

January 26th, 1886.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

was held in the Library of the Guild Hall, Leicester,

THE REV. J. E. STOCKS in the chair.

A letter of apology for his non-attendance was read from the Venerable the Archdeacon of Leicester; and resignations were received from Messrs. G. B. Franklin and A. Wykes.

It was resolved that a drawing of the leaden Plaque exhibited by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Leicester, together with his account of the same, and the Rev. J. S. Watson's paper entitled "On a book of the fifteenth century, a specimen of early printing, with some remarks on the type then used," be published in the forthcoming volume of the Associated Societies' Reports and Papers. Also that a drawing of the Memorial Brass erected by the Society to the memory of the late Thomas North, Esq., F.S.A., be published in this Society's Transactions.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:

Major George Paynter, J.P., Eaton, Grantham; Mr. George Spawton Catlow, Wyggeston's School, Leicester; and Mr. Matthew Pearson, of Frisby-on-the-Wreake.

The Vice-Presidents, Committee, Excursion Committee, and Auditor were re-elected.

VOTES of thanks were passed to the Committee, Officers of the Society, and Auditor, for their services during the past year; to the Mayor of Leicester for the use of the Library for Meetings; and to the Press for reporting the proceedings of the Society.

The Report of the Committee, and the audited Financial Statement for the past year, were adopted and passed as follows:—

THE REPORT.

IN placing before the Members of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society the Thirty-first Annual Report, it is again necessary to mention, first of all, the great loss which the Society has sustained in the deaths of Mr. Frederick Webster Ordish and Dr. John Hunt. Mr. Ordish was elected a Member on the 9th of September, 1856. The last work on which he was engaged was the beautiful design of a memorial brass recently erected by this Society to the memory of the late Thomas North, Esq., F.S.A., in St. Martin's Church. Dr. Hunt, for many years, was a constant attendant at both Meetings and Excursions, and although for the last few years ill health prevented his coming amongst us, he always took the liveliest interest in the Society's welfare. During the past year the memorial brass to the memory of the late Thomas North, Esq., has been engraved by Messrs. Elgood at a cost of £35.

It is hoped that a drawing of the brass will be published in the Society's Transactions.

The following Papers have been read during the past year:—1. *Dean Swift's Mother*, by the Rev. W. G. DIMOCK FLETCHER; 2. *A Biographical Notice of the late Thomas North, Esq., F.S.A.*, also by the Rev. W. G. DIMOCK FLETCHER; 3. *Danish Place Names in Leicestershire*, by Mr. THOMAS CARTER, L.L.B.; and 4. *On a Book of the Fifteenth Century, a specimen of Early Printing, with Some Remarks on the type then used*, by the Rev. J. S. WATSON. It is much to be hoped that next year more Papers will be read by Members, the titles of which should be sent to Mr. Freer at least one week before the Meeting. Among the interesting objects exhibited at the bi-monthly Meetings may be mentioned a silver tankard, seventeenth century, given to Admiral Cramp by Peter the Great; a collection of Saxon beads, found at Saddington; a leaden plaque of the sixteenth century, a fuller account of which will be found in our Transactions; two ivory plaques of the seventeenth century; and several valuable coins and medals. The Committee deeply regret the demolition of *Westcotes* which has recently taken place, in spite of their efforts to induce the owner to preserve it. The following resolution was passed at the Meeting in March, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Harris:—"That this Meeting learns with much regret that it is intended to pull down *Westcotes*, and most earnestly requests its present owner not to destroy the only remaining historical mansion in Leicester." A large piece of Roman pavement was discovered near the river in Blackfriars Street, not far from, and possibly a portion of the Roman villa, part of which is in existence in sites in Jewry Wall Street, further particulars of which will be published in due course.

The new church of *St. John the Baptist, Knighton*, erected by Miss Barlow, of Leicester, at a cost of £8,000—the site and fittings, costing £2,500, having been raised by the parish—was consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough, on September 17th. The church was built from the designs of Messrs. Goddard and Paget, of Leicester. The exterior of this church has the massive and somewhat severe aspect of churches in the north of France that were built in the early part of the thirteenth century. The general materials of the walls are bright red sandbrick from Woodville, and this is relieved by an abundant use of Westwood stone for the arches, jambs, strings, bands, weatherings, copings, and the faces of all buttresses. The roof is covered with red Broseley tiles, and surmounted by a leaden *flèche*. The windows are plain lancets, or consist of plate tracery, and are filled with pale cathedral glass in small squares. There are two public entrances on the north side, and one at the west end. The north-west and west doorways open into a narthex, divided from the nave by an arcade of fine pointed arches, and spanned by cross arches carrying the stone floor of a gallery above. The walls are lined internally with white Whitwick bricks, banded with buff, from Ruabon; the stone is from Corsham Downs. The cross section of the church presents some unusual features. An arcade is carried along each side of the nave, supported by circular stone pillars with a slender shaft attached. Each arcade has an upper range of lofty pointed arches, which rise almost to the springing of the roof, and at a lower level an equal number of flat segmental arches, which carry the floor and parapet of a gallery or triforium, that runs round the church. The outer wall of the gallery on each side contains lofty two-light windows. Beneath the gallery floor, this wall is carried on circular stone pillars and segmental arches, similar to those already mentioned, and these arches open into a narrow ambulatory outside the main walls. The galleries in continuation of the triforia project into the chancel on each side, and are carried by screen walls finished with an enriched stone parapet. The piscina, credence table, and sedilia are in the south screen near the east end, and are of fine alabaster, as is also the font. At the west end of the north chancel-screen, and facing the nave, is the pulpit. This is of stone, and an integral part of the

fabric, and is of suitable height for a preacher to command the galleries." The organ-chamber is behind the north gallery of the chancel, and on a level with it. The clergy vestry is placed beneath the organ-chamber, and the vestries for choristers adjoin the chancel. The east end consists of an outer and inner wall, with a space of four feet between them. This space is occupied on the ground floor by the ambulatory, and on a higher level by a continuation of the gallery, both of which make the complete circuit of the church. The roofs are simple in design and constructed in red deal, left unstained and without decoration. The passages are laid with oak blocks, and the spaces with blocks of red deal. The chancel steps are of red Devonshire marble, and the spaces are filled with glass mosaic. The nave is provided with fixed benches of pitch-pine, stained dark. Chairs will be used in other parts of the church. There is a range of large capitals to the upper tier of arches of the nave, and the chancel arch springs from similar capitals. These have been excellently cut by Mr. Harry Hems, of Exeter, in the bold, yet delicate style of the period. The capitals and responds of the narthex, the font, sedilia, credence table, and stalls are also carved. The total internal length of the church from east to west is 132 feet, and the width across the nave, aisles, and ambulatories 50 ft. 9 in. The height from the floor of the nave to the ridge is 60 ft., and to the top of nave 90 ft. At *Ashby Folville* the chancel has been re-floored, and the east window and six others re-glazed with coloured glass. *St. Peter's Church, Braunstone*, was re-opened on the 29th of June, by Bishop Mitchinson. The nave and chancel have been re-seated and re-floored, and the tower arch has been thrown open. At *Kirby Bellars* the church was re-opened on July 9th. The roof has been thoroughly repaired, the interior walls pointed, and the floor repaired with wood. The tower, south aisle, and porch are, however, still unrestored. In *Leicester* a vicarage house has been built at *St. Nicholas'*, and two Roman pillars found in Holy-bones have been placed in the churchyard; and at *St. Saviour's* the west windows have been filled with stained glass as a memorial to the Rev. F. P. B. N. Hutton, the first vicar. Two new stained glass windows have been placed in the chancel of *St. Peter's Church*. The new church of *St. Barnabas*, in the parish of *Humberstone*, is in course of erection, and will shortly be consecrated. The architects are Messrs. Goddard and Paget. The foundation stone of *St. Michael's, Belgrave*, was laid last autumn by the Bishop of Peterborough. The architect is Mr. Vials. At *Melton Mowbray* £400 has been raised by subscription, and the roof of the north transept of this grand old church has been thoroughly repaired. The whole roof is now in thorough order. The work has been carried out under the supervision of Mr. J. Thompson, of Peterborough. The tower of *Queniborough Church* has been repaired, and the church at *Somerby* has been restored at a cost of nearly £700. The Committee congratulate the Society upon having secured the able services of the Rev. Wm. Geo. Dimock Fletcher as Editorial Secretary, and hope that he will for many years continue to fill that responsible position.

In pursuance of a Resolution passed at the May Meeting, the Annual Excursion to *Lichfield* took place on the 26th of June last, when a fair number of members and their friends went to Lichfield by the 10.15 train. On arrival the party visited *St. Chad's Church*, where they inspected the repairs then going on, and after luncheon at the George the members went to the *Cathedral*, where they were met by the Rev. Canon Lonsdale, who kindly went round the building and minutely pointed out the chief objects of interest. They also inspected the remains of the *Grey Friars*, the *Hospital of St. John the Baptist*, *Dr. Johnson's House and Monument*, and *Mr. Bridgeman's Sculpture Works*. The excursion was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part in it.

standing when the field was Abbey land. The accompanying deed is remarkable as being signed on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster, by *Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury*, and now that another Cecil, Marquis of Salisbury, is Prime Minister of England, it may be of interest to see the signature of his illustrious ancestor.

March 29th, 1886.

THE REV. J. H. HILL, F.S.A., in the chair.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By THE VEN. ARCHDEACON POWNALL (through the Hon. Secretary): A Spanish dollar, with the following remarks:—About two hundred years ago a Dutch vessel, named the *Haarlem*, laden with treasure, was running into Table Bay (Cape of Good Hope), during a storm, when she was wrecked, and went down in deep water with all on board. Last year, just about this time, Colonel Boyle, an officer on the Staff in the Queen's forces in that Colony, employed a diver to go down at the spot where the vessel sank, who presently brought to the surface a piece of conglomerate, which, when broken up, was found to contain ninety Spanish dollars similar to that which is exhibited now. All of them were the worse for their long detention under the sea, but this one is fairly legible. It bears the usual device on one side, a cross potent, in the quarters of which are the "castle" and "lion" (Castile and Leon), and on the other the two "pillars of Hercules," with the legend, *PLVS VLTRA*—an allusion to the South American possessions of Spain, which is said to have been first suggested to the Emperor Charles V. as a legend pertinent and significant. Judging by the workmanship the coin was probably struck in Peru rather than in Spain. Spanish dollars countermarked with a small head of George III., were used in England in the early part of this century, and passed as crown-pieces.

By the REV. C. HENTON WOOD: Several coins, including a token of "Walsall and Wedgebury," of 1656, a token of Nottingham of Thos. Burrowse, or Browse, of the seventeenth century, date defaced; two silver pennies of Henry III.; one small tradesman's token; a Nuremberg token; and eight small brass Roman coins.

By CAPTAIN WHITBY: Cast of ancient seal of Henry II., found in a ploughed field about thirty years ago, at Barnby-on-the-Moor, Yorkshire. The figure of the King on horseback with the legend *RX HENRICUS DUX NORMANORI ET AQUITANORI ET COMES ANDEGU.*

The seal is believed now to be in the British Museum. Also a fine pewter Communion flagon, dated 1747.

By the CHAIRMAN: Four ancient books—a Hebrew and Chaldee dictionary published at Bissill, in 1617, by Johannis Buxtorfs; a "Treatise on Melancholy," 1586, by T. Bright, M.D., printed by Vantrol; a book entitled "Benedicti Pererii Valentini e Societate Jesu," 1592, printed at Lugdum; and a book entitled "Locorum Communium S. Theologiæ," 1608, printed in London. These books formerly belonged to the Rev. Jno. Kendall, vicar of Thornton (1691), who married the daughter of Thos. Errick, of Frisby. The family of Kendall is of great antiquity in the county of Leicester, and is descended from John Kendall, of Twycross, *temp.* Henry VI.

By MR. G. C. NEALE. Two small ancient pictures in water colours on vellum, beautifully and very minutely executed, by Konig, Dutch School, representing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the Deluge; they were painted about the middle of the seventeenth century.

It was proposed that the Society should for their Annual Excursion this year visit the Cathedral and city of Lincoln, and that it should take place about the end of May or beginning of June. It was ultimately referred to the excursion Sub-Committee.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

May 31st, 1886.

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON POWNALL, F.S.A., in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary reported that no communication had been made with respect to the Annual Meeting; and it was decided that he should write to the Secretary of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society, and ascertain the date of their Meeting at Lincoln, and ask whether they could allow the Members of this Society to join them.

The CHAIRMAN read the following communication from Dr. Evans, President of the Society of Antiquaries, as to the preservation of the Court Rolls, and other Manorial Documents:—The vast amount of light which the ancient Court Rolls and other Deeds appertaining to the numerous manors in this country throw upon the habits and civilization, and the legal and social condition of its inhabitants, render them of great historical interest and importance. In questions of genealogy their value is self-evident; but in tracing out the development and gradual growth of those

institutions, under which this country has so long flourished, the aid that they may afford to the student can hardly be over-estimated. The importance of preserving such documents has not, however, been always apparent to those who have had them under their charge; and many a bundle of Rolls has been consigned to destruction merely because at the present day they have become obsolete as legal documents, have been difficult to decipher, or have cumbered the space at the disposal of their custodians. The Society of Antiquaries of London is anxious that steps should be taken, while yet there is time, for the preservation of Court Rolls and other Manorial Records, and is confident that if the attention of Lords and Stewards of Manors be called to the historical value of such documents they will readily assist in protecting them from injury, either by depositing them in some public repository, or preserving them with their other muniments.

It was RESOLVED that the Hon. Sec. communicate with the Society of Antiquaries for additional copies of the Memorandum, and forward them to the various Stewards of Manors in the county.

The CHAIRMAN alluded very feelingly to the recent loss the Society had sustained by the death of Captain Whitby, who was an active member of the Committee, and a frequent exhibitor at the meetings of the Society.

The following objects of interest were exhibited:—

By the REV. C. H. WOOD: An officer's gorget of the old Leicester or local Volunteers; copper, gold-plated, small in size, bearing L.V. in a circle over the Royal Arms (impaling France in second quarter and probably Hanover in fourth quarter), with the letters G.R. Also (on behalf of SHERRARD COLEMAN, Esq.): A curious pack of cards, with linen backs, the whole representing a satire on the South Sea Bubble. Each card bears in the top left-hand corner a small coloured playing card, with a legend of four lines of rude verse along the bottom, and a picture relating thereto; the words of the speakers being displayed on labels held in the hand. The pack is perfect, and calls to mind "Punch's" satire on the Railway Mania. Some few of the allusions are coarse, and in one or two the devil is introduced. The engravings remind me of the illustrations to an old copy of "Gil Blas" which I once possessed. Size of cards $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A beautiful silver book cover of filagree work, with clasps, $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with a boss on the centre of each side, apparently intended to hold an almanack, and containing one for A.D. 1758. The cover is yellow watered silk or plush outside, and inside bound with red paper with letters and curious figures in gold fragments of a large illuminated sheet. It is the "London Almanack for ye year of Christ 1758," on a circle surrounding the City Arms. Printed

for the Stationers' Company. The table of contents is as follows: "The Almanack explained. Note, that under the title of every month is ye change of ye moon, and every month contains four columns: 1. Days of ye month; 2. Days of ye week; 3. Saints' days, &c.; 4. Time of high water at London Bridge." Four pages are occupied by a continuous engraving of the inside of the church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, Sir Christopher Wren architect. It is apparently partly pannelled in oak, and lighted by small round windows. The next page, a coat of arms, probably Stationers' Company, and a table of common notes taken from the calendar. After twelve pages of months there follows a table of Kings and Queens reigns, with their respective durations in years, months, and days. There is no reference to Cromwell and the Rebellion, and it ends with George II., whom God preserve, published in the thirty-first year of his reign. Then follows a list of Lord Mayors and Sheriffs from 1733 to 1758; and lastly, a table exhibiting at one view the value of Portugal pieces in English money, the gold pieces being of the respective values of £3 12s., £1 16s., 18s., and £1 7s., but their names are not given. The sheets appear to have been printed on one side only, and the pages pasted back to back. The birthdays of the Royal Princes are noted, and the morrows and octaves of certain holy days are indicated by "cras" and "oct." The increase and decrease of days and the clock fast or slow are given. There are no "marks" on the dainty silver cover, which is probably Indian workmanship, or Maltese.—A silver pill box, with four partitions and place in the lid for a piece of plaister or lint; size $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 by $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. It is not hall marked, and "G. Peake, surgeon," is engraved on the lid. Two fine spoons, early rat-tailed patterns, flat stems, the broad ends cleft into three, marked with owner's initials E.P., maker's mark W.S. on a long scutcheon; seventeenth century type (see Cripps p. 176). Date 1696; the two other marks are nearly defaced on each spoon. One spoon of similar character, initials I.H., ornamented in low relief, the rat-tail very pronounced. The whole very slightly worn; three marks apparently Norwegian.—Also (on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. RENALS, London Road): An oval tortoiseshell snuff box, mounted in silver, with Queen Anne medal inserted in lid and bottom. Inscription on rim: "Presented by Mr. John Skidmore to his son John Skidmore." And an enamelled snuff-box, one enamelled etui or casket (top missing), holding two scent bottles and a funnel for filling the same, mounted and inlaid with silver, beautifully painted; on one side a dog pointing at game, on the other a dog carrying off a loaf from a table, on the ends and bottom flowers.

By Mr. G. C. NEALE: An ivory carving, large plaque, very old Italian solid ebony carved frame, subject, "Adam and Eve being tempted by the serpent," who appears in a tree laden with fruit.

A skull representing death lies at their feet. The full length figures of Adam and Eve are very correctly posed, and anatomy fine. The hand of Eve holding the apple is unfortunately broken off.

By THE REV. A. TROLLOPE: A deed granting land in the parish of Clivedon, to St. Andrew's Church in that place and to the Augustine canons of Bristol, by William of Ken, of Clivedon. Seal attached bearing a fleur-de-lis, and this inscription, "Sigil Wili de Clivedon."—Three documents relating to the ancient family of Lucas, of Fenton, county of Lincoln. 1. In Latin, grant of lands in Fenton, made over by John Thorpe, yeoman of Fenton, to Brian Lucas, gent., of the same place, A.D. 1590. 2. In English, a schedule of those lands. 3. Certificate issued by the committee for compounding with delinquents, dated 27th February, 1648, showing that Timothy Lucas, of Fenton, Esquire, had compounded for his estates by paying to the commissioner a fine for being a delinquent. He to remain undisturbed in future provided he takes out a pardon under the great seal. Amongst the signatures of the other commissioners who signed this document is that of Christopher Packe, afterwards Lord Mayor of London, and ancestor of Hussey Packe, Esq., of Prestwold. Timothy Lucas was grandson of Brian Lucas, from which latter, Richard Lucas, Esq., of Fenton, county of Lincoln, and Edith Weston, Rutland, is the ninth in direct descent.

By the CHAIRMAN: A bronze medal by Antonio Pollainolo—1433-1498.

When Vasari, the biographer of the Italian sculptors and painters, wrote the life of Antonio Pollainolo, he mentions his skill in producing medals, which in that period was almost a new art in Italy. After enumerating many of his more important works, Vasari says, "There are several beautiful medals by Antonio, amongst others, one representing the conspiracy of the Pazzi. The heads of Lorenzo and Giuliano de Medici are seen on one side, and on the reverse is the Choir of Santa Maria del Fiore, with the whole of that event, exactly as it occurred." This was Vasari's description, in the sixteenth century; and to-day I am able to exhibit an example of the medal itself. The conspiracy which resulted in the assassination of Giuliano de Medici was the work of the Pazzi family, 1478; it was a revolt in Florence against the growing power of the Medici; but it failed, for Lorenzo escaped, and took vengeance on the assassins of his brother. The medal measures in diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and is very rare. It represents, on one side, an octagonal scaffolding within the Duomo; above is the head of Lorenzo de Medici, looking to the right. Below, priests are ministering at an altar, and outside the enclosure made by the scaffolding are seen the conspirators, with swords drawn; Lorenzo is escaping. The words *LAURENTIVS MEDICES* are on

either side of the head, and beneath it SALVS PVBLICA. On the reverse there is a similar scene, but with the head of Giuliano de Medici looking to the left, with the words IVLIANVS MEDICES, and beneath LVCTVS PVBLICVS. On the ground is the body of Giuliano, struck down by the conspirators, and a group of men armed with daggers are fighting. The author of this medal has been called the precursor of Michael Angelo, for the vigour and correctness of his studies in the nude. Vasari tells us that he was the first artist who practised dissection for the purpose of improving his anatomical knowledge.

The REV. W. G. DIMOCK FLETCHER contributed the following Paper (which was read for him by the Hon. Secretary) on

THOMAS DAVENPORT, MAYOR OF LEICESTER, 1553-4.

THE Will of this Mayor, which is here set forth in full and has not before been printed, is preserved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and is of some interest. Of his ancestry nothing whatever is known. Davenport is not a Leicestershire patronymic. A family of the name resided at Great Wigston as early as the sixteenth century, being descended from one Richard Davenport, who was living at Great Wigston 1570, served the office of Churchwarden there 1611, and died in 1623. And another family of the name resided at Belgrave about the same time. These were, however, both probably Cheshire families; and there is no proof that the Mayor belonged to either family.

But few facts are known about his life. He was a merchant of the staple of Calais, and resided in the parish of S. Martin, Leicester. The Churchwardens' Accounts of this church show that in the first year of the reign of King Edward VI., A.D. 1547, he purchased of the Churchwardens and other influential persons connected with S. Martin's a tabernacle for the sum of 3s. 4d., two vestments for 6s. 8d., certain altar-cloths for 12s., and an altar-cloth of red velvet and white damask for 17s. He also seems to have secured the consecrated altar-stone, and to have carefully preserved it in his house; for, on the accession of Queen Mary in 1553-4, during his mayoralty, when the pre-Reformation religion was restored, we find that this altar-stone was carried from his house to the church, and again set up in its original position. So that it appears extremely probable that he was one of those persons who secretly during the reign of Edward VI. clung to the form of worship they had been used to from their childhood, and who on the accession of Mary rejoiced at its restoration. (See *North's Chronicle of S. Martin's*, 128-9.) He evidently took a great interest in the affairs of the church, for he was present at every Easter Vestry, except in 1555, from 1547 to 1558. He did not