

LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

July 26th, 1875.

In consequence of the small attendance of members no business was transacted; and the Meeting was adjourned.

GENERAL SUMMER MEETING.

THE General Summer Meeting for the year 1875 was held at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 10th and the 11th of August.

Tuesday, 10th August.

Having been met by the Vicar of the parish, the members and friends present proceeded to the Parish Church, the details of which—not very interesting—were examined; but the attention of the visitors was most engaged by the stately tomb in the Hastings Chapel, on which lie the effigies of Francis, Earl of Huntingdon (who died in 1561) and his Countess—by the figure of a pilgrim in a sepulchral recess in the north wall of the Church—by the bust of a venerable dame at the eastern end of the gallery in the north aisle—and by the curious old finger-pillory still preserved near the western entrance to the fabric.

MR. THOMAS NEVINSON called attention to such points of architectural detail as appeared to him noticeable. The collection of books in the library over the Vestry was visited, and a wish expressed by various archæologists that they should be rescued from the neglected state in which they lie at present.

From the Church, the company went to the Castle, which, in its turn, was very carefully looked at and inspected. Erected four hundred years ago by William, Baron Hastings, the Lord

Chamberlain, favourite, and friend of Edward the Fourth, it still retains in its decay a stately grandeur which impresses every beholder. There are two towers—the Kitchen Tower and the Great Tower; the latter formerly used as a domestic residence, storey above storey bearing traces of adaptation for purposes of household comfort; with the ruins of a beautiful chapel, and other structures added at later dates to the original pile. Every part was studied by the company, from the outside and in the inside, and great interest was expressed in the whole of the remains.

At six o'clock the members and their friends dined at the Royal Hotel.

EVENING MEETING.

At eight o'clock a meeting was held in the large room at the Royal Hotel, under the presidency of the REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., who, after some prefatory remarks, called upon the REV. R. S. BAKER to read his Paper upon the discovery of

ROMAN VESSELS OF BRONZE AT IRCHESTER,

which has since appeared, with illustrations, in the publications of the Associated Architectural Societies.

After remarks from Mr. James Thompson, the Rev. N. F. Lightfoot, and the Rev. H. J. Bigge, F.S.A., the meeting closed.

THE ANNUAL EXCURSION

Took place on the following day,

Wednesday, 11th August.

THE Royal Hotel, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was announced as the place of meeting, and thence the excursionists proceeded on their tour at half-past ten o'clock in the morning. At that hour the bugle call was sounded by Mr. Hunt, of Thurnby, and shortly afterwards five conveyances were driven up in front of the hotel, in which the excursionists were quickly seated. The weather in the early part of the day had been very disagreeable, a drizzling thick rain having fallen; but when Mr. Hunt sounded the bugle, upon the commencement of the tour, the sun shone brightly, and there was every prospect that it would favour the party with its presence for the remainder of the day. The excursionists were driven through Ashby, and along the road to

SMISBY.

THE party having assembled in the interior of the parish church, MR. JAMES THOMPSON stated, that at the request of the committee, MR. T. NEVINSON had undertaken to describe this church and the other churches the party would visit that day. Mr. Nevinson had been over the ground before, and had qualified himself by a personal visit to each of the churches in regard to what he was about to tell them that day. Mr. T. Nevinson then remarked that there was not much to detain them in that church, which seemed to be of two periods. The arcade and the eastern window, and the oldest parts of the church were of the fourteenth century. The church was peculiar as having such very short stumpy columns, and the arches were very low. The roof was of much later date, as were also the windows, with the exception of the eastern one, which he took to be of the same date as the arcade. There was an interesting old monumental slab against the wall in the south aisle, but the only other feature of real interest was some very good linen pattern panelling. The tower was lined with it, and the eastern end of the chancel. This panelling was probably of the date of the newest parts of the church, which though in the Perpendicular style, Mr. Nevinson thought might be of the period of Archbishop Laud, in whose time many alterations and additions were made to churches in that style. The font appeared to be of the same date as the arcade. In answer to Mr. James Thompson, Mr. Nevinson replied that he thought the eastern window dated from 1300 to 1350.

The marble monument in the chancel was pointed out. Upon it were carved representations of nine boys and seven girls, beneath which were the words:—

“Here lyeth the body of Henry Kendall, Esq., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Gabriel Armstrong, of Remston, in the County of Nottingham, Esq., by whom he had issue nine sons and seven daughters.”

The monument bore the date of 1627.

The party having closely examined, with evident interest, the architectural features and other peculiarities in the edifice, left the church, again took their seats in the vehicles, and were conveyed through pleasing scenery to

MELBOURNE.

Here a rich treat was in store for the party. The fine old parish church was the first place visited, and Mr. Nevinson, in describing the exterior, said those present would observe that the church was originally a fine specimen of Norman work, but there had been

various alterations made. The aisles had been raised, and the late Perpendicular windows put in, but there were still visible the Norman buttresses below. The next feature was that the clerestory on the north side, retained its Norman character, the only alteration being that the roof had been lowered. The ends of the transepts remained very nearly in their original state, with the exception of the roofs being lowered, and a little alteration made at the corner of one, and the windows being removed. The eastern end of the church had been very much tampered with and injured. The chancel had originally a semicircular apse; the extreme end extended very near to where the present square end of the chancel was. The whole of the interesting Norman arcade which ran originally round the outside of the chancel had been removed, with the exception of one arch on each side at the western end. One of the Norman windows and the flat buttresses remained. The eastern sides of the transepts had originally a semicircular recess for an altar in each, but these had unfortunately disappeared at some early period, and the present windows had been inserted. Mr. Nevinson pointed out that these windows differed, and that they might have been removed from the Priory which stood at the western end of the building. The tracery of the one in the south transept, had evidently been made up from another window. The upper stage of the tower had been entirely rebuilt in a later period, the Norman work ending near the string. There had been a high pitched roof over the chancel, which had a stone vaulted roof with ribs, with a chamber above it. The chancel must have been a glorious structure at one time. The window at the east end was Perpendicular, and on the south side a Norman window remained which had been restored. The clerestory on the south side of the nave was Early English, with double windows. Unfortunately the western end of the church on the outside was very much spoiled by the want of the completion of the two western towers. Sir G. Scott had now capped them, but they originally had or were intended to have an additional stage.

The clergyman said the towers were left entirely open to the weather, and Sir G. Scott doubted whether they were ever finished. The great western doorway was all blocked up, and there was merely a little square door in the centre. On taking it down, they found the stones of each of the present arches. The roof of the gallery of the church was groined and grouted, and was the same as the entrance of many of the Italian churches. The reverend gentleman stated there was a church originally upon that site about the seventh century, and when the Danes were over and wintered at Repton they destroyed most of the churches in the neighbourhood. Melbourne Church, like most of the Saxon churches, was then made of wood, and it was destroyed. It was supposed that the present church was raised very soon after the

Conquest, and that it had some connection with one of the previous kings of Mercia, which was supposed to account for the cross and pellets upon one of the capitals. It had, unlike the Saxon arches, the stilted arch of the Anglo-Normans. They would observe that the arches on the inside of the clerestory of the north side, were of the same character as all the rest, but only a part of one of those arches remained on the south side. It was to be seen in the easternmost window, but the rest of this clerestory was supposed to be built at the time the church was conveyed to the Bishop of Carlisle by Henry the Second. The church had a vaulted roof no doubt, but about 200 or 250 years ago there was a serious fire in the building, which destroyed the greater part of the inside, and left red marks upon the stone. At the time of the restoration he was anxious to know whether that really was the case, and consequently he put some stone into the fire, when it came out the same red colour. The timber of which the roof was now formed had 1632 cut on it. It came down by tradition, that a church was built here by Ethelred, as a kind of atonement for the murder of his queen Ostrid, who was waylaid and murdered by some of the Mercian nobles. It was supposed to be on that spot, as she was on the road from the palace at Repton to the educational establishment at Breedon (which sent an Archbishop to Canterbury), that she was waylaid. A very imperfect picture was discovered during the restorations, upon one of the pillars, of a female being held by the hand by a man who had in his other hand a great club, while another man was squatting down as though lying in wait. In the chancel there was on the north side what moderns called a "squint," but what others called a "hagioscope," and there had been one on the other side. In the south transept there were monuments connected with the Harding family. They were residents at King's Newton, and Sir Henry Harding, the old uncle of Sir Robert Harding, was represented there. When Sir Robert Harding, who succeeded his uncle, came to meet his visitor from the Heralds' College, he grumbled at the fees, and the herald made him take out a new grant, in which he placed the sheels on the chevrons, where the Hardings now bore them. The slabs had been put in order by Captain Harding of the navy. They were originally on the floor, but he (the reverend gentleman) had them removed and placed in their present position. An effigy in this transept was, from its appearance, one of the time of Edward the Third, and it appeared to be that of a warrior who, according to what the heralds were in the habit of saying, must have died in battle, on the losing side, because his sword was in the sheath. If he had died on the winning side the sword would have been unsheathed and pointing upwards. The figure wore the dress of an archer of the time of Edward the Third, but they could not find any person connected with it at all; but

Maurice de Berkley, who died at the battle of Bannockburn, had property in that locality, and was buried there. A beautiful floriated cross was dug up in the course of the reflooring, and is now preserved in the transept.

Mr. Nevinson called attention to the grand effect of the nave of this church, with its massive pillars (four feet eight inches in diameter) with variously carved Norman caps supporting lofty arches ornamented with the zigzag moulding; above this the clerestory on the north side Norman, on the south Early English. Through the jambs of the windows of this clerestory runs a passage round the church in the thickness of the walls. The tower situated at the intersection of the transepts is open two stages and forms a lantern.

The excursionists, who were now joined by the Ven. Archdeacon Fearon, of Loughborough, having carefully surveyed the whole of the interior of the building, repaired to the Melbourne Arms, where a capital luncheon was provided, and heartily enjoyed by about thirty-five persons. After the repast, the party proceeded to the beautiful grounds of the hall, now in the occupation of Mr. Faine. Immediately upon entering the door, the excursionists found themselves in a long shady avenue of yew trees, entirely meeting overhead like a tunnel, which afforded agreeable shelter from the rays of the sun. Passing through an opening, they were conducted into the grounds in front of the hall, which were admirably laid out, and planted with choice flowers. Having inspected the fountains, the pool, and the alcoves in the lower portion of the grounds, the party left, and shortly afterwards again took their places in the vehicles, and were driven to

BREEDON.

The church here is situated upon the brow of a steep hill, and the ascent, under the heat of the sun's rays, was found to be somewhat difficult, but nevertheless the whole of the party accomplished the task with the view of seeing the church. No one had cause to regret the exertion necessarily involved in ascending the hill; as from the top a splendid view of miles of the surrounding country was obtainable, the scenery being charming. With regard to the exterior of the church,

Mr. Nevinson said the south side appeared to be of three different styles—Early English, Geometric, and Perpendicular. There were some extraordinary carvings at the corner of the porch which extended round the side. These were very much earlier, probably Early Norman, and no doubt had been taken out of the fabric which existed before the present one. He could not say what was their meaning. The figures were very flat, and not at

all in high relief. On the east ends of the aisles the early lancet windows were very good, but of the middle one he need say nothing, as it was thoroughly debased. The two lower stages of the tower were Norman, and contained on the second stage some good examples of Norman windows, which could only be seen on the inside. There was also a curious carving representing a winged figure built into the interior of this stage on the south side. This carving appeared to be of the date of those alluded to on the outside of the porch. It should be stated that the tower originally stood at the junction of the nave with the choir, but the former has been entirely removed, the present church consisting of what was once the choir only, and the tower. There was some perplexity about a pier built against the outside of the western face of the tower, but from the appearance of a mark of an apex of a roof above, it is probable this pier was one of the supports of a building erected after the nave had been destroyed. In the porch there was some Early English work with the characteristic dog-tooth. In the interior of the church Mr. Nevinson first called attention to the north aisle as being the most interesting part of the church. It had a good Early English stone groined roof. The columns, with the exception of the centre one, were of the same date. There was an ornamental pew with a canopy—a large erection like a state bed, which was carefully guarded—cut off from the rest of the church by strong iron gates. This was not to be commended; and he might say with regard to the rest of the church, that if it could be re-seated, and they could get rid of the high pews, it would be an improvement. There was some carving on the spandrels of the arches of beautiful execution. These were some of the same series as those on the outside. Casts of all these were to be found in the Leicester Museum, where they could study them at leisure. The roof of the nave was quite late, and might be very much improved by moulding the great timbers. The clerestory was of the Perpendicular period. Some of the party then visited the interior of the tower at the suggestion of Mr. Nevinson. In the north aisle were the Shirley family monuments: full-length effigies in armour, which were also railed off and unapproachable.

The excursionists having surveyed and admired the surrounding scenery, descended the hill, again took their places in the vehicles, and were conveyed to

WORTHINGTON.

Having assembled within the interior of the church, Mr. Nevinson said the whole of the walls appeared to be Early English, though going into Early Decorated work. One of the windows had a cusped head. The west end was Early English.

The bell-gable had gone, and a brick turret erected. The roof was all concealed, as well as the walls, by being plastered. The open seats Nichols spoke of had gone, and high seats substituted. The font was of the Perpendicular period, but it had been broken. The remains of the chancel screen were just visible. There seemed to have been a piscina on the south side of the chancel and a locker on the north side. The arrangements at the east end were very meagre and poor. The party then left the church, and after once more taking their seats were driven through a beautifully wooded locality to

COLEORTON.

After the whole had entered the church, Mr. Nevinson said that building was not so interesting to them as archæologists as some they had visited that day. The tower and the tower arch were old, but the other part of the edifice had been almost entirely rebuilt. The church had been capitally restored and excellently fitted up for Divine worship. Most of the windows were of stained glass. Two by Messrs. Clayton and Bell were much to be commended. Mr. Nevinson pointed out some excellent Flemish carving of about the seventeenth century in the front and at the back of the organ. That at the back of the instrument contained various scenes in the history of the Saviour. In the south aisle was a monument containing full length effigies of Sir Henry Beaumont, who died on the 31st March, 1607, and Elizabeth his wife, who died on the 26th March, 1608.

The excursionists, having completed their programme of visits to churches, again repaired to the vehicles, and were conveyed to the Royal Hotel at Ashby. At 6.5 p.m. the Leicester Members of the Society and their friends returned to town, after having thoroughly enjoyed the Annual Excursion of 1875.

September 27th, 1875.

THE REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., in the chair.

MR. A. H. PAGET presented to the Society a copy of his pamphlet entitled "Shakespeare's Plays—a chapter of Stage History."

MR. T. BROOKS of Barkby, was elected a member of the Society.

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

By MR. WARTNABY: A posy ring of the seventeenth century, with the inscription:—

“Al myne shal be thyne.”

It was found in a field near Hothorpe, Northamptonshire, about the year 1815.

By the REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A.: A Roman ring of bronze to wear on the finger. Permanently attached to the outer side of the ring was a little key also of bronze which, when the ring was worn, lay flat upon the finger. It was, perhaps, the key of a casket, of which, for good reasons, the owner might desire to keep close possession. Also a silver penny of Anlaf, King of Northumbria, A.D. 941-945. The coin was found recently in Ireland and was, as might be supposed, a rarity. Anlaf, called “King of Ireland,” was the son of Guthferth. In 941 he was elected by the people to be King of Northumbria, but four years afterwards he was driven out by Edmund. The coin bears on the obverse the Danish Raven, the badge of the Danes’ enchanted standard, and reads:—

+ ANLAF CVNVNC

And on the reverse:—

+ ADELFERD MINETR.

November 29th, 1875.

THE REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., in the chair.

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

By REV. T. FAREBROTHER: A silver groat of Edward IV., struck at London, with the distinctive mint marks of a coin of that reign. Found at Wanlip.

By MR. HUNT: An old Oriental jar, dug up in the Caledonian Road, London, 5 feet deep; supposed Roman inkstand found in London; an iron key dug up in Bishopgate churchyard, London; a copper key, found in Cardington ballast hole, near Bedford; a Dutch tobacco box, beautifully engraved—early in the seventeenth century; six Roman coins; a model of a mummy, generally found with the mummy itself.

By MR. WEATHERHEAD: Pair of earthen vessels, of dark red glazed ware, ornamented with foliated devices, &c., brought from Girgeh (or Gerga), Upper Egypt, on the Nile, by a gentleman

lately returned from Africa. These vessels are termed "Goolahs" by the natives. A beautifully executed piece of work in ivory, probably a kind of knitting or tating sheath (?) "I am led," said Mr. Weatherhead, "to infer that this may have been the probable use of this curious article, from the fact of there being a small box with a lid at one end, intended, perhaps, to hold a silken or cotton ball, the thread of which would pass through the hole perforated at the side. The lid of the box represents the Goddess 'Hebe,' and the outer or convex portion, represents, in bold relief, the mythological subject of 'Pluto carrying off Proserpine.' I also show a curiously engraved powder horn, time of George II. Upon it will be found delineated, the Royal Arms of England, New York City, Albany, Royal Blockhouse; with the following various forts, viz., Stanwix, Markeman, Edward, Miller, Saratoga, Stilwater, Johnston, Fort Hunter, &c.; and bearing the name of 'Patrick Smith, his horn, 1760.' It was in this year that the surrender of Montreal, and the complete conquest of Canada took place."

By the REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A.: *St. Augustini Expositio Psalterii*. Mr. Pownall remarked, "This book was printed at Basle, in the year 1489, by Master Joannes de Amerbach; and with its Gothic character, and initial letters partly coloured, and partly left unfinished, is an interesting as well as rare specimen of early typography. But it is interesting also for another reason; it was once a volume in the Arundel Library. That "magnificent" Earl of Arundel who collected the famous "Arundel Marbles," while engaged in foreign travel, collected books as well; and the one collection was scarcely more important than the other. After the Earl's death (1646) both collections seem to have passed into the hands of his grandson, Henry Howard, who succeeded to the dukedom of Norfolk in 1677. Of this nobleman we meet with several notices in the well-known memoirs of John Evelyn. And Evelyn tells us what Henry Howard did with his grandfather's library of books, and how he came to do it. Under the year 1667, 9th January, he says:—"To the Royal Society, which since ye sad conflagration (the fire of London) were invited by Mr. Howard to sit at Arundel House in the Strand, who at my instigation likewise bestowed on the Society that noble library which his grandfather especially, and his ancestors had collected. This gentleman had so little inclination to books, that it was the preservation of them from imbezzlement." Two years later the gift was again referred to. 1669, March 4, Evelyn writes:—"To the Council of the R. Society about disposing my Lord Howard's library, now given to us." Not until 1678, however, do we find the Society formally acknowledging the gift, nor does Evelyn explain the cause of delay, but in his entry of August 29, of that year, we read:—"I was called to London to wait upon the Duke of Norfolk, who having at my sole request bestowed the Arundelian library on the Royal Society, sent to me

to take charge of the bookes and remove them, onely stipulating that I would suffer the Herauld's chief officer, Sir William Dugdale, to have such of them as concerned Herauldry, and the Marshall's office, bookes of Armourie and Genealogies, the Duke being Earl Marshall of England. I procured for our Society, besides printed bookes neere 100 MSS., some in Greeke, of great concernment. The printed bookes being of the oldest impressions are not the lesse valuable; I esteem them almost equal to MSS. Amongst them are most of the Fathers, printed at Basil, before the Jesuits abused them with their expurgatory indexes; there is a noble MS. of Vitruvius. Many of these bookes had been presented by popes, cardinals, and greater persons, to the Earls of Arundel and Dukes of Norfolk; and the late magnificent Earl of Arundel bought a noble library in Germanie, which is in this collection. I should not, for the honoure I beare the family, have persuaded the Duke to part with these, had I not seen how negligent he was of them, suffering the priests and everybody to carry away and dispose of what they pleas'd, so that abundance of rare things are irrecoverably gone. Having taken order here, I went to the Royal Society to give them an account of what I had procur'd, that they might call a council and appoint a day to waite on the Duke to thank him for this munificent gift." That this volume belonged to the Arundel library, and is one of those mentioned in the foregoing extract from Evelyn's Diary, is proved by a press mark or stamp on the leaf exhibiting the table of contents, and which reads, "Soc. Reg. Lond. ex dono Henr. Howard, Norfolciensis." Another stamp at the end of the book reads [Roy. Soc. Sold.]

MR. NORTH, F.S.A., contributed the following notes on

THE LAST OF WYGGESTON'S HOSPITAL.

IN preparation for the erection of new schools in connection with Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester, many changes have taken place not only on the site of the Hospital itself, but upon the ground between that site and the Highcross Street.

Most of our members will remember the quaint outline presented by the frontages of the houses in the Highcross Street from the old Nag's Head to the Peacock Inn. There was the Nag's Head with its porch (the sole survivor, I believe, of house porches in Leicester of its date) erected in the year 1662, the house of the Confrater of Wyggeston's Hospital, portions of which were coeval with the Hospital itself, and several other houses apparently erected in the reigns of the two first Georges.

These all disappeared in the month of May, 1874.