

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

Proceedings at the Annual Summer Meeting at Ross

1912, Vol. 35, 153-170

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING,
AT ROSS,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 9th, 10th, and 11th,
1912.

MEMBERS met on Tuesday morning at Monmouth, which ancient town is situated at the junction of the rivers Wye and Monnow, and takes its name from the latter. The Roman station of Blestium is supposed to have occupied part of its site and to have been protected on one side by an artificial moat called Clawdh-dhu or the black ditch. Many Roman coins have been found here at various times.

About the middle of last century there was found near the Priory a terra-cotta fronton or antefixa, used to conceal the ends of ridge tiles.¹ On the lower part of this tile was a grotesque face with inflated cheeks, and in the upper part a Greek cross. It seems that the importance of this find was hardly realised at the time. It is a proof that a Roman house once existed here, and that its owners or inhabitants were Christians.

About the same time there was found in the wall of a cottage in the Forest of Dean the matrix of a beautiful fifteenth-century seal with the legend: S : Edwardi : dei : gra : reg : Angl : t : Francie : Cancellarie : sue : di : Monmouth.² This was the official seal of Edward IV for his chancery of Monmouth. The town seal was granted by Charles II in 1675.

Speed's Map of Monmouth, drawn early in the seventeenth century, depicts the town as standing within the two rivers and containing four gates. Beyond the Monnow is a suburb with a church dedicated to St. Thomas, the patron saint of builders. From this map we learn the

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xiii., p. 188.

² *Id.*, vol. xiv., p. 55.

position of the church, the castle, the Priory chapel, the two bridges and other places of interest.

Before lunch visits were paid to the parish church and the castle. The Parish Church of St. Mary has its original tower and spire. The church was rebuilt in 1736, and again in 1881. In the latter year the Norman pillars of the nave were exposed, and a respond of the original south arcade remains. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, the nave was used by the parishioners and the chancel by the monks.

There is very little to interest the antiquary in Monmouth Church beyond a collection of floor tiles, discovered in 1881, and built into the tower wall. These have been ably described by Mr. Griffinhoofe, in a little book which may be obtained from Mr. Waugh, of Church Street, the publisher of excellent Guides to Monmouth, Raglan, Tintern, etc.

The only remaining parts of the castle are one end and two side walls of the hall with an undercroft. In the hall the original Norman lights have been blocked up and Edwardian windows inserted. In the chamber below the Norman lights remain intact.

Soon after the Conquest a Norman stronghold, consisting of a high mound, encircled with a moat and crowned with a palisade, and below the mound a court or bailey having its own moat, rampart, and palisade, was constructed by King William. This is mentioned in the Survey of 1086 as being committed to the custody of William Fitz Baderon. His descendants took the surname of Monmouth, and held the castle and manor for 200 years. Early in the twelfth century a castle of stone was built. This castle was taken and seriously injured by Simon de Montfort in 1265, but was restored a few years later. Henry III granted it to Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, who died in 1296, and his two sons Thomas and Henry held in succession. In 1326 Edward II and Hugh Despencer were imprisoned in Monmouth Castle. On the death of Henry, 4th Earl of Lancaster, who had been created Duke in 1355, the castle and manor passed with his daughter and heiress, Blanche, in marriage to John of Gaunt, son of Edward III. His son, Henry IV, succeeded him, and Leland tells us that Henry V was born in the old castle. Edward IV granted the castle to William, Lord Herbert, but it soon reverted to the Crown. Many interesting details relating to the town and castle of Monmouth will be found in Webb's *Memorials of the Civil War in Herefordshire*.

The Benedictine Priory at Monmouth was founded by Wythonoc in 1073, and the Priory chapel, which stood within the castle precincts, is said to have been dedicated to St. Cadog.

About 1134 it was removed to its present site near the parish church. There were two hospitals attached to the Priory, one dedicated to St. John and founded by John de Monmouth in 1240, and the other dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Both were without the east gate of the town, and no traces remain of them. A projecting window remains which is said to have given light to Geoffrey of Monmouth's study; but it is three hundred years later than his time. Geoffrey was Archdeacon of Monmouth, and Bishop of St. Asaph in 1152, but he is better known for his compilation and expansion of the Breton Arthurian legends.

The bridge over the Monnow with its gateway, the most picturesque objects in Monmouth, are said to have been erected by one of the Earls of Lancaster, but they have been much altered in modern times.

The gateway was pierced for musket fire in 1839, when the Chartists were advancing from Newport to attack Monmouth County Gaol.

After lunch the party drove to Raglan Castle. This castle stands on the site of an earlier fortress built by the de Clares, Lords of Usk. The de Clares granted it to the Bluets, and Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Sir John Bluet, of Daglingworth, brought it in marriage to her first husband, Sir James Berkeley. After Sir James' death she married Sir William ap Thomas, who bought Raglan from his stepson, James, 11th Lord Berkeley, about 1420. The rebuilding of the castle then began, and it continued at intervals for some two hundred years. On the death of Sir William his eldest son took the surname of Herbert. He was a staunch supporter of Edward IV, and was created Earl of Pembroke on the attainder of Jasper Tudor in 1469. His son exchanged the title of Pembroke for Huntingdon, and died in 1491, leaving an only child and heiress, who married Sir Charles Somerset, created Earl of Worcester in 1513. His great grandson, Henry Somerset, 5th Earl, defended his castle against the Parliamentary forces, and was created a Marquess in 1642. Charles I paid three visits to Raglan in 1645. In 1646 the castle was besieged by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and was surrendered on the 17th of August. The Marquess of Worcester, then an old man of 80 years of age, was sent to the Tower of London, and the castle was destroyed. On the death of Lord Worcester his son Henry succeeded him, and became the 1st Duke of Beaufort in 1682.

The castle is approached from the south by the Grand Portal. Three Pentagonal Towers rise up before us with machicolated battlements. To the left is the Citadel, known as the Tower of Gwent, a hexagonal building surrounded by a moat.

Passing in between the Pentagonal Towers, which were connected by an archway and portcullis, we find ourselves in the Paved Court, 120 feet by 58 feet. On the left is the Great Hall, and at the

south - east and north - east angles the Gardrobe and Kitchen Towers.

To the west of the Hall and adjoining Chapel is the Fountain Court with a Portal leading over a bridge to the Great Terrace at the south-west corner, the Grand Staircase, leading to the State Apartments on the west, the Gallery, 126 feet long, and a Staircase leading to the apartments occupied by Charles I on the north. The ruins of the Chapel are on the east. The Library was celebrated for its wealth of Welsh MSS. These, alas! were all destroyed when the castle was burnt by Fairfax.

After their return to Monmouth members went on to Ross. Cooke in his continuation of Duncumbe's *Herefordshire* says that Ross derives its name from the Gaelic *ros*, a promontory; but in the old Cornish tongue *ros* is a valley. Ross was part of the royal demesne given by Edmund Ironsides to the See of Hereford, and the bishops had free chase in Penyard within the boundary of the Forest of Dean. They held Ross as an *honor, de rege in capite*. Bishop Betun, 1131-48, obtained from King Stephen the grant of a market every Thursday, and Henry II granted four fairs. He also made Ross a free borough. In 1305 the burgesses were ordered to send two of their number to the Parliament held at Westminster. The bishops had a manor house near the churchyard. Here was a dungeon where priests who had committed offence against civil or ecclesiastical law were confined. The manor house was in ruins when Leland visited Ross in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII. In 1837 the dungeon was discovered, and there were six massive iron rings in the wall to which the chains of the unhappy clerics were fastened.

In 1636 a pestilential fever carried off 315 victims; this is recorded on the churchyard cross.

The market house was built in the reign of Charles II at the expense of Frances, Duchess of Somerset, after the design of John Abel, a local architect.

In the Civil War Ross was occupied alternately by the two contending parties.¹

The life and work of John Kyrle, *the Man of Ross*, have been immortalised by Pope.² We may claim him as a Gloucestershire man, since he was born at Dymock in 1637, and was educated at one of the Gloucester grammar schools. He lived opposite the market house.

The *Wye Tour* was established by Bishop Egerton, 1742-6.³

The Prospect was leased in 1693 for a term of 500 years to the Man

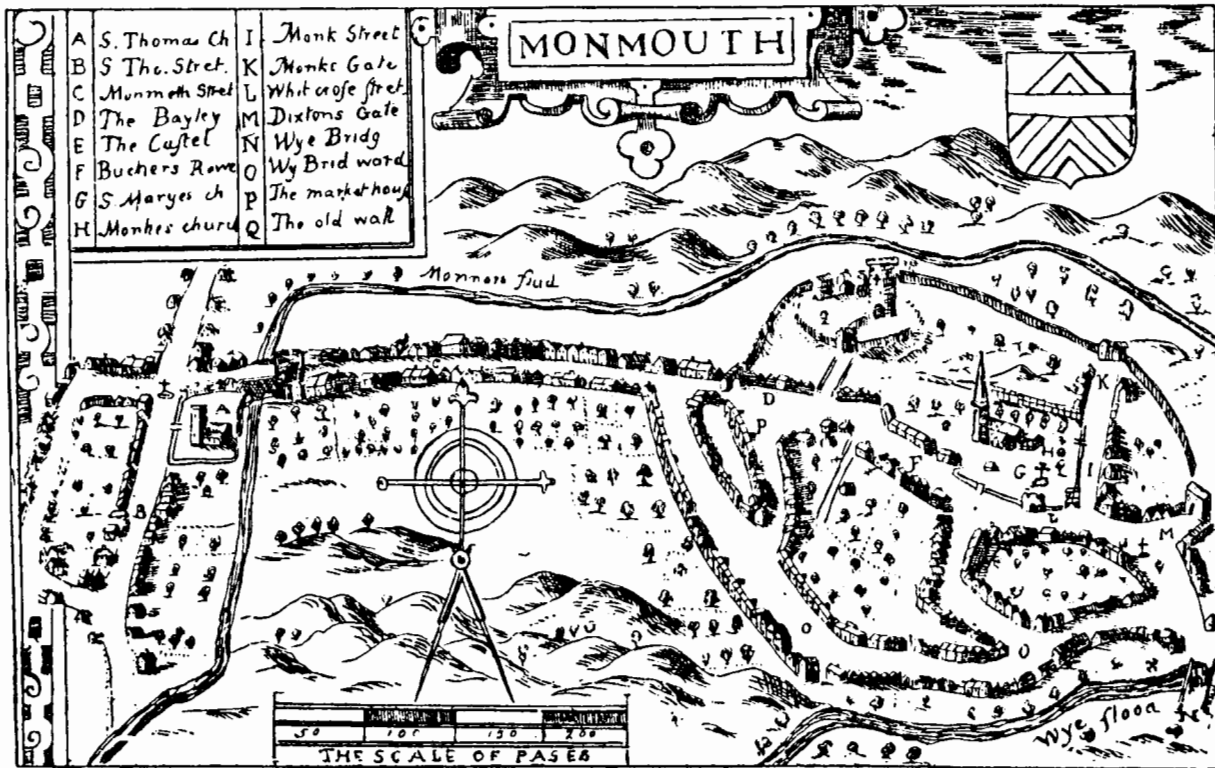
¹ See Webb's *Civil War in Herefordshire*.

² *Moral Essays*, Ep. 3.

³ See Gilpin's *Wye Tour*.



By the kindness of the proprietors of the "Ross Gazette."



LELAND'S MAP OF MONMOUTH.

of Ross, who wished to secure it as a place of rest and refreshment for the inhabitants of Ross and their visitors. Drayton describes the view from this spot in his *Polyolbion*, 7th canto.

The local institutions are, or were :—

Rudhall Hospital, founded in the fourteenth century, and dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury. The house was rebuilt in 1575.

Webb's Hospital, founded in 1614.

The Blue Coat School, built in 1717.

Amongst the more celebrated inhabitants were :—

John Ross, Bishop of Exeter, 1778–92.

J. C. Prichard, M.D., a Bristol physician of note, who died in 1845.

On Wednesday morning the members attended matins in the parish church, which consists of a nave with north and two south aisles, north and south porches, western tower with lofty spire, and choir with organ chamber on the south side.

The tower is divided into two stages by a string course. The upper stage has a window of one light in each side. The lower stage has a Decorated window with a single light above it on the west side, a two-light window and a staircase on the south side, and a similar window on the north side. Above the tower a graceful octagonal spire rises to the height of 208 feet.

The nave and its two aisles appear to have been constructed towards the close of the reign of Edward I. The arcades consist of four pointed arches resting on four round shafts divided into two stages by annulets. The caps and bases, though the latter rest on square foundations, are also round. There are two bracket responds at the east ends of the arcades (consisting of three detached shafts grouped under an octagonal cap) which appear to be of the same date as the arches. The two brackets at the west end are formed of eight inverted cones resting on a single shaft and surmounted by an octagonal cap. The respond on the south side appears to have been restored, but that on the north side is apparently original. These responds have a Norman character, and probably belong to the church said to have been built in the reign of King Stephen.

The Perpendicular west tower appears to have been built farther west than its predecessor, for it is joined to the nave arcades by walls about ten feet long, which are pierced by plain one-light hooded windows.

A chantry chapel and porch were constructed on the south side of the south aisle early in the sixteenth century by the Greys of Wilton Castle, and two arches were inserted in the original south wall.

The external ball-flower moulding of the early fourteenth century under the wall plate has been preserved, thus giving an approximate date to the nave. There is also a fine fourteenth-century piscina in the south-east corner of the south aisle with similar decoration. The piscina of the rood-altar also remains in the east wall of the nave on a level with the floor of the rood-loft. The doors leading to the rood-loft remain.

The chancel seems to have been rebuilt late in the fifteenth century, and has large side windows with square heads. On the south side are two piscinæ, and in the north wall is a recessed tomb or Easter Sepulchre in which has been inserted a mutilated floriated incised cross.

The Perpendicular east window of the ordinary fifteenth-century type contains some excellent original glass of the reign of Edward IV, 1471-85. Some of the glass, however, is modern. The smaller upper lights contain angels bearing shields, angels' heads and wings, and the badge of Edward IV, *a sun in splendour*. In the four lower lights are (1) Edward the Confessor or King Ethelbert; (2) A bishop offering his heart to St. Mary, who is being taught to read by her mother, St. Anne; (3) St. Joachim, the legendary father of St. Mary; (4) Thomas de Cantilupe, the sainted Bishop of Hereford, 1275-83. Beneath a blue stone in front of the altar lies buried John Kyrle, "The Man of Ross," and on the north side is the Jacobean chair in which he sat at home by his fireside. Affixed to the north wall is a tablet commemorating him.

At the east end of the south aisle of the nave is a group of fine Rudhall tombs which deserve careful attention. This family resided at Rudhall, an interesting house two miles west of Ross. (1) On a marble altar-tomb rest the effigies of William Rudhall, Sergeant-at-Law, and his wife, in the costume of the reign of Henry VIII. He died in 1530. On the west side of the tomb is the Annunciation, with six members of the family behind St. Gabriel. On the south and north sides are figures of the first Person of the Trinity, supporting the crucified Saviour, St. Peter, St. John, St. George, St. Catharine, St. Anne, St. Mary, St. Ethelbert, St. Michael trampling on Pride, many angels holding shields, etc. The arms of Rudhall are *Or, on a bend azure three Catharine wheels argent*. These are quartered with Milborne, Verdon, Furneal, Whittington, etc. The Rudhall crest is a dexter hand, couped at wrist, grasping a bunch of roses and tulips. (2) William Rudhall, died 1609, and his wife, Margaret, kneeling. Behind him is a son, and behind her are six daughters. (3) John Rudhall, died 1636, and his wife, Maria. Their effigies rest on a marble altar-tomb, and beneath them are sons and daughters. (4) William Rudhall, an officer in King Charles' service, standing erect in the costume of a Roman general. He died in 1651. (5) A white

marble bust of Thomas Westfaling, who died 1814, by Threed, R.A. In front is Charity teaching children. A shield on the wall behind No. 3 bears 12 quarterings.

Some of the elms said to have been planted by Kyrle in 1685 remain in the churchyard, and two suckers are growing inside the church at the east end of the north aisle.

The Annual Meeting was held at 11.45 in the Town Hall. Amongst those present were the Ven. Archdeacon of Northampton (the retiring President), Mr. T. Dyer-Edwardes (President-Elect), the Rev. Canon Bazeley, M.A. (President of the Council), Mr. J. A. Smithin (Hon. General Treasurer), Mr. Lewis J. U. Way (Hon. Secretary for Bristol), and Mr. Arnold E. Hurry (Hon. General Secretary).

Mr. ARNOLD E. HURRY (Hon. General Secretary), presented the annual report.

The number of members of the Society is 551, as against 520 at the time of the last report. The accounts have been audited up to December 31st, 1911, and will be printed in the *Transactions*. The Council has again to report with regret the losses sustained during the year by the death and resignation of several of its members. Mr. Francis Tagart, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., who died on 25th November, 1911, at the age of 92, was, it is believed, one of the original members of the Society when it was founded in 1876. Some members have no doubt resigned owing to their removal to other parts of the country. The growth in the membership of the Society is, however, a matter for satisfaction, as it indicates that the study of, and care for, the antiquities of the county is a subject which appeals to an ever increasing circle of educated persons. The Summer Meeting was held at Fairford and Oxford in July, 1911, and the Spring Meeting at Dursley on 5th June, 1912. The attendance was good on both occasions, and the members have reason to be grateful for much courtesy and hospitality which contributed largely to the enjoyment of the programme arranged for them. The repairing and restoration of the Pavement at the Witcombe Roman Villa have still to be carried out. A scheme has been approved for relaying the tessellated pavements in a bed of concrete, so as to ensure their adequate protection for the future. An appeal for funds for this purpose has been circulated under the auspices of the Mayors of Gloucester and Cheltenham, and is still open. As soon as sufficient funds are obtained the work will be taken in hand. Mr. Henry Medland (one of our

Honorary Members) has kindly consented to supervise the operations. Until this very necessary work of protection and restoration has been carried out, the villa cannot safely be re-opened to the public. At the instance of H.M. Commissioner of Works, the Gloucestershire County Council has invited this Society to furnish a list of monuments which in its opinion should be considered as ancient monuments and worthy of permanent and adequate protection. After some consultation with the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, the Council decided for the present to recommend the following: (1) *The Cromlech* at Druid Stoke (Bristol), (2) *The Buckstone* at Staunton (Coleford), for treatment under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Acts. Mr. W. F. Hicks-Beach has also expressed his willingness that the provisions of the Acts be applied to the Witcombe Roman Villa. The Council have not yet found means to increase the accommodation at the Eastgate Library. The congestion, due to lack of space, still continues, and considerably impedes the completion of the new catalogue which the Hon. Librarians have in hand and hope shortly to complete. During the past month (June, 1912) the City of Gloucester has been honoured with visits from the Berkshire Archaeological Society and the British Archaeological Association. An address of welcome on behalf of this Society was presented to the latter body, and both Societies have expressed their gratification with the assistance afforded them by local members in the arrangements for their visit. It is to be regretted that means were not found to uncover the Roman pavement at Woodchester during that month, especially as the British Archaeological Association had expressed its willingness to make a substantial grant towards the necessary expenditure. Since last Summer Meeting the Council have met six times. These meetings are generally held alternately in Bristol and in Gloucester. The Society is again indebted to the courtesy of the Lord Mayor of Bristol and of the Mayor of Gloucester for placing a room in the old Council Chamber at Bristol and the Guildhall at Gloucester at its disposal for the purpose of its Council Meetings. By invitation of Mr. P. Napier Miles of Kingsweston, near Bristol, a sub-committee was appointed to make some trial excavations at Sea Mills Farm, on the Kingsweston estate, with a view to locating the whereabouts of Roman buildings, villa or otherwise, believed to exist in one of two fields behind Sea Mills railway station. The following gentlemen constituted the Committee: Messrs. J. McMurtrie, F. Were, A. E. Hudd, J. J. Simpson, J. E. Pritchard, J. Baker, and Lewis Way. The trial digging produced nothing beyond two Roman coins and a considerable quantity of pottery, which showed the Committee that they were trying in the wrong place. With the permission of Mr. Miles, it is proposed to continue the search

on another spot near at hand in the early autumn, when a better result is confidently expected. A few weeks ago excavations were undertaken near the Bibury Mill with the object of locating the site of a Roman villa believed to have existed there. Nothing of importance was, however, found, and the work has accordingly been suspended.

During the past winter the usual six evening meetings were held in Bristol. The following instructive and interesting papers were read: "Recluses of the West of England," by Miss Rotha Clay; "The Sea Walls of the Severn," by Sanford D. Cole; "Two Seventeenth-Century Bristol Merchants," by Miss Ida M. Roper, F.L.S.; "Notes on Chap. Books," by Charles Wells, F.J.S.; "Bristol Archæological Notes for 1911," by John E. Pritchard, F.S.A.; "An Account of the Heath House Estate, Stapleton, Gloucestershire," by Lewis J. U. Way, F.S.A.; "The Lake Villages of Somerset," by H. St. George Gray.

Three evening meetings were held in Gloucester, the papers read being as follows: "Recluses of the West of England," by Miss Rotha Clay, illustrated by lantern slides; "Sir Thomas Rich," by C. H. Dancey; "Monastic Life in England," by Harold Baker, illustrated by lantern slides. The attendances at these three meetings were fairly good, but the support given by local members has not been maintained as it should be if the meetings are to be continued.

Early in this year a suggestion was made that this Society, in conjunction with the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club, might explore and excavate one of the caves on the cliffs overlooking the Wye below Symonds Yat. Some two months ago members of these Societies selected a cave in which excavation seemed to afford fair hope of success, and the Commissioner of His Majesty's Woods and Forests was approached for permission to undertake the work. Within the last week permission has been granted under certain conditions, and the Council has made a small grant towards the cost of the work.

The Society is indebted for gifts of books to the following gentlemen: Gifts to the Library at Bristol—Messrs. Sanford D. Cole, G. H. Hammersley, J. E. Pritchard, F. F. Tuckett, Lewis J. U. Way; gift to the Library at Gloucester—Mr. C. E. Keyser.

The Council desire to nominate for re-election the President of Council; the following Vice-Presidents: The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Bristol, The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Bristol, J. E. Pritchard, Esq., F.S.A., F. F. Tuckett, Esq., F.R.G.S., His Worship The Mayor of Gloucester, H. W. Bruton, Esq., Rev. Canon Bartleet, M.A., G. B. Witts, Esq., C.S., G. M. Currie, Esq., Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, Christopher Bowly, Esq., F. A. Hyett, Esq., F. F. Fox, Esq., F.S.A., and Professor C. W. C. Oman, M.A., F.S.A. Also the Honorary

THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1911.

1911. RECEIPTS.				1911. PAYMENTS.			
1911.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Dec. 31	To ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED—						
	For 1909, 1910, 1911 ..	260	8 0				
	Less Amount Refunded ..	5	15 6				
				254	12 6		
"	" ENTRANCE FEES			27	1 0		
"	" LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS			29	8 0		
"	" DONATION—						
	Merchant Venturers			2	2 0		
"	" INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—						
	Dividend on Consols			19	12 0		
"	" SALE OF PUBLICATIONS			10	7 7		
"	" SURPLUS FROM SUMMER MEETING, 1911			2	6 3		
Jan. 1	By BALANCE DUE TO TREASURER—						
	Bank Overdraft					3	3 6
	Less Cash in hand					0	10 6
							2 13 0
Dec. 31	EXPENSES OF PUBLICATIONS—						
	Transactions, Printing, Illustrating, etc.			178	18 8		
	Do. Circulation			16	9 10		
	British Record Society, 1910			5	5 0		
						200	13 6
	Less Contribution by Dr. Fryer towards Illustrations			7	3 6		
							193 10 0
"	" LIBRARY EXPENSES—						
	Rent, Gloucester, 1910-11			24	15 0		
	Insurance			0	5 0		
	Binding			1	12 4		
	Furniture, Gloucester, 1910			1	8 6		
	Librarian's Incidentals			4	4 3		
							32 5 1
"	" MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS—						
	Printing, Stationery, etc.			18	15 8		
	Postages, Treasurer & Secretary			3	10 0		
	Assistant Secretary			5	0 0		
	Assistant Treasurer			5	0 0		
	Hucclecote Villa, Excavations			5	0 0		
	Auditor's Fee			3	3 0		
	Subscription to Congress, Arch. Society			2	0 0		
	Incidentals			0	15 0		
	Paid Osborne out of surplus of Sudeley Meeting, 1910			7	10 0		
	Paid Osborne out of surplus of Oxford Summer Meeting, 1910			2	0 6		
							52 14 2
"	" DEFICIT, Bristol Spring Meeting, 1911						5 2 9

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID BY MEMBERS IN ADVANCE—							
	For 1912				3	3	0
SUNDRY CREDITORS—							
	Rent Bristol Library (3 years)	12	0	0			
	Rent Gloucester Library ..	7	5	0			
	Amount due to Assistant Treasurer	5	0	0			
	Amount due to Assistant Secretary	1	5	0			
	Amount due to Librarians (Petty Cash)	2	5	7			
	Printing—H. Osborne ..	0	19	6			
					28	15	1
LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF 97 LIFE MEMBERS— (Not estimated.)							
12	LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF "TRANS- ACTIONS" FOR 1911, NOT ISSUED—				190	0	0
SURPLUS AT DATE—							
	As last account	694	15	8			
	Less Liability on "Transac- tions" .. £190 0 0						
	And Depreciation in Consols £66 11 6						
		256	11	6			
		438	4	2			
	Add Surplus for the Year ..	61	17	1			
					500	1	3
					£721	19	4

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
INVESTMENTS—							
	£832 3s. 8d., 2½ % Consd. Stock @ 78				649	2	0
PROPERTY—							
	Libraries and Equipments } (Not stated.) } Not Publications, Copies Unsold } estimated.						
SUBSCRIPTIONS UNPAID—							
	For 1909	1	1	0			
	" 1910	1	11	6			
	" 1911	11	0	6			
					13	13	0
CASH AT BANKERS—							
	Dec. 31st, 1911				59	4	4
					£721	19	4

ROSS MEETING.

I certify that I have examined the foregoing Accounts with the Books and Vouchers, and have found the same to be correct.

NEW INN CHAMBERS,
GLOUCESTER.

J. A. SMITHIN, *Treasurer,*
Lloyds Bank, Gloucester.

F. W. SMITH, *Auditor,*
Incorporated Accountant.

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Treasurer, the Honorary Editor, the Honorary Secretary for Bristol, the Honorary General Secretary, and the Local Secretaries.

The following members of Council who retire by rotation are recommended for re-election: Rev. W. E. Blathwayt, M.A., James Baker, Esq., F.R.G.S., E. S. Hartland, Esq., F.S.A., J. J. Simpson, Esq., G. W. Keeling, Esq., C. Wells, Esq., C. J. Cade, Esq.

On the motion of Colonel NOEL, seconded by Mr. GYTE, the report was adopted.

Mr. TINSON proposed the re-election of the members of the Council.

Mr. HANNAM CLARK seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Canon BARTLEET proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring President.

Mr. LEWIS J. U. WAY seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The retiring President, in reply, said he thought the present condition of the Society might be considered satisfactory. He was told by a member of the Council that a benevolent lady had left £1,000 to the British Archæological Society. He thought it would be better if ladies of a benevolent frame of mind would make such presents whilst they were living. One advantage of this was that there would be a pension for the retiring Presidents. Their Society was much indebted to the energy of their officials. In fact, their energy was "the power behind the Throne." He alluded to the deliberation of Mr. Hurry, and the foresight, insight, and oversight of Canon Bazeley. It gave him great pleasure to ask their new President, Mr. Edwardes, to take the chair.

Mr. T. DYER EDWARDES said he must thank the members for their kind reception. He was afraid that the honour they had conferred on him was unmerited. He had never thought that he should be President of an Archæological Society, and he hesitated long before he accepted the post, but he could not refuse their friend Canon Bazeley. In no sense was he an archæologist, in the pure sense of the word, but he had

travelled a good deal, and had been a keen observer, but he had not devoted himself to any one special subject. He might, however, claim to have archæological blood in his veins, as his grandfather was a well-known archæologist in Coventry, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and in constant correspondence with Sir Walter Scott, amongst others. Whatever sympathies he had with archæology had been more or less derived from him. He was going for a short time to try to interest them with a series of notes, which had been mostly collected by his friend Mr. Sedgewick, on the burial-places of England's Royal House.

The President then read his address, which is printed in this volume of the *Transactions*.

Canon BAZELEY proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his address.

This was carried with acclamation.

In the afternoon the members went by railway to Kerne Bridge Station, and thence by road to Goodrich Castle, passing Flanesford Priory by the way. This small house of Augustinian Canons was built and endowed by Richard Talbot, Lord of Goodrich Castle, in 1347, and it seems to have been the last house of that Order of Canons founded in England. The site is occupied by a farm house and its outbuildings, and in one of the buildings used as a barn, which seems to have been the refectory chapel, are some good pointed windows. The endowment was very small, the clear value in 1536 being only £14 8s. 9d., of which £6 18s. 8d., or nearly half, came from property in Painswick, in Gloucestershire. A pleasant walk through the fields brought the members to Goodrich Castle, the keep of which, its earlier part, is said to have been built by Hugh de Lacy, the founder of Llantonny Priory, in Monmouthshire. After his death it fell into the hands of the king, and in 11 Henry II is said to have been granted to William Marshal, who married Isabel, d. and h. of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, called Strongbow.

Henry III, when only eight years of age, was crowned at Gloucester in 1216 through the influence of William Marshal. On his death Richard, his son, held Goodrich. Richard was followed by his three brothers, Gilbert, Walter, and Anselm, in succession. Their five sisters then became co-heiresses. Joan, the second daughter, married Warine

Montchensy, and their daughter Joan married William de Valence, half-brother of Henry III. William de Valence was succeeded by his son Aylmer, who founded a chantry in Goodrich Castle in 1318, and dying in 1323 without issue, left all his lands between his three sisters. Joan, who married John Comyn of Bodenagh, obtained the Manor and Castle of Goodrich. Elizabeth, their daughter and co-heiress, married Sir Richard, Lord Talbot, who was Lord of Goodrich in 1336. On his death in 1356 his son Richard succeeded. He was the father of the famous Sir John Talbot, Governor of France, created Earl of Shrewsbury in 1431. Gilbert, 7th Earl, died in 1616, leaving three daughters, the second of whom, Elizabeth, married Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, and carried Goodrich Castle to him in marriage.

In 1642 the castle is described as being ruinous, and the property of Anthony, 9th Earl of Kent. It descended to Henry Grey, 11th Earl, who in 1706 was created Viscount Goodrich (*sic*) of Goodrich Castle and in 1710 Duke of Kent. The Duke died in 1740 without male issue, and his lands passed to his daughters, who sold Goodrich to Admiral Griffin of Hadnock, from whom it descended to Mrs. Bosanquet.

Although in a wretched condition, the castle was held during the Civil War by the Parliamentarians, who cruelly treated the vicar and his family, and indeed all the inhabitants of these parts. Then the Royalists occupied the castle, and in 1646 surrendered it to Colonel Birch. It was the last spot in Herefordshire where Charles the First's standard flew.

The castle, which was square with outlying fortifications, stands south-east and north-west. The approach is on the south-east side and the barbican commands the east angle. From the barbican a bridge across the moat led to the entrance gate, which was defended by two round towers. On entering the great court we see on the north-west side the hall or banqueting-room, the solar, drawing-room, and kitchens, and on the south-east side the stables and chapel. The keep occupies the south-west side of the court. The lower part is occupied by store-rooms or prisous. The upper part contained the residential rooms of the earlier lords. William Marshal is said to have died here in 1245. At the north, west, and south angles are massive round towers; and on the north-west side is an outer wall, with a tower at the north end.

Canon Bazeley kindly explained the chief features of interest with regard to the building and its history.

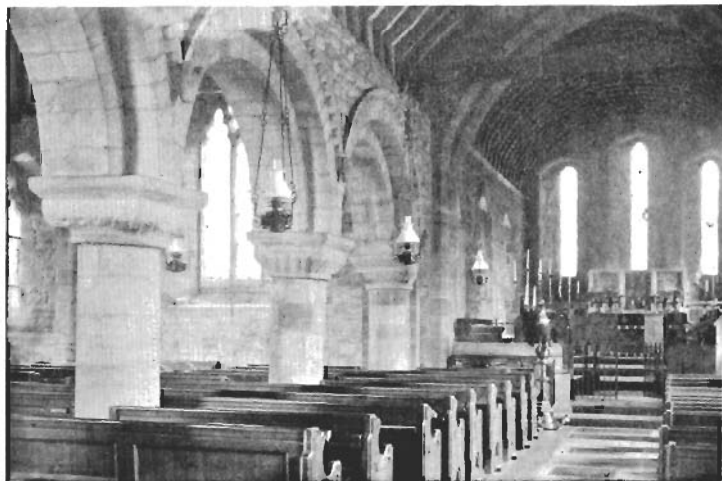
Afternoon tea was partaken of at Goodrich Court, by kind invitation of Mrs. Moffatt.

In the evening, at the Townhall, there were papers read. Mr.



Phot. by Dr. Oscar Clark.

INTERIOR OF LEA CHURCH.



Phot. by Dr. Oscar Clark.

WESTON-UNDER-PENYARD CHURCH.

Henry Southall, ex-President of the Woolhope Club, read a paper on John Kyrle, the Man of Ross, who was born at Dymock, Gloucestershire, on May 22nd, 1637, and who did so much for the town, and Miss Bazeley read a paper on "Forests."

On Thursday morning the members drove first to the Church of St. John the Baptist, Lea, which consists of a nave with west tower and north aisle, and a chancel with a chapel on the north side.

The arcade between the nave and north aisle has three four-centred arches with two octagonal shafts which are broached into square bases.

The octagonal capitals and responds are ornamented with foliage and human heads. One of these heads depicts a lady of the reign of Henry VI with the heart-shaped head-dress. This gives the date of the arcade as about 1460. The chancel, which has apparently been re-built, contains a fine Perpendicular east window, and a hooded Early English light on the north side. The door of the rood staircase remains in the north chapel, which is connected with the nave aisle by a Perpendicular arch. There is a fine oak chest with iron bands and hinges at the west end, and near the north door is an interesting font, of which an illustration will be found in vol. xxxii, p. 308, of these *Transactions*. This font recently came from Italy, and was originally a holy water stoup. The western tower is of two stages and has a spire.

The journey was continued to Weston-under-Penyard, which manor was held by Bernard Newmarch, who invaded Brecknockshire in 1092. In the twelfth century the family of de Brut held it. Lower Weston in this parish was the seat of the Nourse family in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Then it passed to the Partridges, who were succeeded by the Blakes. Over the doorway are the arms of Nourse, *Gules, a fesse between two chevrons argent*. Crest, *An arm embossed azure grasping in the hand a snake proper*.

Several members of this family were connected with Gloucester. Walter Nourse was Sheriff in 1586 and 1592. Luke Nourse was Mayor in 1644 and 1656. Margaret, a daughter of Edward Nourse and niece of Luke Nourse, married William Selwyn and entertained Charles I at Matson during the siege of Gloucester, in 1643. The Nourse arms are on the stables at Matson.

Mrs. Margaret Selwyn was the ancestress of the present family of that name. She was buried at Matson, in 1715-16, at the age of 91, and it was stated on her monument "that she lived to see sixty of her posterity."

The Church of St. Lawrence consists of a nave with twelfth-century arcade of four arches on the north side, a north aisle and western tower

of four stages, and an Early English chancel. The tower is a fine example of fifteenth-century work. There was originally a spire, but it was taken down in 1750. The north aisle was widened in the fourteenth century. The chancel has a fine east window of three separate lancet lights. The sedilia are quite new.

On the summit of Penyard Hill are the remains of a castle which belonged to the Talbots of Goodrich. They had also a manor house at Eccleswall near Weston. "Penyard Pence" were made here. They bore a cross moline with a pellet in the four quarters.

On their return to Ross the party visited "Bollitree Castle," a farm with a castellated residence, and buildings into which have been inserted doorways, corbels, and other architectural details of considerable interest. One door bears the date 1627. It is said by some that these mediæval remains were brought from the Talbot Castle on Penyard, by others that they were brought from Bristol. The house belonged to the Merricks.

Bollitree has been generally accepted as the site of the Roman station of Ariconium. According to the thirteenth Itinerary a Roman road crossed the Severn at Glevum (Gloucester) and ran north-west to the town of Ariconium (Bollitree on Weston), thence by the banks of the Wye to Blestium (Monmouth), Burrium (Usk), and Isca (Caerleon).

The distances are given from Isca as Burrium IX miles, Blestium XI miles, Ariconium XI miles, Glevum XV miles.

Late in the eighteenth century Mr. Hopkins Merrick, owner of Bollitree, found traces of a Roman town, which he said extended over nearly all his land. Silver and bronze Roman coins have been found here, from Claudius to Constantius, lamps, bronze figures, fibulæ, etc. At Aston Ingham, in 1855, 2,000 Roman coins were found packed in two chests.

Over a gateway leading to a garden is a shield, on which may be the arms of Merrick, *i.e.* *Azure a fesse wavy, in chief two estoiles or.*

After lunch the carriages were again taken for a visit to Much Marcle. This manor belonged successively to King Harold, William the Conqueror, Roger de Lacy, and Wyncbald de Balun and his descendants. In 1292 the de Audleys obtained it by marriage with an heiress of the last de Balun. Then the Walwyns held it from *c.* 1390 to 1667, when it came to the Nobles, who lived at a mansion house in the parish called Helens. Sir Edward de Mortimer held another manor and had a castellated residence fifty yards north of the church. In the time of Edward IV Much Marcle became Crown property, and was given in dowry to Elizabeth of York, Queen of Henry VII, and to Katherine Parr, the last Queen of Henry VIII. In 1548 it was granted to Thomas Crawley, and soon after was bought by the Kyrles, of Homme House.



Phot. by Dr. Oscar Clark.

MUCH MARCLE CHURCH.



Phot. by Dr. Oscar Clark.

RUDHALL.

The Church of St. Bartholomew, Much Marcle, is built on the site of a church which existed before the Norman Conquest. The present church consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a central tower, and a chancel with the Kyrle Chapel on the north side. The Early English north and south arcades have some beautiful carving on the capitals of the east responds. There is a wooden effigy of a civilian in the south aisle. This is described by Dr. Fryer in his delightful work on wooden effigies.

In the chancel there is an altar-tomb with the recumbent figure of a lady. The escutcheons of Grandison and Mortimer show that she was Blanch, daughter of the notorious Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, who lived in the time of Edward II. She married Peter de Grandison, son of William de Grandison and Sybil Tregoz. He was seized of the Manors of Dymock and Oxenhall in Gloucestershire and Etone and Arpertone in Herefordshire, etc., and died 32 Edward III.

In the Kyrle Chapel are recumbent figures of Sir John Kyrle resting on a marble altar-tomb, and another altar-tomb with effigies of Hugh, Lord Audley and Isolda, his wife.

This Lord Audley was father of Hugh, Earl of Gloucester, who married Margaret, one of the co-heiresses of Gilbert, Earl of Clare. Isolda was the widow of Walter de Balun. Her second husband, Lord Audley, seems to have died about the end of the reign of Edward II. Isolda died in 1336.

From Much Marcle the party drove on to Rudhall. This delightful mansion was for several centuries the residence of the Rudhalls and their descendants, the Westfalings. It was erected in the time of Henry VII by Mr. Sergeant Rudhall, whose tomb in Ross Church has been described. The barge boards and other woodwork are elaborately carved with the initials of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin; the Tudor cognizances, the red and white rose and a crown between two portcullises; the badge of Arthur, Prince of Wales, a plume of feathers encircled by the Garter; and the arms of Rudhall, *Or, on a bend azure three Catharine wheels argent*, and Milborne, *Gules, a chevron between three escalopes argent*.

There was a chapel dedicated to St. Catharine, the patron saint of the Rudhalls, but it has disappeared. The gardens are beautifully laid out and contain the base and shaft of a fourteenth-century cross.

The owner, H. Child, Esq., and Mrs. Child, at some inconvenience to themselves, courteously invited the members of the Society to visit Rudhall, and Mr. Child gave us information about the house and its earlier owners. Mrs. Child most kindly provided afternoon tea for our members.

The great bell-founders of Gloucester, the Rudhalls, are supposed

to have been a branch of the family who took their name from this place. The earliest known bell from their foundry is one at Oddington, inscribed "Abraham Riddall, 1684." The foundry was closed in 1828, and the business, which was bought by Messrs. Mears, was transferred to London. Mr. Thomas Bond, of Burford, wrote in 1908 to tell me that he had a list of bells which had been made by the Rudhalls, up to Lady Day, 1788. Many of the family are buried in Gloucester Cathedral, as may be seen by their monuments.

Rudhall probably takes its name from a rood or cross, perhaps from the cross the base and shaft of which are preserved in the garden.