate some part of it, probably the Failand and Charlton portions on the top and north-west sides of the ridge which encloses the Gorden valley on the south-east.

The area is one plainly marked by natural features, viz., two ridges diverging from Walton enclosing a level marsh and forming a rude triangle, with the river Avon for its very irregular base.

ANTIQUITY OF NAME.

Of the antiquity of the name there is no record known earlier than 1270-1 (see No. II), but the name was then a known name used for official description, and must have acquired its currency by long continued use in six parishes.

It is not found in Domesday, which hardly ever notices second names, nor, in Pope Nicolas' Valor, *circa* 1290, though at that time the affix was fully established.

With the meaning of the name this paper is not concerned, but the fact of the heart of the region being a valley suggests the similarity of Taunton Dean, the valley of the Tone. Dean has, however, another meaning in Saxon, viz., that of a waste or swine-run, the origin, probably, of the name of Dean Forest in the adjoining shire.*

Having been convinced that Gorden or Gordenesland was a region, I venture to add a few remarks on the use of regional names in our county. The use of them was sparing, contrasting markedly with their use in Northern England. Our rivers, it is true, are very insignificant in volume and length, but their valleys are geographical features quite pronounced enough to have claimed regional names. Had the shire been farther north it would have had its Avondale, Exdale, two Axedales, Bruedale,† Parretdale, Iveldale, as well as Taunton Dean, but it was plainly not the habit of Wessex to make much use of natural features in place-naming.

REGIONAL NAMES.

There are nevertheless some such names chiefly derived from the moors, *i.e.*, marshes of the county, and the dry lands which

* Professor Earle allows me to add that Gore, in A. Sax. *Gâra*, was a triangular piece of land shaped into a gâr or spearhead. Such a piece, let into a garment, is called by seamstresses a "gore."

† Brucombe was used in the forest records to describe the walk or ward of Selwood Forest above Bruton.

emerged from them like islands. They are as follows :—

1. Wedmoreland. The island of sound land surrounded by the levels of the Brue and Axe.
2. Zoyland. The island surrounded by King's Sedgemoor, the Cary and Parret moors, bearing on it the villages of Middlezcy and Westonzoyland.
3. Normarsh. The whole country between the west end of Mendip and the Avon. The name, fifty years ago commonly used, is now rarely heard, though carried by a troop of Yeomanry.
4. Wring-marsh. The moor named, like Wrington, from the stream now called the "Yeo."
5. Brentmarsh. The moors of the lower Axe.
6. Blackmore Vale. The broad valley below Wincanton, drained by the Cale and Stour, and stretching westward into Dorset.
7. The Wint. The valley in which Winscombe stands, with Winterhead, Winterstoke, Wint Hill, testifying to its original name, now out of use.

Besides these names, only one of which is in popular use, viz., Blackmore Vale, thanks to its being a popular hunting-ground, there is no use made of our geographical features, with this exception, that the names of hill ranges are often used to describe the whole region around the range. Exmoor, Quantock, Mendip are virtually used as regional names.

Notes on Somerton Churchwardens' Accounts, 1641-1747.

BY THE REV. DOUGLAS L. HAYWARD.

THE earliest existing parish book of Somerton consists of six-hundred and thirty-eight pages, containing the churchwardens' accounts from 1641 to 1747.

The sources whence funds for church purposes were derived seem to have been the rents of certain church property situated in Somerton, which brought in annually about seven guineas. Occasionally a church rate was levied¹, and an annual collection was made on Low Sunday for the expenses of the bread and wine used at the Holy Communion. Other sources of income were the fees received for burial within the church, and also the rents for space for the erection of pews or seats within the church.

At the end of the volume the church property is set forth in detail, and it may be of interest to record it briefly here, with its annual value in 1698.

- i. A chamber adjoining the school house, with right of entry through the school house wall, let at an annual chief rent of 13s. 4d.
- ii. A malthouse, situated on the east side of the Pound Pool, let at 2s. 8d.
- iii. A house and four acres of land, in West End, near "Lampport (*i.e.* Langport) Way," let for 3s.

(1) In the years 1641, '42, '43, '44, '58, '61, '63, '64, '65, '66, '72, '73, '74, '75, '78, 1701, '19, '20, '32, '34.

- iv. A small plot of land on which a wall stood, adjoining the above, let for one penny.
- v. A tenement, the situation of which is not defined, but which must have been of considerable size, as the chief rent of it was £3 10s. 0d.
- vi. A house in Langport Lane, beyond the Pound, let for 2s. 8d.
- vii. A house, situation uncertain, let for 2s.
- viii. Seven houses in West Street, let for £3 1s. 1½d.
- ix. Two houses in New Street, let for 8s.

This property was let for a term of three lives, and when one life dropped, a new one was put in its place on the payment of a fine, the fines of course proving a substantial source of income to the church.

The letting took place on Easter Tuesday at the annual vestry, and payment was made to the churchwardens half-yearly.

Beyond the school house, also church property, on the south side of it, was situated a gate house, and adjoining this was an inn called the Nag's Head.

The usual charge for burial in the church was 6s. 8d. This was paid, not to the vicar, but to the churchwardens, and entered in their accounts.

In the minutes of a vestry held on April 2nd, 1700, it was ordered that "noe corps shall be bury'd under any the paved alleys in the churchyard without paying 5s. for the same to the churchwardens for the time being and laying downe the pavement againe, and making it good and sufficient as before, and the sexton is to take notice hereof to see it pformed."

Space in the church was allotted to any parishioner who chose to pay for it, for the purpose of erecting a pew or seat. This was done at the annual vestry, and the space so allotted was reserved for a term of one life. Sometimes a small sum was paid annually for the use of a seat by those who had not a lifehold right. The price of a pew or seat varied, of course,

according to position and amount of space allotted, but a *sitting* could be rented from sixpence to half-a-crown a year.

1652. "Upon this day of accompt came Henry Pate and nominated Joan his wife and Mary his daughter to bee the persons by whose lives hee will hold the seate he bought of ye parish ye last yeare, being ye seate next above the vicars wives seate."

1659. "It. received of Honor Collens for setting up of a little board against a seate for to sitt uppon for terme of her life, 6d."

1696. "Henry Penny buyeth as much ground as to make two seates joyning to the font and payeth 5s. for one life."

From what we may gather from the accounts given of the sale of seats, the north alley or aisle was reserved for women, the south aisle, gallery, and organ loft for men, but this cannot be decided with certainty.

There was an organ in 1641; and the organist received £5 a year for his services. In that year there are two entries relating to it:—

"Itm. to Mr. Squier for amending the draughts of the organe, 1s. 7d."

"Itm. to Mr. Hayward of Bath for making the organe musicall, £1 10s 0d."

Beyond another payment for "amending" it in 1643, no further mention of organ or organist occurs. The use of it evidently ceased in 1643, but what became of it, or the reason for its sudden disuse, is not stated. Perhaps the people thought it an expensive luxury and had it removed; perhaps Puritanism might have had something to do with it; whatever the reason, it disappeared about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, and its place was filled with seats. Frequent mention is made of the letting of seats "in the organe," *i.e.*, of course the organ loft. If it was sold, it seems strange that no entry was made of the money received for it. That it was an organ with pipes is proved by an entry in 1642, when a

“seate under the stairs of the organe pipes” is let to one Thomas Masters for 2s. 8d.

The charges for bread and wine for the Holy Communion vary very considerably. As a general rule there were celebrations four times a year. Low Sunday seems, strangely enough, to have been one occasion. On that day (called “Low Easter”) a collection was made to defray the expenses of the bread and wine for the whole year, but the amount collected seldom reached a larger sum than 10s. This custom lasted only till 1652.

The amount expended on wine seems enormous, especially in the earlier years. In 1643 and 1644 it was more than £8, and as the number of celebrations in those years did not exceed four per annum, it seems incredible that such a quantity could have been consumed at the sacrament. It is, however, very probable that the wine was not all used for consecration, but that it was distributed to the sick poor by the parson as occasion required. In 1649 the amount expended was £4 5s. 11d.; in 1654 it fell to £1 5s. 0d., and remained steadily at this amount till after the Restoration, when in 1662 it rose to £7 14s. 10d., but as it again immediately fell to the normal amount, this was probably a year of great sickness, when much wine was given away to the sick poor.

As to the frequency of celebrations we cannot gain much accurate information from this book. In 1646 there were certainly only four communions. In 1706 there were eleven. In 1745 the communions had fallen to two per annum—at Easter and at Christmas.

The wine used was tent or claret. In 1706 a pint of tent cost 1s. 6d., and a pint of claret cost 1s.

The bells cost an enormous amount. There seem to have been five bells in 1641, and these were constantly being taken down and re-hung. The woodwork appears to have required constant renewing, and the amount expended every year on bell-ropes forms a considerable item in these accounts.

Besides these minor alterations and renovations there are several re-castings recorded. The third bell was re-cast in 1642 by Austen (?), of Bristol. In 1650 this bell was again re-cast, together with the second bell, the money required being given by one hundred and eighty-nine subscribers, whose names are recorded in the book.

The "little bell" (*i.e.*, the present second bell) was cast at Compton Dundon in 1661, and bears the initials of E(dward) M(artin) and I(ohn) C(oxe), churchwardens of that year.

The fourth bell was re-cast by the well-known T. Bilbie, at Chewstoke, in 1733. The tenor bell, re-cast in 1714 by the same founder, bears the following inscription:—

"FRIND: WROTH: AND: NIGHT: FOR: ALL: YOUR: SPITE:

"OULD: EDW: BILBIE: HAD: ME: RUND:

"PULL: ME: ROUND: AND: HEARE: ME: SOUND:

"FRIND: SUCH: WORK: YOU: NEVER: DON:"

In 1658 there is a minute relating to the ringers:—"Whosoever shall in ringing of our bells overturne any of our bells shall forfeit and pay for ye said offence ye sum of 1s. (?) and ye sexton is to take notice hereof and see it put in execution and give an accompt hereof upō ye penalty of loosing his wages."

After the Restoration the bells were always rung on the 29th May, the sovereign's birthday, the 5th November, and on the occasion of a visitation.

We find from these records that, except during the Commonwealth, visitations were held twice or three times in the year, generally at Somerton or Ilchester, and occasionally at Montacute (1642) and Yeovil (1702). In 1685 there were four visitations, and the sum of £1 14s. 0d. was allowed for expenses thereat. The parish allowed the "parson" on such occasions half-a-crown for his dinner, and the other officials, churchwardens and sidesmen, had their expenses allowed.

Presentments were of annual occurrence; sometimes there

were three or four a year, but they fall off during the later years. A person who plays an important part in visitations is the "Paritor."

The bishop often visited or passed through Somerton. In 1648 two shillings were paid to the ringers "upon ye report of my Lord Bishopp's goeing through the towne," and in 1685 the bells welcomed Bishop Ken, who visited Somerton again in 1687, 1693, and 1696.

The custom of "perambulating" the bounds of the parish is mentioned two or three times. Thus in 1643 the sum of 2s. 6d. is paid for "Mr. Jaffray and the Clearke's dinner at perambulatiō." Mr. Jaffray, or Jeffrey, was probably a schoolmaster in Holy Orders. He is once mentioned as "Curate of Somerton," and he received from the parish the sum of £5 for "reading Morning Prayer," but whether on Sundays or week-days is not stated. He received a small amount every year for "keeping our Booke," *i.e.*, of course the parish accounts.²

All traces of the books ordered by Convocation to be placed in churches have now disappeared from Somerton, except, of course, Bibles and Prayer Books.

We frequently come across items connected with them, such as the following :—

1657. "To Joseph Moone for a lock and chayn for ye Booke of Martyrs, 1s. 2d."

1669. "For mending the Book of Martyrs, 2s. 6d."

The Book of Homilies was bought in 1685, possibly as a result of the bishop's visitation in that year, and another copy was bought in 1739.

In 1686 is the following :

"To the Paritor for bringing the Katikise booke, 1s."

The Bible was often patched and mended. It was possibly

(2) In 1620 one Antony Jeffery was appointed to Ashington, but he resigned the living in the following year, and moved elsewhere. Possibly he might eventually have found his way to Somerton.

a chained book, or at least it had clasps, as a "happs" was bought for it. It was rebound in 1686 at a cost of 12s. 6d., and in 1731 a new Bible was bought for £2 16s. 0d. A new Prayer Book was bought in 1726 at a cost of £3 16s. 0d., but no mention is made of the purchase of the Revised Prayer Book of 1662.

Almost every year contains some entry of the payment to the "Paritor" of a small sum, varying from sixpence to five shillings, for some special form of prayer, or proclamation for fast or thanksgiving. Some examples may be of interest:—

1665. "ffor three books brought by the Paritor and to him, 1s. 10d."

[Thanksgiving ordered to be used in the country on July 4th for the naval victory over the Dutch at Lowestoft in June.³]

1666. "It. To an officer from the Archbishop concerning some church business and to the Paritor for two bookes, 3s."

[These books were probably the special prayers for the thanksgiving ordered by the king to be observed on August 23rd for the victory over the Dutch; and for the fast of October 10th for the great fire of London.]

1685. "It. A booke of Thanksgiving and to the Paritor, 1s. 6d."

[For the victory of Sedgmoor.]

"It. A prayer book and a Proclamation with a booke, 2s. 0d."

[Probably containing the revised office for January 30th, and also for the king's accession on February 6th.]

1689. "For severall Books to ye Paritor, 4s."

[For fast on June 19th on declaration of war against France.]

1691. "For Prayer books and proclamations, 2s. 6d."

[November 26th. Thanksgiving for victory in Ireland.]

(3) The bells were rung on June 19th.

1694. "ffor prayer books, 4s."

[Thanksgiving for success of the army in Flanders, issued by Tillotson. Observed on December 2nd and 16th.]

1695. "ffor foure Common prayer books and two proclamations, 5s."

[i. April 16th. Thanksgiving for the discovery of a "Horrid and Barbarous Conspiracy of Papists," and for the delivery of the kingdom from a French invasion.]

ii. May 23rd. Fast, when William attacked Namur.

iii. September 8th and 22nd. Thanksgiving when Namur capitulated.

iv. December 11th and 18th. Fast, for blessing on "the Consultation of the present Parliament."]

1701. "For two Prayer books, 2s."

[One was probably for the fast observed on April 4th "for the preservation of the Protestant religion and of the Public Peace."]

Among entries of payment for church furniture are the following:—

1680. "Item. for three locks and henges for a chest in ye chansell."

1680. "Item. For a new choffer to hold ye writings of ye church."

1682. "Two joyning stooles, 6s."

1690. "Item. For mending ye King's armes."

A "sounding boarde" for the pulpit was bought in 1727. Other entries relating to the pulpit and reading desk are

1652. "For Tafata and mending ye pulpit chusion, 1s. 10d."

1667. "It. A chussion for the seate of the Ministers Pewe, 3s. 8d."

The pulpit cloth of either Somerton or Charlton (it is not easy to see which) must have been of special beauty, as it was lent for extraordinary occasions.

1743. "Paid Robert Withy for carrying back Charlton Pulpit cloth for the use of the Arch-Deacon."

1745. "Paid the Clarke for fetching the pulpit cloth from Charlton."

The surplice appears to have been used during the whole time of the Commonwealth, as there is a yearly charge for washing and mending it. There is also an entry in the earlier years of a small payment for mending the "Hood."

That there was a bier belonging to the church, as well as a pall for public use, is proved by many notices:—

1652 (and 1663). "For mending the beare."

1703. "for a cradle for the beire."

1687. "It. ffor a Herse cloath and making, £1 19s. 4d."

1729. "Paid to Thos. Bennett for the Church black cloth, £3 7s. 6d."

Mention is often made of a "Horologue" called once a "horoscope."

1652. "Itm. for oyle and nayles for ye horrologue."

1655. "Mending ye bell wheels and horoscope."

1663. "ffor taking down the old horologue in beare, 1s."

Also in "charges for a new one, £3 7s. 0d."

1691. "ffor mending of ye dyall."

1700. "For a new Horologue and taking down ye olde, £4 5s. 2d."

A considerable sum is spent every year in keeping the "clocke and cheams" in repair. The chimes require a great deal of "wyre and oyle" and repairs generally; *e.g.*

1659. "laid out to ffrancis Squier for wier for the chimes and for making newe the iron work that was wanting and for amending the olde."

"laid out to doudney for his labour and for leather to sette them going."

1661. "ffor wyer for ye cheimes and setting them goeing."

"for a Rope for the cheimes."

In 1726 a new clock with chimes was bought for £25, and

for a time these constantly recurring charges for repairs cease.

Besides the bells and clock chimes, a serious item of expense is the cost of "glassing the windows." Hardly a year passes but the windows of the church and school house require mending. Sometimes the sums expended are very large. In 1687 £2 5s. 0d. was spent; in 1697 £3 1s. 9d.; and in 1685 £6 15s. 7d. Possibly a local custom prevailed here, as in neighbouring parishes, of ball playing against the walls of the church.⁴

A table for the church porch was bought in 1682 for £1 3s. 0d. Here the churchwardens would distribute benefactions and doles, and carry on certain parish business. The church lands and benefactions were vested in four feofees and the two churchwardens. The feofees were elected for life; the churchwardens on Easter Tuesday.⁵

In 1641 William Collins is sexton at a yearly wage of £3. His duties are defined in 1644 as "keeping of the clocke and chimes and cleansing the church." In 1647, on the appointment of Jas. Doudney, the wages are lowered to £2 10s. 0d., and the duties more clearly set forth—"to keepe the Church cleane and keep the belles and clocke and chimes in order and to ring the bell at five a clocke in the morning and the same at night." James Doudney appears to have held office till 1676, after which the yearly entry always reads "the Saxons wages, £2 10s. 0d."

In 1700 it was resolved that "from henceforth the overseers of the poore for the time being shall pay to the Sexton every year fifty shillings for his wages and sallary for keeping the clocke and chimes and ringing the bell and that he shall not henceforth require ye same from ye churchwardens."

(4) An old man living at Pitney (near Somerton) told me he could remember when it was the custom of the lads and young men of the village to play ball against the church tower *during the time of Divine service*.

(5) See Appendix A.

The custom of ringing curfew seems to have been neglected, as the following entry proves :—

“April 2nd. At this Ct. it is ordered that the Sexton shall ring curfew every night throughout ye yeare at nine of the clocke at night. And shall from henceforth ring the fourthe Bell about a Quarter of an houre, and likewise ring the fourthe bell in like manner at five of the clocke in morning.”

The prices paid for the sexton's necessities in those days seem very low. A wheelbarrow is bought in 1663 for 9s., and in 1687 for 4s. 6d. A new ladder is bought in 1663 for 2s. 6d., and another in 1681 for 2s.

In 1651 2s. 6d. is paid for stripping the ivy from the tower, and again in 1677 a shilling is paid for the same work.

In 1666 an entry records the “ffetching a young elm from Hurcott and setting it up in the pines (?) place behind Church.”

Somerton claims a “Sanctuary knocker,” and the iron ring on the south door seems intended for a knocker. Can the following item in 1660 refer to it?

“ffor nailing on ye ring of ye church doore, 1d.”

Some entries of payments relating to the sanctuary follow:—

1688. “It. ffor 4 matts for the Communion Table, 1s. 6d.”

1693. “ffor holland for a Napkin for ye Communion Table, 4s. 10d.”

1696. “ffor two formes to kneele upon at ye Communion Table and at ye Font, 9s.

1697. “For worke about ye communion Balesters.”

An inventory of the church plate is given yearly from 1710. It consisted of “one large Silver Dish, one Silver Canister, one Silver Bowle, one Silver Salver, one small Silver Bowle with a cover to the same, and one small Silver Bread Plate, all being Sacramental Plate.” In 1736 “one Tin Plate” is

added, and in 1744 the "Canister" is described "with a Cross belonging."

Ecclesiastical terms were not widely understood in the eighteenth century, or the flagon would hardly have been described as a "canister," nor the chalice as a "bowl."

In 1646 one shilling is paid "for washing the ornament of the church." Could this refer to the recumbent effigy in the south transept?

When we consider that in 1671 the wages of an ordinary labourer was 1s. 4d. a day, and of a skilled workman 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day, the amount collected for charitable purposes seem large.

One item occurs annually till 1677—"Hospital Money," which appears to have been levied in the form of a rate, and to have been paid to the constables of the Hundred. It was invariably £1 19s. 6d. till 1662, after which the amount varied. In 1663 it was £4 10s. 1d., but it afterwards fell to 15s. 5d.

In the accounts for 1666 the "Paritor" is paid 9d. for "carrying in the money collected for the poore of London"—no doubt in accordance with the order of the Archbishop of Canterbury, that each Bishop should send a monthly report of money collected in each parish for the relief of the poor of London during the plague year.⁶

In the following year 3s. is paid to "an officer from the Arch Bishopp concerning some church businesse."

This refers to the order of the Privy Council that the Archbishop should send (through the Bishops) a notice to each parish to make collections "for those who have been undone by the late dreadful Fire in London."⁷

The entries for 1659 contain the following:—

"Laid oute for a messenger for carriing in the money to the

(6) Registers of Archbishop Sheldon, August 1st, 1665.

(7) Registers of Archbishop Sheldon, November 7th, 1666.

Sherife that was collected for the poore protestants that were driven out of Bohemia and Holland, 9d."

"Laid out for the bareing of a letter to London to certifie Sir Thomas Viner of what was collected for the afore-said protestants in our towne, 2d."

"Laid out for a messenger to carrie in the money to the Shrieve that was collected for St. Marie Blandford, 9d."

A considerable amount of money was given away to those people who travelled from place to place with "briefs," *e.g.*:—
1688. "It. to A poore woman whose house was Burned at Langport being formerly of ye towne one Mary Glover."

1670. "It. Given towards the Reliefe of some hurted by fire at South Petherton and North Petherton."

1674. "To Poore Travellers, £3 2s. 8d."

In 1680 began a curious but common payment. One shilling was given for every fox brought to the churchwardens, and fourpence each for every polecat, stoat, or hedgehog. In 1686 no fewer than 51 hedgehogs and polecats were paid for; in 1687 the number was 45, and in the following year 43 hedgehogs and 10 polecats were paid for.

No doubt it became quite a trade. To this day in the neighbouring parish of Pitney a mole-catcher is regularly appointed at the annual vestry, and his services paid for out of the parish funds.

As an index of political feeling, or as throwing light on historical events, these old accounts are disappointing. Incidentally, however (as in the case of special forms of prayer mentioned above), we find hints of historic occurrences. Scarcely a year passes between 1641 and 1660 but relief is given to "poore souldiers." In 1644 an unnamed soldier is buried in the church.

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, and in that year the bells were rung for "the proclamation of ye Lorde Protector" (*i.e.*, his son Richard). The ringers could not have shown much

enthusiasm, as they only received one shilling for their trouble.

There was evidently great rejoicing at the Restoration. In that year £8 was spent "in drinke and for the King's setting uppe." The bells were put in thorough repair, and the church seems to have been generally overhauled. The Bible was mended, and in the following year a new "sirplus" was bought for £4 3s. 10d. The expenses at visitations, discontinued during the Commonwealth, again appear, and church life in Somerton receives a new impetus.

Frequent mention is made of the wars in the early part of the eighteenth century. The victories were received with joy, and the bells were rung on many occasions, *e.g.*:—

1703. "At ye taking of ye fleete."

1706. "On account of forcing ye ffrench lines."

1714. "When ye peace was proclaimed."

In 1741 a hogshead of cider was bought for £2 5s. 0d. to celebrate the taking of "Carter China" (*i.e.*, Carthagena, in Spain), a rather premature subject of rejoicing, as Carthagena was *not* taken, but on the contrary our fleet was repulsed with great loss.

A few other entries may be noticed.

1655. "It. for a new Register booke, 13s. 4d."

1658. "ffor the Acte for observing ye Lordes day."

1666. "ffor a new purse, 4s."

1666. "It. laid out to Mr. Sherwood⁸ for takeing of Amerciants (?) on the high waies belonging to the pish of Somerton, £1 4s."

1671. "For drawing up a certificate for poore people to be excused hearth-money."

1680. "For ye advt. for Burials in woollen."

1704. "ffor ringing upon ye day when ye Queene came to her crowne, 6s. 8d."

Two other entries require some little explanation:—

1645. "Item to minister the 3 of Septem."

(8) High Sheriff.

1665. "Paid for exhibiting of a Petition to Judge Arthur on behalf of ye parish, 6s."

As this volume contains a full list of the ratepayers' names for every rate, it is a mine of information concerning local names.⁹ From these rates the following list of inns, with the date of their first appearance, has been compiled:—

RED LION: 1654. "Mrs. Glover for the Red Lyon, 1s. 6d."

1658. "Item of the Redd Lyon, 7s. 6d."

BELL: 1665. "John Coxe for the Bell, 9d."

1719. "Mr. Dickinson for ye Bell."

SWAN: 1665. "Roger Long for the Swanne, 4d."

(Does not appear after 1672.)

THREE CUPS: 1664. "Mrs. Glover for the Three Cupps, 1s."

(Appears in the 1672 rate as in arrears, but not afterwards.)

THE INN: 1663. "Geo. Godsell for the Inne, 1s. 10d."

1719. "Joane Stroude for ye Inne."

NAG'S HEAD: 1674. "John Paty at Naggs heade, 1s 6d."

(Called in 1701, "ye little Naggs head.")

ANGEL: 1664. "George Crane for the Angell, 6d."

ROYAL OAK: 1734. "Wm. Martin for the Royal Oak, 4d."

BEARS: 1732. "Jonathan Williams for ye Bears Inn, 3s."

DOG: 1732. "For Mrs. Knights called the Dog, 1s. 6d."

WHITE HART: 1732. "For the Whitehart, 1s. 9d."

(? an inn) THE CROSS HOUSE: 1665. "Alex. Connant for the Crosse House, 2d."

In 1734 the "Meeting House" is rated at 3d., but this is apparently an error, as in the 1732 rate it is "the house adjoining the meeting house" that is rated, probably the minister's residence.

On page 59, under date 1649, is an entry relating to the boarding out of a pauper. The bond itself is in Latin, but the conditions of it are explained in English.

"The condition of this obligation is this: That if the above bounden Anthonie Brice his heires executo^{rs} administrators or

(9) See Appendix B.

assignes or any or either of them shall well and sufficiently keepe and maintaine withe meate drinke and clothing washinge and lodginge Anne Elmes daughter unto John Elmes late deceased soe that the said Anne Elmes never become chargeable unto any parish and specially to the parish of Somerton either for meate drinke clothing washing or lodginge : Then this obligation to voide and of none effect or else to remaine and bee in full force power and virtue.”

The seals and signatures of the vicar and churchwardens are appended to this document.

APPENDIX A.

CHURCHWARDENS of Somerton from 1641–1740, with year of appointment :—

1641.	Rich. Newcourt : Thos. Rosdell.
1642.	Rich. Adams : Phil. Masters.
1643.	Phil. Masters : Geo. Gilbert.
1644.	Ed. Cooke : Wm. Churchill.
1645.	Geo. Peddle : Jas. Patey.
1646.	Jno. Biggs : Jno. Bishop.
1647.	Jno. Pitman : Jno. Horwood.
1648.	Ed. Chard : Hum. Peddle.
1649.	Jno. Crane : Jno. Calloe.
1650.	Alex. Connant : Rob. Peddle.
1651.	Ed. Horsey : Thos. Biggs.
1652 & 3.	Jerom. Churchey : Ed. Sindercom.
1654.	Jno. Crane : Wm. Horsey.
1655.	Fra. Crane : Bar. Stevens.
1656.	Hen. Fisher : Jas. Hurd.
1657.	Jno. Rosdell : Jno. Cooke.
1658.	Jno. Biggs : Geo. Pedwell. ¹⁰
1659.	Jno. Fisher : Thos. Chipper.

(10) Did not serve the office.

1660. Ed. Martin : Jno. Cox.
1661 & 2. Rob. Bayley : Pet. Whitlock.
1663. Ed. Chard : Pet. Whitlock.
1664. Jno. Stocker, gent. ; Jas. Peddle.
1665. Hen. Pavey : Wm. Bartlett.
1666. Thos. Callow : Hum. Peddle, senr.
1667 & 8. Fra. Crane : Jno. Patey.
1669. Geo. Adams : Jerom. Churchey.
1670. Tho. Cook : Hum. Churchill.
1671. Jno. Adams : Hen. Crane.
1672. Rob. Collins : Hum. Peddle.
1673. Jno. Horsey : Hum. Peddle.
1674. Rob. Marsh : Will. Deacon.
1675. Ri. Skrine : Tho. Hodges.
1676. Rob. Bartlett : Jno. Biggs.
1677. Jerard Newcourt : G. Horwood.
1678 & 9. Nic. Sheirs : Jsph. Knight.
1680. Rob. Cure, senr. : Will. Pitman.
1681. Jno. Peddle : Rob. Horsy.
1682. Nic. Paty : Will. Pickford.
1683 & 4. Jam. Peddle : Rob. Philips.
1685. Hen. Crane : Hen. Penny.
1686. Jno. Board : Jno. Peddle.
1687-9. Jno. Fisher : Sam. Hazzard.
1690 & 1. Tho. Arnold : P. Whitlock, junr.
1692 & 3. S. Horler : Jno. Hodges.
1694. Llewelin Griffith : B. Hodges.
1695-9. Pet. Whitlock, senr. : Jno. Griffin.
1700-2. Thos. Flemming : Hum. Peddle.
1703-5. Israch Rowden : Alex. Cure.
1706-10. Joshua Beech : Daniel Yates.
1711-13. John Deacon : John Knight.
1714. Wm. Steevens¹¹ : Rob. Peddle.
1715-19. Rob. Peddle : Thos. Gooden.

(11) Died in office.

1720-22.	Wm. Strode :	Thos. Dickenson.
1723-26.	Hon. Thos. Strangways :*	Wm. Warman.
1727.	Wm. Warman :	Thos. Arnold.
1728 & 9.	Thos. Chipper :	John Horsey.
1730 & 1.	John Board :	John Horsey. ¹²
1732-5.	Ric. Guppy :	Edw. Peddle.
1736-8.	John Squire :	Thos. Haggett.
1739.	Chas. Board :	Saml. Bernard.
1740.	Hugh Bartlett :	Wm. Hacker.

APPENDIX B.

A LIST of all the ratepayers whose names appear in the 1641 rate.¹³

I. Those who pay one shilling or more :—

Sir John Stawell, knight, ¹⁴ 6s.	Peter Hurd, 1s. 2d.
Baldwyn Harrys, gent., 2s.	Widdowe Salmon, 1s. 3d.
John Tailor, gent., 2s. 6d.	Thomas Baker, 1s. 2d.
John Horsey, ffarmer, 5s.	John Tinteny, 1s.
John Applyn, senr., 4s. 6d.	William Churchill, 1s.
Antony Cooke, 4s. 6d.	Robert Whitehead, 1s.
Thomas Rosdell, 4s. 6d.	William Paty, 1s.
Jerom Churchill, 4s.	Francis Pester, 1s.
John Crane, 3s.	James Coggan, 1s.

* The Strangways family is omitted from the 1641 list of ratepayers, but Sir John Strangways occurs in 1642, and the name is met with in every succeeding rate. In 1732, Thomas Strangways Horner is rated for St. Cleers.

(12) " We do appoint John Horsey and John Board Churchwardens for ye year ensuing. but that John Board is not to intermeddle with glassing ye Church windows." March 31st, 1730.

(13) The amount of the Rate in the £ not being given, the ratable value cannot be determined.

(14) M.P. Probably a king's man, as he disappears after the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Restoration Geo. Stawell and Ralph Stawell, Esqs., appear (1663), but the name is not found in the 1701 rate, nor afterwards.

Wm. Chipper, 3s.
 Richard Baker, 3s. 4d.
 Thomas Harbin, 2s. 8d.
 William Stuckey, 2s. 6d.
 Peter Horsey, 2s. 6d.
 Robert Baker, 2s. 3d.
 Andrew Hurd, 2s. 3d.
 Richard Adams, 2s.
 Jas. Martyn's Widdowe, 2s.
 John Martyn, senr., 2s.
 Noble Walter & Toby Brayne,
 2s.
 Geo. Martyn's Widdowe, 2s.
 Widdowe Brooke, 2s.
 Rich. Hurd, 1s. 11d.
 Hugh Bartlett, 1s. 11d.
 Geo. Glover, 1s. 9d.
 Richard Pollett, 1s. 8d.
 William Chipper, 1s. 9d.
 John Pitman, 1s. 8d.
 Widdowe Peddle, 1s. 8d.
 Humfrey Peddle, 1s. 8d.
 Noble Bennet, 1s. 6d.
 Henry Newman, 1s. 6d.
 Wm. Haggett, 1s. 6d.
 Thos. Ham, 1s. 6d.
 Widdowe Horsey, 1s. 6d.
 Edward Chard, 1s. 6d.
 Peter Horsey, 1s. 6d.
 Thomas Thorne, 1s. 6d.
 Joseph Applyn, 1s. 6d.
 Thos. Challoner, 1s. 4d.
 Wm. Browne, 1s. 3d.
 Henry Hilborne, 1s. 4d.
 John Bryges, 1s. 3d.
 Richard Newcourt, 1s. 3d.

Widdowe Deacon, 1s.
 John Cooke, 1s.
 John Horsey, 1s.
 John Rose, 1s.
 John Gibbs, 1s.

NETHER SOMERTON (1664,
 SOMERTON EARLY):

Thomas Still, Esq., 15s.
 James ffisher, 10s.
 Geo. Crane, senr., 6s 10d.
 John ffisher, senr., 5s.
 John Crane, ffarm, 4s. 6d.
 Widdowe ffisher, 3s. 9d.
 Widdowe Cooke, 2s.
 Humphrey Gover, 1s. 6d.
 John Horsey, of Dundon, 1s. 3d.
 Allene Preene, 1s.

HURCOTT:

John Cooke, 3s.
 James Baker, 3s.
 Widdowe Strowde, 3s.
 John Bishop, 2s. 6d.
 Philip Masters, 2s. 3d.
 John Masters, 2s. 3d.
 Thomas Salmon, 2s. 3d.
 Widdowe Callowe, 2s.
 Widdowe Ouseley, 2s.
 Widdowe Bartlett, 1s. 6d.
 Widdowe Peddell, 1s. 5d.
 John Horwood, 1s. 3d.
 Widdowe Crane, of Compton,
 1s. 3d.
 Widdowe Horwood, 1s. 3d.

II. Those who pay less than one shilling:—

John Seward, gent.

Henry Jaques, gent.

Applyn.	Hodges.	Sherstone.
Bryant.	Hilborne.	
Brymell.	Hewett.	NETHER SOMERTON :
Crane.	Hooper.	Brayne.
Churchill.	Ham.	Bigges.
Clarke.	Knyght.	Bartlett.
Clothier.	Lawner.	Baker.
Deacon (2).	Masters.	ffisher (2).
Elme.	Martyn (3).	Hobbes.
Beavell.	Newale.	Parker.
Biggs.	Oadhame.	Peacocke.
Browning.	Pedell (2).	Rogers.
Cornish.	Peddle (4).	Robyns.
Connant.	Prewé.	Symmes.
Crosse.	Pitman.	Stocke.
Cooke.	Paty (2).	Shepheard.
ffisher.	Pickford.	
Gibbes.	Phillps.	HURCOTT :
Glover.	Petty.	Page, als. Crosse.
Gilbert.	Pavie.	Reynolds.
Gee.	Robyns.	Tucker.
Harvey.	Salway.	
Horseý (3).	Squier (6).	

A few other names may be appended :—

John Brent, Esq., 1658.	Geo. Clarke, gent.	} 1666
John Newton, Esq., 1663.	Gregory Gibbs, gent.	
Geo. Raymond, gent.	Richard Adams, gent.)	
John Storker, gent.	Mr. Howes (Somerton Early)	} 1664
John Pine, gent.	1674.	
Thos. Sherwood, gent.	Wm. Howe, Esq. (Somerton	
Mr. Eastmont.	Early) 1701.	

The Prebendal Psalms in the Church of Wells.

BY REV. C. M. CHURCH, M.A., F.S.A.,

Sub-Dean and Canon Residentiary.

THE daily recitation of the whole Psalter by the members of the Chapter, each member taking his appointed number of Psalms, probably formed part of the "Con-suetudinary" introduced by the Norman bishops, who moulded the constitution of the English cathedral churches in the twelfth century.

The usage can be traced to very early times in the ordinances of the churches of Wells, Lincoln, Salisbury, and St. Paul's, London, though the actual division of the Psalter among the several prebends is of later dates.

The earliest draft of the statutes of the church of Wells is assigned to the time of Bishop Robert, 1136-1166. It contains the order that "the whole Psalter shall be said daily for the brethren and benefactors of the Church of Wells, and two masses each week shall be celebrated for living and dead."

"Præterea singulis diebus dicitur totum psalterium pro fratribus et benefactoribus Wellensis ecclesiæ, et singulis

hebdomadis celebrentur duo missæ pro salute vivorum et defunctorum.”¹

“The earliest recorded statute to be found at Lincoln is one concerning the division of the Psalter for daily recitation by members of the Chapter.”²

An ordinance based upon the “ancient institution” of the church of Lincoln, was drawn up by the dean and chapter, and confirmed by St. Hugh, bishop 1186–1200, “that one mass and one psalter should be said daily for benefactors living and departed, and the assignment was made of particular psalms to the bishop and the fifty-four canons.”

At St. Paul’s, London, the statutes of Ralph de Baldock, dean 1294, bishop 1303–1313, appointed the order by which the canons, thirty in number, were bidden to recite daily a portion of five psalms each,³ and both here and at Lincoln the titles of the psalms were written above the several prebendal stalls in the church.⁴

At Salisbury no order for the daily recitation of the psalms is found in early statutes, but an immemorial usage has existed, and a table of the division of the psalms between the bishop and fifty-two prebendaries is contained in a Processionale of the church of the fifteenth century, a manuscript (no. 145) in the library of the dean and chapter of Salisbury.⁵

At these three churches the assignment of the Proper

(1) R. ii, f. 42, s. 5.

(2) Henry Bradshaw in *Lincoln Cathedral Statutes*, pp. 37, 38.

See the statute and the *divisio psalmorum* p. 300.

(3) *Statuta et consuetudines ecclesiæ Cathedralis Sti. Pauli Londinensis*, f. 60.

(4) At Lincoln “each of the prebendaries has his own allotted psalms, whose titles, as at St. Paul’s, are inscribed on tablets suspended at the back of his stall, and the closing act of his installation is the direction of his installer to turn and read them and to bear in mind that he is bound to recite them daily if nothing hinders.”—*Church Quarterly Review on Statutes of Lincoln Cathedral*, no. lxix, Oct., 1892.

(5) Jones’ *Fasti Ecclesiæ Sarisberiensis*, p. 200.

Psalms is still made known to each prebendary at the time of installation.

At Wells, though the duty of daily recitation is laid down in the earliest statutes, the table of division of the psalms is not found in any of the registers or original documents now existing in the chapter library. It is found only in two copies of the "ordinale et statuta" of the church, of the latter part of the 15th century.

One is a manuscript book of 357 pages, small quarto, partly parchment, chiefly paper, entitled "Dean Cosyns's MSS." It contains very full transcripts, in various handwriting, of the statutes and acts of the chapter. It bears on page 158 the writing "Liber Wilelmi Cosyn Decani Wellen. Ecclesie Cathedralis—scriptus et collatus labore et sumptibus suis, anno domini 1467." 1506 is added in margin by a later hand. All the pages following are in the handwriting of that time and on parchment. The handwriting of the former part is of earlier dates.⁶

The other is a folio of 155 pages of parchment, bound in rough calf, and lettered at the back "Statuta ecclesie Cathedralis Wellensis." It is in one and the same handwriting, of the sixteenth century.

It is probable that from this later transcript the copy was made of the "Ordinale et Statuta" now in the Lambeth Library, (no. 729), which was drawn up and sent to Lambeth, in obedience to Archbishop Laud's monition, by Dean Warburton and the chapter in 1634.⁷

In both these copies the table of psalms follows upon the statutes of Dean Haselshaw, which were put forth in 1298.⁸

(6) Dean Cosyns lived through the episcopates of Oliver King, Adrian de Castello, Wolsey, and Clark.

(7) Printed in *Wells Cathedral*, H. E. Reynolds, 1881.

(8) The Table of Psalms is printed on pp. 68-69, but contains many mistakes. R. i, f. 215-219. R. ii, f. 19-23, 'Statuta edita tempore Walteri de Haselshaw.'

The table is found in the Cosyn MS. on page 68, and in the other copy on page 81 without any other heading than the following:

Singulis diebus dicat DOMINUS EPISCOPUS hos psalmos cum confratribus et prebendis totum psalterium quolibet die ut patet inferius.		
	Ps. i	<i>Beatus vir qui</i> [bonus]
	Ps. ii	<i>Quare fremuerunt gentes</i>
	Ps. iii	<i>Domine quid</i>
WEDMORE I.	Ps. iv	<i>Cum invocarem</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
CLYVA.	Ps. viii	<i>Domine Dominus noster</i>
	Ps. ix	<i>Confitebor tibi domine</i>
	Ps. x	<i>Ut quid</i>
SANCTUS DECU- MANUS	Ps. xi	<i>In Domino confido</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
	CUMBA I.	Ps. xv	Domine quis habitabit Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
CUMBA XII.	Ps. xviii	<i>Diligam te domine</i>
CUMTONA	Ps. xix	<i>Cæli enarrant gloriam</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
	IATTONA	Ps. xxii	Domine Deus meus respice [Ps. 22, 23, 24 (in later hand)]. Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
HASSELBERGA	Ps. xxv	<i>Ad te domine levavi</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
	WANDESTRE	Ps. xxix	Afferte Domine
Ps. xxx		<i>Exultabo te</i>
Ps. xxxi		<i>In te Domine speravi</i>
SCANDERFORDE	Ps. xxxii	<i>Beati quorum</i> [boni]
	Ps. xxxiii	<i>Exultate justi</i>
	Ps. xxxiv	<i>Benedicam</i>
WEDMORE II.	Ps. xxxv	<i>Judica Domine</i>
	Ps. xxxvi	<i>Dixit injustus</i>
CUMBA II.	Ps. xxxvii	<i>Noli æmulari</i>
	Ps. xxxviii	<i>Domine ne in furore</i>

CUMBA III.	Ps. xxxix	<i>Dixi custodiam</i>	[domine]
		Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus	
CUMBA IV.	Ps. xlii	<i>Quemadmodum</i>	
		Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus	
BOKLONDE	Ps. xlv	<i>Eructavit cor meum</i>	
		Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus	
MYLVERTON I.	Ps. xlix	<i>Audite hæc omnes gentes</i>	
		Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus	
HENGESTRYNGE	Ps. liii	<i>Dixit insipiens</i>	
		Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus	
TYMBERSCOMBE	Ps. lvii	<i>Miserere mei Deus miserere</i>	
		Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus	
AYSHULLE	Ps. lx	<i>Deus repulisti nos</i>	
		Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus	
CUMBA V.	Ps. lxiv	<i>Exaudi Deus orationem</i>	
		Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus	
ESTONA	Ps. lxxvii	<i>Deus misereatur nostri</i>	[dominus]
	Ps. lxxviii	<i>Exurgat Deus et dissipentur</i>	
ILTONA	Ps. lxxix	<i>Salvum me fac domine</i>	
	Ps. lxxx	<i>Deus in adjutorium</i>	
CUMBA XIII.	Ps. lxxxi	<i>In te domine speravi</i>	
	Ps. lxxxii	<i>Deus judicium tuum</i>	
DUNDEN	Ps. lxxxiii	<i>Quam bonus Israel Deus</i>	
	Ps. lxxxiv	<i>Ut quid Deus repulisti</i>	
CUMBA XIV.	Ps. lxxxv	<i>Confitebimur tibi</i>	
	Ps. lxxxvi	<i>Notus in Judæa</i>	[mundo]
	Ps. lxxxvii	<i>Voce mea</i>	
CUMBA VI.	Ps. lxxxviii	<i>Attendite popule</i>	[juris sui]
DULTICOTE	Ps. lxxxix	<i>Deus venerunt</i>	[domine]
	Ps. lxxx	<i>Qui regis Israel</i>	
TAUNTON	Ps. lxxxxi	<i>Exultate Deo</i>	
	Ps. lxxxii	<i>Deus stetit</i>	

BRENT	Ps. lxxxiii	<i>Deus quis similis</i> Cum duobus sequentibus psalmis
WYVELESCUMBA	Ps. lxxxvi	<i>Inclina domine</i>
	Ps. lxxxvii	<i>Fundamenta ejus</i>
	Ps. lxxxviii	<i>Domine Deus salutis</i>
ILMYNISTRA	Ps. lxxxix	<i>Misericordias Domini</i>
SUTTONA	Ps. xc	<i>Domine refugium</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
HOLECUMBA	Ps. xciv	<i>Deus ultionum</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
WEREMINSTER	Ps. xcvi	<i>Dominus regnavit</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
CUMBA VII.	Ps. c	<i>Jubilate Deo omnes</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
CORY	Ps. ciii	<i>Benedic i tantum</i>
WORMESTERR	Ps. civ	<i>Benedic ii tantum</i>
WITLAKYNGTON	Ps. cv	<i>Confitemini i tantum</i>
CUMBA XV.	Ps. cvi	<i>Confitemini ii tantum</i>
MYLVERTON II.	Ps. cvii	<i>Confitemini iii tantum</i>
WEDMORE III.	Ps. cviii	<i>Paratum cor meum</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
BERTON	Ps. cxi	<i>Confitebor tibi domine</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
CUMBA VIII.	Ps. cxvi	<i>Dilexi quoniam</i> Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
WEDMORE IV.	Ps. cxix	<i>Beati immaculate in via</i> [bort.] Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus (1—64.)
CUDEWORTHE	Ps. cxix	<i>Bonitatem cum servo tuo</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus (65—111.)
CUMBA IX.	Ps. cxix	<i>Iniquos odi</i> <i>Mirabilia</i> <i>Clamavi</i>

CUMBA X.	Ps. cxix	<i>Principes persecuti</i> Cum quinque psalmis sequentibus (161—176. Ps. cxx—cxxiv.)
WYTCYRCH	Ps. cxxv	<i>Qui confidunt in domino</i> Cum sex psalmis sequentibus
HARPETRE	Ps. cxxxii	<i>Memento domine David</i> Cum quator psalmis sequentibus
CUMBA XI.	Ps. cxxxvii	<i>Super flumina Babil</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
WEDMORE V.	Ps. cxl	<i>Eripe me Domine</i> [Ps. 140, 141, 142 (in later hand)] Cum tribus psalmis sequentibus
DYNRE	Ps. cxliv	<i>Benedictus Dominus Deus</i> Cum duobus psalmis sequentibus
LUTTON	Ps. cxlvii	<i>Laudate dominum Lauda</i> <i>Ierusal.</i>
°	Ps. cxlviii	<i>Laudate dominum de celis</i>

NOTE—The numbering of the Psalms is the same as in our Prayer Book version. The words in margin are various readings in the copies, probably mistakes of the copyist.

Singulis diebus dicetur totum psalterium a predictis Prebendis pro fratribus et benefactoribus Wellensis ecclesiæ.

BYDSAM prebenda Sancti Andreae.

Cujus vicarius est Magister Scholarum.

Some notes are to be made on this table of psalms.

(a) There seems to be good reason for attributing to Dean Haselshaw's time this distribution of the psalms.

Though the usage dated from very early times, and from the 'antiqua statuta,' yet the actual division of the Psalter must have varied with the varying number of prebends through the times of bishops Reginald, Savaric, and Jocelin. It was not until after the imprebendation of Dinder, the last-made prebend, in 1263, that this final division could have been drawn up. Under Dean Haselshaw there was a general revision of the Consuetudinary with a view to enforce stricter

rules for the vicars choral, and to promote order and reverence in the services of the Church.

The daily recitation was to be a private act on the part of the prebendaries, and was left to individual consciences, under a general order and statute. At the same time provision was made for a public observance of the statute, either supplementary or vicarious, in case of neglect of duty among the prebendaries or of vacancies of prebends.

Among the statutes of 1298 there is one, "*De altaristis quod dicant psalterium singulis diebus*,"⁹ which enjoins upon the altarists, or chantry priests who served at the several altars where obituary services were endowed, that they should say daily a psalter "for the bishop and chapter and for the benefactors of the church" :—

"Injungimus etiam tabulario quod diligenter curam adhibeat quod altariste singulis diebus psalterium dicant pro domino episcopo et capitulo et benefactoribus ecclesiæ ut tenentur—quod si negligentes reperti fuerint decernimus amovendos et eorum loco alios idoneos subrogandos."

Again, forty years later, another statute of Dean Walter of London, 1338, enforces upon altarists greater exactness in fulfilling their duties, and specifies that it was their duty to say the psalter daily, "in the name of the canons" :—

"Unum psalterium nomine canonicorum ecclesiæ Wellensis pro animabus omnium defunctorum singulis diebus dicere."¹⁰

In both cases it is implied that the obligation on their part, as well as on the part of canons, was older than these orders of the Dean and Chapter.

The chantry priests must have discharged their duty publicly, either as a body, or in portions assigned to each and separately, for their failure of attendance and observance was

(9) R. ii, f. 21. Reynolds, p. 65.

(10) Reynolds, p. 89.

to be marked down by the "tabellarius." The canons were not thereby relieved from their obligations, but provision was made that the cycle of daily prayer and praise and intercession should be completed by another body of ministers, as the vicars choral supplied the musical services of the church, either together with the canons when resident, or "in their name" when absent.

(b) How is the omission of this table from the register to be accounted for?

It is not the only document contained in these copies which is not found in the registers and documents now existing in the chapter library. There is also another very interesting table, which appears in the Lambeth copy and in each of these two copies, but not in the registers. It is entitled "Kalendarium de coloribus vestimentorum utendis et variandis prout festa et tempora totius anni requirunt in ecclesia Wellensi."¹¹

It may be that these two tables were entered in one of the service books which have been lost. We have notices of destruction of muniments, episcopal and capitular, at various times of civil trouble, and the history of one of these two copies illustrates the danger of destruction, down to very late times, of service books and documents which savoured of "superstition."

In the second of the transcripts above described there are copious notes in the margin and headings to the pages in a handwriting of the eighteenth century, which, by comparison with notes in other books of the library, can be traced to one of the canons, Robert Wilson prebendary of Litton, 1742, and of Tymbrescombe, 1765, and canon residentiary. He had read, marked, and digested this copy of the statutes and Ordinal, and then purposed to consign it to destruction. On the first leaf of the book along the length of the page is this entry :

"To Robert Tudway Esq. mayor of Wells at the Old Almshouse from Robert Wilson residentiary at Wells in

(11) Reynolds, p. 95.

obedience to the act of 3. 4 Edward VI. cap x. concerning the taking away and destroying superstitious Images and books.”

If this act of Edward VI., 1551, which orders that such books “are to be delivered up to the Mayor, who is to give them to the bishop to be destroyed or burned,” was thus observed as late as 1765 by a member of the chapter, we can imagine what wholesale destruction of service books may have taken place two hundred years earlier under the same statute.

This book, however, escaped the fate intended for it. The mayor, or the bishop (Dr. Willes), more tolerant than the canon, probably returned it to the dean (Dr. Creswick), and it remained in the possession of the several occupants of the deanery. In 1885 it was sent to Dean Plumtre by a member of the family of Dean Ryder (dean 1812–1831, and Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry), and was restored to the library of the dean and chapter. It bears no marks of fire, only of damp and long neglect. There is reason for thinking that this is the manuscript book quoted by Chyle as “Mr. Creighton’s manuscript.”¹²

(c) We see that the number of the prebends among which the Psalter was distributed was fifty-three. There is another prebend mentioned, that of Bydsam (Biddisham), to which no psalms were assigned. This prebend was instituted by Bishop Robert to form a fabric fund for the Church of St. Andrew¹³—the titular prebendary was St. Andrew—the master of the schools held nominally the place of vicar.

“Bydsam prebenda Sancti Andreae, cujus vicarius est magister scholarum.”

(12) Reynolds, Introduction, p. xii, quotes the late Mr. F. H. Dickinson, writing in 1871: “Chyle quotes generally from a book he called Mr. Creighton’s MS., which appears to have contained copies of many of the more curious documents relating to the cathedral, which it would be very desirable to identify if it lies hid in some public library.”

(13) R. i, f. 31.

In the charter of Queen Elizabeth of 1592, which confirmed the prebendaries then existing in their several possessions, the number of prebends enumerated was forty-nine. Four prebends had disappeared in the interval. The prebend of Clyva (Cleeve), attached to the Abbey of Bec in Normandy¹⁴; Ilminster, attached to Muchelney Abbey¹⁵; and Sutton to Athelney¹⁶ Abbey; had been lost at the dissolution of the religious houses. Wedmore 1st, and Biddisham had become attached to the estate of the Dean, and probably were absorbed by the Crown after the surrender of the deanery by Dean Fitzwilliam, and were not restored at the reconstitution of the deanery in 1547.

The psalms assigned to these lost prebends now remain unappropriated, viz.,

Psalms iv, v, vi, vii, which belonged to Wedmore 1st,

Psalms viii, ix, x, to Cleeve,

Psalm lxxxviii, to Ilminster,

Psalms xc, xci, xcii, xciii, to Sutton.

The assignment of the first portion of the psalter to the bishop, and the stall in the Chapter House, witness to the early and close connection between the bishop president of the whole chapter and the whole body of the chapter his council. With this exception, the psalms are assigned to prebends, not to offices or dignities, except where prebends were attached to offices.

At this time, 1298, the Dean held the prebend of Wedmore annexed to his office,¹⁷ the prebend of Huish and Brent was annexed to the Archdeaconry of Wells,¹⁸ and that of Milverton to the Archdeaconry of Taunton.¹⁹

(14) Original charter, No. 16, by Savaric.

(15) R. i, f. 41, iii, f. 384, by Savaric, 1201.

(16) R. iii, f. 49, by Savaric, before 1201.

(17) R. i, f. 58, anno 1210, by Jocelin.

(18) R. i, f. 41, by Savaric, before 1206.

(19) R. iii, f. 136, by Jocelin in 1241.

The possession of the prebend alone gave these officers and dignitaries a place and voice in chapter, and a share in the psalms to be recited by the brotherhood.

In the charter of Elizabeth, 1592, the prebend of Curry was united with and annexed to the dignity and office of the dean. Huish and Brent, and Milverton are recognised and confirmed as annexed severally to the Archdeaconries of Wells and Taunton.

(*d*) It may be added that there is a different division of the 119th Psalm (of our Prayer Book version) in the several tables of Psalms.

At Wells there were four divisions, numbered according to our Prayer Book enumeration of verses—

(*a*) 1-63 (*b*) 64-112 (*c*) 113-160 (*d*) 161-176 and Pss. 120-121.

At Salisbury, three divisions—

(*a*) 1-48 (*b*) 49-128 (*c*) 129-176, with Pss. 120-121.

At Lincoln, four divisions—

(*a*) 1-16 (*b*) 17-80 (*c*) 81-128 (*d*) 129-176.

At St. Paul's, Psalm 118 and 119 to verse 11, formed one portion, and from verse 11 to the end of Psalm 119 another.

I have confined myself to the archæological history of the usage of recitation of the Psalter by the members of the capitular body.

It is obvious that the usage witnesses to the devotional value set upon the psalms by the early church, and to the idea of brotherhood among the prebendal body. The joint recitation by the members of a religious body was felt to be a bond of union and brotherhood, as the participation in a daily and common offering of prayer and praise and intercession by the members of one body, however distant and separated by time and place. To know the psalms assigned to each prebend under the old constitution of the cathedral church, may be a help towards recognition of brotherhood among the present members of the chapter scattered throughout the diocese, and

the daily private recitation a means towards spiritual union and united intercession.

This time-honoured custom was established by the present Archbishop of Canterbury at Truro, when bishop of that see, "as a memorial of fraternal unity in work and worship, and as a spiritual intercession for the whole church"; and by Bishop Ridding in the cathedral church at Southwell, "not as a rule obligatory on the conscience, but as a help for the remembrance of their brotherhood."²⁰

(20) See an article on "Statutes of Lincoln Cathedral," in *Church Quarterly Review*, no. lxix.

Stone Coffins found under the Pavement in
South Transept, and under Tower,
Wells Cathedral.

BY W. FIELDER, SACRISTAN.

IN May, 1893, while excavating in order to lay pipes for taking the waste water from the new organ blowing apparatus,

1. A tomb or stone coffin was found, about eighteen inches under flooring, four feet west of entrance to Canons' vestry (St. Martin's Chapel), very complete, made of Douling stone in pieces, and covering of same stone, the sides of coffin worked fine and smooth, hollow for head, everything below the middle of the body entirely perished, ribs and shoulder bones visible, but much decayed. The skull appeared very complete, and something like hair seemed to be attached to it; feet pointing east; no chalice marks. The lower portion of the coffin had to be sawn off in order to lay the pipe; the end was built up with the piece cut off, and the remains left undisturbed. It must have been a slender man, as the coffin in the broadest part was not more than about sixteen inches wide. (These remarks are made from looking into the coffin from the feet end.)

2. Six feet to the north, in a straight line, was another coffin, which had been broken in and was out of shape. Bones found there, which were reburied.

3. Eleven feet further north, another coffin (just opposite the iron gate of chapel of St. Calixtus), all crushed in and out of shape. No remains visible.

4. In a line six feet west of the centre of the north projection of the screen of the choir entrance, is a solid stone coffin about a foot under the flooring, rough inside as if cut out with an axe only, rounded at the feet, with remains in it in a very decomposed state, as of a very large person. The body seemed to have been buried wrapped in some linen substance, and with sandals* (leather) on the feet, of which there were remains. Close adjoining the above, on the north side, are more remains and fragments, very decomposed, of what seemed an oak coffin.

* Except the leathern sandals, there seems to be no clue as to either the date or the identity of the persons buried.—[Ed.]

[Communicated by the Rev. Canon Church, who remarks that “the absence of chalice and patens seems to show that the persons buried were lay folk.”]

A Revised List of the Birds of Somerset.

BY THE REV. MURRAY A. MATHEW, M.A., F.L.S.

Vicar of Buckland Dinham, Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and one of the authors of "The Birds of Devon."

WHEN Mr. Cecil Smith published his *Birds of Somerset*, in 1869, he was able to record but 217 species, to which he subsequently added ten others in a list contributed by him to Vol. xvi of the Transactions of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society (for 1870), thus bringing the total number of birds for Somerset to 227. But even this number appears inadequate to represent the Ornis of so large a county as Somerset, when it is compared with the lists which have been made out for the adjoining counties. Thus for Wiltshire, a county which comes far behind Somerset in geographical importance, as it possesses no coast line, the Rev. A. C. Smith was able to enumerate 235 species; in Dorsetshire, Col. Mansel-Pleydell, as was to be expected, had a fuller list, numbering 254 species, to which we are able to add three others, thus bringing the Dorsetshire county birds to a total of 257; while for Devonshire, which has a sea frontage both on the north and south, as many as 300 species can be claimed. With the wild tract of Exmoor Forest and its beautiful fringe of woods; with the Quantocks, the Blagdon Hills, the Mendip and other hills; with the curious peat-moor district, occupying the centre of

the county ; with its extensive fens and level pastures ; and with an indented coast-line towards the Bristol Channel of some seventy miles, Somerset is so diversified in its features that it might well be expected to be rich in a corresponding variety of birds. It is true that the county is without any important river affording a flight-line to migrating species ; yet its sluggish streams, with their banks of ooze, prove very attractive to the large and important family of waders, and numerous rare birds belonging to this class have been detected both on the Bridgwater river as well as in the neighbourhood of the Axe. The muddy shores of Steart Island, off Burnham, the deep ooze of the bay at Weston-super-Mare, and the sands between Minehead and Watchet, are often visited by flocks of shore-birds. Although the opaque waters of the Bristol Channel, to the east of Minehead, afford no fishing to terns and divers, yet the warm shallows bordering the coast attract numerous diving ducks in the winter, and a great quantity of gulls, that come in pursuit of the schools of sprats, and rare *laridæ* are occasionally obtained. A noteworthy feature in the county list of birds is the number of species of which only a single occurrence is known, serving to prove that all these instances must be regarded as purely accidental, the reason being that many migratory birds, on their journey up and down the Bristol Channel, do not stop either in Somerset or in the opposite counties of South Wales.

There are some collections of stuffed birds in the county (we will not enumerate them), that are very tantalizing to the compiler of a county list. They contain some rarities that are not yet included in it, such as *Purple Heron*, *Avocet*, etc., which may possibly have been obtained within its limits ; but we dare not add them, as there is no evidence that they were, nor can we obtain any information respecting them. An unlabelled collection is utterly valueless for scientific purposes. It is easy enough, when a bird is acquired, to paste a small

label on its case or stand giving the all-important particulars as to locality and date of occurrence; and it is especially desirable that this should be done on all *foreign specimens* of rare English birds, by way of safe-guard; as, when collections are dispersed, such specimens might come into the hands of people who might rashly assume that they had been secured within the county, and chronicling them as such might be the means of propagating serious error.

Some few of our Somerset birds are classical. Such is the *Egyptian Vulture*, one of two seen at Kilve in October, 1825, being the first recorded example obtained in the British Isles. Such also is the young *Black Stork*, wounded on West Sedgemoor on May 14, 1814, and sent alive to Col. Montagu, at Kingsbridge, by his friend Mr. Anstice, of Bridgwater: this was also the first reported instance of the occurrence of the bird within the kingdom. The Colonel kept it alive for nearly a year, and carefully described its moults, habits, etc., in some interesting letters to Mr. Anstice, which were subsequently contributed by Mr. Baker, of Bridgwater, the first secretary of our Society, to the *Zoologist*. This specimen may be still seen in the collection of British birds in the South Kensington Natural History Museum.

Our chief object in drawing up a Revised List of the Birds of the County is not so much to bring the information up to date as to show how much more is wanted to be done, and this it may be competent to a younger race of naturalists to accomplish. Observation might readily add several more species to the County Ornis. It was a great loss to Mr. Cecil Smith that he was without correspondents in the most interesting districts of his county who could have informed him what birds frequented them. We can still only sigh for knowledge respecting the birds of the peat-moor country, for almost absolutely nothing is known about its summer visitors; and the ornithologist can but picture to himself the rare aquatic warblers, the small rails, etc., which may visit it all undetected.

Here is one important field to be investigated. Much remains to be done upon the coast. We do not know what *Gulls* may yet nest upon the Steep Holm, or upon the cliffs to the west of Porlock. We do not know whether the *Chough*, or the *Common Guillemot*, nest within the bounds of the county. Mr. Cecil Smith knew of no recent examples of such a common bird as the *Cormorant*, and of no Somerset *Shag*. We have seen the latter bird often enough off Ilfracombe flying up channel, and consider that it must occasionally occur at least as high up as Minehead, where the water would be clear enough for it to fish. Then the birds of Exmoor Forest, at the present date, are but imperfectly known. Is the *Pied Flycatcher* a regular summer visitor there? Does the *Merlin* nest there annually? What *Harriers* are still left there after the long persecution of the shepherds, who stamp upon every nest they may discover? Does the *Dunlin* nest there? We have written enough to show that Somerset ornithologists have plenty before them, and only submit the present still incomplete list as a framework for others to build on.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF SOMERSET.

Those with an **ASTERISK** are not mentioned by Mr. Cecil Smith in his "Birds of Somerset."

Those with **B** have bred within the county.

Those enclosed between **BRACKETS** are of doubtful authority for their occurrence.

Mistle Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*. B.

Common resident.

Song Thrush, *Turdus musicus*. B.

Common resident, receiving accessions to its numbers from migrating birds in the autumn.

Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*.

Usually an abundant winter visitor, but none were seen in our district of East Somerset in the autumn and winter of

1892. Has been reported by Mr. Jesse to have nested in the county: probably a mistake.

Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*.

A winter visitor, rare in some seasons.

We have seen the Fieldfare in East Somerset as early as 5th September (1891).

*White's Ground Thrush, *Turdus varius*.

Two examples of this rare Asian Ground Thrush have been secured in the county; one at Hestercombe, near Taunton, at the beginning of January, 1870: the other, also in the month of January, in 1871, at Langford, on the northern slope of the Mendip.

Blackbird, *Turdus merula*. B.

Since the almost complete extermination of its enemy, the Sparrow-Hawk, the Blackbird has so greatly increased in numbers as to be quite a pest in gardens throughout the fruit season.

Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*. B (on Exmoor).

Seen in various parts of the county at the time of migration, and to be found in small numbers on Exmoor throughout the summer.

Wheatear, *Saxicola ænanthe*. B.

A common summer visitor to all districts suited to its habits.

Whinchat, *Pratincola rubetra*. B.

A summer visitor, but local and in very limited numbers.

Stonechat, *Pratincola rubicola*. B.

Resident, but very local; there are districts where we have never seen it; most frequently found in the west of the county.

Redstart, *Ruticilla phænicurus*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Black Redstart, *Ruticilla titys*. B?

An irregular winter visitor.

Some years ago we were informed that a nest and eggs of this species, in general only a rare winter visitor to

this country, had been found on Worle Hill, Weston-super-Mare.

We saw a fine male on the 5th April, 1892, close to Claverton, when driving to Bath.

[Redspotted Bluethroat, *Cyanecula suecica*.

A specimen in the Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter is stated to have been obtained in Somerset, in 1856.]

Redbreast, *Erithacus rubecula*. B.

Common resident.

Nightingale, *Daulias luscinia*. B.

A rather local summer visitor ; numerous in some favourite places.

Whitethroat, *Sylvia cinerea*. B.

An abundant summer visitor.

Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*. B.

A summer visitor ; scarce.

In the east of the county ; rarely seen in the west.

Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*. B.

A summer visitor, generally abundant.

Garden Warbler, *Sylvia hortensis*. B.

A summer visitor. Rare and local in Somerset.

Goldcrest, *Regulus cristatus*. B.

A common resident ; also a winter migrant in considerable numbers.

Chiff-chaff, *Phylloscopus rufus*. B.

A summer visitor ; perhaps the most numerous of all the small migrants.

Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*. B.

A summer visitor, common, but rather local ; avoids high ground.

Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. B.

A summer visitor ; very local, almost confined to the larger woods.

Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus streperus*. B.

A summer visitor, scarce, and very local.

This species is more numerous in the county than Mr. C. Smith supposed it to be. When we were on the watch for the Marsh Warbler we detected nests of the Reed Warbler to be not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Taunton. It has also been noticed at Brislington, and at Shepton Mallet.

*Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*. B.

A summer visitor.

At least a dozen nests of this Warbler have been found in various years around Taunton, and a nest has also been taken near Bath. It is probably a regular summer visitor to the county.

Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus phragmitis*. B.

A summer visitor, abundant.

Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella naevia*. B.

A summer visitor.

Very local; we have never met with it ourselves.

Hedge-sparrow, *Accentor modularis*. B.

Common resident.

Alpine Accentor, *Accentor collaris*.

Accidental. Only one example many years ago at Wells.

Dipper, *Cinclus aquaticus*. B.

Resident, but local.

This species extends throughout the county, and nests annually in the neighbourhood of Frome.

*Bearded Tit, *Panurus biarmicus*.

Accidental. Stated, in Mr. Baker's notes, to have occurred near Bridgwater.

Long-tailed Tit, *Acredula rosea*. B.

Common resident.

The white-headed continental form has occurred near Bridgwater.

Great Tit, *Parus major*. B.

Common resident.

Coal Tit, *Parus britannicus*. B.

Common resident.

Marsh Tit, *Parus palustris*. B.

Common resident, local.

Blue Tit, *Parus cæruleus*. B.

Common resident.

Nuthatch, *Sitta cæsia*. B.

Common resident.

Wren, *Troglodytes parvulus*. B.

Common resident.

*White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*. B.

A summer visitor.

The Rev. M. S. C. Rickards has seen the White Wagtail, apparently nesting, in Leigh Woods, near Bristol. There can be little doubt that this species is far from uncommon, and nests regularly along the coast.

Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla lugubris*. B.

Common resident.

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla melanope*. B.

Common resident.

Occurs throughout the county as a nesting species, breeding commonly around Frome : numbers arrive from the north in the autumn.

Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*. B?

An occasional summer visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith had reason to believe that this Wagtail had nested near Wiveliscombe.

Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla raii*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Meadow Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*. B.

Common resident.

Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis*. B.

A common summer visitor.

*[Richards' Pipit, *Anthus Richardi*.

A rare accidental visitor ; usually in winter.

Mr. Howard Saunders has informed us that he saw "a family party" of this species by the side of the road between Porlock and Lynton, in the early autumn.

The Rev. M. S. C. Rickards, vicar of Twigworth, Gloucester, recorded in the *Zoologist* for 1893 that on 30th May that year he saw a pair of Richards' Pipits near Lady's Bay, Clevedon. "They were in a large field, interspersed with patches of fern, which slopes down to the Bristol Channel, and first attracted my attention from the strut and high carriage of the head, which is characteristic of the male. They allowed of a near approach and close observation. It struck me as probable they might have a nest near, but I failed to find one; nor, though I returned to the spot soon afterwards, and for several subsequent days in succession, did I see anything more of them."

Richards' Pipit, an Asiatic species, has been noted as an occasional *winter* visitor to England, and has frequently occurred in Devonshire.

As no example of Richards' Pipit appears to have been actually secured in Somerset, we are compelled to include it within brackets.]

Rock Pipit, *Anthus obscurus*. B.

Common resident, on the coast only.

Golden Oriole, *Oriolus galbula*.

A rare occasional summer visitor.

The Golden Oriole has been seen in Orchardleigh park, near Frome.

Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*.

A rare winter visitor.

An additional example of this Shrike has occurred at Abbot's Leigh, near Bristol.

Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*. B.

A common summer visitor.

*Woodchat, *Lanius pomeranus*.

An accidental summer visitor.

The Rev. A. C. Smith possesses an example of this Shrike, that was killed in the county of Somerset, "within a short distance of Bristol." (*Birds of Wilts*, p. 123).

In the *Zoologist* for 1852, Mr. C. Prideaux, of Kingsbridge, states that he possessed an adult Woodchat Shrike "from Somersetshire."

Waxwing, *Ampelis garrulus*.

A rare occasional winter visitor.

Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa grisola*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Pied Flycatcher, *Muscicapa atricapilla*. B?

A rare summer visitor.

Is stated to have nested at Glastonbury, an unlikely place for it; and we suspect a *Wheatear* may have done duty for it. However, it probably nests on Exmoor, where we have encountered it in the summer time when fishing.

Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant.

Martin, *Chelidon urbica*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant.

Sand Martin, *Cotile riparia*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant, but local.

Tree Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*. B.

Common resident.

Goldfinch, *Carduelis elegans*. B.

Common resident.

Siskin, *Chrysomitris spinus*.

A winter visitor: local, rarely seen in some districts.

Serin, *Serinus hortulanus*.

Accidental visitor.

Only one example of the Serin has occurred, and this in Taunton, in January or February, 1866.

Greenfinch, *Ligurinus chloris*. B.

Common resident.

Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes vulgaris*. B.

Resident; also an occasional winter visitor to some districts.

The Hawfinch appears to be increasing as a resident in the county. In the summer of 1892 we knew of five nests in the close neighbourhood of Bath, and of others near Frome.

House-sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. B.

An abundant visitor.

Tree-sparrow, *Passer montanus*. B.

Resident, but very local in the county.

Chaffinch, *Fringilla cælebs*. B.

An abundant resident.

Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla*.

A common winter visitor, but local; fond of beech trees.

Linnet, *Linota cannabina*. B.

An abundant resident; great flocks in winter of visitors from the north.

Lesser Redpoll, *Linota rufescens*. B.

A resident in limited numbers; also a not uncommon winter visitor.

We have seen this small species in the summer time near Frome, and once had a brood of young birds in our garden at Buckland Dinham.

*Twite, *Linota flavirostris*.

An occasional winter visitor.

The Twite is not included by Mr. Cecil Smith, but we have seen it in flocks in the winter time on sandhills near Weston-super-Mare.

Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula europæa*. B.

Common resident.

Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*. B?

An irregular visitor.

The larger form, the Parrot Crossbill (*Loxia pityopsittacus*),

has occurred at Clevedon. The common Crossbill is reported to have nested near Bristol.

*[White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*.

Mr. Charles Prideaux, writing to the *Zoologist* from Kingsbridge in 1852, mentions a "White-winged Crossbill" as being in his collection "from Taunton." It was probably mounted from a foreign skin.]

Corn Bunting, *Emberiza miliaria*. B.

Resident, local; common in places, in others rarely seen.

Yellow Hammer, *Emberiza citrinella*. B.

An abundant resident.

Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza cirlus*. B.

A resident; very local.

Common in the west of the county, hardly ever seen in the east.

Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schæniclus*. B.

A resident; local and nowhere numerous.

Snow Bunting, *Plectrophanes nivalis*.

An occasional winter visitor.

Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*. B.

An abundant resident, numerous additions in the autumn from other parts.

*Rose-coloured Pastor, *Pastor roseus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

This beautiful bird has occurred at Taunton, Axbridge, Clevedon, and at Laverton, near Frome. The Clevedon bird is an extremely handsome specimen.

Chough, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*. B?

Very doubtful as a resident.

A pair or two of Choughs still nest on the cliffs to the west of Porlock, but whether there are any doing so within the county boundary we are unable to state. In the immediate neighbourhood of Lynton we are glad to hear that the birds are increasing, owing to careful protection.

Nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*.

Accidental.

The late Captain Tomlin, of Rumwell House, near Taunton, possessed a Nutcracker that had been shot near Bath. We ourselves saw one in the summer of 1873, in Cothelstone Park, about the same time that Mr. T. Cosmo Melville, writing from Maunsell House, near Bridgwater, to the *Field*, stated that he and his friends had seen one near North Petherton. Col. Montagu records one seen by his friend, Mr. Anstice, near Bridgwater, in the autumn of 1805.

Jay, *Garrulus glaudarius*. B.

A resident, but in some districts has been quite exterminated by keepers.

Magpie, *Pica rustica*. B.

The same remark applies to this species, which used to be very abundant on the level pastures in Mid-Somerset.

Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*. B.

An abundant resident.

Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*. B.

Resident.

The Carrion Crow is now an extremely rare bird in most parts of the county, having been nearly exterminated by game-keepers.

Hooded Crow, *Corvus cornix*.

A very rare winter visitor.

Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*. B.

An abundant resident.

Raven, *Corvus corax*. B.

Resident ; only in the west of the county, on Exmoor, etc.

Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*. B.

An abundant resident ; great accessions in winter.

Wood Lark, *Alauda arborea*. B.

Resident, but scarce and very local.

In many districts in the county this beautiful songster has been exterminated by bird-catchers.

*Shore Lark, *Otocorys alpestris*.

A common winter visitor to the East of England, but very rarely reaching the western counties.

A single example of the Shore Lark was caught by a bird-catcher, together with some Sky-Larks, at Wraxall, near Bristol, about 1874.

Swift, *Cypselus apus*. B.

An abundant summer visitor.

Alpine Swift, *Cypselus melba*.

Accidental. Only one specimen in the county, near Axbridge.

Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europæus*. B.

A summer visitor.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus major*. B.

Resident, very rare and local; we have only twice seen it during 40 years.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus minor*. B.

Resident; local, but numerous in many districts.

Green Woodpecker, *Gecinus viridis*. B.

Common resident.

Wryneck, *Ijnx torquilla*. B.

A summer visitor. Not common anywhere in the county.

Kingfisher, *Alcedo ispida*. B.

Resident; not numerous, and local.

Has been much persecuted for its beautiful feathers.

Roller, *Coracias garrula*.

Accidental. One many years ago at Orchard Portman.

*Bee Eater, *Merops apiaster*.

Accidental. One, obtained near Bridgwater, was in the collection of Mr. Stradling. At the beginning of May, 1869, a small flock appeared at Stapleton, near Bristol, by the banks of the Frome, and three were shot.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*.

A rare visitor; three or four only are known to us.

Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Barn Owl, *Strix flammea*. B.

Resident ; much persecuted, and becoming scarce.

Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*. B.

Nowhere common as a resident ; probably reinforced in autumn by migrants.

Short-eared Owl, *Asio brachyotus*,

A common winter visitor to the peat-moor country.

Tawny Owl, *Syrnium aluco*. B.

Resident, but, like the Barn Owl, senselessly persecuted by keepers.

*Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*.

Accidental. One was trapped on Exmoor at the end of March, 1876. The bird had killed several hares, and was secured in a trap baited with one of its victims.

American Hawk Owl, *Surnia funerea*.

Accidental. One at the end of August, 1847, near Yatton.

*Tengmalm's Owl, *Nyctala tengmalmi*.

Accidental. One, in the collection of the late Mr. C. Edwards, of the Grove, Wrington, was shot at Winscombe in the year 1859, not very far from the spot where the Hawk Owl was secured.

*Little Owl, *Athene noctua*.

Accidental ; perhaps an escape, as many are imported from the continent.

One was obtained at Clevedon in March, 1878. It was being mobbed by a lot of Sparrows when it was shot, and came into the collection of the Rev. G. W. Braikenridge.

Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*.

Accidental. One (two seen) at Kilve, in the Quantock country, in October, 1825.

Marsh Harrier, *Circus æruginosus*.

Extinct as a resident ; now only a rare visitor.

Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*. B.

Perhaps still resident on Exmoor.

Montagu's Harrier, *Circus cineraceus*, B.

An occasional summer visitor.

Buzzard, *Buteo vulgaris*. B.

Still maintains itself in the Exmoor country, but yearly becomes scarcer.

Rough-legged Buzzard, *Archibuteo lagopus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaëtus albicilla*.

An occasional winter visitor.

This Eagle has been frequently obtained, in all stages of plumage, in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, and in the Quantock country. We remember some years ago going to see two very fine specimens (alas! fast being devoured by moths) in a farm-house close to the church at Cannington. A very beautiful adult, secured near Bridgwater, was purchased for £10 by an American gentleman then residing in the Crescent, at Taunton. He kept it in a handsome case at the foot of his bed, saying it was "his National bird," while the star-spangled banner waved from the wall above his head! White-tailed Eagles are occasionally seen on Exmoor. In 1890, two frequented the Quantocks, at the beginning of the year, and frightened the farmers by carrying off their lambs.

Sparrow Hawk, *Accipiter nisus*. B.

Resident, but now very scarce from persecution by keepers.

Kite, *Milvus ictinus*.

Once resident, now only a rare accidental visitor.

The most recent occurrence of the Kite in Somerset, of which we have knowledge, is one that was shot in West Coker Wood, near Yeovil, in the spring of 1875, which is now in the Taunton Castle Museum. It is, probably, extinct as a resident.

*Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*. B?

A rare summer visitor; also in autumn.

Several on the Quantock Hills, at Bagborough and Cothel-

stone. Others in the near neighbourhood of Taunton. A young male was shot at Cothelstone *in the middle of June*, 1874, and as we ourselves saw the female fly out of a beech tree on the top of Lydeard Hill a few evenings after, it is more than probable this unfortunate pair of birds had a nest close at hand.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. B.

Resident; one or two eyries, perhaps, left upon the coast.

Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*. B.

A summer visitor.

This beautiful little falcon may visit the county and nest in it more often than is supposed. From the lateness in the season in which it breeds, and its selecting an old pigeon's or crow's nest, it may escape detection. The Rev. W. Willimott, while rector of Laverton, near Frome, informed us that he had often seen a Hobby flying over his fields in the summer time, and had little doubt about its having a nest close at hand.

Merlin, *Falco æsalon*. B? (on Exmoor).

A not uncommon winter visitor in the west of the county.

*Red-footed Falcon, *Tinnunculus vespertinus*.

Accidental. An example of this rare visitor to the British Isles was obtained at Cheddar in 1860, as we are informed by a writer in the *Daily News*.

Kestrel, *Tinnunculus alaudarius*. B.

A common resident.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaëtus*. B?

A very rare occasional visitor; none of late years.

A pair of Ospreys are said to have attempted to nest at Monksilver in 1847, but were slain by the keeper (*vide* W. D. Crotch, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 9).

Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Only one occurrence on record.

Gannet, *Sula bassana*.

Only accidental.

A young Gannet was washed ashore at Stolford in 1880.

Heron, *Ardea cinerea*. B.

A common resident, but local.

The Somerset heronries are at Pixton Park, Dulverton, Lord Carnarvon.

There were about ten pairs building in fir trees about 1872.

The trees have been recently wholly, or in part, cut down, and we do not know whether the Herons have selected others.

Knole, near Minehead.

Here there is a cone-shaped wooded hill, on which almost every tree used to bear one or more nests. When the birds were sitting, or in close attendance on their young, this heronry was visible from a considerable distance, the whole hill shining silver-grey in the sunlight to any one who looked down upon it from a superior elevation. Of late years the property has changed hands several times to the great hurt of the Herons. In 1892 we were informed there were only four pairs of the birds left.

Halswell, near Bridgwater, C. Kemeys-Tynte, Esq.

Mr. Cecil Smith ascertained that there were about fifty nests in the park in 1883.

Brockley, near Bristol, Cecil Smyth-Pigott, Esq.

Mells Park, near Frome, J. Fortescue Horner, Esq.

A few pairs nest in some trees in one of the plantations.

*[Little Egret, *Ardea garzetta*.

Accidental. In a list of rare Somerset birds given by Mr. Edward Jesse in his *Country Life* (John Murray, 1844) mention is made of a Little Egret that was shot on Glastonbury Moor.]

Squacco, *Ardea ralloides*.

An accidental visitor.

Mr. Jesse is our informant that an example of the Squacco was purchased in Bath Market.

Mr. Yarrell, in his *British Birds*, stated that one had been obtained near Bridgwater.

Little Bittern, *Ardetta minuta*.

A rare occasional visitor. Three or four only.

*Night Heron, *Nycticorax griseus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

There was an example of the Night Heron in the collection of Mr. Stradling, that had been obtained near Bridgewater. But this species has doubtless often occurred without record.

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*.

Still far from rare as a winter visitor during severe frosts.

*[White Stork, *Ciconia alba*.

Accidental.

An example of the White Stork is said to have been secured near Bridgewater, *vide* a list of rare birds obtained near that town, communicated by Mr. Baker to the Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society for 1850.]

Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*.

Accidental. Only one example; shot on West Sedge Moor, 13th May, 1814.

Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Only two occurrences; one on West Sedge Moor, the other on Curry Moor, many years ago.

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Only one Somerset specimen; shot on the Turf Moor, in the autumn of 1859 or 1860.

Egyptian Goose, *Chenalopex ægyptiacus*. B.

Introduced.

Grey-lag Goose, *Anser cinereus*.

A very rare visitor in the winter.

Bean Goose, *Anser segetum*.

Not uncommon in severe winters.

[Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

There is no instance of this goose having occurred in the county in a wild state, but a small flock of them was kept for some years by Mr. Cecil Smith at Lydeard House, and the birds nested each year.]

White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*.

Only seen now in severe winters.

Brent Goose, *Bernicla brenta*.

A winter visitor to the coast. Never very numerous.

Barnacle Goose, *Bernicla leucopsis*.

A rare winter visitor. Only one on record.

*Canada Goose, *Bernicla canadensis*. B.

Introduced.

This handsome goose is kept on various ornamental waters, and, occasionally wandering off, has been shot in a seemingly wild state, as at Glastonbury, &c.

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*. B.

Introduced.

Whooper, *Cygnus musicus*.

Very rare in Somerset as a winter visitor.

Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus bewicki*.

A winter visitor, at intervals.

This small species is the commonest of the wild swans visiting the West of England. In the winter of 1878 a large flock appeared upon the Somerset moors. About sixty frequented North Curry Moor for upwards of a month. A smaller flock of about sixteen occurred near Glastonbury. Others visited the lake in Cothelstone Park.

*Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*.

Introduced.

In the spring of 1858 *five* of these birds were shot in North Moor, near Bridgwater.

Common Sheldrake, *Tadorna cornuta*. B.

Resident, in limited and decreasing numbers.

Wigeon, *Mareca penelope*.

A not uncommon winter visitor.

Pintail, *Dafila actua*.

A rare winter visitor.

Wild Duck, *Anas boscas*. B.

Nowhere common, either as a resident (a few in the Exmoor country) or as a winter visitor.

Gadwall, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

According to Mr. Jesse the Gadwall has been obtained on the river Avon. It has also occurred twice in the neighbourhood of Langport.

Garganey, *Querquedula circia*.

Not very rare as a summer visitor to the peat moors.

Teal, *Querquedula crecca*. B?

A winter visitor in small numbers: perhaps also a resident.

Shoveller, *Spatula clypeata*. B

Not rare as a winter visitor in the peat moor country, where it has once or twice been known to nest.

Tufted Duck, *Fuligula cristata*. B?

A common winter visitor.

These birds appear on ornamental waters in the spring.

We have seen them at the end of April on the lake in Orchardleigh Park, where no fowl are kept, and very probably a few remain occasionally to nest.

Scaup, *Fuligula marila*.

Very abundant in the winter on the bay at Weston-super-Mare.

Pochard, *Fuligula ferina*.

A winter visitor; rare.

Golden-eye, *Clangula glaucion*.

A winter visitor; also rare.

*Long-tailed Duck, *Harelda glacialis*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

An immature bird of this species was shot at Weston super-Mare, December 16, 1890.

*Eider Duck, *Somateria mollissima*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

A female was shot on the reservoir of the waterworks at Barrow, near Bristol, in November, 1888.

Common Scoter, *Ædemia nigra*.

Not uncommon on the bay at Weston-super-Mare, in the winter.

*Velvet Scoter, *Ædemia fusca*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

There is a female Velvet Scoter in the museum at Salisbury, labelled "Somerset."

Goosander, *Mergus merganser*.

Not very rare in severe winters at Weston-super-Mare, etc.

Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*.

A rare winter visitor.

Smew, *Mergus albellus*.

Seen almost every winter ; in severe seasons many obtained.

Ring Dove, *Columba palumbus*. B.

An abundant resident ; great accessions from winter migrants.

Stock Dove, *Columba ænas*. B.

Resident ; not numerous anywhere in the county.

[Rock Dove, *Columba livia*. B.

It is extremely doubtful if the pigeons which have been observed from time to time nesting on Brean Down, and on the coast between Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon, at Sand Point, etc., are anything more than escaped farmyard pigeons. We do not believe that genuine Rock Doves are found on any coast where there are not the rocky caverns that form their favourite breeding stations, and such are absent from the North Somerset shores.]

Turtle Dove, *Turtur communis*. B.

Not numerous ; a few appear in the summer throughout the county.

*Pallas's Sandgrouse, *Syrrhaptus paradoxus*.

Accidental.

In the visitation of this singular bird to the British Isles in 1863, none of the flocks appear to have visited Somerset ; at least there was no record published of any having been seen. At the still larger irruption in 1888, a flock of eleven appeared on May 25th, on Steart Island, in Bridgewater Bay, and one was shot. On the afternoon of the same day two were seen at Charlinch, near Bridgwater, by the Rev. W. A. Bell, the rector. A small flock passed close to Mr. W. Ayshford Sanford, in his grounds at Nynehead, one Sunday, the date of which is unknown to us. One is reported to have occurred at Burnham, and we have heard of some having been seen near Weston-super-Mare ; one was exhibited at a meeting of a Naturalists' Club in Bristol, which had been shot somewhere near the city, in Somerset. One day, towards the end of June, when driving to Bath, we passed close to a flock of about twenty ; they were in a turnip field where the young turnips were just showing above the ground, and were about a long gunshot in from the hedge. Only a few days before we had watched and studied a Sandgrouse in the Western Aviary of the Zoological Gardens in London, and at once recognised the same waddling gait in the few birds which were moving. The greater number were squatting on the ground apparently asleep ; one or two were preening their feathers, and occasionally stretching themselves with precisely the same gestures as the bird we had seen in London. We looked for them again as we repassed the spot in the afternoon—it was in the parish of Norton St. Philip—but they had disappeared.

Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* and *Phasianus torquatus*. B.

Introduced. Abundant in preserves.

*Red-legged Partridge, *Caccabis rufa*.

Introduced. The Red-legged Partridge has occurred at

Kingston, near Taunton ; also on the manor of Compton Bishop, in East Somerset, where Mr. C. Edwards, of the Grove, Wrington, shot a brace in September, 1879, and the keepers informed him that others fed in the coverts with the Pheasants.

Partridge, *Perdix cinerea*. B.

A common resident ; its numbers vary greatly with the season.

Quail, *Coturnix communis*. B.

A summer visitor. Numerous in some seasons ; many nests have been found near Bridgwater.

*Red Grouse, *Lagopus scoticus*.

Accidental.

A solitary Red Grouse was shot by Mr. C. Edwards on the Mendips, near Wrington, in September, 1885. Although it is most unusual for Red Grouse to take long flights, this bird may have crossed over from Breconshire.

Black Grouse, *Tetrao tetrix*. B.

Resident in suitable places throughout the county : is seemingly becoming scarce upon the Quantocks : numerous on the skirts of Exmoor.

Water Rail, *Rallus aquaticus*. B.

A not uncommon resident ; receiving additions from winter migrants.

Spotted Crake, *Porzana maruetta*. B.

A migrant in spring and autumn.

Numerous on the peat moors, where it is probably resident throughout the year.

Baillon's Crake, *Porzana bailloni*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith obtained two young birds that were shot by the side of the Tone, close to Taunton, one in the first week of October, -1870, the other on 29th September, 1875. We had the opportunity of examining both in the flesh. Another was shot near Stogursey, in 1887.

*Little Crane, *Porzana parva*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

There was a specimen of the Little Crane that had been obtained near Bridgwater, in Mr. Stradling's collection.

Corncrake, *Crex pratensis*. B.

A summer visitor, occasionally seen in the winter months.

*[Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio cœruleus*.

Accidental.

On 25th August, 1875, a very perfect example of this beautiful bird was caught by an old sheep dog, a very clever retriever, in one of the characteristic ditches of the Somerset level, *i.e.* a broad ditch screened on either bank by a thick growth of black thorn, at Tarnock, in the parish of Badgworth. Mr. James Burrows, the owner of the dog, and occupier of the ground where the bird was caught, had it preserved, and kindly showed it to us one day when we called to see it. We found it in very perfect plumage. This bird may (or may not) have been an escape from some ornamental water; but there is certainly no lake or pond anywhere in East Somerset where such fowl are kept, and we are ourselves inclined to believe that the bird may have reached this country through an assisted passage, on board some steamer coming rapidly from the south.]

Moor-hen, *Gallinula chloropus*. B.

Common resident.

Coot, *Fulica atra*. B.

Common resident on suitable lakes and ponds.

Crane, *Grus communis*.

A rare occasional visitor in spring and autumn.

Since the Crane shot by Mr. C. Haddon, in October, 1865, near Stolford, and recorded by Mr. Cecil Smith, two others, both adults in full plumage, have been secured in the county. The first of these was shot one evening in May, 1875, at Wick Farm, in the parish of South Brent,

by Mr. William Harris ; the second fell in the neighbourhood which produced Mr. Haddon's bird, at Country Sea Wall, one mile to the east of Stolford, and is now in the possession of Sir A. Acland Hood, Bart., at St. Audries. This last example was shot by Mr. Richard Chilcott, of Bridgwater, on 5th December, 1889.

*Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith knew of no Somerset Great Bustard, but at the time there were Bustards on the Wiltshire Downs some of these fine birds must have occasionally visited the Mendip country, only a short flight to the west. On September 22nd, 1870, Mr. J. E. Harting had the good luck to see a live Great Bustard, on Shapwick peat-moor, as he was travelling on the Somerset and Dorset Railway between Highbridge and Wells. The bird was close to the line, and Mr. Harting had a clear view of it. (*Field*, Jan. 14th, 1871).

Stone Curlew, *Ædicnemus scolopax*. B?

A summer visitor.

As we occasionally see this bird in the summer time on the Radstock plateau, we believe that it must sometimes nest within the confines of the county.

*Collared Pratincole, *Glareola pratincola*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

There was a Pratincole in the collection of Mr. Stradling, of Chilton Polden, near Bridgwater, which was shot some years ago, on the northern slope of the Mendip, not far from Weston-super-Mare. Mr. Stradling's collection was purchased by Mr. Henry Mathias, of Haverfordwest, in whose house we have had the pleasure of seeing this rare bird.

*[Cream-coloured Courser, *Cursorius gallicus*.

Accidental. Mr. Brooking-Rowe, in a list of the birds of Devon, mentions a Somerset Courser, but gives no particulars.]

Golden Plover, *Charadrius pluvialis*.

A winter visitor ; we have no evidence that it has nested on Exmoor.

Grey Plover, *Squatarola helvetica*.

A winter visitor ; rarely seen as it passes north in the spring.

*Kentish Plover, *Ægialitis cantiana*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

Some years ago Mr. Filleul, of Biddisham, shot a small Plover on the coast near Burnham, which he at once saw to be distinct from the Ringed Plover, and, on examining some Sussex specimens which we were able to show him, at once identified his bird as a young Kentish Plover, the only instance that we know of the occurrence of this species within the county.

Ringed Plover, *Ægialitis hiaticula*.

Resident ; great accessions in the autumn.

We have found the nest near Weston-super-Mare.

Dotterel, *Eudromias morinellus*.

An irregular passing migrant in spring and autumn.

About the middle of May, 1869, a small trip of Dotterel alighted on the cricket field at Weston-super-Mare, and were so tame that they continued there all day, taking no heed of the players. A few days later we saw a single Dotterel on the sands near Sand Point, a few miles to the east of the town. On the 1st of May, that same year, seven Dotterels were shot on the Mendip, near Wells. On 21st August, 1870, two more were obtained near the same spot. The Dotterel, belonging to the Alpine type of birds, we believe that old reports as to its nesting on the Mendip were all mistakes, the Stone Curlew having probably done duty for it.

Lapwing, *Vanellus vulgaris*. B.

Very numerous ; its numbers are yearly increasing as a resident species.

Turnstone, *Streptilas interpres*.

Seen sometimes in the spring in its handsome nesting plumage on the coast ; more frequently in the autumn.

Oyster Catcher, *Hematopus ostralegus*. B.

A winter visitor, scarce, perhaps still a resident.

A pair or two used to nest on Steart Island.

*Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus candidus*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

One, shot near Bridgwater many years ago, was in the collection of Mr. Stradling, of Chilton Polden, and is now at Haverfordwest, the property of Mr. H. Mathias, of that town.

Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*.

An irregular autumn visitor ; sometimes numerous after severe gales.

Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticula*. B.

Resident ; great accessions in the autumn.

Not numerous in the woods in the east of the county ; sometimes abundant in those bordering the Exmoor and Quantock countries.

Great Snipe, *Gallinago major*.

A rare irregular autumn visitor.

The Great Snipe has occurred on Glastonbury Moor (Jesse) ; to ourselves near Weston-super-Mare ; on commons adjoining Exmoor, etc.

Common Snipe, *Gallinago caelestis*. B.

Resident on Exmoor, etc. ; also a winter visitor ; in decreasing numbers.

Jack Snipe, *Limnocryptes gallinula*.

A winter visitor.

Dunlin, *Tringa alpina*. B ? on Exmoor ?

A common spring and autumn visitor ; perhaps a resident in limited numbers.

In his Manual of British Birds, Mr. Howard Saunders states that he has seen young Dunlins on Exmoor scarcely able to fly.

*Little Stint, *Tringa minuta*.

An occasional autumn visitor.

The Little Stint has occurred at Weston-super-Mare.

Temminck's Stint, *Tringa temmincki*.

A very rare winter visitor.

A specimen of this minute sandpiper was shot on North Curry Moor on November 14th, 1875, and recorded by Mr. Cecil Smith, the only example from the county since those sent to Colonel Montagu from Bridgwater, at the beginning of the century, by Mr. Anstice, his friend and correspondent in that town.

Curlew Sandpiper, *Tringa subarquata*.

A rare autumn visitor.

We possess one in the winter plumage, shot on a moor near Bridgwater.

Purple Sandpiper, *Tringa striata*.

Occasionally seen on the coast in the autumn.

The Purple Sandpiper has occurred at Weston-super-Mare, an addition to the localities given by Mr. Cecil Smith.

Knot, *Tringa canutus*.

Seen in the autumn on the coast.

Ruff, *Machetes pugnax*.

The Ruff used to be a bird of double passage in the county, and specimens in the curious breeding dress have been secured near Taunton. It is now only rarely seen in the autumn.

*Sanderling, *Calidris arenaria*.

An autumn visitor.

Although not included by Mr. Cecil Smith, the Sanderling is not uncommon on the coast, having been seen by ourselves at Weston-super-Mare, and by our friend, the Rev. M. S. C. Rickards, at Burnham. It has also been obtained at Minhead.

*Bartram's Sandpiper, *Actiturus longicauda*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

We identified an example of this American Sandpiper in the

collection of Dr. Woodforde. It had been shot many years ago on the Bridgwater river, at Combwitch. It is now, with the rest of Dr. Woodforde's birds, in the Museum, at Taunton Castle.

Common Sandpiper, *Tringoides hypoleucus*. B.

A summer visitor. Nests commonly by the Exmoor streams.

Green Sandpiper, *Helodromas ochropus*. B?

A passing migrant in spring and autumn.

We have seen young Green Sandpipers in the summer time, near Weston-super-Mare, in so immature a state as to preclude the idea that they could have migrated from a distance, and they probably had come from a nest in the immediate district.

*Wood Sandpiper, *Totanus glareola*. B?

A rare passing migrant in spring and autumn.

Subsequent to the issue of his book, Mr. Cecil Smith obtained two examples of this Sandpiper from the immediate neighbourhood of Taunton. One of them, an adult, shot at Cheddon on 9th May, 1870, might have had a nest at the time; the other, a young bird, was shot in the autumn. Both are now in our collection.

Redshank, *Totanus calidris*. B?

A common passing migrant in spring and autumn.

We have seen the Redshank in the spring by the banks of the Axe, and have one in full summer plumage from Steart Island, and have little doubt that the bird occasionally nests on the marshes.

Spotted Redshank, *Totanus fuscus*.

A rare irregular autumn visitor.

Two examples of this bird were examined by us while we resided at Weston-super-Mare, that had been shot by the side of ballast pits adjoining the Great Western Railway.

Both were young birds, and were procured in the autumn.

Greenshank, *Totanus canescens*.

A rare autumn visitor to the coast.

Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa laponica*.

Seen occasionally in the spring and autumn on the coast.

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa ægocephala*.

Very rare; only a single specimen on record.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phæopus*.

Very common on the coast as it passes north in the spring.

We have never met with it in the autumn.

Curlew, *Numenius arquata*. B.

Resident; accessions as winter visitors.

Nests on Exmoor and on adjoining commons; probably also on the Mendip, as we have seen it near Frome in the summer months.

Arctic Tern, *Sterna macrura*.

Rarely seen—at the time of its migration—in spring and autumn.

Common Tern, *Sterna fluviatilis*.

Very rare, in spring and autumn.

Little Tern, *Sterna minuta*.

Adults are sometimes seen on the peat moors in the spring.

*Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuliginosa*.

Accidental.

Mr. Foot, the bird-stuffer at Bath, has shown us a very beautiful example of this Tern that was caught alive near Bath, after stormy weather, in October, 1885.

Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon nigra*.

Not uncommon, both in spring and autumn.

Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

A beautiful adult specimen of the Ivory Gull was caught some years ago in a trap baited with a sprat at Weston-super-Mare, and was kept alive for some time by Mr. Augustus Stone, bird-stuffer, until one day it managed to get into a heap of fresh mortar, where it was found lying dead and bedraggled.

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*.

A very numerous winter visitor, following the sprats into the shallows.

Glaucous Gull, *Larus glaucus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

This fine arctic Gull is not very rare in the winter time at Weston-super-Mare, coming into the bay after the sprats. Mr. Augustus Stone, the local bird-stuffer, possessed a very beautiful example, in which the mantle was a silvery white, indicative (so we were informed by Professor Newton) of great age.

*Iceland Gull, *Larus leucopterus*.

A rare winter visitor.

In Somerset, the Iceland Gull has been procured occasionally in the winter at Weston-super-Mare, whence Mr. Cecil Smith received a very fine example in immature plumage, which we examined in the flesh; this bird was obtained on December 28th, 1870. He has also recorded in the *Zoologist* an Iceland Gull which occurred many miles inland, at Somerton, on December 12th, 1881, which was made into a fire-screen!

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*. B?

Perhaps a resident. Information required as to its nesting anywhere in the county.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*. B?

The same remark applies also to this species; seldom seen far up the channel.

Common Gull, *Larus canus*.

A common winter visitor.

Greater Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*. B?

One or two to be seen on the coast.

This splendid Gull is reported formerly to have nested on the Steep Holm.

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*.

An abundant winter visitor.

We know of no breeding place of these pretty Gulls within

the county; but in May, 1891, our parish of Buckland Dinham, near Frome, was visited by a little party, which remained for some time in our vicarage meadow, and we subsequently saw a pair or two on the high ground above Radstock, and concluded that all these birds were questing about for a nesting station. The Black-headed Gull during the last few years has increased so enormously on the Gulleries in Dorsetshire, that overflow birds may well be expected to be on the look out for suitable marshes to occupy in the adjoining counties of Somerset and Devon.

Little Gull, *Larus minutus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

A Little Gull occurred at Clevedon, at the end of October, 1889. Others at Weston-super-Mare.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabinii*.

A rare winter visitor.

Three occurrences of young birds in the autumn, at Weston-super-Mare, where we ourselves once saw a flock of five.

*Great Skua, *Stercorarius catarrhactes*.

Accidental. We only know of a single instance of the Great Skua as a Somerset bird—it is not very likely to occur in the Bristol channel—and for this we are indebted to the Report of the British Association Migration Committee.

*Pomatorhine Skua, *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*.

Accidental. This species has been obtained at Minehead, on Steart Island, also at Combwich, on the Bridgwater river, where it was called a "Mullin Hawk," and one, in immature plumage, was shot at North Curry, and others have occurred at Weston-super-Mare. All these were the produce of the month of October, 1879, when a large number of Pomatorhine Skuas appeared off the southwestern counties.

Richardson's Skua, *Stercorarius crepidatus*.

Accidental. A fine adult was shot at Clevedon in Decem-

ber, 1873, and three (one adult and two young) at Stolford, in the autumn of 1892.

Buffon's Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

Accidental. An immature example of this rare visitor was shot at Stolford by Mr. C. Haddon, in September, 1873. In the autumn of 1891, great numbers of these Skuas were driven by gales into the British and Bristol Channels, and some were seen as high up as Clevedon, where one was shot, and described in a local paper as a "Buffon's Skaw" (*sic*).

Storm Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*.

Accidental. Occasionally picked up, sometimes far inland (as at Bath) after gales.

Leach's Petrel, *Procellaria leucorrhoa*.

Accidental. Also driven inland by gales.

*Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum*.

Accidental. Occasionally blown up the Bristol Channel, and also far inland, by heavy gales. It has been picked up at Watchet, has been blown into the rigging of a ship at the mouth of the Bridgwater river, and has been found as far inland as Milverton.

Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Accidental. One, in immature plumage, was shot at Stolford, October 26, 1870.

Great Northern Diver, *Colymbus glacialis*.

Accidental. One, in immature plumage, on the Barrow waterworks, near Bristol, January 20, 1881. This Diver is extremely rare, only occurring on ponds and inland streams by accident.

*Black-throated Diver, *Colymbus arcticus*.

Accidental. One was shot on some flooded land on Lady Egremont's property near Williton, December, 1875.

Red-throated Diver, *Colymbus septentrionalis*.

Accidental. One picked up dead at Bishop's Hull.

Great-crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*.

A rare accidental visitor; only four on record.

*Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps griseigena*.

Accidental. One at Taunton in February, 1870; another in the same month in the following year on the moors at North Curry.

Sclavonian Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*.

Accidental. Only two specimens.

Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus fluviatilis*. B.

A common resident.

Razor-bill, *Alca torda*.

We have seen little flocks high up in the channel in the winter.

Common Guillemot, *Lomvia troile*. B ?

Information wanted as to its nesting on cliffs within the bounds of the county.

We have seen Common Guillemots and Razor-bills as high up the Bristol Channel as the Severn Tunnel.

Black Guillemot, *Uria grylle*.

Accidental. Only one, near Quantoxhead.

Little Auk, *Mergulus alle*.

Accidental. Other specimens have been picked up besides the three mentioned by Mr. Cecil Smith; one, as far inland as Ilminster, in December, 1884.

Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*.

A rare straggler, sometimes coming up the channel.

SUMMARY.

The Somerset birds in our catalogue may be classified as

(i.)—Residents (<i>of which six are doubtful</i>)	...	78
(ii.)—Summer visitors	... ..	34
(iii.)—Winter visitors	... ..	31
(iv.)—Passers in spring and autumn	... ..	10
(v.)—Occasional or irregular visitors	... ..	55
(vi.)—Accidental visitors, mere waifs and strays	...	43
(vii.)—Introduced species	... ..	6
		257

Adding six species for which the authority is doubtful 6

Grand total 263

(i.) The Residents are seventy-eight in number.

Mistle Thrush	Corn Bunting	Heron
Song Thrush	Yellow Hammer	Common Sheldrake
Blackbird	Cirl Bunting	Wild Duck
Stonechat	Reed Bunting	Ring Dove
Redbreast	Starling	Stock Dove
Goldcrest	Chough ?	Rock Dove ?
Hedge sparrow	Jay	Partridge
Dipper	Magpie	Black Grouse
Longtailed Tit	Jackdaw	Water Rail
Great Tit	Carrion Crow	Spotted Crake
Coal Tit	Rook	Moorhen
Marsh Tit	Raven	Coot
Blue Tit	Skylark	Ringed Plover
Nuthatch	Woodlark	Lapwing
Wren	Great Spotted Wood- pecker	Oyster Catcher
Pied Wagtail	Lesser Spotted Wood- pecker	Woodcock
Grey Wagtail	Green Woodpecker	Snipe
Meadow Pipit	Kingfisher	Dunlin
Rock Pipit	Barn Owl	Curlew
Tree Creeper	Long-eared Owl	Herring Gull ?
Goldfinch	Tawny Owl	Lesser Black-backed Gull ?
Greenfinch	Hen Harrier	Greater Black-backed Gull ?
Hawfinch	Buzzard	Little Grebe
House-sparrow	Sparrow-hawk	Common Guillemot ?
Tree-sparrow	Peregrine Falcon	
Chaffinch	Kestrel	
Linnets		
Bullfinch		

(ii.) Summer visitors. These are thirty-four.

Ring Ouzel	Reed Warbler	Sand Martin
Wheatear	Marsh Warbler	Swift
Whinchat	Sedge Warbler	Nightjar
Redstart	Grasshopper Warbler	Wryneck
Nightingale	White Wagtail	Cuckoo
Whitethroat	Yellow Wagtail	Hobby
Lesser Whitethroat	Tree Pipit	Turtle Dove
Blackcap	Red-backed Shrike	Quail
Garden Warbler	Spotted Flycatcher	Corncrake
Chiff-Chaff	Pied Flycatcher B. ?	Common Sandpiper
Willow Warbler	Swallow	
Wood Warbler	Martin	

(iii.) Winter visitors comprise the following thirty-one.

Redwing	Brent Goose	Red-breasted Mergan- ser
Fieldfare	Wigeon	Smew
Black Redstart B. ?	Pintail	Golden Plover
Siskin	Teal B. ?	Grey Plover
Lesser Redpoll B.	Shoveller B.	Jack Snipe
Brambling	Tufted Duck B. ?	Sanderling
Snow Bunting	Scaup	Common Gull
Short-eared Owl	Pochard	Black-headed Gull
Merlin B. ? on Exmoor ?	Golden Eye	Kittiwake
Bittern	Common Scoter	
White-fronted Goose	Goosander	

(iv.) Passing visitors in spring and autumn are only ten.

Turnstone	Green Sandpiper B. ?	Common Tern
Whimbrel	Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Tern
Redshank B. ?	Arctic Tern	Black Tern
Knot		

(v.) The occasional or irregular visitors are numerous, and are the following fifty-five.

Blue-headed Yellow	Cormorant	Little Crake
Wagtail B. ?	Little Bittern	Dotterel
[Richards's Pipit]	Night Heron	Little Stint
Golden Oriole	[White Stork]	Temminck's Stint
Great Grey Shrike	Spoonbill	Wood Sandpiper B. ?
Waxwing	Glossy Ibis	Spotted Redshank
Twite	Grey-lag Goose	Ruff
{ Crossbill	Bean Goose	Black-tailed Godwit
{ Parrot Crossbill	Barnacle Goose	Grey Phalarope
Rose-coloured Pastor	Whooper	Great Snipe
Hooded Crow	Bewick's Swan	Curlew Sandpiper
Shore Lark	Gadwall	Purple Sandpiper
Hoopoe	Garganey	Greenshank
Marsh Harrier	Long-tailed Duck	Glaucous Gull
Montagu's Harrier B.	Eider Duck	Iceland Gull
Rough-legged Buzzard	Velvet Scoter	Little Gull
White-tailed Eagle	Crane	Sabine's Gull
Honey Buzzard B. ?	Great Bustard	Razor-bill
Kite	Stone Curlew B. ?	Puffin
Osprey B. ?	Baillon's Crake	

(vi.) The Accidental Visitors are also numerous, and are forty-three as under :—

White's Ground	Tengmalm's Owl	Ivory Gull
Thrush	Little Owl	Common Skua
[Red-spotted Blue-throat]	Egyptian Vulture	Pomatorhine Skua
Alpine Accentor	Red-footed Falcon	Richardson's Skua
Bearded Tit	Gannet	Buffon's Skua
Woodchat	[Little Egret]	Storm Petrel
Serin	Squacco	Leach's Petrel
[White-winged Crossbill]	Black Stork	Manx Shearwater
Nutcracker	Pallas's Sandgrouse	Fulmar
Alpine Swift	Red Grouse	Great Northern Diver
Roller	Purple Gallinule	Black-throated Diver
Bee Eater	Collared Pratincole	Red-throated Diver
Snowy Owl	[Cream-coloured Courser]	Great-crested Grebe
American Hawk	Kentish Plover	Red necked Grebe
Owl	Black-winged Stilt	Slavonian Grebe
	Bartram's Sandpiper	Black Guillemot
	Sooty Tern	Little Auk

The wanderers from America in this list are only two, the Hawk Owl and Bartram's Sandpiper. The greater number of American species that have been obtained in Devon and Cornwall is indicative that the route by which these birds approach the South of England must be *via* the north-east of Europe, crossing Scotland, and coming down St. George's Channel.

(vii.) The Introduced species are six :—

Egyptian Goose B.	Mute Swan B.	Pheasant B.
Canada Goose B.	Black Swan	Red-legged Partridge

The Nesting Birds are made up of

Residents	...	...	...	...	...	72
Summer visitors	...	...	...	...	...	33
Introduced Species	...	...	...	...	...	4
						—
						109

Besides these there are six doubtful residents, one doubtful summer visitor, six winter visitors, two passing visitors, and six occasional visitors that have either been known to breed, or may very probably have done so, thus bringing the grand total of breeders and probable breeders up to 130.

In the above classification the divisions necessarily overlap, and the same species might very properly be entered in more than one class. Thus, the *Grey Wagtail* might be numbered both among the residents and also among the winter visitors; so might the *Snipe*, etc. Again, the characteristic features of the county have to be borne in mind, compelling the birds, which in the adjoining county of Devon take rank among the ordinary winter visitors, to be regarded as mere waifs and strays in Somerset. The Red-necked Diver, one of the commonest of the diving birds in the bays and estuaries of Devon in the winter months, would be so out of its element in the muddy Bristol Channel that it would be useless to expect it there, and it is only known as a Somerset bird through one having been picked up dead inland. For this reason we have placed all the Divers and Grebes, with the exception of the Little Grebe, which is a common resident, among the accidental visitors, as only single instances, for the most part, are on record of their occurrence, and that far away from the channel.

Bishop Clifford.

President, 1877. Vice-President, 1878-1893.

BY THE REV. T. S. HOLMES.

THE Society has again to record the loss of one of its Vice-Presidents. On Monday afternoon, August 14th, at a time when many of our members were on their way to Frome for our yearly gathering, Bishop Clifford breathed his last at Prior Park. The newspapers had reported his serious illness, and also the fact that he seemed to have rallied, so that the announcement of his death, and at such a time, came as a painful surprise to those of us who had known him. His position in a Society which consisted very largely of members of the Church of England, and which was wont to visit systematically the parish churches in Somerset, was naturally somewhat peculiar. His early training, however, and his great love for archæological pursuits, broke down all such barriers. He never failed to show the greatest respect and consideration for the clergy of the English Church. A devoted antiquary, he never allowed anything to interfere with his efforts to gain information concerning the mediæval antiquities of England. In his Presidential address at Bridgwater in 1877, he carefully described what he conceived to be the true functions of our Society :—“ All branches of science undoubtedly require wide views—but wide views can only be of value when they are based on the exact knowledge of individual facts ; and it is,

above all, the special province of local labourers and local societies accurately to ascertain those facts. As regards our County of Somerset, many long years must elapse before all the local facts of history, of geology, and of the natural sciences connected with it shall have been worked out. Much remains to be ascertained regarding the state of this portion of Britain in Roman and British times." His own special study was that of the Roman occupation of Somerset, and the later period of the wanderings and struggles of Ælfred, and on these subjects he was always ready to discuss any questions that related to them. He was also a great student of Canon Law, insomuch that he became quite an authority on it among the members of his own Faith, and was frequently referred to by the Roman bishops in England for solutions on difficulties which baffled their own efforts. It was by his study of this subject that the present writer gained his friendship. He met him, for the first time, at Somerleaze, in 1878, and since then he is indebted to the Bishop for many letters explaining the difficulties which Berardi had suggested. Our Society, however, only knew the Bishop as an antiquary, and though a few facts concerning his personal history may not be out of place, we must confine our remarks for the most part to his labours amongst us in that capacity.

William Joseph Hugh Clifford was the second son of Hugh Charles, 7th Baron Clifford of Chudleigh, and was born at Irnham in Lincolnshire, on Christmas Eve, 1823. He was educated as a boy at Hodder Park, Stonyhurst, and Prior Park, entering in 1834 the College of Nobles at Rome, an aristocratic school, under the management of the Jesuits. He was confirmed by his maternal grandfather, Cardinal Weld, who took orders as a widower, and in 1840 was brought into prominence in being chosen to deliver on August 15th, a panegyric on the Virgin Mary, in the Templo Liberiano, in the presence of Gregory XVIth. During the next few years he was under the instruction of the well-known Jesuit, Father

Perrone, and in 1847 received minor orders from Cardinal Patrizi. That same year, owing to the college being closed on account of the Revolution, he left Rome, and at Bruges he was made a sub-deacon by Bishop Malou. Then for two years he studied at St. Bueno's College, near St. Asaph, in North Wales, and on August 25th, 1850, he was ordained priest by Bishop Hendren at the Cathedral in Clifton. There he studied for his doctor's degree, and in 1851 he again went to Rome, received his degree, and in 1852 returned to Plymouth to live with Bishop Errington as his secretary. Here he formed that life-long friendship which had so great an influence on his future. Bishop Hedley, of Newport, in his funeral sermon preached at Prior Park, said, "There was one memorable occasion upon which, whatever else might be said, he sacrificed himself, sacrificed what most would have called his prospects for loyalty to a friend." The explanation of this passage is an open secret. Bishop Errington had been appointed co-adjutor to Cardinal Wiseman, and was generally regarded as his probable successor. For certain reasons it was thought necessary that he should resign this claim, and when he refused Dr. Clifford is supposed to have supported him in his action. So Bishop Errington was promoted in 1855 to the Archbishopric of Trebizond, and Dr. Clifford, after acting as administrator of the diocese of Plymouth until the appointment of Dr. Vaughan, retired to Rome. There he spent three years at the Collegio Pio in preparation for those episcopal responsibilities which he knew would doubtless some day be imposed upon him. In Rome he always seemed at home. He was an excellent Italian scholar, and he enjoyed very much the society of the Roman prelates, and the semi-political atmosphere of the College of Nobles. One who was his fellow student during those three years recalls how he was known there for the heartiness of his characteristic laugh, a pleasant hearty laugh which many of our members can well remember.

Meanwhile in 1854, Dr. Burgess, Bishop of Clifton, died,

and the Archbishop "in partibus" administered the affairs of that See until the appointment of Dr. Clifford. He was consecrated at Rome in the Sistine Chapel on February 15th, 1857, by Pio Nono himself, Archbishop Errington and Bishop Baillu assisting, and in the following month he was enthroned at Clifton. On his arrival he found that Archbishop Errington had been obliged to close Prior Park as a religious seminary. It had been suffering from indifferent fortune for some years, and at last its financial difficulties were so great that it was handed over to the mortgagee, Mr. Raphael, and even the church vestments were sold to pay the debts on it. But Bishop Clifford took the matter again in hand, collecting enough to open the mansion as a school, and in ten years' time, by energetic begging and the sacrifice of his own private fortune, he was able to re-open, free from debt, the colleges on either side. It was henceforth one of his favourite resorts. Here his friend, Archbishop Errington, retired on the death of Cardinal Wiseman, and here he died and was buried, Bishop Clifford at the time arranging that there should be room in the same vault for his own remains to be laid by the side of those of his departed friend. But we must go back to 1865, when Cardinal Wiseman died, and the names of Dr. Errington, Dr. Clifford, and another, were forwarded to Rome with the recommendation of the Chapter at Westminster. Then it was that "loyalty to a friend" induced Bishop Clifford to write and withdraw his name in favour of the elder nominee. This action of his, following as it did that of the years 1853-5, gave considerable offence to the Pope, and was doubtless the cause why he was not further advanced in the papal hierarchy. In 1871 this independence was again displayed, when Bishop Clifford allowed it to be known at the Vatican Council that he regarded the Infallibility dogma as decidedly inopportune. But when it was announced as an article of faith he loyally accepted it, and took vigorous steps to impose it on his own clergy. Well did Bishop Hedley say, he supposed there were

few men who put self-interest on one side more effectually. Bishop Clifford, however, regained the friendship of Pio Nono, and in 1878 led the prayers at the bedside of the dying pontiff.

But we must turn to his work as an archæologist. It was in 1875, at Frome, that he read his first paper on the site of the battle of Æthandune. He had carefully studied his subject, and advanced very plausible arguments for the views he advocated. He claimed that the celebrated battle took place at Edington, in Somerset, and that after his defeat it was at Bridgwater that Guthrum was besieged. Mr. Freeman, who heard him read his paper, dissented from his view, and said that he had not weighed correctly the authorities he had studied, and it is evident that he assumed too much as to the movements of Guthrum and Ubba, in order to make his view at all credible. In 1876 he was again present, at the Bath meeting, in company with his friend, Archbishop Errington, then a resident at Prior Park. Here he read a paper on the course of the Roman Road from Aquae Solis to Isca Silurum (Caerleon), and assisted very materially in the discussion concerning the quaint figure built into the wall of Bathampton Church. He would not allow that it was that of an ecclesiastic, but was on the contrary that of a woman, and that the sculpture was probably Roman. The next year, 1877, he was again present, at the Bridgwater meeting, succeeding Mr. Jerom Murch as president for the year. The district was one which he had studied carefully, and he showed his knowledge of it, as well as his views, at Athelney, Cannington Park, and Boroughbridge. In his presidential address he gave an explanation of the nature of Ælfred's jewel, asserting that it was the handle of a bookstaff, and possibly was that given by the King to John, afterwards first Abbot of Athelney. During the excursions he pointed out at Chedzoy the consecration marks on the church; at Stoke Courcy the almsbox which had hitherto been regarded as a holy water stoup; and also certain features of interest at Dodington Manor House and Danesbury

Camp. The next year he appeared at Bruton, and read a paper on the Roman Road between Exeter and Caerleon, and during the excursions gave useful hints concerning Stavordale Priory and Penselwood Church. In 1879 he was re-elected a member of the Pen Pits Exploration Committee. Absent in 1880, he was present at Clevedon in 1881, and at Wiveliscombe in 1883. He was present also at Shepton Mallet in 1884, taking part in the discussion on Mr. Esdaile's paper on the Romans in Bath, and in 1885 at Weston-super-Mare, where he had his share of the talk on the Roman villa at Wemberham and on Woodspring Priory. In 1888 he was again present at the Wells meeting, being the guest of his friend, the Bishop of Bath and Wells. His special training again came in useful, for at Rodney Stoke he set Bishop Hobhouse right concerning the figure on the Rodney tomb, which is certainly, as he said, that of St. Elmo, and in the evening discussion he gave us some useful information concerning the religious order of St. Anthony, and their custom of keeping swine.

This, I believe, was the last time that he appeared at any of our annual gatherings. Many of his friends, especially Mr. Freeman and Mr. Dickenson, had ceased to attend, and the want of intimate contemporaries, together with premonitory symptoms of the dangerous state of his health, kept him away. When I last saw him at the Bristol Central Station, on June 26th, he told me that he hoped to come to Frome, his recollections of his former visit being so pleasant. But he never thoroughly rallied from the shock of the operation which was performed on July 22nd. On Friday, August 18th, after the impressive ceremonies of his funeral had been performed in the large church at Prior Park, he was laid to his rest in that grave in the cloister where already lay the remains of Archbishop Errington.

Bishop Clifford was an enthusiastic, though he could not be called a brilliant, archaeologist. In addition to his work with

us, he was instrumental with Mr. E. A. Hudd and others, in starting the Clifton Antiquarian Club in 1884, and in their excursions, as well as in their evening discussions, always took an active part. He was not a fluent speaker. I am told that he was an indifferent preacher. His remarks were always given in a jerky manner, as if he was not quite certain about them, and his foreign training was traceable not merely in his manner but also in his speech. He possessed all the charm of the cultivated Italian, and you did not readily recognise the Roman bishop in the pleasant talkative gentleman who sat beside you in the break. It is to be hoped that the County map which he desired to see marked with all the places where any Roman remains had been discovered, will soon be an accomplished fact. One example he set us which it would be well if we imitated in our yearly gatherings. He always came to learn something. It was no mere pic-nic for him. He attended all the evening meetings, listened to all the papers, and helped in all the discussions, and if our Society is to keep the high and honoured position which the learning and fame of its former members have justly gained for it, we must be careful in the future to follow Bishop Clifford's example. The work is not nearly accomplished. Much lies in our way to justify our existence and to train our junior members.

Charles James Turner.

SINCE our last issue the Society has sustained a severe loss in the lamented death of Mr. C. J. Turner, of Pinkhurst, Staplegrove.

Mr. Turner was of the class of landed gentlemen whose position in the country used to be eulogized by "the wisest fool in Christendom," as conferring on them the pleasure of a leisured life without any public responsibilities. He was one of the original members of the Society, his name appearing in the first volume of the *Proceedings* issued in 1850. In 1876 Mr. Turner was chosen Secretary, and from that time to his death, on the 20th February, 1893, the management of the internal affairs of the Society was mostly subject to his supervision and control.

His constant aim was to put the finances of the Society on a sound footing, and many a battle did he sustain with those more enthusiastic members, who contended in vain that a debt was after all a matter of no great importance, compared with a coveted acquisition or a longed for improvement. Mr. Turner held his ground. He organized fancy bazaars and balls to clear off the debt incurred by the Society for the purchase of the old Castle. Little by little he saw the debt decreased, and when he was no longer able to leave his house he received the satisfactory announcement that the last instalment had been liquidated.

He was a constant attendant at the meetings, and on more than one occasion his services received kindly recognition at the hands of his fellow members. It is impossible to close this notice without mention of the names of the two members who were his coadjutors and supporters in his policy—Mr. Surtees and Mr. Octavius Malet. All three have now gone to their rest, leaving behind them memories of good work done unostentatiously, and of quiet, exemplary lives.

William Blencowe Sparks.

BY REV. E. L. PENNY, D.D., R.N.

IT is with the utmost regret that we have to notice, as our sheets are going through the press, the lamentably sudden death, on September 30th, of Mr. William Blencowe Sparks, of Misterton, who has been our Local Secretary for so many years, and to whose careful organization the success of the Society's meeting at Crewkerne, in 1891, was mainly owing: nor will our members easily forget the generous hospitality shewn by him and Mrs. Sparks, at their garden party on that occasion.

He was the elder son of Major Sparks (one of the very few original members of our Society), and was born at Crewkerne in 1842. Owing to the death of his mother in 1844, he and his younger brother, Edward, were henceforth tenderly brought up and cared for by their aunt, Miss Mary Sparks.

He entered on the foundation of the old Grammar School, for which he ever retained warm affection, in 1850; and thence went to Harrow in 1856. He subsequently matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, on 29th May, 1860; took his B.A. degree in 1863; and proceeded to M.A. 1869.

Following his father's steps, Mr. Sparks took a genuine interest in Archæology, which taste seems to have been hereditary, inasmuch as we find his great-grandfather, Isaac, of Langton Herring, Dorset, amongst the original subscribers to Hutchins' first edition of his history of that county in 1774.

Mr. Sparks not only held several public offices, but also busied himself in promoting every local institution and parochial improvement. Although extremely quiet in manner, and retiring in disposition, he was foremost in encouraging and supporting the local football, cricket and benefit clubs, and it was, perhaps, only when you came to know him well, that you discovered that this unobtrusive English gentleman had all the while, in spite of his reticent and distant demeanour, been endeavouring to find some way of showing and doing you unaware a kindness.

He leaves a widow (Lucy, daughter of Mr. Samuel Sparks, of Langport), a son and daughter. His younger, and only brother, Edward Isaac Sparks, M.D., of C.C.C., Oxon., predeceased him in 1880.

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The origin of the name FROME.

BY F. J. ALLEN.

I PUT forward the following suggestion with diffidence, knowing that it can only be substantiated by direct evidence as to the earlier forms of the word *Frome*.

It seems probable, from the repetition of the name *Frome* for rivers in other localities, that the word meant "a stream," like *Avon*, *Lyn*, etc. If this be the case, then the original form should have been HROME, and the initial F is due to the inability of the Teutonic colonists to pronounce the aspirated R. Similarly we have FLUELLEN for LLEWELYN, FLUMMERY for LLYMRU, owing to the difficulty of the aspirated L.

HROME or HROM would be cognate with Greek HREUMA (*i.e.* 'PEYMA) a stream, and Latin ROMA (town named from its stream, as in the case of *Frome*.) These words, together with others of parallel meaning, are from the Indo-european root SRU, *to flow*; thus:—

SRU, to flow

SRU-MA, a stream

English STREAM

Anglo-Saxon STREĀM

Old High German
STRAUM

Greek HREUMA

Latin ROMA

The root SRU also produced Latin RIU-US, *a stream*, and Welsh RHEAN, *a stream*. This latter is cognate with the ancient Gallic name of the river RHINE, and the provincial English RHINE or RHEEN, a water-course. RHO-DANUS (the river RHONE) may also be cognate. It is interesting to observe how the difficult initial SR became modified during the evolution of the different languages.

(Since putting forward the above suggestion, I have tried to find a less strained connection with some Anglo-Saxon word, as with FROM, *forward*, or with the roots found in FREE and in FLOW ; but the result is, if anything, less satisfactory than the above.—F.J.A.)

[The foregoing would have appeared immediately after Dr. Norris's paper on "Frome," but it only arrived after we had gone to press.—Ed.]

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1873 WELLS ...	Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.
1874 SHERBORNE ...	H. Danby Seymour, Esq.
1875 FROME ...	Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cork.
1876 BATH ...	Jerom Murch, Esq.
1877 BRIDGWATER ...	Rt. Rev. Bishop Clifford.
1878 BRUTON ...	Rev. Canon Meade.
1879 TAUNTON ...	Rev. Canon Meade.
1880 GLASTONBURY ...	E. A. Freeman, Esq.
1881 CLEVEDON ...	E. H. Elton, Esq.
1882 CHARD ...	C. I. Elton, Esq.
1883 WIVELISCOMBE ...	W. E. Surtees, Esq.
1884 SHEPTON MALLETT	Rt. Hon. Lord Carlingford.
1885 WESTON-S.-MARE	Rt. Hon. Lord Carlingford.
1886 YECVIL ...	John Batten, Esq.
1887 BRISTOL ...	Sir G. W. Edwards.
1888 WELLS ...	Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.
1889 MINEHEAD ...	G. F. Luttrell, Esq.
1890 CASTLE CARY ...	H. Hobhouse, Esq.
1891 CREWKERNE ...	Col. A. R. Hoskins.
1892 WELLINGTON ...	W. A. Sanford, Esq.
1893 FROME ...	Rt. Hon. Lord Hylton.

Rules.

THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset, and the establishment of a Museum and Library.

II.—The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Patron and Trustees, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting and its objects shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society will be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman at Meetings of the Society shall have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The property of the Society shall be held in Trust for the Members by Twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the Members at any General Meeting. All Manuscripts and Communications and other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings and Sixpence on admission to the Society, and Ten Shillings and Sixpence as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the first of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary and Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When an office shall become vacant, or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society may (with the Author's consent and subject to the discretion of the Committee) be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—Any person contributing books or specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in the event of a dissolution of the Society. Persons shall also have liberty to deposit books or specimens for a specific time only.

XX.—In case of dissolution, the real property of the Society in Taunton shall be held by the Trustees, for the advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, in the town of Taunton and the county of Somerset.

Rules for the Government of the Library.

1.—The Library shall be open for the use of the Members of the Society daily (with the exception of Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day), from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Afternoon, from April to August inclusive, and during the remaining months of the year until Four o'clock.

2.—Every Member of the Society whose annual Subscription shall not be more than three months in arrear may borrow out of the Library not more than two volumes at a time, and may exchange any of the borrowed volumes for others as often as he may please, but so that he shall not have more than two in his possession at any one time.

3.—Every application by any Member who shall not attend in person for the loan of any book or books shall be in writing.

4.—So much of the title of every book borrowed as will suffice to distinguish it, the name of the borrower, and the time of borrowing it, shall be entered in a book to be called the "Library Delivery Book;" and such entry, except the application be by letter, shall be signed by the borrower; and the return of books borrowed shall be duly entered in the same book.

5.—The book or books borrowed may either be taken away by the borrower, or sent to him in any reasonable and recognised mode which he may request; and should no request be made, then the Curator shall send the same to the borrower by such mode as the Curator shall think fit.

6.—All costs of the packing, and of the transmission and return of the book or books borrowed, shall in every case be defrayed by the Member who shall have borrowed the same.

7.—No book borrowed out of the Library shall be retained for a longer period than one month, if the same be applied for in the mean time by any other Member; nor in any case shall any book be retained for a longer period than three months.

8.—Every Member who shall borrow any book out of the Library shall be responsible to the Society for its safety and good condition from the time of its leaving the Library; also if he borrow any book or manuscript within the Library, till it shall be returned by him. And in case of loss or damage, he shall replace the same or make it good; or, if required by the Committee, shall furnish another copy of the entire work of which it may be part.

9.—No manuscript, nor any drawing, nor any part of the Society's collection of prints or rubbings shall be lent out of the Library without a special order of the Committee, and a bond given for its safe return at such time as the Committee shall appoint.

10.—The Committee shall prepare, and may from time to time add to or alter, a list of such works as shall not be lent out of the Library, on account of their rarity, value, or peculiar liability to damage; or on account of their being works of reference often needed by Members personally using the Library, and a copy of such list for the time being shall be kept in the Library.

11.—No book shall be lent out until one month after the acquisition of it for the Library.

12.—Extracts from the manuscripts or printed books are allowed to be made freely, but in case of a transcript being desired of a whole manuscript or printed book, the consent of the Committee must be previously obtained.

13.—Persons not being Members of the Society may be admitted for a period not exceeding one week, to consult printed books and manuscripts not of a private nature in the Society's Library, for any special purpose, on being introduced by a Member, either personally or by letter.

14.—No book shall be lent to any person not being a Member of the Society without a special order of the Committee.

15.—Before any Member can borrow a book from the Library, he must acknowledge that he consents to the printed Rules of the Society for the Government of the Library.

* * *It is requested that contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Taunton Castle.*

Rules for the Formation of Local Branch Societies.

1.—On the application of not less than Five Members of the Society the Council may authorise the formation of a Local Branch in any District, and may, if considered advisable, define a specific portion of the County as the District to such Branch.

2.—Societies already in existence may, on application from the governing bodies, be affiliated as Branches.

3.—All Members of the Parent Society shall be entitled to become Members of any Branch.

4.—A Branch Society may elect Local Associates not necessarily Members of the Parent Society.

5.—Members of the Council of the Parent Society, being Members of, or residing within the District assigned to any Branch, shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Council of such Branch.

6.—A Branch Society may fix the rates of Subscription for Members and Associates, and make Rules and Bye-Laws for the government of such Branch, subject in all cases to the approval of the Council of the Parent Society.

7.—A Branch Society shall not be entitled to pledge the credit of the Parent Society in any manner whatsoever.

8.—The authority given by the Council may at any time be withdrawn by them, subject always to an appeal to a General Meeting.

9.—Every Branch Society shall send its Publications and the Programmes of its Meetings to the Parent Society, and in return shall receive a free copy of the Parent Society's *Proceedings*.

10.—If on any discovery being made of exceptional interest a Branch Society shall elect to communicate it to the Parent Society before themselves making it a matter of discussion, the Parent Society, if it adopts it as the subject of a paper at one of its ordinary Meetings, shall allow the Branch Society to make use of any Illustrations that the Parent Society may prepare.

11.—Any Officer of a Branch Society, or any person recommended by the President, Vice-President, Chairman or Secretary, or by any Two of the Members of the Council of a Branch Society, shall on the production of proper Vouchers be allowed to use the Library of the Society, but without the power of removing books except by the express permission of the Council.

12.—Branch Societies shall be invited to furnish Reports from time to time to the Parent Society with regard to any subject or discovery which may be of interest.

December, 1893.





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