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TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society,

1879-80.

PART II.

Transactions at the Winter Meeting, held at Bristol,

ON

Tuesday, 27th January, 1880.

THE Winter Meeting of the Society for reading Papers, &c., was held at Bristol, on Tuesday, 27th January, 1880. A Meeting of the Council was held in the Committee Room of the Bristol Museum and Library in the afternoon, which was very fully attended. Afterwards many of the members dined together at the Clifton Down Hotel, when MR. T. GAMBIER PARRY, the President of the Society, occupied the Chair, being supported by SIR WILLIAM V. GUISE, Bart., President of the Council, and other prominent members of the Society. A *Conversazione* was held at the Museum, at eight o'clock, where various antiquities, and other curious objects, had been temporarily collected for inspection, through the exertions of MR. JOHN REYNOLDS, the local Secretary. The objects exhibited were not very numerous, but possessed considerable interest. A list of the most striking will be appended to this notice. There were present the President, MR. T. GAMBIER PARRY, SIR WILLIAM V. GUISE, BART., SIR JOHN MACLEAN, ALDERMAN FOX, DR. BEDDOE, RIGHT REV. DR. TWELLS, DR. BURDER, DR. WEBSTER, DR. WILLET, REVS. DR. CALDICOTT, T. P. WADLEY; MESSRS. E. A. HUDD, J. R. BRAMBLE, T. KERSLAKE, W. H. BUDGETT, J. F. NICHOLLS, J. TAYLOR, W. GEORGE, W. E. JONES, JOHN WILLIAMS, S. H. SWAYNE, J. H. WOODWARD, A. T. MARTIN, W. S. PAUL, E. STRICKLAND, A. COX, W. ADLAM, R. L. CLOUGH, W. J. FEDDEN, W. P. HUDDEN, C. H. PRITCHETT, F. SHUM; the Hon. Secretaries: MR. P. HALLETT and REV. W. BAZELEY; Local Secretary: MR. J. REYNOLDS, and many other members.

The members and visitors afterwards assembled in the Lecture Theatre for the purpose of hearing Papers read. The chair was occupied by MR. T. GAMBIER PARRY, who commenced the proceedings by reading a most eloquent essay, entitled: "*The Force and Value of Fine Art in Archaeology*," which will be printed in this volume.

A most interesting and instructive Paper was then read by ALDERMAN F. F. FOX, on "*The Guild of the Merchant Tailors of Bristol*." He said Trade Unions were by no means of modern origin, and if they were to be condemned wholesale, the wisdom of our forefathers must suffer some abatement of respect. There were, however, very wide differences between the trade unions of the nineteenth century and the mediæval craft-guilds. The defensive attitude between men and masters, or rather the mutual antagonism of the employers and the employed, was entirely modern, and in the earlier and purer form of trade union would have been as inconsistent as for the ranks of an army to combine against the officers, and the officers against the ranks. Masters and men were originally one body, having one common object, united in the defences of their one self; instead of being in the condition of a mutinous and disorganized army. The earlier guilds were rightly named fraternities, for the domestic charities and common brotherhood was the bond of their union. It happened with regard to the Merchant Tailors' Guild of Bristol, which presented the usual features of a mediæval craft-guild or brotherhood, that it rarely in the original ordinances (A.D. 1392) was called a craft or mystery, but most repeatedly a fraternity—a society, in fact, of men and women, or, as they more affectionately designated themselves, brethren and sistren. It was about the time of the setting out of the Canterbury pilgrims from the Tabard, in Southwark, at the end of the 14th century, that the fraternity of Merchant Tailors was established in Bristol, under the designation of the "Fraternity of St. John the Baptist," and prior to its institution it was stated that the "craft of tailours" in the city had been, and was still, greatly slandered in many parts of the realm, "insomuch that any ribald or other person of the said craft, not skilled in the art of clothing, or not belonging to the business, or who stole the cloth entrusted to him to the great slander of the town and craft, and to the great damage of the people, in default that good ordinance is not made, as in the case of London, York, and other places of the realm, in which cities and towns it is ordained that no man should be received into the franchise or freedom of the craft to cut cloth unless he be presented, by the master and wardens of the craft, to the mayor of the town as an able and skilful person in his craft, therefore it was ordained that from henceforth no man of the Craft of Tailors should be enfranchised unless the master and wardens of the said Craft of St. John the Baptist, in Bristowc, shall witness to the mayor and all the courts that he is a person, able, of good condition, and good name, and full perfect of his craft; and it was further ordained that the person so enfranchised should hold his craft in an open place, and not in chambers in corners, and that no person not enfranchised should hold an apprenticc."

It is evident from what is here stated that, so far as its secular character was concerned, the object of the Guild was to secure honesty and

integrity in the craft, good material, and good workmanship. But this, Mr. Fox pointed out, was only one of its designs, and he quoted largely from the Statutes of the Guild to show how fully it was permeated by religious principles; how that the honour and glory of God and goodwill towards men were strongly inculcated. Love and charity, and the promotion of peace and harmony among the brethren and sistren, sympathy in affliction, and reverence of the departed brother or sister, were the leading and guiding principles of the Fraternity, and these objects were endeavoured to be secured by minute regulations at every step in the Ordinances.

Mr. Fox remarked that under the Act for the Dissolution of Colleges, (37th Henry VIII., cap. 4), the possessions of certain fraternities, brotherhoods, and guilds that had been dissolved with the colleges and chantries, were vested in the Crown, and the King was empowered to send out Commissioners to seize the possessions of others under the plea that they should be used and exercised to more godly and virtuous purposes. The Act of 1st Edward VI., c. 14, went beyond this, and handed over to the Crown "all fraternities, brotherhoods, and guilds being within the realm of England and Wales, and all lands, tenements and other hereditaments belonging to them or any of them," a procedure, as Mr. Toulmin Smith observes, as quoted by Mr. Fox, of "pure, wholesale, wanton robbery and plunder, done by an unscrupulous faction to satisfy their personal greed under the cover of law." The shallowness of the pretence of using the possessions of the confraternities "to more godly and virtuous purposes," is shewn, as pointed out by Mr. Fox, by the scrupulous care with which the religious objects of this Guild were extinguished when the Guild was suppressed, and its secular character only retained. The provision for religious observances, and the penalties prescribed for the neglect of them, in the original Ordinances, were intentionally obliterated, though it is still possible to decipher the regulations, in consequence of the obliteration not being complete. In the 12th year of Elizabeth the Ordinances were boldly remodelled, the Guild being newly entitled a "Society and Mystery," the religious element, except what was involved in the oath of allegiance and abjuration upon admission to the Guild, was entirely eliminated.

Mr. Fox gave many interesting details as to the working of the Guild in modern times, and concluded by expressing his regret at its gradual decline, and hope that means might be taken for its resuscitation.

The PRESIDENT said they were much indebted to Alderman Fox for bringing before them those interesting reminiscences of an ancient guild, particularly as they showed that formerly men might always be sure of an honest tailor. All the interesting particulars contained in the paper, and which the reader had been considerate enough to cut out in order to bring his paper within the twenty minutes allowed, would appear in the Transactions of the Society, and would be very valuable. He moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Fox.

Since this paper was read Mr. Fox has enlarged it, and privately printed it with suitable woodcut illustrations, so that a brief abstract only is here printed.

A Paper was then read by MR. WILLIAM GEORGE "*On the date of the first Authentic Plan of Bristol.*" On the conclusion of the paper, the PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Society, thanked MR. GEORGE for his interesting communication. Ancient maps, he observed, were extremely valuable relics, and he wished, as a near neighbour of Gloucester, they had any maps equal to those of Bristol. MR. GEORGE remarked, in reply, that Bristol is very rich in maps.

MR. GEORGE'S Paper will be printed in this volume.

SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A., of Bicknor Court, then read a Paper "*On the Earthworks in the Parish of English Bicknor,*" which will also be printed in this volume.

This was followed by an exhibition, by the aid of the Oxy-hydrogen lantern, of a number of views of ancient houses in Gloucester, kindly lent by MR. WALLER, of which a description was given by MR. JOHN TAYLOR.

Upon resuming, after a short rest for tea, MR. J. F. NICHOLLS, F.S.A., read a Paper "*On Penpark Hole, a Roman Lead Mine.*" MR. NICHOLLS was followed by

MR. S. H. SWAYNE, M.R.C.S., of Clifton, who read a Paper "*On the recent discovery of the remains of Foundations of the Keep of Bristol Castle, and of three ancient Wells adjacent, with notes of the contents of one of the Wells.*" Both these Papers will be printed in this volume.

DR. BEDDOE, F.R.S., then followed, reading the following Paper "*On Certain Old Britolian Skulls, probably from St. Leonard's Church or Churchyard:—*"

During the year 1879, a house at the corner of St. Stephen Street and Corn Street, just outside the line of the old city wall, was being pulled down for re-building; and some archæological friend (I think MR. EDKINS) kindly informed me that human bones were being turned up in excavating the foundations. I visited the scene of operations, and possessed myself of five skulls, the only ones which were at all complete or capable of yielding measurement; even in these the lower jaws were wanting. The only object at all noteworthy, which was found near the bones, was a halfpenny of the early part of George the 3rd's reign: its date was, I believe, 1768, and it was a recent-looking coin, with a sharp impression.

Now the spot in question seems to have formed part of the site of St. Leonard's Church, which was pulled down in the early part of the reign of George the 3rd. MR. WM. GEORGE, who has carefully weighed the evidence on the point, informs me that the date of its demolition was almost certainly 1771, or very soon after the halfpenny was minted. It had been shut up for the previous ten years. These calvaria may therefore be confidently asserted to be older than 1760, but how much older it is impossible to say. Three of them appear to be masculine and two feminine. Of the former the average length is 7.35 inches; maximum breadth, 5.63; and height (basio bregmatic), 5.23; ditto (basio-maximal), 5.43; yielding a latitudinal index of 76.6, and an altitudinal one of 71.1 or

73·8. Of the latter the average length is 6·95 inches; breadth, 5·2; height (basio-bregmatic), 4·85; and ditto (basio-maximal) 5·65; Indices, 74·8, and 69·8, or 72·6. They may, therefore, be described generally as dolichocephalic, or subdolichocephalic, and decidedly wanting in height. It may be added that they are phænozygous, and that their maximum breadth is parietal, or nearly so, and placed far back. There is one exception, a male skull which is somewhat rounder, and yields indices of 79·1 and 76·4. But in this also the maximum diameter is parietal, and the forehead rather poorly developed.

On the whole, these calvaria have a modern look, and resemble rather those disinterred from the graveyard of St. Werburgh than those from the vaults underneath that church.

Two other Papers were presented—one by MR. T. S. POPE, on “*Early Work lately discovered in Bristol Cathedral*,” and the other by MR. JOHN TAYLOR, on “*Thornbury Castle, in relation to Shakespeare’s Henry VIII.*” It being, however, now close upon eleven o’clock, time would not admit of their being read. The writers and readers of Papers were respectively thanked for the interest they had shewn in the meeting, and for their labours on behalf of the Society.

SIR JOHN MACLEAN said that before the Meeting closed he desired to say a few words with respect to the progress made in regard to the Great Will Book belonging to the Corporation of Bristol. The Corporation, somewhat more than a year ago, had very kindly and liberally consented to the Society employing a competent person to abstract the wills therein recorded, with a view to such abstracts being published by the Society. The REV. T. P. WADLEY, M.A., Rector of Naunton Beauchamp, and an Honorary Member of the Worcester Diocesan Architectural and Archæological Society, a gentlemen most eminently qualified, had most obligingly undertaken the work and had been most assiduous and persevering in carrying it on. He had spent several weeks in Bristol, at his own expense, in daily attendance at the Council House, and he spoke in warm terms of the attention and courtesy he had invariably received from the officials there. MR. WADLEY had abstracted a large number of the ancient wills, and it was due to him that the Society should express its deep sense of its obligation for the great service he was so kindly and gratuitously rendering to the Society, and he, SIR JOHN, proposed that the thanks of the Society be accorded to MR. WADLEY for his valuable and unremitting services to the Society in abstracting for the Society the Wills recorded in the Municipal Registers of Bristol.

MR. JOHN TAYLOR, in seconding the proposal, said he could personally testify to the great interest MR. WADLEY was taking in the work referred to, and to the assiduity with which he pursued it.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

A vote of thanks to the President closed the proceedings.

TEMPORARY MUSEUM.

Among the objects exhibited were the following :—

By PAYMASTER RAMSEY, R.N.—

A collection of Assegais, and a Native Shield, taken at Ulundi, Zululand, after the battle.

Photographs of Zulu landscapes ; and a Cocoa-nut Shell, mounted in oxydised silver.

By MAJOR KINGSTON, of Clifton—

A Gauntlet, and a Saddle-covering in blue velvet, with rich bullion embroidery, used by Queen Elizabeth on her entry into Bristol in State.

By MR. WILLIAM GEORGE—

Old Flint Pistol found in the woods at Avonhirst, Stoke Bishop.

Collection of Bristol and Gloucestershire Engravings.

Old Maps of Bristol and a View of Dunster Castle.

By MISS SWAYNE—

Copy of the *Bristol Mercury* newspaper of the year 1793.

Enamelled Gold Watch-case of the 18th Century.

And a Gold Chronometer, date 1712.

By MR. O. GILL, Clifton—

Water-colour Drawing of the interior of the lately demolished Church of St. Werburgh, Bristol,

By MR. R. LANG—

A Water-colour Drawing of the interior of the Chapel of Gaunt's Hospital (usually known as the Mayor's Chapel).

Drawing of the Bristol Brushmakers' Arms.

Three Views of Bristol.

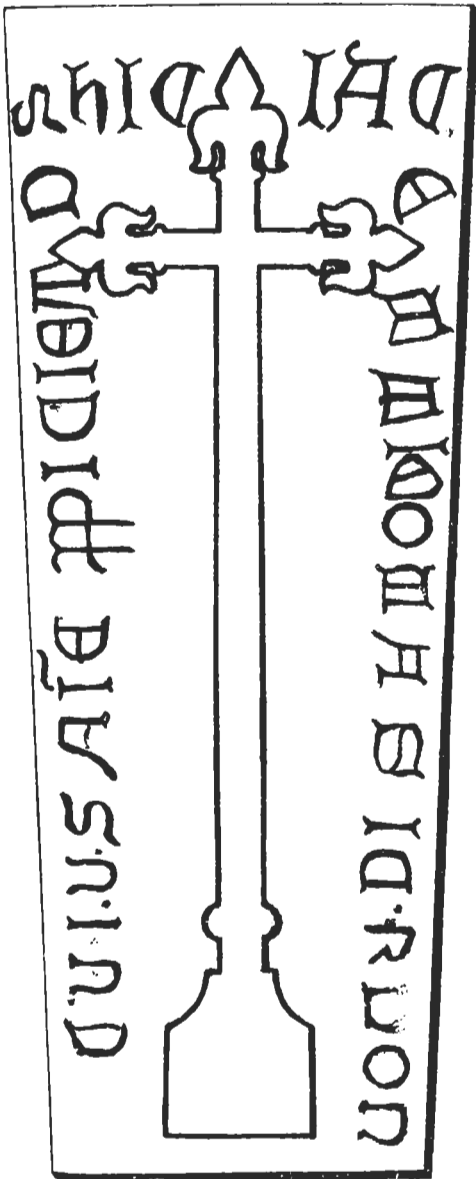
By MESSRS. LLEWELLYN & JAMES—

Collection of Bones and a Skull found in the ancient well in Bristol Castle (presented to the Society.)

By SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A.—

Rubbings of Three Curious Ancient Sepulchral Slabs in the Church of English Bicknor (presented to the Society).

Two of the Slabs are figured in Cutt's "Manual for the Study of the Sepulchral Slabs and Crosses of Middle Ages." The first is a 14th Century Slab bearing a cross flory, which is somewhat remarkable



Monumental Slab, at English Bicknor Church.

(SCALE 1 INCH TO 1 FOOT. W. IAGO.)

in having the head of the cross separated from the shaft, though such separation is not very uncommon. There is a very splendid 12th Century example at Ewenny, Glamorganshire. A portion of the inscription, in lombardic characters, on the Bicknor slab is given by Cutts, who says, it is one of those which promise a certain number of days' pardon to all who shall pray for the soul of the deceased. It doubtless commemorates an ecclesiastic, probably one of the old rectors of the church (Cutts, p. 68., Pl. xxij.) The inscription is now much obliterated. Perhaps the drawing above mentioned was made previously to the church being *restored*.

The other Slab, figured by Cutts, is shewn on *Plate xxvi.* of his work, and is wrongly ascribed by him to Tintern Abbey. It measures 6 ft. 2 in. in length, and in breadth, at the head, 2 ft. 5 in., and at the foot, 1 ft. 11 in., and is attributed by Cutts to the 15th century. We are, however, inclined to place it rather in the early part of the 16th century—say 1500-1520. An illustration of it is annexed (*Plate VII**) It will be seen that the letters are of a peculiar character, and some of them are so nearly alike that, in some cases, it is difficult to read with certainty the name of the deceased: *e.g.*, the initial letter of the christian name very closely resembles the final letter in "jacet," and the four last letters seeming to be "O M A S," would make the name appear very like Thomas, but, to read it so, we must take the second and third characters in the name to make "H." This, however, can scarcely be. We conclude that the name is Nicholas, though the letter read as "C" is unlike any other "C" in the inscription. The surname reads "IC·RDON." The second letter, as it stands, is certainly "C," but this must be inaccurate, and we believe it to be an unfinished "E," the horizontal stroke having been accidentally omitted. The name "Jordan," which at the date of the stone might have been written Jerdon, is an ancient one in the parish. Thomas Jurdan, senr., and Thomas Jurdan, junr., Agnes Jurdan, and William Jurdan were assessed to the subsidy in English Bicknor in 1522 (see *Trans. I.*, 95), and the name pervades the parish registers, which commence in 1561, throughout. On an altar tomb, just outside the south door of the church, are inscriptions in memory of John Jordan, who died 10th April, 1610; Edmund Jordan, who died 2nd Nov., 1611; and Benedick Jordan, who died 1st Aug., 1661; and on another altar tomb, close by, are inscriptions in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan, who died 22nd Sept. 1749, aged 81; and of John, Edmund, and Hannah, sons and daughters of John Jordan and Elizabeth his wife, who were all buried before 16th April, 1697. Another inscription commemorates Ann Hull, widow, grandmother of the above-named children, who died 21st Decr., 1718, in the 88th year of her age; also Anne wife of John Libland, gent., and daughter of John Jordan by Elizabeth his wife, born March 16th, 1695, and buried Oct. 25th, 1708 (*sic*, but should be 1718). On the end of this tomb is a shield of arms:—*A lion ramp. betw. 8 crosses-crosslet fitchée and a chief, for Jordan, impaling: a chev. erm. betw. three lions' heads, erased, for Hall, or Hull, Crest, a lion's head erased.*

It will be observed that in the inscription after the "C" in the surname there is a dot. We might have considered this as a mark of contraction were it not that two similar dots are found between the letters in the word "Cujus." These are probably mistakes of the inscriber.

The inscription would read—

"HIC IACET NICHOLAS IORDAN CUIUS AIE PPICIET DS

The third Bicknor Slab is of very unusual design. It is a cross flory triparted. It bears an inscription, but it is very much defaced and partly covered by the end of one of the chancel stalls.
