

The history of the remaining part of the church is well known from the register of Bishop Alnwyke, quoted by our local historians; from which it appears that the tower and chancel were built about the year 1444.

I have thus endeavoured to lessen the hiatus which exists in the history of S. Margaret's Church, between the time of "Domesday Book" and the register of Bishop Alnwyke, so far as a careful examination of the simple yet characteristic details of the building will permit; and I have also endeavoured to explain the architectural problem by an historical parallel, which accounts for the tradition that Robert Bossu built part of this church. In conclusion, permit me to remark upon the wide field into which the enquiry has introduced us: we step at once, by the help of these apparently unimportant stones, into the province of universal history: we pass in review the first Christian edifice which arose here in the remote and barbarous ages of our country: we account for its disappearance by the savage and successive ravages of the heathen Danes; for its rebuilding after the Norman Conquest; and for its partial destruction during and in consequence of the feudal times; and these are all matters of universal interest,—interest which cannot fail to derive additional importance to us from being thus localized; whilst, at the same time, the veneration we owe the fabric cannot fail to be increased from being thus palpably connected with some of the most important events which have occurred in the history of the world.

GENERAL MEETING AT LUTTERWORTH.

26th and 27th September, 1861.

THE REV. J. P. MARRIOTT, President.

To a casual observer Lutterworth might appear to offer few attractions to claim the visit of the members of an Architectural and Archæological Society. It is a small market town on the banks of a small river, the Swift, which soon discharges itself into its better known neighbour the Avon. Its ancient hospital has long since passed away, and there is, apparently, nothing to attract the attention of the visitor but its church, and even that is robbed of much of its dignity, symmetry, and beauty by the loss of its noble spire. These are the impressions upon the mind of a mere passer-by. To the thoughtful observer, to the antiquary, to the student of history, in short, to every one feeling the least interest in the antecedents of the locality, the town of Lutterworth, and more

especially its neighbourhood, offer suggestions, and evidences at once valuable and interesting.

Possessing neither the Baron's Castle, nor the Abbey, Priory, or even Monastery of the Church, Lutterworth does not appear upon the pages of mediæval history so prominently as do some other towns of no greater magnitude in this county. It appears in Domesday-Book under the name of *Lutresurde*. Soon after the Norman Conquest the manor of Lutterworth passed into the hands of the Verdon family, Nicholas of that name founding there, in the reign of King John, a hospital dedicated to S. John the Baptist, for one priest and six poor men, and also endowing it with means to "keep hospitality for poor men travelling that way." This Hospital stood adjoining to lands in the parish of Misterton called the Warren, being divided from the town of Lutterworth by the river. At the dissolution of the monasteries this hospital was sold, and the lands and mills leased to the Faunts. There are now no remains of the ancient fabric standing. About the middle of the fourteenth century the manor of Lutterworth appears to have passed by marriage into the family of Ferrers of Groby. Sir William Ferrers de Groby, in 1414, obtained the grant of a fair at Lutterworth, to be holden upon Ascension-day, whence it was called Lord Ferrers' holiday: it is also said he at the same time obtained a grant of a weekly market. From the Ferrers' family the manor passed to the Greys, and from them—upon the attainder of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk—through the crown, after some lapse of time, to the corporation of London, who, in the year 1629, sold it to Basil Feilding, Esq., whose family had from ancient time been connected with Lutterworth, and which family, in the person of the present Earl of Denbigh, is now in possession of the manor.

The church of Lutterworth, both as a building, and from its intimate connection with Wycliffe, the "Morning Star of the Reformation," will always claim earnest attention, but neither the edifice nor the man whose name will ever be associated with it, must here receive more than this cursory allusion, because the remarks of Mr. Bloxam, and others, upon these interesting topics will be given hereafter; after reading which, it will be seen that Lutterworth is not without strong claims upon our attention and study, and not an unfit place for a visit from the members of an Archæological Society. If this may be said of the town of Lutterworth, much more may be said of its neighbourhood. It is situated near to the Watling Street, that great Roman road constructed by the early conquerors and civilizers of this country, to enable them to extend their conquests and hold their new acquisitions,—it is within an easy walk of Claybrooke, which, whether it were anciently the great Roman city as described by Burton or not, was unquestionably a Roman station, evidences of which from time to time are being thrown up by the earth in the shape of coins, &c., &c. High Cross,

too, where the Fosse and the Watling Street intersect each other, is not far distant; while, on the other side of Lutterworth, the Roman Tripontium is within easy access. It will thus be seen that this is a large field for the enquirer into the Roman history of this country, and no barren field either, as will be seen from the very many Roman antiquities found in the neighbourhood and exhibited at Lutterworth. Neither is it the Roman period of our history alone which this neighbourhood brings before the curious visitor, mediæval times—the “dark ages”—are not without their tokens in the many beautiful churches adorning the landscape in this locality, and the works of art they contain, monuments alike to the piety and the artistic skill of their founders and builders; Misterton and Stanford churches, for instance, may be cited, as speaking, in eloquent silence, of the times which saw their rise, and which certainly bid us pause and well consider before we speak with too much certainty of that “darkness” for which the period of their erection has become so proverbial. Then, again, in Theddingworth church—within the limits of a day’s excursion—we have a proof that the old spirit of self-sacrifice, and of reverence and esteem for God’s house, is still alive in this country, and that the architectural skill, and the taste for the beautiful, which so distinguished the church builders in the middle ages, is not now lost, but these shine forth in a manner at once pleasing and heart cheering, not only to the man of taste, but to all who wish to see the services of the Church conducted in buildings at once worthy of Him who is there worshipped, and of the Church whose time-honoured Offices are therein performed; and for those whose tastes lead them to contemplate the stern realities of life,—the rise and fall of men and the things of men,—the Field of Naseby offers a rich page of history. Such being the attractions of Lutterworth and its neighbourhood members would learn with satisfaction of the intended visit of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society there, on the days indicated above.*

The proceedings were opened on Thursday, the 26th of September, by a meeting of the Committee of the Society in the ante-room of the Town Hall, when the following new members were elected:—The Revs. J. P. Marriott, rector of Cottesbach; John Halford, of Wistow; H. K. Richardson, rector of Leire, and rural dean; M. Cochan, of Dunton Bassett; Thomas Cox, of Kimcote Rectory; H. Fox, of Lutterworth; Thomas Watson, Esq., and Messrs. Charles Burdett, W. Footman, Charles J. Lea, G. S. Wardley, of Lutterworth, and Mr. Joseph Goddard (architect), Leicester. The Rev. J. O. Stuart was elected an honorary member.

* This introduction to the formal report of the Proceedings at this Meeting was furnished at the time by the Hon. Secretary to a local newspaper, and is now reprinted.

LUTTERWORTH CHURCH.

SHORTLY after twelve o'clock, a large party assembled in the Parish Church, to hear Mr. M. H. Bloxam's extemporaneous account of the fabric and its contents.*

MISTERTON CHURCH.

AFTER a short interval, a large party of ladies and gentlemen, headed by Mr. Bloxam proceeded over the fields to Misterton, crossing on their way the little river Swift into which the ashes of the first English Reformer were cast, after his dead body had been exhumed and burnt, to show the blind and impotent fanaticism of his enemies. The distance of Misterton from Lutterworth is one mile, over a rich undulating country, studded with good ash timber; the appearance of the fine broach spire, as the church is approached, is extremely picturesque. Upon entering the edifice, Mr. Bloxam remarked that it,—that is the nave and two aisles—like Lutterworth, was built in the fourteenth century. The chancel being, as was very apparent, of a later period. The appearance of the church, after Lutterworth, was quite refreshing, being much more in its original state, there being no galleries, and many of the open seats of the fifteenth century being still preserved. The arches of the nave were without any capitals, an occurrence not at all uncommon in the fifteenth and previous century. The hood and all the mouldings in the church were remarkably good. The south aisle was formerly a chantry chapel, divided from the nave by a handsome screen, large portions of the lower part of which were left; the founder was buried under an archway at the side. The piscina was still remaining, and some small pieces of good stained glass of the fourteenth century, coeval with the church, were well worth attention. On the south side of the church was pointed out the doorway and staircase leading to the "Domus inclusus," or chamber, over the south porch (still existing), which was formerly the residence of a recluse. The open seats of the fifteenth century were specimens of good carving, and all required careful examination, many being richly decorated with armorial bearings and religious emblems and devices, such as the five wounds, &c., &c. The base of the rood-loft was inspected, and the entrances to it, below and above pointed out. A handsome altar tomb, in the church, attracted much attention. It commemorates "Mychel Pulteney, Esquire," who, dying in 1577, has the usual termination to monumental inscriptions, prevalent during the predominance of

* As the account then given was more elaborated in the Paper read by that gentleman at the evening meeting, and which is given hereafter, it is unnecessary to preserve his remarks here.

Roman Catholic opinions, thus qualified upon his tomb, "On whose soule the Lorde *hathe* taken mercy."

THE MUSEUM.

At one o'clock the temporary museum at the Town Hall was opened to the public. Its contents were of a varied character; the space at the disposal of the Committee prevented the display of all the objects offered for exhibition, but it will be seen from an abstract given below that the tables were covered with articles of considerable value and beauty, and that a variety of objects of great local and general interest were collected together, speaking well for the good conservative spirit of the neighbourhood—by conservative spirit is meant a due regard and care for all objects illustrative of the daily lives of our forefathers, and of the circumstances under which they lived.

Among the chief contributors to the museum, and from the large collection of objects exhibited the following are noted:—

- By the EARL OF DENBIGH: Letters written by, or addressed to, the members of the Feilding family during the time of William and Basil, the two first Earls of Denbigh, 2 MS. vols. folio. Letters and other papers chiefly addressed to, or written by the Earl of Denbigh during the civil wars, 2 MS. vols. folio. Portrait of the Countess of Desmond, taken at the age of 121; she died aged 140; she danced with Richard III. as a young person, and she has left record that he was not humpbacked; artist unknown. Portrait of Queen Anne Boleyn, by Hölbein. Portrait of Sir Robert Cotton, founder of the Cottonian Library; artist unknown. Portrait of Mary, Countess of Denbigh, wife of Basil, sixth Earl, and daughter of Sir Robert Cotton, drawn in chalks by Sir Thomas Lawrence when he was thirteen years old. The lady was staying at the Inn at Devizes, and the innkeeper's wife asked her to sit to her little boy; hence the portrait. Alleged portrait of Wycliffe; artist unknown. Portrait of the Infanta of Spain, by Balthazar Gerbier, brought over to England by Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, when sent to Spain to negotiate the proposed marriage of the Infanta with Prince Charles—afterward Charles I. of England. The dagger with which Felton stabbed the Duke of Buckingham, 23rd August, 1628, given by the Duke's valet to the first Lady Denbigh, the Duke's sister.
- By MR. M. H. BLOXAM: First Edition of Robinson Crusoe, 1719, 8vo. 2 vols., very rare. Sir Thomas Lawrence, when a boy, drawn by himself. Portrait of Thomas Wilson, son of the Bishop of Sodor and Man; Paul Veronese. Portrait of a lady (*temp.* Mary); Michael Angelo. Anglo-Saxon beads from the Watling Street. Anglo-Saxon sepulchral remains, from near Brentford-bridge, Warwickshire. Anglo-Saxon fibula, &c. Roman remains and glass from Caves Inn. Key found in a grave six feet deep at Irby-upon-Humber, placed upon the breastbone of a corpse of great stature. Roman steelyard weight found near Combe Abbey. Roman bull's head and key of

bronze found at Princethorpe. Ancient bronze dagger (Celtic period). Irish celts, primitive type. Palstrave, secondary form. Celt-loop-eyed or tertiary form of celt. Socketed spear head. Ancient celtic bronze sword.

- By H. PAYNE, Esq. (Leicester) alleged portrait of Wycliffe.
- By the REV. J. H. HILL: The portraiture of his sacred Majesty Charles I., 12mo., 1649. Mastin's History of Naseby, with engravings, &c. Light of a painted glass window representing the first act of mercy, "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat," by Lavers, London. Engraving of Charles I. from Vandyke's celebrated picture. Engraving of Henrietta Maria, from a painting by Vandyke. These engravings hung for many years in the parsonage at Naseby. Engravings of Gaston de Foix and Admiral de Biron, from the collection of the late Cosmo Neville, Esq. Bombshell found at Naseby forty years ago, when the parish was enclosed. Ancient spur ploughed up at Arnesby, Lincolnshire, where the royalist troops were defeated by Cromwell in 1642. Early bayonet, found at Goooston. Skillett or trulla of bronze, the handle perforated with a trefoil for suspension. Handle of a vessel of bronze with the figure of a youth. Elegant striated handle of a Roman vessel found at Hallaton. Upper portion of a præfericulum or jug, of fine workmanship, with a band of foliated ornaments round the neck. Straight reeded handle of a patera of bronze terminating in a ram's head. Three Roman vessels, called Lachrymatories, or Unguentaria, used as receptacles for perfumes, or some other usual accompaniments of a funeral deposit. Hand bricks or props, found in Orby-in-the-Marsh, Lincolnshire, under a marine alluvial deposit at the depth of four feet: these bricks were used in the manufacture of hardware. Series of photographs of stained glass windows.
- By MR. W. JACKSON (architect, Leicester): Pen and ink, and other architectural drawings.
- By the REV. CANON JAMES: Two oriental swords and shields. Engraved antique gem. Gold medal of Fairfax. Silver Buddhist symbol. Two oriental jugs, silver and gold. Impression of mediæval seal. Silver counter of Charles and Henrietta. Two battle axes. Illuminated MS. copy of Koran, Persic.
- By the REV. J. P. MARRIOTT: Roman and English coins. Encaustic tiles, and head of a figure in chain armour upon glass, from Cottesbach Church. Anglo Saxon spear from Watling Street. British bolt or axe head from Cottesbach. Anglo Saxon fibulæ, clasps, dice, beads, &c. Anglo Saxon boss of shield from Watling Street. Roman flue tiles. Roman pottery found in a gravel pit near Caves' Inn. Fragments of Saxon ware. Roman amphoræ, or urn vessels. MS. copy of the works of Wycliffe, collected in the last century.
- By MR. H. GODDARD (architect, Leicester): Bible presented by Cromwell to the officers of the parliamentary troops, 1653, 24mo. Thomas à Kempis' works, 1659. Two very handsome antique gold watches. Silver watch found near Prince's Risborough, Bucks., the residence of Edward the Black Prince, "The Annunciation" on the lid, "The walk to Emmaus" on the back. Tortoiseshell box inlaid with silver. Boxes carved in ebony, eighteenth century. Vinegarette, carved upon the nut of a species of the palm (*temp.* Charles I.). Ancient

- key found at Wilmslow, Cheshire, 1840. Ancient keys. Old bronze. Silver spoon (hall mark 1600). Clay crucifix found in Bosworth churchyard. Roman lachrymatories, very fine. Memorial of Charles I., formerly in the possession of the Digby family (bronze). Two oval triptychs. Roman fibula found in Leicester. Early British bone ornaments and celt. Fragments of bronze from Leicester. Roman scissors found in Leicester.
- By the REV. A. POWNALL: Facsimile of the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots. A fine collection of English coins. Kemmeridge coal money. Dish of Palissy ware. Impression of the Great Seal of England, *temp.* Edward III., 1327-1377. Cross of the Order of S. Benedict. English, Roman, and foreign coins and medals. Medal of Queen Anne. Mite of James I., 1603. Coins found in the neighbourhood of Lutterworth. Medal of Augustus Adolphus. Sword ploughed up at Naseby. Roman Stylus.
- By DR. GOODACRE: Views of ancient buildings in Leicestershire. Dixon's Geology of Sussex, London, 1850, 4to. Purchas's Directorium Anglicanum, 1858, 4to. Father Tiber.
- By T. B. GOODACRE, Esq.: Model of the Portland vase. Model of Coton font. Bronze key, fourteenth century, found in a field near High Cross, in 1859. Armlet, dug up at Newton. Portion of a Roman composite millstone. Bronze patera. Pocket book, with clasp, and portrait of the late Queen of France. Ring, supposed to have been a Queen's pledge, from Henrietta Maria, to some one for money borrowed. Model of the Warwick vase.
- By the Rev. T. SANKEY: Breeches' Bible. Latimer's Sermons. Ancient missal. Early newspaper.
- By the Rev. H. K. RICHARDSON: Ancient album, on vellum, with water colour paintings. Venetian glass of the sixteenth century. Silver medallion of Charles I., on tortoiseshell.
- By the Rev. H. COCKIN: Alabaster statues of S. Andrew and S. Catherine from Glastonbury Abbey. Ancient kettle and lamp. Ladies' dresses. Incense pan. Mounted drinking horn. Earthenware mug, bearing the inscription "A. Pope."
- By the Rev. M. COCKIN: Snuffers and stand, formerly in the possession of the Company of Soap Makers. Agate handled knife and fork. Facsimile in lithograph of certain rolls brought from Herculaneum. Box of lava from Mount Vesuvius. Silver plate of the seventeenth century.
- By T. WATSON, Esq.: Charter of Philip le Lardiner to his father, of messuage and land at Melton, near York, 1286. Charter of the twelfth century, granted by John de Deane to the monks of Combe Abbey, of the mill at Wlwich (Willey). Pistol barrel from Naseby.
- By the Rev. T. COX: Needle book used by Queen Elizabeth. Ancient watch belonging to a Queen of Bohemia, taken as spoil in battle.
- By the Rev. E. WOODCOCK: Brass rubbing of Sir Roger de Trumington, 1289; of Richard de Buslingthorpe, 1289; of a knight from Croft Church, 1360; of Lawrence de St. Maw, from Higham Ferrers Church, 1337; and of Robert Braund, merchant of Lynn, with his two wives, 1364, the feast of peacocks at the bottom.
- By T. NEVINSON, Esq.: Brass rubbings of Abbot Delamere, from S. Alban's Abbey, and of various brasses in Stoke D'Aubernon, Cobham, and other churches.

- By the REV. J. E. COLYER: Rubbings of brasses, viz.: Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin; Thomas Goodrick, Bishop of Ely; Adam de Bacon, Henry Sever, priests; Sir John de Creke and lady, Westly Waterless, 1320; Sir Robert Staunton and lady; Philip de Byschoppe; two rubbings from a monument in Welmore Church to the memory of Captain Hodges, who was killed at the siege of Antwerp, 1563.
- By Mr. MILLS: Madrigal book, dedicated to Lord Feilding, 1637. Portion of a waistcoat worn by James I.
- By the HON. MRS. RICHARDSON: Testament and Prayer Book, 1628, 24mo.
- By the REV. R. WILLAN: MS. Bible of the twelfth century.
- By MR. JOHN DEAKINS: Theory of the earth, by Thomas Bunet, 1584. Leicester Castle, by James Thompson, 1865. Book of Devotions (*temp.* James I.) Quarle. Speed's England and Wales. Facsimile of the death warrant of Charles I.
- By MR. WARDLEY: Watercolour drawing of the house in which Latimer was born.
- By MR. H. D. DUDGEON: Sketch of Foston Church. Sketch of Dunkelk. Drawings of Kelso Abbey.
- By T. CLARKE, Esq., F.S.A.: Ancient carving of the Crucifixion, dug from under the altar of S. Peter's, Isle of Thanet. Arm plate of Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Audley.
- By W. FOOTMAN, Esq.: Oriental dagger, with silver sheath.
- By W. ELTON, Esq.: Russian helmet, plate, bullet, and part of the wall of Sebastopol.
- By MR. J. C. STYLES: Pieces of China from the old hall of Lubbenham, where Charles I. slept prior to the battle of Naseby, supposed to have been used by that monarch.
- By W. JOHNSON, Esq.: Gold ring found at Cropwell Butler, with an inscription in Norman French.
- By H. RODGERS, Esq.: Ring found at Gilmorton, having an inscription, "the King's gift" (Charles I. to some royalist).
- By J. S. SHACKLEFORD, Esq.: Silver seal. Arms of the Shuckburgh family. Sword used at Edge-hill by Sir Richard Shuckburgh. Sword ploughed up at Naseby.
- By the REV. P. WILSON: Metal struck to commemorate the death of Sir Thomas Overbury.
- By W. G. ASHBY, Esq.: Horns used in calling in the cattle of Naseby. Horse shoe and twelve bullets found at Naseby.
- By G. C. NEALE, Esq.: Carving in ivory, triumph of Neptune. Cannon ball from Naseby.
- By G. A. ASHBY, Esq.: Encaustic tiles from Naseby Church.
- By MR. HUNT: Sword and crossbow from Bosworth Field. Sword from Naseby. Ancient church key.
- By — ARNOLD, Esq.: Roman sword, dug up in Watling Street Road.
- By MR. WALTER IVENS: Ancient images and lamp. Jewish inkstand and penholder.
- By the HON. C. L. BUTLER: Coins from Caves' Inn.
- By MR. KILPACK: Nichols' Leicestershire, Guthlaxton Hundred. Cannon ball from Naseby.
- By MR. TOMLINSON: Bible, 1626.
- By the CHURCHWARDENS OF LUTTERWORTH: Fox's Book of Martyrs,

1631. Altar cloth and candlesticks stated to be of Wycliffe's time from Lutterworth Church.
- By MRS. EVANS: Silver coffee pot and sugar bason. Apex stone from Lutterworth spire, which fell in 1703.
- By MR. JOHNSON: Various models.
- By MR. S. HALES: Two ornaments from the Emperor of China's summer palace.
- By MR. SUPERINTENDENT DEAKINS: Two monumental brasses formerly in Lutterworth Church.*
- By GEORGE HOLYOAKE, ESQ.: Cannon ball found in Lutterworth Field.
- By REV. E. ELMHIRST: Mediæval fetterlock.
- By MRS. BONSOR: Lady's dress.
- By MR. C. J. LEA: Cornice for nave roof of Middlehurst Church. Boss and moulding, forming panelled roof from Astbury (*temp.* Henry VIII.). Decorative drawings for S. Alban's Church, Rochdale.
- By MRS. GAMBLE: Needlework, 1655.
- By MISS NEWCOMBE: Needlework.
- By CAPTAIN ASHBY: Seal ploughed up at Broadmore, near Naseby. A twenty shilling piece found at Naseby.
- A series of the publications of the Arundel Society; the Rev. T. James. Mr. Hollier (Hinckley), also exhibited various articles.

In the afternoon, the REV. E. W. WOODCOCK, of Thurmaston, read a short Paper descriptive of the numerous rubbings of monumental brasses adorning the Town Hall, to a large and attentive audience. The following is an epitome of his address:—

THE BRASSES OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

I HAVE the pleasure this afternoon to address you on the subject of Monumental Brasses—what I have to say will, I must premise, chiefly refer to those of the fourteenth century. The subject without that limitation would, even if an outline only were attempted, be too considerable for the time to which I am restricted. Brasses, I venture to hope, will for all future time remain a matter of interest in this country: they are records of English men and English women, who have long passed away, of whose habits and feelings we know but very little. This is especially true of the brasses of this period, for in the fourteenth century oil painting had hardly become understood, and printing was unknown. The sovereigns on the throne of England during the time of which I

* It should be recorded that the two monumental brasses mentioned above as being formerly in Lutterworth Church, were stolen from thence on the night of Sunday, 28th August, 1854. The thief was afterwards captured and convicted. The brasses had been broken to pieces, but thanks to Mr. Superintendent Deakins and his police, every piece has been recovered—some being found at Atherstone, some at Nunaton, Bedworth, Hinckley, and on the road near High Cross; the result being that both the brasses as perfect as when they were stolen (except the fractures) were exhibited in the Museum. It is due to Mr. Deakins that all interested in such matters should know the care and pains he took in the matter. T. N.