

For defendants :—

William Waringe said the priests were discharged in the reign of Henry VIII. about thirty-seven years ago, and did not there say Mass since to his knowledge. He said the Guild possessed no lands. The priests were paid by the town wardens; but certain lands did belong to the town for the reparation of the bridge and amendment of the highways and repair of the church and to the use of the school.

William Lane said he had known the Grammar School for fifty years; that there had been fifty scholars therein, but of late about 100 scholars there; that the land, &c., in dispute had been applied to the support of the school. He mentioned "one house called the Spittall, which the townsmen thereof purchased of Alderman Draper, of London." He said that Wm. Brookesby and others made a feoffment to one Thomas Posterne and others of all the said lands, to the use that the profits and rents thereof should be employed to the maintenance of the said school, and repair of bridges and highways there. He also tried to damage the witnesses for the complainants, by saying that Tallis, Parker, and Chambers were men of "evill fame," and that Tallis "is a drunkard and vehemently suspect for stealing of a Hogge," and that Parker "is a drunkard," and that Chambers "is a drunkard and did steale Iron out of Melton Church Steple."

This action was brought against the defendants as tenants under the town. That the town obtained the verdict is evident from an ancient list of documents belonging to Melton in which I find "An exempl of a verdict 20 Eliz.: A verdict against Mershe for concealed lande."

This is no doubt a sample of what was going on at that time in many places, and which as giving a slight illustration of some of the proceedings of those days, may not be altogether beneath our notice; at any rate those of us who know the grand church of Melton Mowbray will not take a less interest in some of its mutilated architectural features now we have become better acquainted with a few of the circumstances to which they point.

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*November 27th, 1876.*

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

The following gentlemen were elected members :—

The Hon. Harry Tyrwhit Wilson, Keythorpe Hall; the Rev. Canon Yard, The Confraternity, Leicester; Richard Twining, Esq., Bitteswell; the Rev. G. Salt, Woodhouse Eaves; the Rev. W. C.

Hodgson, Sweptstone Rectory; the Rev. H. Twells, Waltham Rectory; C. K. Fisher, Esq., Hill Crest, Market Harborough; the Rev. W. H. Disney, Hinckley Vicarage; the Rev. John Bird, Walton Rectory; the Rev. H. L. Watson, Sharnford Rectory; and F. T. Mercer, Esq., Market Harborough.

The Hon. Harry T. Wilson was also elected a President of the Society.

MR. J. HUNT exhibited some fragments of Samian ware, some tesserae, and a portion of a vase, all found in excavating in Silver Street, Leicester, for the new Opera House.

