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**Transactions at Cirencester**

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
**Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society,**  
AT THE SPRING MEETING, HELD AT CIRENCESTER,  
26th May, 1887.

THE Annual Spring Meeting of the Society was held at Cirencester on the 26th May, as above stated, the arrangements for which were made by a Local Committee, consisting of Messrs. CHRISTOPHER BOWLEY, WILFRID CRIPPS, F.S.A., ROBERT ELLETT, JOHN MULLINS, EDWARD TRINDER, &c. Mr. EDWARD C. SEWELL being Local Secretary. The programme embraced an excursion to Daglingworth, Duntsborne Rous, Edgeworth Manor House and Church, and Sapperton. Upwards of sixty members took part in the excursion which started from Cirencester about 10.40 a.m. Among those present were Sir HENRY BARKLY, Sir JOHN MACLEAN, General VIZARD, Colonel FORBES, Colonel BLATHWAYTE; the Revds. J. F. POYNTON, W. H. S. DAVIES, W. H. HARVEY, E. A. BARTLETT, W. S. BLATHWAYTE, J. M. HALL, WM. BAZELEY (*Hon. Sec.*); Messrs. GLANVILLE BAKER, W. S. STANTON, E. HARTLAND (*Hon. Treasurer*), W. LEIGH, F. A. HYETT, C. L. DENTON, A. E. D'ARGENT, S. H. SWAYNE, E. C. SEWELL (*Hon. Local Sec.*); and many ladies.

The Excursion proceeded along the Ermin Street to Stratton (Street-town), so called from its situation on the old Roman road. Relics of Roman civilization have at various times been found here. Some are noticed in the *Archæological Journal* for 1856 (Vol. XIII., p. 87). A year ago, in making the new cemetery, the workmen came upon two skeletons, near one of which was a small object of late Roman date, apparently a strap tag, and the pin of a fibula. These are now in the possession of the Vicar of the parish.

From Stratton the party, leaving the Ermin Street, proceeded to

DAGLINGWORTH.

On entering the village the Rev. W. Bazeley pointed out two or three arches, the remains of an ancient dwelling locally known as the Nunnery, which is traditionally said to have been a cell of Godstow Abbey in Oxfordshire.<sup>1</sup> The nuns of Godstow held lands in Daglingworth, and were patrons of the benefice, but, as yet, no evidence has been found that they had a cell here. Close to these remains is a fine circular columbarium with a revolving ladder in good repair. In mediæval times Lords of Manors, Religious Houses, the Secular Clergy, and other persons possessing similar franchises, were entitled to have dovecots or culverhouses, in which an immense number of pigeons were kept. Those who are acquainted with the ancient "Extents" of manors will be cognizant of the number of these structures, and of their value to the Lords of the franchises. These pigeon-houses were of various forms—cruciform, rectangular, circular, &c. The latter, we think, were the most convenient as they were the most numerous. It was the

<sup>1</sup> Evidence upon this point has been discovered by Sir Henry Barkly since this paragraph has been in type. (*See post*).

latter which were fitted with the revolving ladders, *potences*, as they were called, similar to that at Daglingworth now under notice. These are now seldom found complete. When, from changes in the tenure of land or other causes, the pigeon-houses ceased to be used for the purpose for which they were built, the *potence* occupying the centre of the building was found to be an inconvenience, and was removed, but, even in such circumstances, traces of it may often be observed. The *potence* consists of a stout upright post with two pivots. One of these pivots working in a socket in the centre of the floor and the other in the centre of the coned rafters of the converging roof. The upright post carried two or three arms at right angles to it, which carried at their extremities a ladder; the arms were not in the same plane with each other, but so arranged as to give the ladder a convenient slope. A person on the ladder could ascend to any required tier of nests he might wish, and could make the *potence* revolve under him.

There is not, so far as we are aware, another pigeon-house remaining in this county of the same character as this under review, but there are some remarkable for the situations in which they are found. At Elkstone there is one over the chancel of the church, but not, it is believed, of any great antiquity.<sup>1</sup> It is square, and there are many nest-holes on each side; and at the Old Manor House of Olvéston, anciently a seat of the Denises, there is one in the chamber over the Great Gate House, fitted in a like manner. And we are informed that there is another, of a square form, at the farm at Daglingworth, near the Nunnery, having many pigeon-holes.

Those who may desire further information upon this subject may be referred to an exhaustive memoir thereon by Mr. R. S. Ferguson, M.A., F.S.A., in a recent number of the *Archæological Journal*.<sup>2</sup>

The members and their friends then proceeded to

#### DAGLINGWORTH CHURCH,

where, in the absence of the Rector, they were received by the Curate in charge. Sir Henry Barkly here called on the Secretary to read some notes which he had prepared on this remarkable and interesting building, and on the advowson. These notes will be printed *in extenso*.

#### DUNTESBORNE-ROUS. CHURCH.

The next place visited was the Church of Duntresborne Rous, where the party was received by the Rector, the Rev. O. Bubb. The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, consists of chancel, nave, and a small saddle-back tower at the west-end. There was a north and a south door in the nave, but the former has been walled up. The chancel is lighted by a narrow Norman window on each side, and there are slight indications of colour on the walls. It is furnished with fine carved oak stalls with miserere seats of good workmanship, doubtless brought from elsewhere. There is a crypt underneath the chancel, which was probably constructed in consequence of a very considerable fall in the ground eastwards. The building is of early Norman date, having a good deal of herring-bone work in the north wall of the nave. The Rector read some notes on the church, as also did the Rev. W. Bazeley. The latter, alluding to the crypt, said it had been used as a burial place, and that it had also been a chapel, for, he said, there was an aumbry on the north side and a cross, and he thought,

<sup>1</sup> See Trans., Vol. IV., p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. XLIV., p. 105.

on tapping the plaster on the south wall that it emitted a hollow sound, as if a piscina were there. The original approach to the crypt had been by a staircase from the chancel. This is now built up, and the approach is by a door recently made leading from a flight of steps from the churchyard. The crypt has a barrel-vaulting, and is lighted by a deeply splayed Norman window at the east end. In the recess on the north side mentioned by Mr. Bazeley, the cross at the back is incised, and is of the Greek type, the right arm being partially embedded in the more modern wall.

On the outside of the tower are the names :—"John Haydon (mason)" and "John Freeman and George Hoskins (churchwardens)," with the date 1587. It contains two bells, both of mediæval date. The legends thereon are thus given by the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe in old Gothic capitals.<sup>1</sup>

1. ⊕ ⊕ ⊕ SĀ GATRIA ² ORA PRO NOBIS
2. ⊕ [II.] SAN̄ MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS

The crosses within circles which precede the epigraphs are supposed by Mr. Ellacombe to represent the trade mark of John Sandre, a bell-founder of Gloucester, which consisted of an impression of an Edwardian coin between his initials I and S, as figured by Mr. Ellacombe on page 4 of the work cited above. The reference [II] applied to the 2nd bell, relates to the device, figured by him, and so numbered on Plate I. of his work. It is found also at Pitchcombe and Alderton.

#### EDGEWORTH MANOR.

Leaving Duntlesborne the party proceeded to Edgeworth, the seat of Francis James, Esq. On approaching the Manor House they alighted from the carriages, and climbed the bank on the left of the carriage drive to inspect an ancient relic of the city of Gloucester, called Scriven's Conduit, of which a Memoir will be printed later on.

Edgeworth Manor House is beautifully situated amid most picturesque scenery. Here, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. James, the excursionists were most courteously and hospitably welcomed by his son, Mr. — James. An excellent lunch had been provided, which was heartily enjoyed by the numerous party. On the conclusion of the lunch, on behalf of the Society, Sir Henry Barkly thanked Mr. James, and requested that he would convey to his father the full appreciation of those present of the kindness and liberality he had displayed. He also thanked the Rev. G. F. E. Shaw, Rector of the parish, who had kindly invited the Society to the Rectory.

Leaving the dining-room the company inspected the library, in which there is a very fine collection of rare and valuable works. The drawing-room, however, in which is a large collection of carvings in wood, seemed to have attracted the attention of the larger number of visitors.

The party next proceeded, under the guidance of the Rector, to the Parish Church, close by, which by him has lately been very carefully restored, though in some cases the great fault of doing too much has not been wholly avoided. The altar slab remained *in situ*, supported by oaken pillars, which from age had become decayed. For these stone pillars have

<sup>1</sup> The Church Bells of Gloucestershire, p. 45.

<sup>2</sup> The letters on the bell are very indistinct, but having obtained, through the courtesy of the Rector, squeezes from the bell, we find the name of the Saint should be Cataria. I doubtless St. Catharine of Syria.

been substituted, but, unfortunately, the slab has been reworked, and the consecration cross, with the exception of one, of which indications only remain, have been quite obliterated.

Here the Rev. W. Bazeley exhibited a rubbing of a very fine brass in St. Alban's Cathedral of Thomas de la Mare, Abbot of St. Alban's, ob. 1396, (but Haines thinks it was engraved about 30 years' earlier) for the purpose of comparing with it the figure of an Archbishop in ancient painted glass, in a small window in the south wall of the chancel in this church. The figure is vested pontifically. Mr. Bazeley pointed out that it represented an Archbishop and not a Bishop, because he bore crozier and not a pastoral staff, and explained the difference between the two. The lowest and innermost vestment in this case, in sight, is the alb, but of course the cassock was underneath, though covered by the alb. The sandals are jewelled. He appears vested in the amice, the alb, already mentioned, the girdle or cincture, the stole, the tunic, which is covered by the dalmatic, the gloves, which have tassels, and are richly jewelled, and the chausable, the maniple, and over all the pall. He wears the mitre *pretiosa*, and bears in his left hand the crozier whilst in act of giving the blessing with the right. Mr. Bazeley particularly described each vestment, but inasmuch as Mrs. Bagnell-Oakeley has lately, in her admirable memoir on "The Ecclesiastical Effigies in Gloucestershire," given a very lucid description of them all, it will we think, suffice to refer those who desire full information on this subject to her paper. (Trans. vol. ix. p. 51.)

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Bazeley's remarks, Sir Henry Barkly proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, and expressed his satisfaction with the careful manner in which the restoration of the church had been executed. The Rector, in reply, made some remarks on the process of the restoration.

SIR JOHN MACLEAN enquired if the glass with the figure of the Archbishop was *in situ*, when it was elicited that it had been removed from a window in the nave. Sir John, in continuation of what had been said by Sir Henry Barkly, expressed a hope that the Rector would continue and complete the restoration of the church by plastering and painting the interior, remarking that in mediæval times the rough walls were never left exposed in their rough condition, but were always plastered. The present practice of leaving the walls naked had, he believed, arisen from a mistake on the part of the early church restorers. Not seeing any projection of the dressed stones of the quoins beyond the face of the wall, they came to the conclusion that the walls could not have been plastered, though in fact they had always been so covered, the plaster, being thin and sharpened off at the quoin stones, and the whole painted. In removing the whitewash with which in modern times the walls had been copiously covered, paintings were constantly found upon the plaster. Moreover, he said, by colouring the walls they would better harmonise with the glorious colours of the glass, and vastly improve the general effect of the church. The Rector thanked Sir John for his suggestion. All the glass in the church is painted, and the windows look incongruous set in rough bare walls of rubble work.

Rain had begun to fall when the party reached Edgeworth Manor House, but it ceased after a while. Before, however, the members and their

friends had become comfortably seated in their carriages it again descended in torrents, accompanied by hail, heavy thunder, and vivid lightening, which frightened the horses and alarmed some of the ladies. In the face of this driving storm they pursued their course over the Daneway, and without damage eventually reached

## SAPPERTON.

A visit was at once made to the church, which is cruciform, and has been almost entirely rebuilt. There is nothing to interest the ecclesiologist. The building is only remarkable for some costly and handsome monuments of the Atkyns family and its predecessors at Sapperton. There is in the south aisle a fine erection in memory of Sir Robert Atkyns, K.B., Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who succeeded his father, Sir Edward Atkyns, in that office in 1689, and was the father of the historian, whose monument is also there; and in the north transept is one in memory of Sir Henry Poole, an earlier lord of the manor. There is also some fine carved oak and panelling, of a domestic character, said to have been brought from the old Manor House, of which now not a stone remains *in situ*. It is said to have been much decayed and taken down, much of the materials having been used in rebuilding the church. The site of the house is on a plateau, a short distance below the church.

The party now broke up, some proceeding direct to Kemble station, the larger number returning to Cirencester by a beautiful drive through Lord Bathurst's park, which, the weather having cleared up, all greatly enjoyed.

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