

ship notified his desire to become a member of the Leicestershire Society.

The report of the sub-committee, appointed to enquire respecting a suitable room to be used as a library and museum for the Society, was received. Several very eligible rooms were mentioned, but it was deemed advisable not to engage one immediately.

The Rev. J. L. Petit, the Rev. Canon Vavasour, rural-dean, and Mr. Marshall, were admitted members of the Society. The Rev. R. Stephens was added to the committee.

The Rev. J. Denton mentioned that it was in contemplation to rebuild the chapel of Blackfordby, (a hamlet in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch,) now in a lamentable state of dilapidation, and totally incapable of being repaired. It is also much too small for the present number of inhabitants, the population (principally consisting of families engaged in the neighbouring collieries and potteries) having increased to between five and six hundred; for one-sixth part only of whom there is sufficient church accommodation. Mr. Denton was requested to lay the plans, which are being prepared by J. P. St. Aubyn, Esq., before the committee at their next meeting.

Mr. T. Nevinson exhibited several tokens such as were used for counters in the middle ages, recently found near St. Mary's church, Leicester. Also, from the same locality, a penny of Henry the Third's first coinage, a half-groat of Henry the Sixth's, minted at York, and a few others, together with a noble of one of the Henries, found in an old wall at Oadby, Leicestershire. Several specimens of ornamented bricks from Leicester Abbey garden were shewn by the same gentleman. They were supposed to have been used to form borders for flower-beds, and are well worthy of being again manufactured for that purpose.

Mr. J. Thompson read the following remarks upon an ancient spur found at Battle-Flat, near Bardon-Hill, and upon two matrices of seals, one with the arms of Paget, and the other (of silver) bearing a coat of arms and crests:—

MEMOIR ON AN ANCIENT SPUR AND SEALS.

I BEG to lay before the committee for examination three relics of antiquity well deserving notice. One of these is an ancient spur, found many years ago on the ground known as "Battle Flat," near Hugglescote, in this county. As the site is one concerning which we have little, if any, information, the relic might be supposed to throw light on the origin of the name by which the spot is known. The spur is small, and seems to have been intended for a lady or a youth. It has been washed with silver. The ornamentation consists in the repetition of a grotesque face—whether that of man or of one of the lower animals is not evident. The

shape of the spur is not that of the Norman period, before the rowel was introduced, nor is it that of the fifteenth century, when the rowel was affixed to a long spike. It must, therefore, either be in the fashion prevalent in the centuries following the Norman period, and before the era of the Wars of the Roses—that is, the fashion of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries—or it must be a spur of the workmanship of the sixteenth or subsequent centuries.

Had the battle which took place here, and from the occurrence of which the site took its name, been one of a date historically so recent as the seventeenth century, I think we should have known more relating to it; and if the conflict was one of an earlier period, antecedent to the fifteenth century, it is remarkable that so little is known on the subject, and that, in fact, it is left to tradition alone to tell its scant story in the name of the field. The question what battle took place on this site is one meriting the attention of local antiquaries.

The other relic I have to exhibit is an ancient seal. The shield delineated on it is that of the Paget family, seated in this county (as appears by an ancient record which accidentally fell into my possession some years ago) as early as the reign of Henry the Sixth—there being then two freeholders, John and Thomas Paget, resident at Ibstock. The arms are—sable, a cross engrailed, argent: in the dexter chief an escallop of the second. The coat seems to me of an earlier reign than that in which the College of Arms was established, being one of the feudal age. The cross speaks of the crusader, and the escallop of the pilgrim, too clearly to be mistaken. The seal itself seems to be about two centuries old. The handle in the shape of a lion rampant, holding an escocheon in its fore paws, was probably the ancient crest of the family.

A second seal is also exhibited. It is of silver and more ancient date than the last. Perhaps some member of the committee acquainted with heraldry can decipher the arms, of which I am ignorant.

The Rev. J. M. Gresley then read the following paper

ON ANCIENT SEALS WITH TWISTED RUSHES
AND STRAWS.

WHICH HE ILLUSTRATED BY DRAWINGS.

THE charter with its seal which I submit to your inspection, is from the very extensive collection of ancient documents in the possession of Sir Thomas Gresley, Bart., at Nether Seile, in this county. It is dated at Colton, Staffordshire, on the Tuesday next after the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, 21 Edward IV., (A.D. 1481). By this instrument, master William Gresley, rector of the church of Stoke, and Richard Gresley, gave and demised to John Gresley, knight, and Anne his wife, the manor of Colton,