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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Transactions at Ledbury

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society,

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT LEDBURY

*On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 24th, 25th,
and 26th, 1894.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Ledbury on the days above mentioned. This is the second time within the last three years that members of the Society have visited Ledbury and its neighbourhood. A large and influential local committee were nominated to receive the Society, Mr. M. Biddulph, M.P., being appointed Chairman. Mr. Spencer H. Bickham and Mr. George H. Piper kindly acted as local secretaries, but owing to the serious illness of Mrs. Bickham—and which has since proved fatal—the former gentleman was unable to be present, and the duties were kindly carried out by Mr. Jesse Garrod. Mr. Bickham was also local treasurer. The company first assembled in the ancient Townhall to hold the Annual Meeting of the Society, and during the progress of the business the cries of the market hucksters underneath were plainly heard. Among those present at the introductory meeting were the Revs. C. S. TAYLOR (Bristol), S. BENTLEY, G. S. MASTER, Prebendary MADDISON GREEN, and W. BAZELEY, General VIZARD, Major HAWKINS FISHER, MESSRS. M. BIDDULPH, M.P. (Ledbury), F. F. FOX, S. H. SWAYNE, F. TUCKETT and J. BAKER (Bristol), W. J. STANTON (Stroud), J. BIDDULPH, J. GARROD, G. H. PIPER, and C. H. DANCEY.

Mr. MICHAEL BIDDULPH, M.P., said as Chairman of the local committee he desired to offer the Society a hearty welcome on the part of the town of Ledbury. The inhabitants were exceedingly pleased to see their Society, and they hoped their visit would be instructive and interesting.

In the absence through illness of the retiring president (Mr. Russell J. Kerr), Ald. F. F. Fox, of Bristol, was asked to take the chair. He said they all lamented the absence of Mr. Kerr, who presided over them at Newnham last year with singular ability, and successfully directed one of the most admirable meetings the Society ever had. Let them allow him, on behalf of the members of the Society, to thank Mr. Biddulph and the local committee for their kind welcome.

The Rev. W. BAZELEY, the Honorary Secretary, then read the following

REPORT OF COUNCIL OF THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR 1893-4.

THE Council presents the following Report to the members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society for the past year. There are at present 370 annual members, 70 life members, and 3 honorary members on the Society's list, giving a total strength of 443 members.

The income of the Society for the financial year ending April 21st, 1894, was £479 18s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £37 11s. 11d. The balance in the hands of the Society's Treasurer on April 21st, 1894, was £442 6s. 6d., as against a balance of £294 12s. 7d. on the 21st of April, 1893. Besides this balance, on which the cost of the Transactions for 1892-3 and 1893-4 must be considered a charge, the Society has a funded capital of £432 3s. 8d. in Consols representing the fees paid by the life members.

The Society has held two General Meetings during the past year. The Annual Summer Meeting of 1893 was held at Newnham-on-Severn, under the presidency of Russell J. Kerr, Esq., and was most successful as regards the number of members present, the interest of the places visited, and the financial results. On Tuesday, July 25th, Mr. Charles Bathurst and Miss Bathurst received the Members and Associates most hospitably at Lydney Park. The Roman Station and Villa on Camp Hill were inspected under the guidance of Mr. C. Bathurst, jun., and part of the beautiful tessellated pavement, which at other times would have been covered with earth, to protect it from the weather, was exposed to view by Mr. Bathurst's orders.

Many beautiful and highly interesting objects which have been discovered at various times and places in the Park are preserved in the Museum at Mr. Bathurst's residence. These were shown to the members. For an accurate description of the Camp and Villa, and also of the many antiquities found in Lydney Park, the Council would refer the members to *Roman Antiquities at Lydney Park*, by the late Rev. W. Hiley Bathurst.

On Wednesday, July 26th, an excursion was made from Newnham under the guidance of Mr. G. W. Keeling, through the Forest of Dean to Goodrich Court and Castle, and to Symond's Yat. On Thursday, July 27th, the members visited Littledean, Flaxley Abbey, and Westbury, and were received in the afternoon by the President and Mrs. Kerr at The Haie. The Council is deeply indebted to Mr. James Wintle for placing Hill House at the Society's disposal during their meeting, and also to Mr. Douglas Wintle for the admirable manner in which he performed the duties of Local Secretary. A detailed account of the meeting will appear in volume xviii. of the Society's Transactions, and also the papers read at Newnham and elsewhere.

The Annual Spring Meeting for 1894 was held at Gloucester on the 24th of April, and a special Report of the Council was presented to the Society: In this Report, which was unanimously adopted, various recommendations were made to the Society by the Council:—(1) That a piece of silver plate should be presented to Sir John Maclean, in recognition of his eminent services as Editor of the Society's Transactions for the last sixteen years; (2) that a Photographic Archæological Survey of Gloucestershire be commenced under the auspices of this Society; and (3) that the financial year of this Society commence on the 1st of January, and terminate on the last day of December, instead of the 22nd and 21st day of April respectively as heretofore.

- (1) The Council has much pleasure in reporting to the members that a very beautiful inkstand, selected by Mr. Wilfred J. Cripps, C.B., having a suitable inscription, was presented in June to Sir John Maclean by Sir Brook Kay and other members of the Council, on behalf of the Society.
- (2) The Photographic Societies of Gloucestershire have been invited to send delegates to an executive committee to draw up a scheme for the Photographic Archæological Survey of Gloucestershire, and favourable replies for the most part have been received. It is hoped that the Committee will meet shortly to draft the scheme.
- (3) The Treasurer's accounts will close henceforth on the 31st day of December; and subscriptions for 1895 will become due on New Year's Day. Those members and associates, however, who have subscribed for 1894-5 will be entitled for such subscription to attend any meeting of the Society held before the 21st of April, 1895.

In connection with the Annual Spring Meeting, evening meetings were held at Gloucester, Bristol, and Stroud, and addresses were given at each place by Mr. H. S. Pearson, of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, on the Photographic Archæological Survey of Warwickshire. The thanks of the Society are due to the Mayor of Gloucester for the free use of various rooms at the Guildhall, and to the Bristol Museum and Library Committee for the free use of the Lecture Room.

The Council is glad to be able to report that considerable progress has been made in preparing an Illustrated List of Church Plate in Gloucestershire.

During the last few weeks vol. xvii. part I. of the Society's Transactions has been issued to the members, and part II. will be issued shortly. The Council is anxious that an Index to the first 18 or 19 volumes shall be prepared, and issued as a separate volume of the Transactions. An offer on the part of one or more members of the Society to undertake the work would be gladly welcomed.

The need of a building or room which shall be used as the headquarters of this Society and shall contain its Library has become a very pressing one; and a committee has been appointed to make the necessary inquiries and report to the Council.

The binding of the Society's Transactions has been undertaken by Mr. H. J. Rogers, of 51 Colston Street, Bristol, on similar terms to those arranged with Messrs. Jefferies many years ago. Members who wish their Transactions to be bound should communicate directly with Mr. Rogers.

The Council reports with great regret the death of Mr. Allard and Mr. New, who acted for many years as Local Secretaries of the Society at Tewkesbury and Evesham respectively.

The Council desires to nominate for re-election the President of Council, the General Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Vice-Presidents and the Local Secretaries for Stow-on-the-Wold, Tetbury, Lydney, Berkeley, Wotton-under-Edge, Chipping Sodbury, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Gloucester, and Stroud. The Council has much pleasure in nominating as a Vice-President of the Society the Rev. David Royce, Vicar of Nether Swell. This position in the Society is due to him, the Council ventures to think, on account of the very valuable service rendered by him to Archæologists by the editing of the *Winchcombe Abbey Register*. The Council has much pleasure in nominating Mr. John Latimer, the very able author of *The Annals of Bristol in the 18th and 19th Centuries*, as Local Secretary for Bristol; the Rev. H. Sheringham, Local Secretary for Tewkesbury; the Rev. Harvey Bloom, Local Secretary for Chipping Campden; the Rev. W. S. Davis, Local Secretary for Dursley; and Mr. Douglas Wintle, Local Secretary for Newnham. The following members of Council retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election:—Messrs. A.

Le Blanc, W. C. Heane, T. Dyer Edwardes, E. C. Gael, J. Morton Ball, and the Rev. A. C. Jennings.

The Council has held seven meetings during the past year—four at Gloucester, two at Bristol, and one at Ledbury; and desires to express its acknowledgments to the Mayor of Gloucester and the Mayor of Bristol for the use of the Guildhall at Gloucester and the Grand Jury Room at Bristol.

MR. TUCKETT, in proposing that the report be accepted, said it was satisfactory, showing much activity and careful management of their affairs. The comparative figures were satisfactory, as they showed a balance in hand twice as large this year as last.

General VIZARD seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

The Rev. W. BAZELEY said that with regard to Mr. Tuckett's remark on the financial position of the Society, he was afraid it must not go forth that their financial position had improved by £200 during last year. The fact was, that owing to a change in their printers and the serious illness of their late Editor, Sir John Maclean, their Transactions had been delayed, and the volume which should have been in the Society's hands by the beginning of the year—volume xvii.—was only partly issued, and the second part would not be out for a month or two, so that they would have to pay for two volumes out of the funds they had in hand. Whilst their financial position was not so good as it appeared, it was perfectly satisfactory. They did not wish to make £200 a year profit by the Society. The subscriptions would be expended in enriching their Transactions, for the success of the Society depended upon the quality of the Transactions; and under the care of their new Editor, Mr. Taylor, he was confident the character of them would be maintained.

THE NEW PRESIDENT AND HIS ADDRESS.

Alderman Fox then introduced the incoming President, Mr. Biddulph, M.P. He remarked that Mr. Biddulph was so well known and highly respected, not only in that county, but in the neighbouring counties as well, that it was almost unnecessary to introduce him to them. He did not think Mr. Biddulph would find the post a difficult one, or them a difficult team to drive. He was old enough to remember the time when two members of an archæological society never agreed upon one single fact brought under their notice the whole day. (Laughter.) That condition of things, however, was not found now, and never in the Gloucester Archæological Society. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. BIDDULPH, M.P., remarked that in presiding over them that day—which he had very great pleasure in doing—he must ask them in the first place to be lenient with him as

their chairman. He was not a skilled archæologist, and did not pretend to be a great authority on the subject of archæology. Any remarks, therefore, he had to make he trusted they would receive with a lenient spirit and with indulgence. Before he proceeded further he would ask them to pass a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Russell Kerr, the late President, who, so unfortunately, was unable to be with them, and to Alderman Fox for taking the chair that day. (Applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Biddulph observed that he proposed to confine the remarks he should make to objects of interest in the immediate neighbourhood, some of which they would see in their excursions on the following days. (Hear, hear.) He would first refer to that monument of antiquity—the magnificent old camp called the British Camp, the entrenchments of which could be seen for many miles around the hill. It was one of the most ancient of such monuments in this island, for the date of its formation, he presumed, was unknown and quite lost in the mists of antiquity. He supposed it might be called pre-historic. There was no doubt but that it was constructed by the early tribes who inhabited this part of the country before the arrival of the Romans. He would give a good deal to know who first did construct the camp, and the different scenes to which it had been a witness. One could not fail to be struck by the immense size of the entrenchments. In fact they enclosed a very large space; but they must bear in mind that it had to form a resting place for the whole tribe, and not only for the tribe, but for their cattle and the cattle stolen from their neighbours as well. (Laughter.) There were also a number of other camps in the neighbourhood. Wall Hills Camp was in the immediate vicinity, and was evidently a very old one, probably forming one of the number which existed in this part of the land at about the time he had mentioned.

The next matter to which he wished to direct their attention was the notice taken of the town of Ledbury in Domesday Book. That appeared to be the first notice in ancient times there was of the town, as there were no

Saxon chronicles giving them a history of the vicinity before that period. In Domesday there was an account of the town which existed there at the time of the Conquest. He presumed it was not then a large town, although important enough to be noted. It gave the number of inhabitants of different classes, and mentioned a very interesting fact in the occupation of the Hazel Farm, just outside the town. That farm appeared to have been inhabited from that time right up to the present, and was one of the most ancient places of habitation which existed in the neighbourhood. After that they did not appear to have any notice of Ledbury until the time of Bishop Swinfield, who had a residence at Bosbury in the 13th century, and there was a very interesting account book kept by his steward. It gave an account of the Bishop's travelling from one part of the diocese to another, and his journeys to London and other places. It was also interesting in so far that it showed the provisions consumed in the establishment, where they came from, and how much was used. The Bishop appeared to have had a large household. He got venison from Dingwood Chase and Colwall Chase, the Parkway, the road in the Dingwood Chase, having sustained its name ever since. There was another little fact in connection with the diary worth referring to, and that was that there was one mention, and one only, of roedeer venison having been consumed.

The next fact of interest which affected Ledbury was that once upon a time the town returned members of Parliament. In 1295 and 1304, in the time of Edward I., Ledbury returned two members to Parliament. It did not appear to have returned members after that time, for he could find no mention of it. Therefore, Ledbury returned members for a short time only. It used to be reckoned a town of considerable importance. They knew there were cloth manufacturers there, and that it possessed a thrifty and well-to-do population. Some towns went up and some went down in the world, and unfortunately Ledbury

did not flourish much after the time of Charles I. or II. Its manufacturers were drawn away to other centres, and the town itself, although he was happy to say that of late years it had looked up a little in the world, did not continue to flourish as other towns had done, perhaps by reason of the mail coaches ceasing to run or the railway taking people elsewhere. Nevertheless, he did not think they had anything to complain of now. The town had looked up, and was as thrifty and industrious a centre as was to be found in their agricultural districts.

He came now to the time of the Civil War. That was, perhaps, one of the most interesting periods in the history of the country, and one in which Ledbury was particularly interested. There was, as many of his hearers were aware, a battle at Ledbury. It took place on the 22nd April, 1645, and was fought between the Governor of Gloucester (Colonel Massey) and Prince Rupert. Prince Rupert was in command of a large force of cavalry, and was quartered in the town, by tradition taking up his residence in his (Mr. Biddulph's) house. At any rate Prince Rupert was here; and at the raising of the siege of Gloucester he retired towards Worcester. Ledbury was immediately occupied by the Governor of Gloucester (Colonel Massey); but Prince Rupert, determining not to give it up, on the morning of the 22nd April retraced his steps and fell upon the town. The defenders did not appear to have any guards set. Prince Rupert came down from the Worcester Road, which used to run through the churchyard, and fell upon them. They appeared to have been totally unprepared to receive him. A panic took place, and the Parliamentary army left by the road to Gloucester. There was no time to mount horses, and a regular fight took place in the streets. The officers formed themselves into a kind of rear guard to protect their men from the assault of the cavalry. They eventually formed up at the top of the street, known as the "Cross," to prevent them giving pursuit. They learnt that one officer was mortally wounded, and two or three officers otherwise

wounded. There was a very curious old sword (which Mr. Biddulph handed round for inspection) discovered in the roof of Mr. C. W. Stephen's house in the town. It was, no doubt, an officer's sword—it was no common soldier's sword; and his theory was that it must have belonged to one of the wounded officers he had just spoken of. They knew the fight took place at the top of the street near the house where it was found, and there was nothing more likely than that a wounded officer should have been carried into there. To keep it from the enemy, no doubt it was hidden in the roof. He thought this was an item worth noticing, and one which gave some interest to the encounter which took place there. (Hear, hear.)

Whilst on the subject of the battle, he should like to say something concerning a great national failing. It was, that amongst the people there was a total absence of any tradition. There seemed to be no one in Ledbury who had the faintest tradition of the battle. There was in fact no tradition in England. If they went to Scotland, there was no highlander who could not tell them from tradition about Prince Charlie and the Battle of Culloden. If they went to Ireland, the people there were full of its traditions, and would tell them about their ancient kings, and what happened a hundred years ago in the Irish Rebellion. If they went into Wales, the Welsh had a glimmer of tradition of what happened in the ancient days. When they came over the border, however, into England, the people did not seem to have the slightest trace of any tradition at all. He did not believe there were many working men in England who knew anything about the Battle of Waterloo. (Laughter.) They had no recollection of anything which had taken place unless they found it out in old writings.

Continuing, Mr. Biddulph remarked that a short time previously he referred to the old Hazel Farm. Coming down to later times, a hundred and fifty years ago it was occupied by a man of some note, and whose name was very well known, Jacob Tonson, the founder of the "Kit-Kat Club."

At a farm in Herefordshire there now lived a family who possessed the "Kit-Kat" pictures. Their ancestors used to live at the Argus Farm, which was close to the Hazel Farm.

In conclusion, he remarked that he always took the greatest interest in everything appertaining to old times and those who had gone before them, and he fully entered into the spirit which had caused that Society to be formed and go thus about the country. Their method was a most interesting and valuable means of recreation, and he only hoped they would have fine weather, and not be disappointed in their visit to Ledbury. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to Mr. Biddulph was proposed by Alderman Fox, which was accorded with acclamation.

Mr. Fox asked for some information concerning the hall in which they were met, and

Mr. BIDDULPH said some persons gave the date of its erection as the time of Queen Elizabeth, and some afterwards, and, he believed, some before. (Laughter.) However, it was an old building and substantially built. At the present moment it belonged to three trustees, who held it for a charity, the money being given to the churchwardens for disbursement.

Mr. PIPER said no doubt there was a hall there in the time of King Stephen. He believed the present one was erected in the time of Charles II., and no doubt the timber of the old building was used in its erection. The massive beams, they would notice, had been hewn straight from the timber. There was a tradition that the architect of the great Town Hall at Hereford, since destroyed, and of a similar building at Leominster, was also the architect of the Ledbury Town Hall.

The Rev. W. BAZELEY expressed the opinion that archæology should be taught in the Voluntary and Board Schools, and thus restore some of the traditions which their president told them were rapidly fading away. When one heard that people had never heard of the Battle of Waterloo, the members of such a Society ought to take up the matter, and plead for tuition on the subject. He thought they ought to try to keep up the old traditions of the people, because depending upon it was the English love of everything good and true. (Applause.) The Rev. W. Bazeley, continuing, referred to the absence of parochial records, and remarked that they could find copies of their parish registers at the Diocesan Registry. Those who loved their parishes should go there and search, and thus fill up the vacant places in their registers.

Mr. PIPER remarked that during the Civil War there were no registers kept in Ledbury. He had been unable to find a trace of where the soldiers had been buried.

The Rev. W. BAZELEY said they must not suppose that because they had no record themselves there was none at the Diocesan Registry.

Mr. BIDDULPH, M.P., remarked that he hoped someone would be found possessing sufficient enterprise to go to Hereford for the purpose in question.

This brought the meeting to a close, and the company then adjourned.

Bosbury was visited in the afternoon, whither the party journeyed in brakes. On entering the quiet, unpretending street the party thought that they could detect traces of the earthworks that gave its claim to be a "Bury," but the rain, which was falling gently, prevented any facilities for the mapping out of Bosa's ancient stronghold. Bosa was the scribe of Witlaf, king of Mercia, and dwelt at Bosbury in the middle of the 9th century. Bosa was now merely a name, but there was no doubt that he was a scholar, a landowner, and a soldier of renown a thousand years or more ago. On entering the churchyard by the Lych Gate the objects that first arrest the attention of the visitor are, the 13th century detached tower, the lineal descendant, it may be, of Bosa's fortress—a place of refuge for the inhabitants of the village in the time of a Welsh raid; and the 14th century cross of red sandstone, entire but weather-worn and ready to perish. Passing through a 15th century timber-work porch, the members were received at the Norman doorway by the Vicar (the Rev. Samuel Bentley), a parish priest, courteous, modest, and very learned—one of the old school of clergy which is passing rapidly away and giving place to another, more at one, it may be, with the stirring, busy, rushing times in which we live, but not so attractive or so lovable in the opinion of many. Mr. Bentley pointed out two fountains at the west end of the church, one with a square bowl of 13th century workmanship, and the other belonging to the time of Bosa, it may be, and to a Saxon church of which no traces could be found. A very fine Perpendicular rood screen of oak separates the nave from the chancel. Within the chancel are two fine Elizabethan tombs of the Harfords, who intermarried with the Foxes, and amongst the visitors, by a strange coincidence, were representatives of these two ancient families. A magnificent organ, the gift of the late Mrs. Hope, occupies a chamber on the north. At the east end of the south aisle a chantry chapel, erected by Sir Rowland Morton in the 16th century, contains several examples of his rebus. In the south aisle a stone head projects from the wall, said to be a likeness of Bishop Swinfield, and above an inscription almost illegible, said to be in memory of Bishop Swinfield's

father, and 600 years old. Two floriated 13th century crosses lie on the floor, and no doubt cover the remains of Knight Templars from the adjacent preceptory of Temple Court. Rev. and Mrs. Bentley invited the members to afternoon tea at the Vicarage, after which they returned to Ledbury, and on their arrival they were received by the Rector of Ledbury in the grounds at St. Katharine's, and subsequently a conversazione was held in the Town Hall, the President (Mr. M. Biddulph, M.P.) presiding.

A paper on "Sepulchral Effigies in Churches near Ledbury" was read by Mrs. BAGNALL OAKELEY, and the Rev. S. BENTLEY read a paper on "The Knights Templars and Hospitallers."¹

Mrs. Oakeley's paper was a very clever and interesting one, and she illustrated her remarks by showing two sketches of effigies—one at Much Marcle Church and the other at Pembridge. In Anglo-Saxon times civilian dress consisted of long and flowing garments, known by various names, and the Normans enriched these garments with ornaments and material. The fashions continued much the same till 1340, when an entire change took place in the civil dress. The long tunics or super-tunics were superseded by short and tight dresses. The grave and sedate people, however, still continued to wear the long dresses. Judges, serjeants-at-law, and all legal persons retained the long tunic, and the term "gentleman of the long robe," as describing the legal profession, probably began at this time. The effigy at Pembridge was a very remarkable one, and represented "a gentleman in the long robe," about the middle of the 14th century. The effigy in Much Marcle Church, with the exception of a jewelled belt, is much the same as that at Pembridge. Over the head is a hood, a usual arrangement at the date of 1350. The legs are in tight hose and are crossed, which is a very unusual position for the effigy of a civilian. The effigy is cut out of solid oak, and hollowed out inside. There is an old story that it used to be carried before all the funerals of men as they were taken from the church to the grave.

Votes of thanks to Mrs. Oakeley and the Rev. S. Bentley concluded the proceedings.

SECOND DAY.

VISIT TO BRONSIL CASTLE, BRITISH CAMP, BIRTSMORTON, ETC.

The party, consisting of upwards of fifty of the members, left Ledbury punctually at half-past ten. The first stoppage was made at Bronsil Castle, where Mr. G. H. Piper, F.G.S., read an elaborate paper upon the history of the castle and its former owners, from which our space will allow some brief extracts only. It was a castellated mansion, erected upon the site of a building of much greater antiquity, by Richard

¹ Both Papers are printed in Vol. XVIII. of the *Transactions* of the Society.

Beauchamp, the son of John, first Lord Beauchamp of Powyk, to whom license was granted in 1449, and again in 1460, to enclose 300 acres of land in Eastnor as a park, and to crenellate his mansion. The building was probably completed in the reign of Edward IV. In form it is nearly quadrangular, the sides measuring about forty yards in length, with a somewhat lofty octagonal tower at each angle. The approach was by means of a drawbridge on the western side, with a doorway flanked by towers, part of one of which remains in a very dilapidated condition, and the whole was defended by two moats, some twenty yards apart. The innermost being faced with stone is still well preserved, and the forms of the outer moat may be easily traced—double moats like these are very rare and curious. Sir John Beauchamp, one of the early proprietors of the castle, was celebrated for his wisdom and courage. He was elevated to the peerage by Henry VI., and was buried in the church of the Dominican Friars, in Worcester. His son dying without issue male, the title, at the death of Richard, second Lord Beauchamp, in 1496, became extinct, and his estates were divided amongst his grand-daughters, of whom Margaret, the youngest, married William Reede, Esquire, descended from an old Worcestershire family, in whose heirs Bronsil continued until the middle of the 18th century, when it was purchased by Mr. Cocks, of Castle Ditch, an ancestor of the late Earl Somers, in the possession of whose daughter, Lady Henry Somerset, it still continues.

After leaving Bronsil, the party resumed their seats in the carriages, and ascended to the Hollybush Pass, on the Tewkesbury road, and climbed the ravine between the Midsummer and Hollybush Hills—the only part of the Malvern range where the hills assume a double formation. Here Mr. G. H. Piper, who is so familiar with the ancient settlement, its structure, and former uses, pointed out the nature and strength of its defences, the means of storing water for the use of the people, and their cattle and horses, the hut-hollows where they lived, the great oblong barrow where probably the remains of their heroes were buried, and called attention to other objects of interest to those who are familiar with archæological enquiry.

A move was then made to Birtsmorton Court, where the Rev. W. Bazeley gave an account of the Court and Church, with special reference to their connection with members of the Nanfan family. An account of the descent of the manor and advowson is given in volume x. of the *Transactions of the Society*, pages 186—209.

The members of the Society were much interested in the moated manor house, with its lofty wall, mullioned windows, and ornamental chimneys. Passing over the drawbridge and under the stone gateway, they were taken into the parlour of the mansion, a large room entirely wainscoted with beautifully carved oak. The chimneypiece is especially

worthy of notice; in the middle compartment are Nanfan's arms with his quarterings, on each side his alliances: Harley on the left, and Cornwall on the right. Round the room are painted the arms of families allied to the Nanfans: Thomas Harley, Esq., Baskerville of Eardisley, Esq., Thomas Cornwall, Esq., Sir Henry Pole, Knt., Sir James Croft, Knt., Sir John Scudamore, Knt., Sir Thomas Throgmorton, Knt., Lord Copley, John Blount of Eye, Esq., William Rudhall of Rudhall, Esq., John Wytte, Gent., Bromwich of Bromsberrow, Esq., Roger Minors, Esq. There is also much good woodwork in other parts of the house—in the staircase especially. A visit was also paid to the church, which formerly possessed the right of sanctuary, a memorial of which still remains in the iron ring on the door. The church is Early English, the nave Decorated, the tower Perpendicular; there are also transepts, which, however, seem not to have been fully completed. The seats are of ancient oak marked with the Tudor rose, and there is a curious circular alms-chest, apparently hollowed out of the bole of a tree. An ancient altar-tomb in the south aisle attracted attention; it was not, however, considered possible to state for whom it was erected. There is also a handsome marble monument in the style of the period to Rear Admiral Caldwell, who died in 1718, on the north side of the sanctuary, within the altar rails.

After lunch, the party proceeded to Little Malvern, and after viewing the beautiful grounds of Little Malvern Court, visited the Priory Church. This was originally cruciform, with a tower at the crossing and a sacristy behind the altar; but now only the chancel is used for Divine Service, what remains there are of the rest of the church being only ivy covered ruins. The tower is beautifully panelled, and within there is much of interest in the woodwork of the roodloft, screen, and choir seats; there are also some tiles similar to those in the church at Great Malvern, and others apparently of an earlier date. The church was rebuilt by John Alcock, Bishop of Worcester, 1476—1486; and to this period, and more precisely perhaps to the years 1480—1482, may be assigned what is now, as it must always have been, the glory of the church—the beautiful glass in the east window.

This window consists of six lights, with four smaller lights of quatrefoil form in the tracery above; but with the exception of a few fragments, the two central and the two side panels of the window have perished. It is known, however, that the two central panels represented King Edward IV. and his queen, Elizabeth; in the panel behind the king was the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward V., and behind him again Richard Duke of York. In the panel behind the queen are four princesses, her daughters; and behind them again was John Alcock, Bishop of Worcester. Of the figures of the king and of the Duke of York there are now no remains; of the queen's figure there are but a few doubtful

fragments; of the representation of the bishop there remain fragments of an alb, a violet chasuble, and a crozier—in the right hand is a book, and a chain to which is appended a padlock.

The figures of the Prince of Wales and of his four sisters are perfect, and form most beautiful and interesting examples of the costume of the period. The prince was in 1482 about twelve years of age; his sisters were—Elizabeth, afterwards queen of Henry VII., who was then about sixteen or seventeen years old; Cicely, in her thirteenth year; Anne, in her seventh year; and Katherine, who was at least three years old.

Proceeding along the Ridgeway, a passing glance at the mistletoe oak, and a pleasant drive through Eastnor Park, brought to a successful termination a most pleasant excursion.

In the evening the members were received at the Park by the President, Mr. Biddulph, and by Lady Elizabeth Biddulph. The gardens were prettily illuminated, and a first-class string band (conductor, Mr. G. W. Davis) played an excellent selection of music, which was much praised by the guests. An opportunity was then afforded of seeing the pictures, engravings, china, and other objects of art with which Mr. Biddulph's most interesting house is so richly stored.

THIRD DAY.

LEDBURY, DYMCK, KEMPLEY, MUCH MARCLE, AND PRESTON CHURCHES.

On Thursday morning the Rector of Ledbury met the members at the Ledbury Parish Church, and his remarks on its history and architecture were listened to with much interest. "The Clerk's House," and other interesting buildings adjoining the church, were also inspected. A brief time only was given to the very interesting parish church, because it was thought by the Local Committee that the church, being in course of restoration, would be in too great confusion to allow of careful study. It has been partly arranged, however, that another visit of the Society shall be held at Ledbury during the presidency of Mr. Biddulph, when a whole day will be given to Ledbury, its church, hospital, and other interesting buildings. The absence of seats and flooring in the church, and certain excavations which have taken place, enabled the Rector to lay various matters of special interest before the Society. Beneath the pillars of the arcade in the north side of the nave plain drum-shaped bases have been discovered, which are out of line with the remains of the 12th century, or Norman arcade. It was thought that these bases belonged to a church which existed before the Norman Conquest. Attention was also called to the square pedestals on which the bases and shafts of the short Norman pillars in the choir rest. They were thought to indicate that screens on the north and south sides of the choir formed part of the architect's plan.

of building in the 12th century. A hope was expressed that the gallery on the north side of the nave which blocks up the windows and destroys the symmetry of the building might be removed. The Society, however, was not of opinion that the central (Mr. Biddulph's) pew of the gallery should be destroyed, but that it should stand on the floor beneath, between two of the windows, as it has an interest and a history of its own which should not be swept away.

Special attention was called to the recumbent effigy of a lady on an altar-tomb, ornamented with many heraldic shields bearing alternately three lions passant and two lions rampant. The costume shows that it belonged to the end of the 14th century. It is hoped that further light will be thrown on the identity of this lady in the Society's Transactions.

A short General Meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall at 10.30, when it was resolved that votes of thanks be given to:

- (1) The Rev. Samuel Bentley and Mrs. Bentley; to the Rev. Prebendary Maddison-Green and Mrs. Maddison-Green; and to the President and Lady Elizabeth Biddulph, for their generous hospitality to the Society at Bosbury Vicarage, St. Katherine's, and Ledbury Park respectively.
- (2) The Lessees of the Ledbury Town Hall for the free use of their most interesting historic building.
- (3) The Incumbents of Bosbury, Birtsmorton, Little Malvern, Ledbury, Preston, Dymock, Kempley, and Much Marcle, for permission to visit their churches, and for the information afforded by them.
- (4) Mr. Berington of Little Malvern, and Mr. Hartland of Preston Court, for so kindly permitting the members to visit their houses and grounds.
- (5) Mrs. Bagnall-Oakeley, the Rev. Samuel Bentley, Mr. G. H. Piper and Mr. Walters, for the excellent papers read or communicated by them.
- (6) The Chairman and Members of the Local Committee, to the Local Secretaries and Treasurer, to Mr. Garood, Acting Local Secretary, for the valuable assistance given by them in organizing and carrying out a most successful meeting.

Also it was resolved:

- (1) That the General Secretary be requested to convey to Mr. Bickham, the very able Local Secretary and Treasurer, an expression of the deep sorrow felt by the members at the death of Mrs. Bickham, and to offer to him their heartfelt sympathy.
- (2) That the selection of the place of the Annual Summer Meeting of 1895 be left to the Council, and also the choice of a President for 1895-6.
- (3) That the hearty thanks of the Society be given to Michael Biddulph, Esq., for the very able manner in which he has presided over the Society during the present meeting.

At 10.45 the Society bade farewell to Ledbury and drove to Preston, the parish church of which contains little of interest beyond a Norman doorway with a tympanum, on which is carved the *Agnus Dei*. The party then drove to Dymock, and was received at the parish church by the Vicar (Rev. R. Horton), who gave them an excellent account of the sacred structure. There is now a tower at the west end; in the twelfth century there was certainly one between the chancel and the nave. Attention was called to a beautiful floriated cross on a tombstone which has been affixed to the north wall of the nave.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, in thanking the Vicar for the information he had afforded them, added that the enthusiastic love which the Vicar showed for his church gave the Society the deepest pleasure, and was worthy of imitation by all who were the custodians and guardians of ancient buildings.

Luncheon was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Horton, whose kindness was much appreciated.

The Society proceeded at two p.m. to Kempley, and examined the interesting wall paintings which have been preserved in the parish church

Much Marcle was the next place visited, and here they were courteously welcomed by the aged Vicar. Special attention was given to the effigies, in which the church is very rich. The church is a large, handsome structure of a kind not often found in a country village. The arrangement is uncommon; a chancel with north chapel, a nave with aisles, south porch, and a tower between the nave and chancel, quite clear of the aisles, and having no transepts.

The exterior has a pleasing and unusual appearance, with its high pitched roofs and gables crowned with crosses giving effect to the outline. The nave has a good Early English arcade on each side of four arches, springing from circular pillars, mostly with plain moulded capitals, but some with foliage and heads. There is a lofty clerestory of single lancets, which are now blocked up, except the arched heads of those on the north side. At the west end of the north aisle is a narrow square-headed window; on the north and south are various windows, chiefly Decorated, one with no foils, one having them in the lights, but not in the head. Other windows are Perpendicular, especially the western one, which is large and long, of four lights with a transom. The chancel is large, and has on the south side a Decorated and a Perpendicular window, and a priest's doorway, with details of a classic character. It is divided from the north chapel by two Early English arches, springing from a slender circular pillar. The tower is Perpendicular, opening both to the nave and chancel by a large pointed arch with continuous mouldings. The lower part has two tiers of windows of two lights, open to the interior, the belfry storey being finished by a good battlement, without pinnacles. Duncombe,

in his *History of Herefordshire*, says, "The present tower of the church was erected by order of Thomas Walwayne, of Helyons, or Hellens, about 1430, according to directions in the will of his father, Thomas, second son of Sir Richard Walwayne, of Helyons. It is supposed the chancel was also built by him, as that family appears to have had the exclusive right of sepulture in the chancel." The font is Norman, cylindrical, of large size, and with a band of plain moulding round the bowl. It has a square base standing upon a circular step. The eastern gables of the chancel and chapel are precisely similar, being of equal height, and each having a plain three-light window, with wheel crosses on the gables, the one over the chancel having a crucifix carved upon its western side, finished in this way possibly in Puritan times.

This church is very rich in sepulchral effigies, which deserve careful examination. On a window cill in the south aisle is a cross-legged wooden effigy of a civilian, or frankleyn, or squire of about the middle of the 14th century. Mr. Bloxam knows of but two other examples of civilians being represented with the legs *crossed*; in Thurslaston church, Leicestershire, and in Birkin church, Yorkshire. In the north wall of the chancel of Marcle church is a curious tomb, dating from the latter half of the 14th century, supporting the recumbent effigy of a lady, above which is a singular shaped canopy, the back forming a semi-hexagon. Another high tomb of about the same date occupies the north-west corner of the chapel, and bears recumbent effigies of a man in armour and a lady, the south side being ornamented with cusped panels, containing shields and demi-figures of angels, also bearing shields. The centre of this chapel is occupied by a stately tomb of black and white marble, surmounted by well-executed recumbent figures of Sir John Kyrle and the Lady Sybilla, his wife. This monument is said to have been executed in Italy, in the lifetime of Sir John Kyrle, who was the first Baronet of the family, and died in 1650. His father purchased the Homme House property in this parish. The tower contains a peal of six bells, dating from A.D. 1638 to 1804.

The greatest structural peculiarity of this church arises from its following the slope of the ground towards the east, so that the chancel floor is lower than that of the nave, and the eastern half of each arch of the nave arcades is longer than the corresponding western half, the piers sinking in regular gradation from west to east.

The Society left Much Marcle at four o'clock to catch the train which left Dymock for Gloucester at 4.50.

The Hon. Secretary, Rev. William Bazeley (who has held the post for fifteen years), was heartily thanked on the platform of the station for his leadership.

The weather, generally speaking, was favourable, and the Society departed, well pleased with the 1894 summer meeting at Ledbury.