

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Proceedings at Cirencester

1877-78, Vol. 2, 1-26

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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

1877-8.

PART I.

Transactions at the Annual Meeting, held at Cirencester,

ON

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,

The 28th, 29th, & 30th August, 1877.

THIS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of the Society, at which there was a large attendance of Members, was held on the days above-mentioned under the Presidency of the Rt. Hon. EARL BATHURST, D.C.L. The arrangements were made and carried out under the direction of a local Committee appointed for the purpose, of which MR. WILFRED CRIPPS was the Hon. Secretary.

On Tuesday the Society assembled at noon at the Corn Hall, SIR WILLIAM V. GUISE, Bart., the retiring President, occupying the Chair. At the desire of the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, MR. P. HALLETT, read the minutes of the previous General Meeting, which had been held at Cheltenham, which were unanimously confirmed, and the following modification of the Rules of the Society adopted, viz:—"That the last clause of Rule 8 reading 'In the absence of the President the Chair shall be taken by one of the Vice-Presidents, or by some other member of the Council,' be omitted, and the following clause substituted, 'A special Vice-President of the Society shall be Annually Elected, under the title of 'Vice President of the Council,' to take the place of the President in his absence.'"

SIR WILLIAM V. GUISE then rose and said :—It now becomes my duty to resign this Chair in favour of LORD BATHURST, who will be the President of the Society for the ensuing year. I was elected thereto, on the first formation of the Society, in April of last year, and I hope that it will be felt by the Society in general that, with the assistance of its very able Council and Secretary, the business has been transacted to the advantage of the Society. I may say that during the very short time in which the Society has been embodied it has obtained an increase of members which, probably, has scarcely ever have been equalled by any similar Society. The number now amounts to more than 500. The Society was founded upon a broad and popular basis. The whole of the members were made the foundation upon which the Society rests. It is necessary to get the authority of the members for any change of rules that may be required, and, in fact, such authority has just been given for the alteration of one which was found, in the working, to be a hinderance to business. Two meetings have been held within the twelve months, one at Bristol and the other at Cheltenham, both of which were fully attended. On both occasions the temporary loan museums were furnished with vast quantities of objects of interest, and although, in a pecuniary point of view, the Society did not profit by the meetings, I believe, looking at the number of members that were obtained, and the spirit of enquiry aroused, the expense they may have cost was fully compensated by the results. I have now only to resign this chair, and to make way for my successor. In this town of Cirencester no better selection could have been made than in the person of the noble lord who, so kindly, and in spite of great age, places himself at the head of the Society on this occasion (cheers). Not only on account of his own personal merits, but because the town of Cirencester is indebted to his family for the very beautiful Museum which it now possesses (loud cheers). Therefore, I am sure, with the excellent reception which I know will be accorded him by the body of members, ably assisted as he will be by the Council and the indefatigable and excellent Honorary Secretary, he will find no difficulty in working the Society during the ensuing year (loud cheers, during which SIR WILLIAM GUISE resigned his seat, and it was assumed, amid renewed cheers, by EARL BATHURST).

The President called on the Secretary to read the annual report of the Council.

MR. HALLETT read the

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council in submitting its Second Annual Report to the members of the "Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society" believes it may congratulate the Society on the satisfactory progress made during the year. The Society now numbers 513 members, including 501 subscribers, showing a net increase, since the meeting at Gloucester in August last, of 48 subscribers. The finances also are satisfactory. Though many subscriptions are unpaid the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, after deducting the estimated cost of the publication of the Transactions of the Society, is about £607. Of this, however, the sum of £404 consists of Life Subscriptions which the Council considers should be invested as a Funded Capital, thus leaving a credit balance of £203 in the account of Ordinary Income and Expenditure. It must, however, be borne in mind that in consequence of the much greater proportion of Entrance Fees falling into the first year the receipts for that year are specially large; but on the other hand that year's accounts are chargeable with heavy Inauguration Expenditure to which subsequent years will not be liable. On the whole the Council believes that the balance sheet is a sound and satisfactory one.

Since the highly successful Annual Meeting at Gloucester, last year, the Society has held two winter meetings, one at Bristol and the other at Cheltenham. In accordance with the Society's principle of local management, each of these meetings was organized and carried out by Committees at the places in which they were held. Both meetings were well attended, valuable papers were read at each, and very admirable temporary museums of local antiquities were opened. The meetings could not, perhaps, be expected to be pecuniarily self-supporting, but their scientific advantages to members, their importance as an instrument for exciting local interest in the work and objects of the newly formed Society, together with the considerable accession of new members obtained by these means, will, probably, be regarded as a substantial *quid pro quo* for the expenses incurred.

The subject of the formation of an Archæological Museum and Library was alluded to by several speakers at the Gloucester Meeting, but nothing thereon has, as yet, been determined upon. The Council has already made purchases of certain books, and it has to thank MR. LONG, of Wrington, MR. PLAYNE, of Nailsworth, and MR. G. T. CLARKE, of Dowlais, for the presentation of works to the Society. It has been suggested that, considering the nature of the district over which the Society ranges, it would be desirable to establish two centres for Museum and Library purposes. According to this view a centre might be formed at Gloucester for the deposit of antiquarian objects, books, &c., relating to the archæology of the upper part of the county, and another at Bristol for those relating to the archæology of that city and its neighbourhood. Such collections

would be made without prejudice to the local collections already existing, as, for example, that in the very excellent museum at Cirencester. Donors and lenders of antiquities and books would always have absolute right of selection of the place of their deposit, but the works, or specimens, which the Society might purchase, or which might be given, or entrusted to its care without express conditions, would be distributed between these centres according to their special character and interest.

One important object of the Society, mentioned in its constitution, is the preservation of ancient local monuments. With this object in view a Committee of the Society was formed at the Bristol Meeting in December last for securing, if possible, the preservation of St. Werburgh's tower. This tower is a handsome member of the Bristol group of towers of the 15th century date, which a private Act of Parliament, obtained for the so-called removal, but, in an historical sense, for the positive destruction of St. Werburgh's Church, had given the Bristol Town Council powers either to preserve or demolish as they thought fit. The Committee of this Society, in conjunction with other Committees formed at Bristol for the same purpose, received promises of subscriptions to the extent of nearly £1,000 in order to save the tower, and under the influence of their endeavours the Town Council rescinded a resolution it had previously passed for the removal of the Tower. In the delays, however, that followed, other influences prevailed. The party of destruction again gained the ascendancy, the Town Council recurred to its original position, and the tower is now apparently doomed. It is much to be lamented that so interesting and fine a monument of mediæval art and culture, with traditions extending back to the earliest periods of English history—one too that has always held a prominent position in a group of towers and spires that has made Bristol almost architecturally unique amongst cities—should be thus sacrificed to what appears little more than a narrow and short-sighted utilitarianism. It may, however, perhaps, be hoped that under the influence of the Archaeological Societies of the country, utilitarianism will gradually, even though slowly, arrive at some sense of the utility of ancient monuments, whether as materials for knowledge or as examples for conduct, and that what is really a property of the ages enjoyed by millions in the past, and which with advancing education would be enjoyed by tens of millions in the future, will not be so readily given over to the destructive impulses of a passing period.

With regard to the internal constitution of the Society, there is not much to report. One change has been introduced in the establishment of the new office of Vice-President of Council, for the purpose of strengthening the continuity of the Council's deliberations. The office is annual, like all the other offices of the Society, but its holder is eligible for re-election, and the Council have much satisfaction in being permitted to propose to the Society the election of the late President, SIR WM. V. GRUISE, BART., to the newly created office. The Council also submit for re-election for the next year the names of the retiring members of Council and Vice-Presidents, Secretaries—general, sectional, and local—at present in office. It has to

report the loss of the energetic services of the late Treasurer, MR. LANG, through resignation, but in MR. J. R. BRAMBLE, whom the Council recommend for election to this office, it is hoped, will be found an efficient successor. The following members of Council have this year retired by lot, but are eligible for re-election:—Messrs. W. LEIGH, KERSLAKE, BLUNT, LUCY, SWAYNE, GAEL, and G. L. BAKER.

The Council has held six meetings during the year, two at Bristol, two at Gloucester, one at Cheltenham, and one at Cirencester, and it has to express its thanks to his Worship the Mayor of Gloucester, the Council of the Museum and Library of Bristol, and the Authorities of the Ladies' College at Cheltenham, for the excellent accommodation afforded to the Society at those places respectively.

MR. J. R. BRAMBLE then presented the Treasurer's Report, and stated that in the first year of the Society's existence 76 life subscriptions of £5 5s. each, 374 annual subscriptions, and 449 entrance fees were received. In addition, they had a donation of £4 14s. 6d. and two others of £2 2s. each. In the year upon which they are now entered he had received one life subscription, 205 annual subscriptions, three subscriptions for next year, and 18 entrance fees. After paying sundry expenses, there is a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £707 15s. 4d. The amount owing in subscriptions, &c., would just about balance the sum which would be due from the Society for the expense of printing the first year's volume of Proceedings and other expenditure that would have to be met. Another volume of Proceedings would be printed this year, and the whole of the balance could not be taken as absolutely untouched, but they would be able to invest the life subscriptions, amounting to £404 5s., and that sum, he hoped, would stand as a very good nucleus for the future.

PROFESSOR ROLLESTON moved "That the Report of the Council, and the Treasurer's Report be adopted, and that the Council's recommendation of Officers for the ensuing year be approved." He proposed this resolution with great pleasure. He could recollect, as many of them also could recollect, the publication of the celebrated Oxford Tracts, and the great sensation which Tract No. 90 caused, and he remembered also, most vividly, the motto of that tract, Latin words which signified "Search out the history of your ancient mother." Now, that which was the motto of the famous Oxford Tracts, might be taken as the motto of every rightly constituted Archaeological Association, such as this was. Those words should now be taken hold of, as of old, and seeing the inducements held out to them for tracing back their antecedents, these words were invested with greater value and called for greater attention now than they did even from the people who first saw them on the title pages of the Tracts. He sympathised with what

the Council had said as to the local organisation, and urged them to use their organisation to bring public opinion to bear in favour of Sir John Lubbock's Bill for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments. He regretted that that measure had been shelved by the Government. He saw that the Bill was referred to a committee, and he hoped this and other local associations would bring their influence to bear, through pressure on the members of Parliament who represented them, in favour of Sir John Lubbock's Bill. This would have a great effect. If they counted their strength by the number of their votes a different state of things would be soon introduced.

MR. C. BOWLY seconded the resolution, and it was carried by acclamation.

The REV. W. DYKE, M.A., moved: "That the outgoing members of the Council be re-elected." Although he had not the pleasure of knowing all the members personally, yet he was sure they did their work so well that the meeting could not do better than entrust to them, for the ensuing year, the work which they carried on, so happily, for the year just ended.

This resolution was also seconded, and carried.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the following address:—

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Although I cannot pretend to be so well versed in Archaeology as your retiring President, yet I accepted the office under the impression that in that capacity, from circumstances, I might be of some aid to this Society.

Archæology is a science which may be said to deduce history from the relics of the past. Cirencester, the Corinium of the Romans, was a place of importance in the time of Julius Cæsar. Four great roads met here: first, the Fosse, second, the Ickenwald Way, third, the Irmin Street, and fourth, the Acman Street. In addition to the roads, there are various antiquities belonging to the Roman age. There is an area called the Bull Ring, which had long been considered to be a Roman Amphitheatre, but this has lately been made a subject of doubt. They have found, and they are now finding, various relics of pottery, urns containing burnt

bones and ashes, sculptured stones and monuments, and a splendid Roman capital, which you will have an opportunity of examining to-day. There is a Museum, built by the late Lord Bathurst, in which a variety of Roman antiquities is deposited. Among the most interesting specimens which time has spared are the tessellated pavements. One is at the Barton Farm, in the vicinity, more curious than the rest from the fact that it occupies the same place in which it was originally discovered. It represents Orpheus charming the birds and beasts by the harmony of his lyre. There are likewise in the Museum tessellated pavements and a large collection of coins.

Taking leave of these antiquities, which will be described in more detail by those better instructed in the matter than myself, I proceed to more modern times. Our Abbey Church occupies the first position in this town. Henry J. founded the Abbey Church, but little, if anything, remains of that structure. The present Parish Church was re-built when Hakebourne was Abbot, between the years of 1504 and 1522. An ancient Church existed before, but these matters will be so well described by one who is so learnedly versed in the subject that I shall not venture to discuss them more minutely. With regard to the history of Cirencester, I shall touch it slightly. It has the honour of being mentioned by Shakespeare; at the close of Richard II., Bolingbroke, afterwards Henry IV., says "the Rebels have consumed with fire our Town of Cicester in Glostershire." This refers to the suppression of the Rebellion raised by the Dukes of Aumerle, Surrey, and Exeter, and the Earls of Gloucester and Salisbury, in the first year of Henry IV. It was put down at Cicester. This service was performed by the Mayor and 400 of the townsmen. The sequel was that all the conspirators lost their heads, and the King, in gratitude, granted the town all the Rebels' goods, four Does out of his forest at Breadon, and one hogshhead of wine out of his Port at Bristol.

In the time of the Rebellion, Prince Rupert attacked the town with two eighteen pounders, four field pieces, and one mortar. It surrendered, after a severe conflict, near the Barton, and the Governor, Col. F'ettyplace, and one of the members of the borough, were taken prisoners.

But we must not trench further on modern history. I shall endeavour to give an outline of our proceedings. This day the

members, under the lead of Professor Church, will proceed to the Corinium Museum, afterwards, I hope, take luncheon at my house, and then inspect the pavement at the Barton ; afterwards proceed to the remains of the ancient Town Wall. On Wednesday an excursion will be made to Chedworth Church, and likewise to what has generally been described as a splendid Roman Villa, returning by the Foss Way. On Thursday, the Society will visit the Fairford Church, and the twenty-six stained windows, which, whether the work of Albert Durer or not, are perhaps the most perfect specimens of painted glass in this country. Having, imperfectly I confess, intended to give an outline of our proceedings, I will finish by observing that although some may deem Archaeology a dull and unattractive science, and it certainly cannot be compared in delight to the cheering sound of the hunter's horn or to the excitement of Newmarket race, yet it may be pursued by persons of moderate means ; it adds to our store of knowledge, and, perhaps, is not followed by extravagance and ruin (cheers).

SIR BROOK KAY, Bart., proposed a vote of thanks to Earl Bathurst for his presidency at the meeting and of the Society. It was a great honour to this Society to have a nobleman like Lord Bathurst to preside over them, and on that occasion they had also to thank his Lordship for his able and interesting address on matters connected with the town of Cirencester, where they were now met. He expressed his hope and his conviction that the Society would continue to flourish in the ensuing year under the presidency of Earl Bathurst, as it had last year under the leadership of the retiring president, Sir William Guise.

MR. J. E. DORINGTON seconded the vote of thanks, and it was carried with applause.

At 1.30, the members proposed to visit the Corinium Museum and the temporary Loan Museum of the Society, but before proceeding thither PROFESSOR A. H. CHURCH, who was to act as *cicerone*, brought under notice the very great interest the President of the meeting had taken in the excavations which had recently been made in Cirencester, which, this day, would be specially brought under their observation. Yesterday, he said, a Roman coffin was disinterred, and it was opened under the superintendence of Professor Rolleston, in whose opinion the excavation had been successfully made, and this would form an interesting object for

the members' inspection. He also observed that the fragments of Roman remains found by Mr. Banks, in making excavations on his property in the New Road, disclosed the remains of a villa, the existence of which might have been before suspected, but was not established. He suggested that in the interval which would elapse between the close of the meeting and the starting of the excursion from the Corinium Museum the members might, with advantage and interest, inspect that Museum and the temporary Loan Museum, which had been opened during the meeting at the Town Hall. If, he said, the objects in these museums were inspected now, he should be able to give the members, at a subsequent period of the proceedings, an account of some recent discoveries of Roman antiquities still existing in Cirencester.

The members adopted Professor Church's advice, and, under his guidance, proceeded first to the temporary museum of the Society and inspected its contents, a catalogue of which is subjoined. They then visited the Corinium Museum, where the Professor directed their attention to the most interesting objects and described their special characteristics.

Having inspected the museum, the party proceeded, at Earl Bathurst's invitation, through the gardens, to Oakley House, where a sumptuous luncheon awaited them. Lord Bathurst was most active in entertaining his numerous guests, and all having partaken of the noble earl's hospitality, Sir William Guise, in a few well chosen words, proposed his Lordship's health. The toast was received with the greatest cordiality, and Lord Bathurst, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the pleasure it afforded him of having the opportunity of receiving the Society.

From Oakley House, the party, after a short walk through the pleasure grounds and park, arrived at the Barton Farm. Here a mosaic pavement of great beauty was discovered as long ago as 1826, and the then Lord Bathurst caused a building to be erected over it for its protection. The building, however, was defective in drainage, and in light and air, so that the pavement suffered damage from damp and water. Professor Church stated that Lord Bathurst had given him *carte blanche* to treat the pavement as he thought best to ensure its more complete preservation, but he considered no immediate steps were necessary, as the pavement did

not appear to have sustained any further damage for some years. Many years ago, Professor Buckman, under the superintendence of the secretary of the Royal Archaeological Institute, had very skilfully and successfully raised, removed, and relaid, several mosaic pavements at Cirencester, and Professor Church pointed out that an attempt had been made to remove this and relay it, but the project had been abandoned on account of the great care and labour involved in the operation. The pavement is 25 feet square, and the design is of considerable merit, representing Orpheus, in a central medallion, charming, with his lyre, the beasts which surround him in a circle. Professor Church described the special features of the design, but the pavement is so well-known that it is unnecessary to give any particular description. We may, however, observe that the central part somewhat resembles the central part of a large pavement discovered some years ago at Woodchester.¹

CECILY HILL, PARK STREET, THOMAS STREET, AND DOLLAR STREET.

were then visited, under the guidance of the REV. E. A. FULLER, who stated that the street now called Cecily Hill was originally called Inchthrop Street, meaning, possibly, entrance to the town, it being the main entrance to the town from Stroud on the Oakley side. Later on it was called St. Cecilia Street, because of the chapel of St. Cecilia which was there situate. Hence the corruption—Cecily Hill.

The Chapel of St. Cecilia was in existence at the time of the death of Sir William Nottingham in 1483, because in his will he gave one of the torches carried at his funeral to St. Cecilia's Chapel. When Leland visited Cirencester in 1542 the ruins, only, remained. The old house now occupied as the Volunteer Armoury was, he said, formerly known as Monmouth House, from the family who lived there. In the early records this house was known as "Monmouth House, close by the common stream." The bridge here crossing the stream was the one called "St. Clement's Bridge," because somewhere near was a House of St. Clement, the Patron of the Smiths, probably in Gosditch (which included Park Street and Black Jack Street); at this house feasts were no doubt held,

¹Archæol. Journal. Vol. vi., 326, xiii. 235, et seq.

for Hugh Norys had left a good cup to be used by the "honest men of Cirencester" taking part in such feasts. Thomas Street, he reminded them, just marked the inside of the Roman Wall. Coxwell Street, formerly Abbot Street, was so re-named from the family of the Coxwells having obtained land there. Thomas Street was formerly Battle Street, probably so called from some storming of the town by King Stephen's or some other forces. It became Thomas Street from the Hospital founded by Sir William Nottingham for the benefit of four poor weavers, who had to pray at the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury in the parish church. Thus the original names had been corrupted by the common usage of the people. St. Thomas's Hospital was now simply a couple of cottages. Dollar Street, and the ward called Dollar Ward, afforded another instance in which the mere common speech had altered the names. The name, properly, was "Dole Hall Street." Opening into Dollar Street were the gates forming the present entrance into the Abbey grounds, which people now alive remembered as having always been called the Almery. In all ancient deeds the street was known as "Dole Hall Street," but its transition to Dollar Street is easily understood, for at the time of the dissolution, John George, the principal officer of the town, in his official documents rendered the name "Dole Hall," while in his own Will he wrote it "Dollar." This was a corruption which Mr. Fuller would much like to see remedied, for whereas "Dole Hall" was a term of intelligent meaning, and carried the memory back to the old Saxon College of Canons, "Dollar," literally, meant nothing.

A short distance further and

GLOUCESTER STREET AND THE PAEN

were reached, and Mr. FULLER first mentioned that Gloucester Street was originally St. Lawrence Street, from a hospital founded for two poor women by Lady Edith of Wiggold. He then called attention to the vestiges remaining of the semi-Norman architecture of St. John the Evangelist, the fragments of arches, &c., being pointed out and explained. Questioned as to the origin of the term "Paen," MR. FULLER confessed his inability to explain it. He then gave an account of the Hospital and the charity connected with it. Standing in the road known as Spitalgate Lane, Mr. FULLER pointed out that it was just outside the Roman Wall. He described the course of the old Whiteway Road (which he believed

to be a corruption of Wigge Ham way), the direct road of communication with Winchcombe and Worcester, the seat of the diocesan. The party next proceeded to the

GROVE LANE,

where attention was drawn to the old, so-called, Saxon arch, at the entrance to the Abbey. MR. FULLER pointed out that through this arch entrance was obtained to the Abbey precincts by a road leading out into the present Whiteway, or old Wigge Ham way. The arch had been wrongly called the "Saxon arch;" it was a part of the buildings of the Abbey, begun 1117, which, in 1131, were so far advanced as to allow the first Abbot, Sirlo, to be appointed, who was consecrated in that year at Brockley Church. The buildings of the Abbey, he presumed, lay very much between the Almery Gate and the present house, the house, he thought, being very much on the site of the church. Clearly, the buildings were to the north of the church. The abbey church was about 245 feet long, and 72 feet wide across the nave and its aisles. The old Chapel of the College of Canons was allowed to stand, and to the north of that was the choir and the new Abbey Church. The cloisters were about 90 feet square. The buildings were somewhat specified in a book among the records of the Augmentation Office, but there was nothing to indicate their relative position. Still, carefully considering the ascertained dimensions, he was of opinion that the present residence was somewhere about the site of the church, and he was more inclined to that view for this reason—when Mr. Master, a few years ago, was making alterations in his house, in digging a foundation for a bow-window, the workmen came across a piece of highly ornamented groined roof, a bit of late fan tracery, and when they came to the parish church they would see a roof of exactly similar pattern in one of the chapels that certainly never was built for it. The roof in this chapel must have been part of the cloister roof of the old Abbey, and at the time of the dissolution the townsmen evidently thought it was a pity to lose all of the handsome work, and so they took as much as they could and put it in one of the chapel roofs of the present church. The piece found in digging the foundation for the bow-window by Mr. Master must have formed part of the same roof, and it was found, probably, pretty much where it fell down, *in situ*, when the Abbey was destroyed. When Camden visited the town in 1580, he spoke of the ruins of an Abbey, and when Mr.

Richard Master came here he, no doubt, occupied the Abbot's Lodging, and when he built himself a residence he used old materials. When the house was pulled down a few years ago there were found in the walls plenty of Norman ornamentation.

SIR W. V. GUISE asked what the date of the arch was supposed to be?

MR. FULLER: About 1130.

SIR W. V. GUISE, from certain indications, expressed his opinion that the arch was of the 13th century, say 1220.

MR. NIBLETT thought, from the different appearances noticeable at the springing of the arch on the two sides, that it was of two different dates.

MR. FULLER also furnished other interesting notes as to the old Abbey Church which was destroyed. The nave was rebuilt between 1334 and 1352 by Abbot Hereward. At the dissolution the Abbot and Canons surrendered plate, of silver, silver-gilt, and silver-parcel-gilt, 1997 ounces. The Commissioners sold Ornaments worth £500 5s. 6d.; they reserved for the King's use two mitres garnished with silver-gilt, small pearls, and counterfeit stones; one cope of crimson velvet, with cloth of gold embroidered with the story of Jesse; also two copes of cloth of gold raised. The original College of Canons was said to be founded in Egbert's time, some time between 800 and 830. Bearing on this point was the fact, that in inrolling Henry the First's charter in their chartulary, the scribe put a side-note to the effect that the Monastery had been then founded about 300 years, which would throw it back to the time mentioned. William of Worcester gave the dimensions of the Abbey as mentioned above, he having stepped the distances on the occasion of his journey in 1460. To the south of the choir stood the very ancient chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A little further along Grove-lane, PROFESSOR CHURCH pointed out broken portions of the Roman Wall in the Abbey grounds, the course of the river Churn being diverted and formed outside the wall, the river being, probably, so diverted in order to further fortify the town, to which the townsmen had added a stone wall supported by an earthen bank. The Churn continued on the outer side of the right bank to Watermoor.

Progress was then made to

THE BEECHES.

where PROFESSOR CHURCH called attention to a perfect earthen bank still existing, which supported the Roman Wall, nearly in a line with those portions seen in the Abbey grounds. The Wall continued nearly straight for some distance, when it curved inwards twice, and worked round to the portions found in the Workhouse garden and to that remaining near the Railway in Sheep-street, opposite Mr. Newmarch's house. All traces of the Wall were lost when they got round to Park-street, and the neighbourhood of Oakley House. In passing along the site of the Roman Wall, PROFESSOR CHURCH drew attention to the few places in which the stones of the old wall were visible.

The REV. E. A. FULLER, continued his remarks on the changes in the nomenclature of the streets, referring to the road through the town called Lewis-lane. Some people thought this name had its origin in "Leases," others thought it came from "llys," and that it was the site of the Roman prætorium. But the real derivation was a very simple one,—the family of Bohun were great people in Sussex, and were patrons of the Priory of Lewes. Margaret de Bohun, daughter of Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford, married Humphrey de Bohun, and on the death of her brothers, without issue, the Earldom of Hereford and Estates were carried by her to her husband. Margaret de Bohun then gave land in this part of Cirencester to Adam de Lewes, her husband's family the de Bohuns being owners of landed property in Sussex, and Patrons of Lewes Priory. Richard de Lewes succeeded his father, and the land was known as Richard de Lewes's. Then the family died out, and the land was called the Lewes, and so it was rendered in all deeds which he had found up to 1540.

Having passed the New Mills, described by MR. FULLER as being formerly known as Fulling Mill, built by Albert Blake on the site of a Roman tower, the course of the party was shaped to the New-road, the scene of

MR. BANKS'S EXCAVATIONS.

Here PROFESSOR CHURCH resumed the leadership, and pointed out the remains of the Roman Villa which Mr. Banks had discovered. One of two Roman wells found in the course of the

excavations was examined, attention being called to the fact that below the top courses of masonry, which had only just been built up, the stones of the walls were cut to the shape of the well. PROFESSOR CHURCH regretted the building up of the wall as it spoiled its antiquity, but the lower courses of masonry remained quite *in situ*. Passing round the gardens, upon which new villas are now in course of erection, the base of a Roman pillar was pointed out, and it was explained that the large heap of stones standing upon the land had been excavated from the foundations of the walls of the Roman villa. There were only portions of the Roman villa visible. In the further garden were some very fine pieces of stone sculpture, which were very fresh, shewing the marks of the chisel used by the sculptor. Upon the whole the marks of the chisel were plainly visible, the rougher work being executed by larger chisels. The stone was of a very fine grain, and MR. MASTER suggested that probably some of it came, like some of the stone with which the Church was built was said to have come, from Barnsley. PROFESSOR CHURCH continued his explanations by saying, that the freshness of these pieces of sculpture was due to the fact, that as the buildings for which they were intended were never completed, their surfaces were not exposed to the elements. These sculptures were found underneath a very inferior pavement of late date, pointing to the conclusion that they had been used up as foundations. Two pillars lying with the works of sculpture were found in the ground together, at a point shewn in the plan of excavations in the temporary museum. To that plan he must refer them to gather an idea of the form and character of the Roman villa, which had been there disinterred. He was unable to say much about the house. A very large extent of foundations had been discovered, from which great quantities of stone had been dug. The pavements under which these sculptures were found were very rough and inferior, and it was known that while in the 1st and 2nd centuries the Romans were very careful in the construction of their pavements, in the 3rd and 4th centuries the pavements were very rough and inferior.

SIR WILLIAM GUISE enquired if Professor Church had any theory as to what this building was?

PROFESSOR CHURCH said he had none.

SIR WILLIAM GUISE called attention to the fact that some of the beautiful carvings were found among the *debris* of the foundations. Now, what was the cause of the destruction of these important buildings? He had always thought that the destruction ensued in that period of Cimmerian darkness which overspread the whole country after the departure of the Romans, and no light was let in except by the few old monkish chronicles, &c., which bore upon the subject. At that time—and Fronde and Freeman took this view—the Roman Briton had been undoubtedly reduced to a state of utter cowardice, and he called in the Teutons to help him against the hordes of Picts who were destroying him and his houses. Then, according to his theory, came the time that these towns were destroyed and ruined, reduced to a condition in which pieces of sculpture were mingled up with heaps of rubbish. That was, he believed, when the destruction occurred—otherwise they had nothing to account for the destruction of such an important town as Corinium, and the finding of pieces of sculpture indiscriminately mixed with the foundations. This was no doubt a place of great importance, here were found grand cornices, fine Corinthian capitals showing that a Prætorium and other public buildings had existed, and yet the fragments of them were found levelled with the foundations. Nothing but destruction could have done it, and that destruction was, he thought, worked in the 5th and 6th centuries by the hands of the invading Saxon race.

Time would not admit of a visit to the Amphitheatre and the Querns, as arranged, and the party proceeded to the

ANCIENT PARISH CHURCH.

The REV. E. A. FULLER delivered an interesting and instructive address on the edifice, illustrated by a plan, and pointed out the most remarkable details of the architecture.

A paper on this subject will be printed hereafter.

At 6 p.m., the ANNUAL DINNER of the Society was held at the King's Head Hotel. The President, EARL BATHURST took the Chair, and there was a large attendance of members. At 8 p.m. there was a general meeting at the Corn Hall, at which EARL BATHURST again presided, when the following papers were read and discussed:—

- 1.—*On the Succession of Races in England, as illustrated by Burial Finds.*
PROFESSOR ROLLESTON.
- 2.—*On the Monumental Brasses at Cirencester and in the neighbouring Churches.*
REV. W. E. HADOW.
- 3.—*On the relation of the Town to the Manor of Cirencester.*
REV. E. A. FULLER.

These papers, with the exception of the third, which will be published in another form, will be printed in the Transactions for the present year.

WEDNESDAY, 29th AUGUST.

On Wednesday, at 10 a.m., the Members started from the Market Place, in carriages, on an excursion to Chedworth, and Stowell, MR. E. C. SEWELL acting as Excursion Manager. On the road they examined the Wayside Cross of early 14th century work at Calmsden. The structure consists of four steps and a pedestal, in a socket in which is fixed a tapered octagon shaft surmounted by a cube whose sides face the four cardinal points. At the foot of the cross a beautifully clear spring of water runs into an old stone trough, and SIR WILLIAM GUISE expressed his opinion that this was a Holy Well marked by the erection of the Cross. He mentioned an incident that he was once passing through Highnam, near Gloucester, and enquiring of a woman whether the house she was living in were not formerly a wayside Chapel, she answered in the affirmative, and said there was a Holy Well also on the premises. He went and saw the spring, and the woman added that there was not an Irish labourer who passed that way who did not know of the existence of that well, and who did not cross his forehead with the water and offer his prayers there.

Thence the party drove to Chedworth, where the Parish Church was visited and its leading features explained by Mr. NIBLETT. The Church consists of Chancel, Nave, with Aisle and Western Tower. There is an exterior rood-loft stair-case, the entrance to which is walled up. The western Arch is of early Norman work

and the columns of the Arcade separating the North Aisle from the Nave are of late Norman. The windows on the south side are of late perpendicular, possibly about 1480, because the Sun, which was the badge of Edward IV., appeared on some of them. In the Chancel window the Moon is also introduced, possibly from variety. SIR WILLIAM GUISE called attention to the date on the doorway—1491. MR. NIBLETT said similar dates, 1461 and 1485, appeared in three places in the Church, and they were interesting because the “4” was written like half an “8.” He remarked that Arabic numerals were not introduced into this country until the middle of the 15th century, and the example in the porch was very clear and good.

The REV. H. N. ELLACOMBE suggested that the Sun and Moon in the East window were originally put over the Crucifixion, as they were often seen, and had no reference to the badge of the King.

The REV. W. DYKE also offered some observations upon the Architecture of the Church, and pointed out the remarkable vicissitudes attending the devolution of the Manor of Chedworth, to which the Church is appurtenant, following the Earldom of Warwick from Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, son of Earl Roger of Domesday, to the time of Henry VII.

A discussion then arose as to the periods to which different parts of the Church might be attributed, in which MR. MIDDLETON and MR. ELLACOMBE took part; the general opinion being that the oldest portions of the building were as early as the beginning of the 12th Century. In reference to certain Norman elements and style of the Building, SIR WM. GUISE, quoting an observation made by Professor Rolleston the previous evening to the effect that the Hills were occupied at a time when the valleys were not—the latter being all wood and swamp—remarked “That this statement was borne out by the fact “that in every Church on the Cotswold Hills they found traces of “Norman Architecture. The Hills, in early times, as now, were “great sheep walks, and they were inhabited for the facility with “which the sheep found pastures upon them when the Valleys were “uninhabitable.”

SIR WILLIAM GUISE mentioned two old customs in the Parish which he had heard from some of the inhabitants. 1st.—That formerly a Sunday near St. Denis's day was observed as a feast, or wake, but that now it was only known by name; and he suggested that probably the dedication of the Church, of which there was not now any tradition, was in honour of that Saint. The other custom was, that on Good Fridays the inhabitants hunted Badgers, and he suggested whether this custom might not have some reference to Judas Iscariot. The last badger hunt was four years ago, and he understood that badgers were now rather difficult to find.

The party then proceeded to Chedworth Roman Villa discovered by MR. JAMES FARRER, about the year 1866, and standing upon the property of the EARL of ELDON, at whose cost the excavations have been carried out, the Museum formed, and the necessary protective buildings erected. The REV. W. DYKE here acted as Guide and favoured the Company with some observations on the Villa. MR. NIBLETT and the REV. W. WIGGIN also made some remarks. A question was raised as to the purpose of the Villa, some regarding it as a Roman posting-house whilst others held that the distance of the Villa from the Foss Road was too great to admit of such a purpose. The contents of the Museum being examined, the Members partook of an excellent luncheon provided by the EARL of ELDON. EARL BATHURST expressed the thanks of the Society for the facilities their host had afforded them for viewing the Roman Villa, and also for the hospitality with which he had entertained them. The party then proceeded to the Parish Church of Stowell, where the REV. W. WIGGIN, Rector of Hampnett, to which Stowell is annexed, read a short paper descriptive of the church. He considered the period of its erection as probably the 14th century, and, being in a bad state of repair, he said it would have been restored long ago by the Earl of Eldon but the commencement of the work awaited a decision as to whether or no Stowell had not better be united to Yanworth. The central tower had been removed, but there was a curious buttress against the exterior of the west wall, forming a section of three sides of an octagon terminating in a grotesque head. Sir Robert Atkyns wrote in 1712 that the north aisle (transept) had then, lately, been demolished. An entry in a new Register stood thus: "Divine Service performed at Stowell on Sunday, 6th May, 1810, after

discontinuance for nearly a century." Sir Robert Atkyns writes that Stowell was annexed to Hampnett, A. D., 1660, with the consent of the Bishop and Patron. The Right Hon. John Howe (the opponent of standing armies), was buried at Stowell, 14th June, 1722. His mother was Annabella, illegitimate daughter of Lord Scrope of Bolton, legitimised by Act of Parliament in 1663. There is no monument to him nor to Sir John Atkinson, Knt., who was buried there 3rd April, 1662.

The REV. H. N. ELLACOMBE being invited to give his opinion as to the date of the church said he never was in a church which told its own story so well, as he regarded it as a very early Cruciform Church, with only the demolished north transept missing. He considered it very early Norman work with early decorated windows inserted. The arches, the door-way, the buttress, the mouldings, all pointed to early Norman, and though a good deal of alteration had been made, he traced Norman architecture throughout. Sir William Guise entirely agreed with Mr. Ellacombe, but Mr. Wiggin dissented.

STOWELL MANOR HOUSE,

the residence of Mr. Thomas Walker, was next visited, with respect to which the REV. W. WIGGIN made the following observations. He said the house, as appeared from the arms which were placed over what was originally the centre door, was built by one of the knightly family of Atkinson. On Sir John Atkinson's death the house and property descended to William, second Earl of Strafford. The descendants of the Earls of Strafford sold Stowell to the Right Hon. John Howe, who died in 1722. His son, John Howe, on the decease of Sir Richard Howe, of Compton, succeeded also to that estate. He was created Baron Chedworth in 1741. John Howe, fourth Baron Chedworth, died s. p. in 1804, and the title became extinct. William Scott, Lord Stowell, bought the Stowell, Compton, and Chedworth estates. He married, secondly, Louisa Catherine, *nee* Howe, relict of the first Marquis of Sligo, and perhaps his wife, being a Howe, turned his attention to the Stowell estates. Lord Stowell's son died s. p., and also his daughter, Viscountess Sidmouth, on whose death the estates descended to the Earl of Eldon's family.

Mr. S. H. GAEL read a paper on "Stowell House and Park," printed in this volume, and also mentioned some interesting incidents.

Having partaken of the hospitality kindly and courteously offered by MR. WALKER, and examined the curious features of the house, particularly some fine pieces of tapestry of great interest, the party resumed the homeward journey by the Foss Way, and reached Cirencester soon after six o'clock.

At Eight o'clock a meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, when the following papers were read and discussed:—

1.—*On the Roman Remains recently discovered at Cirencester.*

PROFESSOR A. H. CHURCH.

2.—*On Local Names near Cirencester.*

REV. G. H. MOBERLY.

3.—*Disarmament of Suspected Persons in the County of Gloucester.*

SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A.

4.—*Notes on the Ancient Church Plate belonging to the Parish of Cirencester and the neighbourhood (illustrated by Drawings and Specimens of Plate lent for the purpose).*

W. J. CRIPPS, ESQ.

5.—*On the Tyndales of Gloucestershire :* J. H. COOKE, F.S.A.

All of which, except the first, are printed in this Volume.

THURSDAY, 30th AUGUST.

THE CONCLUDING MEETING

was held in the Corn Hall on Thursday morning, under the presidency of SIR WILLIAM GUISE, when the formal and complimentary business was transacted.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Council recommended Bristol as the place of meeting for the next year, and that the selection of President for that year might be deferred for the present and left to the inquiry and decision of the Council.

These recommendations of the Council having been approved :

The CHAIRMAN moved a vote of thanks to the noblemen, clergy, and gentry of Cirencester and neighbourhood, for the facilities which they had afforded the Society for inspection of the churches and other ancient monuments of the district, and for the hospitality with which they had received the Society.—Carried with applause.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed that the thanks of the Society be accorded to Professor Church, Mr. Niblett, the Rev. E. A. Fuller, the Rev. W. Wiggin, the Rev. W. Dyke, and the Rev. J. G. Joyce, for the valuable services rendered by them as guides to the excursions.—Carried unanimously.

MR. FULLER having returned thanks :

SIR WILLIAM GUISE proposed, in highly eulogistic terms, that the thanks of the Society be given to the Local Committee and to the Local Secretary, Mr. Wilfred Cripps, for their most important services in the general conduct and management of the meeting.—Carried unanimously,

MR. CRIPPS suitably replied, acknowledging the able assistance he had received from Mr. E. C. Sewell.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. E. C. Sewell for his efficient work as excursion manager, and for his active services in carrying out the details of the meeting.—Carried unanimously.

MR. SEWELL replied, and

SIR WILLIAM GUISE proposed a vote of thanks to Earl Bathurst for his efficient services and his attention to the Society during the visit to Cirencester. Sir William supplemented this with a few cordial words, and the vote of thanks was carried with cheers.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Sir William Guise, proposed by the REV. E. A. FULLER, and suitably acknowledged by the Chairman ; to Mr. Hallett, the general secretary and to Mr. Bramble, the general treasurer.

An excursion was then formed to Ampney, Fairford, and Bibury, in which a large number of members took part.

The first halt was made at Ampney Crucis, where the members at once proceeded to the churchyard, to inspect the now restored ancient "Cross of Ampney Holy Rood," and some remarks were made upon it by several of the archæologists present.

AMPNEY CRUCIS CHURCH.

was then carefully examined. SIR WILLIAM GUISE pointed out that it was of transition Norman architecture, and was, probably, originally built about 1260, its transepts being of a later period, the doorway not being of a Norman character. He also called attention to the remains of colour on the wall pieces and trusses, to the rude and early font, and to the little window near, which was clearly Norman. A recess in the porch attracted attention, which it was thought had at one time been used as an almonry. The perpendicular tower showed evidences of a curious architectural contrivance, part of the early buttresses being worked in. A very early Norman doorway is now walled up.

Having, upon the introduction of SIR WILLIAM GUISE, inspected an old chimney-piece in the drawing-room of Ampney House, of extraordinary carving of the Elizabethan period, the party then proceeded to Fairford. It was intended to have called at Ranbury Camp, but time would not permit of a halt at that place, and about half-past twelve the party reached

FAIRFORD.

Having lunched at the Bull Hotel, the party adjourned to the church for the purpose of seeing the far-famed windows, where they were met by the REV. J. G. JOYCE, Rector of Strathfieldsaye, under whose efficient guidance these splendid relics of mediæval art were examined. MR. JOYCE then read a most interesting and valuable paper, pointing out the subjects of the several windows, which is printed in this volume. EARL BATHURST, on behalf of the Society, thanked Mr. Joyce for the trouble he had so kindly taken to make the company understand the subjects of the windows, and for the instruction and pleasure he had given them. MR. JOYCE having expressed his acknowledgments, a paper was read by MR. POWELL, who, having referred to the date of the erection of the church, passed on to a comparison of the glass of the Fairford windows with those of Cologne and Nuremberg, contending that,

from the similarity of the figures, the subjects, the drapery, and many other minute details in the windows of Fairford and Cologne, the work was, presumably, from the same hand.

The homeward journey embraced a passing visit to Quenington Church, upon the most interesting features of which, especially the North and South Porches, remarks were submitted to the Society by MR. NIBLETT, who took occasion to notice the better preservation in which the architectural features on the north side of Gloucestershire churches is wont to be found than the south, owing to the less searching force on that side of the sun and stormy winds, the latter usually coming from a south-westerly direction.

Another stage brought the Society to that very fine specimen of a Cotswold Manor House,

BIBURY COURT,

now in the occupation of Captain Maunsell Williams, by whom, and Mrs. Williams, the party were most hospitably received. The inspection of Bibury Court and Church brought the second day's excursion of the Gloucestershire Archæological Society, and in fact its meeting of 1877, to as pleasant a termination as the Society can hope to meet with in many future years.

THE TEMPORARY LOAN MUSEUM.

Among the numerous objects of antiquity exhibited were the following, obligingly lent for the occasion by the persons named:—

Engraving of Sir Thomas Harrison, *Knt.*, Chamberlain of London, died 1765, and buried in the chancel of Cirencester Church; son of the Rev. Joseph Harrison, *M.A.*, 63 years vicar of Cirencester. Coins found at Bibury; collection of flint arrow-heads, found at Lower Swell, Gloucestershire; sword, found with several others, beneath the surface of the camp at Burton-on-the-Water; by Mr. E. C. Sewell. Roman keys, from Corinium, and metal crucifix, found in the Abbey grounds; by Professor Buckman. Collection of flint arrow-heads and implements, found on the Cotswolds; spear-head and knife, found with skeleton, of Saxon date, at Long Barrow, Upper Swell; small buckle and long Saxon spear head, found by the side of the Foss Way on the north side of Stow-on-the-Wold, by the Rev. D. Royce. A large collection of Roman fragments found in Cirencester, by Mr. W. H. Banks. Collection of objects, by the Rev. T. H. Lee-

Warner, of Rodmarton, including ring, hatchet, and horseshoe, found about seven feet below the surface, at Rodmarton, in July, 1877; spoon and knife, found at Gloucester, several feet below the surface, in 1872. Collection of objects, by the Rev. T. Daubeny, of Ampney St. Peter, including dagger, dug up in a copse at Ampney St. Peter; oval piece of lead, found in the garden at Poulton Vicarage, with some human bones beneath it, about two feet below the surface; part of the bowl of a tobacco pipe, found near the same spot; Roman pottery found in digging out the foundation of Poulton church; and six coins found at Poulton. Collection of objects, by Professor Church, including grotesque masks, of mediæval Bristol pottery; three tobacco pipes, 17th century, found at Cirencester and Gloucester; various objects of Roman origin found at Cirencester; ditto, found at Gloucester; five nut crackers, one found at Thornbury Castle, and the others purchased in cottages about Stroud, Bath, and Bristol; armorial badge of brass, once enamelled, found August, 1869, in the West Market-place, Cirencester; tile from Thornbury Castle; fragments of a vase found in a barrow between Brimpsfield and Minchinhampton; tile from Minchinhampton Church; ditto, from Cirencester Abbey; mediæval jug, Grey Friars, Bristol; a mazer bowl, English work, early 16th century; bronze Roman statuette, from Kingsholme, Gloucester; a large collection of interesting Roman coins, from Cirencester and neighbourhood. Vase, found near Westbury, Wilts, in 1863, with other Roman pottery. Collection of Roman objects by Professor T. W. Mayer, F.R.C.V.S. Last century tongs, for lighting purposes, by Mr. Horton. Enamelled Roman brooch, and a coin of Carausius, with a Roman galley on the reverse, by Mr. C. Bowly. Two silver apostle spoons, one dated 1529, and the other 1532, both by the same maker, by Mr. J. C. Cooke. A ring presented by Charles I. to Colonel Yate, of Arlingham, one of the Gloucestershire Royalists, by Mr. J. D. T. Niblett. A seal, supposed to be that of the Mayor of the Staple of Cirencester, which has been presented to the Society by Mr. Richard Mullings, was also exhibited. A silver implement, undoubtedly Roman, supposed to be a stilus and eraser for writing on wax, which was found at the New Road, Cirencester, by the Rev. J. Constable. Collection of objects by Mr. Butler. A number of Oriental letters, by Earl Bathurst. Jugs, lent by Professor Buckman. Fragments of large Roman vessel, and part of Roman vase, recently found, by Mr. W. H.

Banks, at Cirencester. Bristol glass of the 18th century, by Mr. Zachary. Mr. Wilfred Cripps showed a number of pencil sketches of various parts of Cirencester, as it was fifty years ago, beautifully sketched by his uncle, the Ven. Archdeacon Harrison. The views were exceedingly interesting, and included "Site of the present Police Station," "Black Jack Street and Silver Street," "Market Place," "Site of the present Corinium Museum," "Corner of Sheep Street, now the site of the G.W.R. Station yard." and "Cecily Hill." Professor Church lent a water-colour drawing of Cirencester Church and Market Place, signed J. Burdon, and dated 1815. He also contributed some engravings of the 18th century, being portraits of members of the Bathurst family. A handsome pulpit-cloth made from a cope of the 15th century, lent by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Cirencester. A fine collection of church plate included the following: plain communion flagon, engraved with the arms of Atkyns impaling Carteret, given by Lady Atkyns to Coates Church, date 1716; paten, engraved with arms of Atkyns impaling Carteret, on a lozenge, date 1715, lent by the Rector and Churchwardens of Coates. Communion cup and cover forming paten, pattern introduced 1562, date 1574, by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Preston. Communion cup, early 18th century, date 1716, lent by the Rector and Churchwardens of Coates; specimen of earliest form of post-Reformation communion cup, date 1570; communion flagon, pattern introduced temp. Eliz., cup with cover, surmounted by falcon and sceptre, the badge of the Boleyns, part of the Cirencester Church communion plate, date 1535, by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Cirencester. The Rev. E. A. Fuller exhibited a plate in Britton's Chronological History of English Architecture of the Church of St. Cross, Hampshire, illustrating the date of the chancel of Cirencester Church, the pillar on the north side being similar in character to the one shown. Other plates connected with the church were also shown by Mr. Fuller. Drawing of Samian and other ware and ornaments, found at Bourton, together with other antiquities, by Mr. J. Moore, of Bourton-on-the-Water. A number of old views of Cirencester Church, and a good collection of photographic views of Cirencester and neighbourhood, by Mr. W. H. Money, &c., &c.