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# TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

## Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

1877-8.

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### PART II.

*Transactions at the Winter Meeting of the Society,  
held at Gloucester,*

ON

**Wednesday, January 24th, 1878.**

THE Annual Winter Meeting of the Society was held at Gloucester, on Thursday, 24th January, 1878. After a Meeting of the Council at the Tolsey in the afternoon, the members of the Society dined together at the Bell Hotel, SIR W. V. GUISE, the Vice-President of the Council, presiding. There was a fair attendance of members present. Subsequently, a meeting of the members and their friends was held at the Rooms of the Science and Art Department. Sir William Guise again presided, and the following papers were read in the Lecture Room, at which there was a good attendance :—

1.—*On Haresfield Beacon and its Entrenchments.*

By J. D. T. NIBLETT, Esq., F.S.A.

2.—*On certain Tombs in Tewkesbury Abbey.*

By the Rev. W. S. SYMONDS.

3.—*On some Records of Matson.*

By the Rev. WILLIAM BAZELEY, Vicar.

All of which will be found printed in this Volume.

The PRESIDENT warmly commended this last paper, remarking that it dealt with just the subject which the Society should take up, while it confirmed the truth of what he had often stated, that many clergymen were competent to communicate valuable information respecting the ancient buildings and local events of the past in their own parishes.

With regard to iron being found on Robin's Wood Hill, the late Canon Lysons had remarked on the probability of this at a meeting of the Cotswold Club. We knew that iron had been dug in the middle lias in Gloucestershire, where in some places it was richly ferruginous; but although we had the middle lias at Robin's Wood Hill no one had ever heard of attempts being made to utilize any deposit of iron which might be there. Mr. Lysons promised to bring the original deed in which the fact was said to be recorded, but it turned out that the monks had not taken tithes of iron (*ferri*), as was supposed, but tithes of hay (*feni*).

Mr. F. W. WALLER then delivered a very interesting address "*On the Old Houses of Gloucester*," which was illustrated by a series of dissolving views with great effect by Mr. RIDDIFORD.

Mr. F. W. WALLER said the few particulars he had succeeded in collecting together were mainly from local historians and inquiries of residents of Gloucester and neighbourhood. His object had been to obtain reliable representations of some of the interesting parts of Old Gloucester, so far as they were at present preserved, with, if possible, something of their history. He had searched for these in local libraries and the British Museum without success, and had, therefore, to trust to local tradition. Changes in our streets were being so rapidly made, and the old features destroyed, that it was evident that in a few years most of Old Gloucester, as we now know it, will have disappeared. An instance of this was afforded by a photograph which he exhibited of a measured drawing he had made two years previously of a very interesting part of the Blackfriars, since entirely destroyed to make room for a soda-water manufactory. Such researches as these took a long time, and needed access to many old private deeds, and he had only as yet had opportunity of going very superficially into the matter, getting together a small number of illustrations, which did not represent a quarter of the interesting remains in Gloucester. The collection he had made (which he proposed should form part of the Society's museum) might induce others to add to the stock by their knowledge. In regard to Llanthony Priory, Mr. WALLER said the unfinished water-colour sketches of the original monastery of Llanthony in Monmouthshire, which he exhibited, were made by his father six or seven years ago. The history of this Priory, and its offshoot at Gloucester, were so well known that it hardly needed recapitulation—how the Priory in the lonely vale in Monmouthshire was said to have been founded by Edward de Laci, and that after the death of Henry I. the place either became untenable, owing to the disturbed state of the country, or else the monks preferred to move to a less rigorous climate; how they moved to Hereford for a time, under the protection of the then Bishop, and how, eventually, a grant of land called Hyde, near Gloucester, was made to them by Milo de Laci, Earl of Hereford, upon which land they founded the Priory, of which but small remains are left. He shewed a photograph of the gateway, one of the chief features still existing. Adverting to the Priory of Blackfriars, he said it was stated by Atkyns to have been built by King Athelstan; it lay near the Castle gate, and was afterwards endowed by Henry III. and Stephen de Harneshull in 1233. At the dissolution the site was granted to Sir T. Bell. Several views

of portions of the remains were exhibited. The Priory of Greyfriars, or Friars Minors, which was not far from the South Gate, was founded by Lord Berkeley; at the dissolution the site was granted to Sir J. Jennings, who had before obtained the grant of the site of St. Oswald's Monastery. The church of St. Oswald was demolished in the great rebellion, 1645. As regards the New Inn he said the assassination of Edward II. at Berkeley Castle, his burial at Gloucester, and the excitement thereon in religious bodies, all combined to attract large numbers of pilgrims to his shrine. To accommodate these, a large hostelry was built similar to those at Glastonbury, St. Albans, Malmesbury, and other places. The New Inn was spacious, and constructed of ponderous materials, the buildings surrounded two square courts, and so far as could be seen were provided with stairs leading to two tiers of galleries, giving access to numerous large and small rooms. Rudge says that in the time of Abbot Seabrooke, who presided over the Monastery from 1450 to 1457, the New Inn in Northgate Street was built by John Twining, a monk, who caused an underground passage to be made from it to the Abbey; this, however, was very improbable, and most likely it was nothing but a conduit. A lease from the Dean and Chapter only states it to be "a certain ancient messuage, with appurtenances situate, &c., and known by the name of the New Inn." It was commonly said to be built of chestnut, and has large beams, the spaces being filled with brick nogging or plaster. The courtyard is like those adopted for Canterbury pilgrims, or the carriers, in Shakespere's *Henry IV.* A general view of the courtyard, as it at present exists, was shewn, and one from Britton's "Picturesque Cities," and a view of the beautiful angle post and bracket at the corner of New Inn Lane, as lately laid bare during some alterations, was also exhibited. *Mr. Clarke's House.*—This was the town house of the Yate family of Arlingham, but it had been used as a shop for the last 140 years. MR. H. Y. J. TAYLOR stated that his mother remembered the house with a balcony over the street, and with painted glass windows. A general view from the street was shewn; also a view of the mantel-piece in the front room first floor, the shield in the centre, 1st and 4th, Yate; 2nd, Berkeley; 3rd, Box. Also Berkeley and Box on single shields right and left, and the date 1650. A view of the mantel-piece in the room over was also shewn. The old house, 154, Westgate street, now used as sale-rooms by Messrs. Evans, was next referred to. In the deed of conveyance to the late George Meadows, the house was thus described:—"Formerly the estate and inheritance of Richard Webb, Esq., one of the aldermen of the city of Gloucester." Another extract runs as follows:—"Maverdine Lane, leading from Westgate Street to the back part of the said capital tenement." The house was believed to be the headquarters of General Massey and his principal officers during the siege of Gloucester in 1643. It was said to have been the town house of the Clifford family of Frampton, and it was also stated that Sir William Guise's family held the house for a period, and that it had been held also by the Grocers' Guild. There is an old panelled room on the second floor in the front, and a passago leading thereto, also panelled, and in the room is an interesting chimney-piece, bearing coats of arms and an inscription, of which the following particulars

have been kindly given by Mr. J. D. T. Niblett:—On the dexter shield, on a bend, 3 lions passant guardant. In the centre arms:—a chevron between 9 cloves, 6 and 3. Supporters, 2 griffins; for the Grocers Company. De Clare, Earls of Gloucester, but with 5 chevrons instead of 3 (a blunder of the carver) impaling the arms of the City of Gloucester, as granted in the reign of Henry VIII. Under the centre, on a sort of pedestal,

ANNO DOM  
INI 1622 RIO  
HARDVS HANCVTT.

The S in Richardus has been blundered by the wood carver.

In Burke's Armory occurs a family of the name of Hancott. Arms:—Erm. on a bend gu., 3 mullets or.

The present front of the house was put up by Mr. Bishop, grocer. Mr. W. V. Ellis could remember timber gables in the front; and Mr. Allen says the old angle post with carving is hidden by the junction of Mr. Nest's shop, and that the front somewhat resembled Jemmy Wood's house. The house was for many years used as the judges' lodgings. A view of the side front was shewn from a pen and ink sketch made by Mr. Waller. The passage where this front exists is so narrow (not five feet wide) that it is impossible to get any view of the building, therefore he made a measured drawing with the aid of ladders, &c., and a perspective sketch from that. He ventured to think that no one could have seen the front from this point of view for many generations. (See Plate III.) *House by St. Nicholas Church* (Mr. Johnston's)—This was supposed to have belonged to Mr. Pate, founder of Cheltenham Grammar Schools—Queen Elizabeth is said to have stayed here while travelling through the country. It was the town house of the Wyse family. The present front was erected by Daniel Wylie, brother-in-law of Jemmy Wood. A view of the chimney-piece in the principal sitting-room, which it was difficult to take for want of light, was shewn. *Houses Opposite St. Nicholas Church*.—One of these was said to be where Hooper spent his last night before being burnt in St. Mary's Square. No history could be obtained of these houses, the deeds of the present owners not going back far enough. There was a panelled room at the back. A view was shewn from the street. An old house lower down Westgate street was also shewn, but no history of it could be obtained. The house occupied by Mr. Wyncoll was said to have been the town house of the Lysous family. A view was shewn of a room facing St. John's Lane, taken from a drawing made by Mr. Waller, some time since. A view from Pitt Street of a house in Hare Lane was also shewn for its picturesque woodwork. In conclusion, Mr. Waller again called attention to the extreme difficulty of obtaining any reliable information in regard to old houses in Gloucester. His remarks were thrown out as much to provoke criticism and assist in arriving at something definite respecting them as for any other purpose.

The usual vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Waller for his lecture.

The photographs shewn were well executed by Mr. So'ley.

SIR JOHN MACLEAN suggested the desirability of the representations of antiquities shewn by Mr. Waller being preserved in some more permanent form than photography, and MR. WALLER kindly promised to make finished drawings as opportunities offered.

SIR JOHN MACLEAN communicated a paper on the "Ancient Cinder Heaps in the Forest of Dean and neighbourhood." This paper was written by Mr. George Wyrall, of Bicknor Court, in the year 1780, for Dr. Nash, when he was engaged in preparing for publication his History of Worcestershire, but, Sir John added, he did not think Dr. Nash had used it; the subject, he believed, is not mentioned in Dr. Nash's History. This paper is alluded to in the account of English Bicknor, in the first volume of the Transactions of this Society, pp. 92, 93. The original MS. in Mr. Wyrall's handwriting is in the possession of Rev. Edward Machen, of Eastbach Court, through whose obliging kindness the transcript is furnished for the Society. Time would not admit of the paper being read. Sir John gave a brief abstract of the contents, and said he considered it well worth being printed in the Transactions of the Society, an opinion in which the Chairman, who had seen the paper, concurred. It is accordingly printed in this volume.

MR. J. D. T. NIBLETT read a paper entitled "Arms of the City of Gloucester, in which he described the arms used by the city at various early dates and the more modern grants. The paper will be printed in this volume. MR. NIBLETT also described, in detail, a series of shields of arms on the frieze of the shrine in Boteler's Chapel, in the Cathedral, into which the commemorative tomb of Robert, Duke of Normandy was moved. Originally, he said, there were forty-nine shields, of which twelve are now missing, but the lower row is still perfect. He next described ten shields on an old oak chest in the same chapel, on which the effigy of the said Duke lies. These are intended for the Nine Worthies of the world, which are usually given in the following order, but this order, he said, had not been attended to by the carver of the chest. They should have been:—JEWS—1, Joshua; 2, David; 3, Judas Maccabeus.—GENTILES—1, Hector of Troy; 2, Alexander the Great; 3, Julius Cæsar.—CHRISTIANS—1, Arthur, King of Britain; 2, Charlemagne of Germany; 3, Godfrey of Boulogno.

Refreshments were provided in the Museum.



No 154 Westgate Street. (Gloucester)  
Sketch of front facing passage (8 feet wide) originally known as *the narrow lane*.

Designed by E. M. Waller. 1877.