

TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOL. IV.—PART I.



LEICESTER: SAMUEL CLARKE.

1875.

By MR. G. H. NEVINSON, a small chest or box, oval in form, made of palladium, and richly covered with repoussé figures representing the exciting scenes in a stag hunt.

By MR. BELLAIRS, a *fac simile* copy in colours, drawn by himself, of fragments of mural decoration recently uncovered in Thornton Church, in this County. The subject depicted was uncovered by the removal of colourwash in the spandril of arches on the north side of the nave. It represents the upper portions of two female figures standing behind a kind of book-rest with carved finials at each end; behind and between these figures appears the head of a demon with long beard and large pointed animal ears, or perhaps horns; the only other portions of this figure shown are the arms, which, with cloven terminations, are represented as encircling the females, one arm passing behind the neck of each, and reappearing over the shoulder. There is not at present uncovered a sufficient portion of the whole painting to warrant a designation of the subject. Judging from the accessories, it may be presumed to be the work of the latter portion of the fifteenth century.

By MR. WEATHERHEAD, a vessel recently found during excavations in High Street, Leicester, upon which he read the following remarks:—I have much pleasure in exhibiting a rare example of pottery of the Romano-British period, known as Castor-ware. It is, I believe, a *poculum*, or drinking vessel, (manufactured at Castor, on the eastern boundaries of Northamptonshire, the site of the Roman town of Durobrivæ). It is remarkably thin, of elegant design, and is, I venture to state, unique of its kind in this locality. It has been kindly handed over to the Museum by Master S. Henry Webb. It measures six and a half inches in height, by seven inches in diameter. The body is of a dull slate colour, with metalloïd lustre outside, and of a chocolate brown within. The exterior bears scroll ornament, &c., laid on in slip of white clay in relief, together with several letters (some wanting) which formed a convivial word (or words) all laid on in relief, white, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in height. There would be space (if the vessel were perfect) for about nine letters (M E * I * * * V I). This interesting relic was discovered in June, 1869, (with fragments of Samian ware), at a depth of ten feet, whilst excavating in a cellar at No. 45, High Street. William Chaffers, Esq., F.S.A., in his work on "*Marks and Monograms on Pottery and Porcelain*" (for the loan of which I am indebted to the kindness of our Honorary Secretary, Mr. North), in describing this kind of pottery, states that "a more ornamental kind of drinking cup was made at Castor in Northamptonshire. These vessels are ornamented in relief with hunting subjects, representations of fishes, scrolls, foliage, and human figures; the mode of operation seems to have been by means of sharp and blunt skewer implements and a slip of suitable con-

sistency. These vessels were glazed after the figures were laid on, which are usually of a different colour to the body of the ware, as white on a light brown or chocolate ground. The usual form of the wine cups are almost invariably smaller at bottom than top (as is the case with the example found in Leicester) and many formerly in the author's possession, which are now in the British Museum, have short convivial words laid on in relief, as *Imple, Reple, Vivas, Ave, Da vinum, Vita, &c.*" I have furnished Mr. Chaffers with a sketch of the vessel, together with its history, and I have no doubt that gentleman will kindly correct me if in error, or confirm my present opinion.

September 27th, 1869.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the chair.

A Letter was read from the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, stating that it was unanimously agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Members of that Society lately held at Bury St. Edmund's, that Leicester should be the place of meeting for 1870, and it was further stated that the members were much gratified with the cordiality of the invitation conveyed in the letter read by their Honorary Secretary, Mr. Tucker.

THE CHAIRMAN notified the discovery of a Cist-vaen during the recent restoration of Stonton Wyville Church, and promised to report further thereupon at the next meeting.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited :

By MR. G. H. NEVINSON : A knife (apparently Spanish), the blade of which was chased and inlaid with brass and enamel ; the handle was of ivory and ebony, ornamented with brass.

By MR. WEATHERHEAD : an article (of Indian workmanship) beautifully carved in ivory. It was a *double comb*, $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It bore on both sides the representation of a Hindoo Goddess, sitting in the usual cross-legged position, with upraised arms, holding in each hand a sprig of flowers. On the right and left of the figure were depicted two strange birds. It had originally been coloured with bright scarlet and yellow ; the outline of the figures being ingeniously brought out by means of perforations. The supposition is that it was not used for a personal toilet, but that in the Hindoo, or Brahmin, sacred observances, it may have served the purpose of currying the sacred oxen, known as the Zebus.

Mr. Weatherhead also read an extract which appeared in the last number of the "Archæological Journal," relative to the history of the small brass matrix discovered in Leicester in 1868, and exhibited to the members of this Society at a previous meeting.

By MR. HUNT : An ancient military spur with swan neck.

Photographs of the "Golden Lion," Highcross Street, Leicester, were also shewn.

The REV. JOHN FISHER read the following paper on

BISHOP BEVERIDGE.

Before commencing my narrative of that learned divine, Bishop Beveridge, it may not be out of place to give some short description of his birthplace, Barrow-upon-Soar.

Barrow is a large and increasing, but uninteresting, village, pleasantly situated on the east side of the river Soar, two miles north of Mountsorrel, three miles south-east of Loughborough, nine miles north of Leicester, and 110 miles north of London. Barrow, anciently written *Barewe*, and *Barrough*, derived its name from an ancient tumulus, or barrow; this manor was held by Earl Harold in the time of Edward the Confessor. John Harris, Esq., of Sutton Bonington, in the county of Nottingham, is now Lord of the manor. *Barrow* has for ages been especially celebrated for its limestone, which possesses the peculiar property of becoming hardened under water, and which as a cement is in high repute for building docks, bridges, piers, &c., not only in all parts of the kingdom, but great quantities of it have been exported to Holland for the same purposes. I find that it was used in the building of Ramsgate pier, after the Dutch terras and other cements had failed. The limestone is also famous for the great variety of its fossil productions, consisting of shells chiefly of the marine kind; the cornu ammonia, or snake stone; fossil fish, &c.; which furnish a study interesting to the collector of antediluvian remains. Barrow has a grammar school for the children of the inhabitants and parishioners, two well-endowed hospitals for poor men and women, and is rich in charities for the poor. The Church (Holy Trinity) is a large cruciform structure of the Perpendicular and Decorated styles. The tower, which was embattled, containing five bells, having been for a long time in a very dilapidated state, fell down, 18th December, 1868, (the bells having been previously removed,) is now being restored. The master and fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge, are the patrons, and the Rev. W. L. Newham, M.A. is the vicar. With this brief description I will pass on to a short memoir of the learned Bishop Beveridge, the subject of my Paper.

Some authors state that Bishop Beveridge was born at Barrow-upon-Soar, in the year 1636, and others give 1638 as the year of his birth. Living only three miles from Barrow, I called upon the Rev. Mr. Newham, as I wished to clear up this discrepancy. He very kindly gave every assistance, and I ascertained that the first of this family that occurs in the parochial registers is the Rev. John Berridge, or Beveridge, (for they thus indifferently spelt the

name,) who in 1602, being then D.D. of the University of Cambridge, who signed himself Vicar in 1617, (previously Rector of Kibworth Beauchamp,) to which in 1620 he presented his son William, the second (and eldest surviving) son, who was instituted to the vicarage of Barrow, October 20, and inducted November 29 the same year. The register of Barrow records the births of three of his (William's) sons; 1. John, baptized February 12, 1631 (afterwards Vicar); 2. William, baptized February 11, 1636 (afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph); 3. Thomas, baptized March 1, 1661; and five daughters. It is certain, then, that William Beveridge, Bishop of St. Asaph, was born in 1636, and not in 1638.

Having received his primary education, first under his father, and afterwards at Oakham School, in the county of Rutland, he was, in 1653, admitted as a sizer at St. John's College, Cambridge. Here his attention was not only directed to classical pursuits, but to the study also of oriental languages; a study which he recommended in a Latin treatise, and still more effectually by the publication of a Syriac grammar, composed when he was only eighteen years of age, and published two years after. His character at college, however, was established, not only for proficiency as a scholar, but for the depth of his piety, and the integrity of his life. What his early piety was may be seen from a juvenile work published after his death, and even now in high repute, his "Private Thoughts." This work was published in 1709, and has often been reprinted.

On the 3rd of January, 1660, he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Sanderson; and, on the 31st of the same month, was admitted into Priest's orders. About the same time Dr. Gilbert Sheldon, then Bishop of London, collated him to the vicarage of Ealing, in the county of Middlesex; but in November, 1672, being presented to the Rectory of St. Peter's, Cornhill, by the Corporation of London, he resigned that piece of preferment, and removed to the metropolis. In December, the year following, he was collated by Bishop Henchman to the prebend of Chiswick, in St. Paul's Cathedral: in 1679 he took his D.D. degree; and in November, 1681, he was made Archdeacon of Colchester, being collated thereto by Bishop Compton. His conscientious mind, upon his appointment to so important a cure as that of St. Peter's, withdrew from those learned labours which had hitherto been his delight, and he devoted himself exclusively, with primitive zeal and piety, to the duties of the pastoral office. His labours were incessant: he established weekly communions and daily service. It is not surprising that he should appoint weekly communions, as, in his "Private Thoughts," he thus states his faith with regard to the Holy Eucharist: "As baptism thus comes in the place of the Jew's circumcision, so doth our Lord's Supper answer to their Passover. Their Paschal Lamb represented our Saviour Christ,

and the sacrificing of it, the shedding of His blood upon the cross ; and as the Passover was the memorial of the Israelite's redemption from Egypt's bondage, (Ex. xii 14,) so is the Lord's Supper the memorial of our redemption from the slavery of sin, and assertion into Christian liberty ; or rather, it is a solemn and lively representation of the death of Christ, and offering it again to God, as an atonement for sin, and reconciliation to His favour."

In the year 1684, he obtained a stall in Canterbury cathedral. On the deprivation of Dr. Kenn in 1691, the see of Bath and Wells was offered to his acceptance, which, however, he declined from conscientious motives. Beveridge was advanced in years before he had another offer of a Bishopric. He was consecrated on the 6th of July, 1704, having been elected to the see of St. Asaph. This new dignity, however, was enjoyed by him little more than three years, his death taking place on March 5th, 1708, in his seventy-first year, at his lodgings in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, and he was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

He was a voluminous writer on theological and philological subjects. Among the charitable bequests of this Anglican Saint, he left in 1706, to the Trustees of Barrow Hospital, an estate, then of the yearly value of £53., in trust to pay yearly £16. to the Vicar of Barrow for reading prayers morning and evening; 40s. to the Clerk for ringing the bell; and 40s. for distribution among poor housekeepers; and to give the clear surplus rent to the Curate of Mountsorrel, for reading prayers every morning and evening, and instructing the children of his Chapelry once a week.

By a contingent devise, an estate called Hall Orchard passed to the Trustees, about the year 1760, in trust for augmenting the salaries of the Vicar of Barrow and the Curate of Mountsorrel. I presume that this bequest is enjoyed, and these duties performed at the present time.

He had been married, but of his wife nothing is known, except that she died before him, without issue.

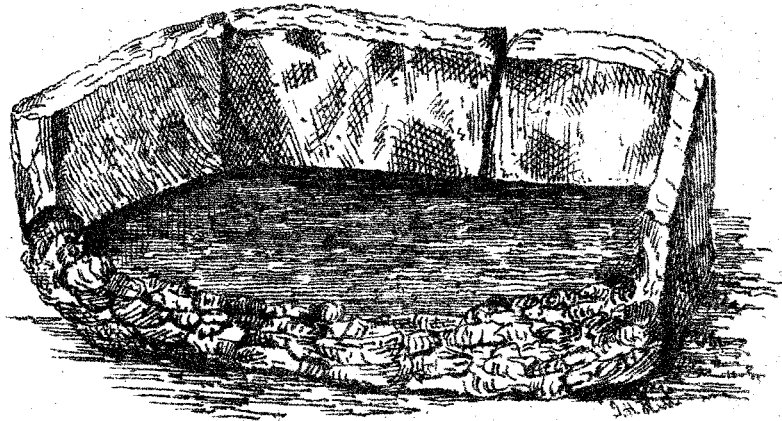
November 29th, 1869.

MR. G. H. NEVINSON in the chair.

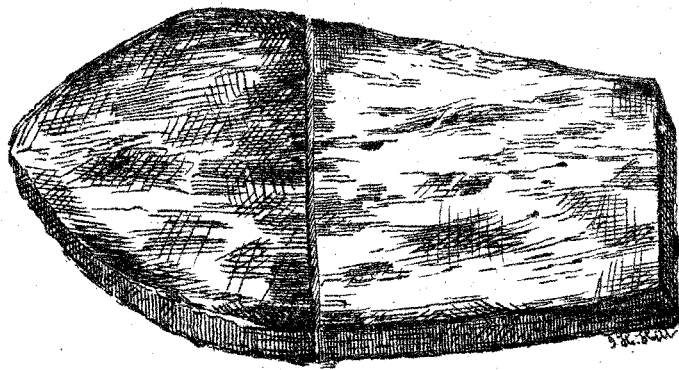
The Honorary Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, notifying the gift of this Society of copies of its journal (so far as they could be supplied) to the present time, forming twenty-four volumes.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Council of the Institute for this very handsome and acceptable gift.

The Honorary Secretary reminded members that the Congress of the Royal Archæological Institute will be held in Leicester in the summer of next year, 1870.



Kist Vaen at Stonton Wyville
Feirestershire



Kist Vaen Lid.

The following gentlemen were proposed and elected members of the Society for the year 1870: The Rev. R. Burnaby, Leicester; Mr. Theodore Walker, Leicester; the Rev. W. H. Brassington, Ragdale; and Captain John Bryan, of the Leicester Militia.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited.

By MR. NORTH: An early groat of Queen Mary, found at Kibworth, bearing on the reverse the inscription, *Veritas Temporis Filia*.

By the REV. J. H. HILL: Human bones and charcoal found in Stonton Wyville Churchyard, upon which he read a paper, which will be found below. Also a curious collection of programmes of concerts given in Leicester, &c., formerly belonging to, and apparently collected by, the late Mr. Gardiner. Mr. Hill kindly presented this interesting collection to the Society.

By the CHAIRMAN: A bronze female figure, with handle, &c., apparently for holding a lamp.

The REV. J. H. HILL read the following Paper upon a Kist-vaen, recently found at Stonton Wyville.

KIST-VAEN, FOUND AT STONTON BRUDENELL.

In digging for foundations of the new porch at Stonton Brudenell, on the 20th day of July last, a very ancient sepulchral deposit was found, which I conceive to be an early British grave. It was found on the spot where the south aisle of the Norman Church formerly stood, which had been removed and a porch built in its place some three hundred years past. The grave was constructed of slabs set up in the form of a kist-vaen or stone coffin. It was set upon a bed of gravel about six feet below the surface of the Churchyard. The north side of it consisted of three slabs of common iron-stone ingeniously put together, the south side was made of stones such as are used to form a rubble wall (coggles), and the cover of the coffin consisted of two rough slabs of iron-stone. The length of the kist was three feet six; the greatest width was twenty-two inches. At the east end it was about one foot wide, and the west end terminated in the form of the bow of a boat. The depth of the kist-vaen was thirteen inches, the position of it being due east and west. The grave contained the skeleton of an adult person, with the leg-bones gathered up, lying on the side, and a large quantity of charcoal and ashes were found with it. I have made a rough etching of the shape of the kist-vaen, which I now present to you, and the bones and charcoal I produce for your examination. The Rev. Abner Brown, of Pytchley, in his essay on some British kist-vaens or stone coffins discovered at Pytchley, in Northamptonshire (which may be found in an early volume of our *Archæological Journal*), states that the remains of the dead were interred in coffins of stone partly wrought out of

They were found in the kist-vaen, and are those of a full grown person of the female sex. I will conclude this paper with the following extracts, which I give you as some proof that Christianity must have been established in Roman Britain at a very early period: Irenæus, who flourished in the middle of the second century, asserts, in his work "Against Heresies," that the Church was spread throughout the world at this time (A.D. 180), and particularly specifies the Celts, *i.e.*, Gaul and Britain. Tertullian, a celebrated Latin writer of the second century, in his work "Contra Judæos," speaks "of the Church of Christ having extended to the different nations of Gaul, *and parts of Britain inaccessible to the Romans* but subject to Christ."—Cap. 7. And Origen (in Eyek. Hom. iv., and in Luc. Hom. vi.) makes mention of Britain as having been converted to Christianity at this time (A.D. 228); whilst Arnobius of Sicca, who was born in the latter part of the third century, speaks of "the rapidity with which the Word of God had reached the Indians in the east, *and the Britons in the west.*" (A.D. 306.)*

January 31st, 1870.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the chair.

This being the annual business meeting of the Society, MAJOR BELLAIRS (Hon. Secretary) presented the following audited Statement of Accounts for the past year:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1869.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
1869.					
Jan. 1. Balance in hand from old account ..	31	12 2	Expenses of Melton Meeting	12	17 6
Subscriptions and Arrears received during the year ..	90	0 6	Grant towards publication of Transactions	30	0 0
Portion of Grant to Cherry Orchard Exploration Fund returned	3	7 10	Williamson, share of Annual Volume	26	5 6
			A year's rent of room ..	5	0 0
			Crossley and Clarke, Printing, &c.	2	1 4
			Collector	0	4 0
			Postages, Carriage, &c. ..	2	6 2
			Advertising	0	7 0
			Hallkeeper	0	6 0
			Binding <i>Archæol. Journal</i> ..	1	16 0
			Balance in hand	43	17 0
	£125	0 6		£125	0 6
1870.					
January 1. Balance in hand	43	17 0			

Examined and found correct,
(Signed)

ALFRED WHITBY.

* The Rev. J. H. Hill has very kindly supplied the drawing for the accompanying illustration.

MR. NORTH (Hon. Secretary) next read the following Report of the Committee, for the year 1869.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1869.

THE proceedings of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society during the year just closed, 1869, were similar to those of the former years of its existence, and there are not many incidents calling for special remark from your Committee in presenting this its Annual Report. It will be remembered that in the year 1867, a grant of £10. was made, together with a similar amount from the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, to meet any expenses that might be incurred in watching excavations then going on in the Cherry Orchard, Leicester—the site of a Roman villa—and in taking steps to preserve or make plans of any discoveries made. Since that time many new streets have been formed in that neighbourhood, but no discoveries of interest have been made. Indeed the Cherry Orchard is now so completely covered by modern erections, that the Treasurer of the Exploration Fund has returned to your Treasurer, and to the Treasurer of the Literary and Philosophical Society, in equal moities, the balance of money in his hands. Whilst your Committee is disappointed in not being able to report new discoveries supplementing those made in former years, and so allowing a ground plan of the ancient Roman villa to be made, it feels a satisfaction in having taken such steps as were in its power towards obtaining that result.

Although the arrangements for the Annual Meeting and Excursion last year were unavoidably altered at a late date, the Members had no reason to regret the change. Instead of joining our Northamptonshire friends in a joint meeting at Uppingham, as at first proposed—and which meeting, owing to local difficulties, was deferred for a short time—a meeting of a slightly curtailed character was held at Melton Mowbray. The usual morning assemblage and temporary museum were not attempted; the public proceedings of the Society being confined to a Meeting in the Corn Exchange in the evening, at which some valuable and interesting Papers were read. The Members, however, were not idle during the day. They inspected the fine parish church, which for some years past has been undergoing extensive repairs and restorations; they visited the Museum in the quaint old Bede-house close to the church, and they spent much time at excavations, kindly permitted to be made by the Society in the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery outside the town. Although from time to time most valuable discoveries have been made there, which have been fully detailed in previous Reports of this Society, the diggers were not rewarded for their labours upon that occasion, scarcely a vestige of an antique was found, and no interment of any kind was discovered. The evening Meeting was held under the presidency of the Rev. the Vicar of the parish. The following Papers were read: “The objects of Architectural and Archæological Societies,” by Mr. James Thompson; “An Appeal to the Religious Sentiment Observable on Old English Money hitherto unnoticed,” by the Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A.; “The Ancient Schools of Melton,” by the Hon. Secretary. These three Papers, together with some valuable notes upon the Bottesford Monuments, contributed by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., will appear in the next Volume of the Associated Societies. The Excursion on the following day included visits to the churches of *Waltham-on-the-Wolds*, *Croxton Kerrial*, *Knippton*, *Muston*, *Bottesford*—where the fine series of monuments were commented on by Mr. Bloxam—*Barkeston*, *Eastwell*, *Goadby Marwood*, and *Caldwell*.

Most of the Members are aware that the proposal, originated by the Society—that the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland should be invited to hold its Annual Congress here during the summer of the present year—has been cordially and heartily met by the Mayor and Corporation of Leicester, and by the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. Invitations from both, as well as from this Society, were some time ago forwarded to the Council of the Institute, the Members of which have resolved to hold a Congress here probably during the month of July next. Whilst your Committee congratulate you upon the honour thus conferred upon Leicester, it urges upon you the necessity of doing everything in your power to make the Congress of that learned body an agreeable and successful one.

The Statement of Accounts and Report were unanimously adopted.

After the usual votes of thanks, it was

RESOLVED: That in consequence of the visit of the Royal Archæological Institute to Leicester in July next, the usual summer meeting and excursion of this Society shall not take place this year.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that he had received a letter from the Town Clerk of Leicester, requesting this Society to nominate a small Sub-Committee to confer with a Committee appointed by the Town Council as to the reception in Leicester of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland in July next. The following gentlemen were appointed: Messrs. Thomas Nevin-son, G. H. Nevinson, Joseph Goddard, and Captain Whitby; the District Secretaries of the Society, namely, the Rev. J. H. Hill (Crance), Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A. (South Kilworth), Rev. E. Tower (Earl's Shilton), and Mr. Vincent Wing (Melton Mowbray); the two Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. Bellairs and North, being ex-officio members.

The following gentlemen were elected MEMBERS of the Society: Mr. Harrington Offley Shore, of Lindridge; Mr. James Stanhope, of Leicester; and Mr. J. G. Fast, of Melton Mowbray.

The Committee and Officers of the past year were re-elected.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:

By MR. NORTH: An interesting manuscript volume of Offices, &c. (4½ inches of 3 inches), containing 178 leaves of vellum, and most beautifully penned in the good handwriting peculiar to the reign of Edward I. Its date is probably about the year 1290. The following notes upon the contents were communicated by the Rev. R. H. HAWKES:

I. Kalendar—two pages to each month.

II. Hours of the B. V. Mary (with illumination of the Annun-
ciation). This Office fills 53 leaves, and contains Collects of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, of the Holy Cross, SS. Michael, John Baptist, Peter and Paul, Andrew, Lawrence, Stephen, Thomas of Canterbury, Nicolas, Mary Magdalene, Katherine, Margaret, All Saints, and Memorial of the Cross.

III. The VII. Penitential Psalms (with illumination of our Lord in Majesty), followed by 15 Psalms—only the first lines given.

IV. A Litany—containing after Kyrie, &c., fifty-nine invoca-
tions of Saints, besides all Virgins, all Saints, Confessors, Monks, Disciples, Apostles and Evangelists; S. Victor and S. Dionysius, with their companions, all Patriarchs and Prophets, all Orders of Spirits, all Martyrs.

V. Vigils of the Dead (with an illumination showing a raised coffin covered by blue pall with gold cross; on each side are two

candles; two monks are reciting the Office which follows). This Office is the one called "*Placebo*." It contains several Psalms, Antiphons, the Benediction, Dirige and Prayers.

VI. Commendation of Souls (with illumination showing God the Father giving benediction); beneath are two nude human figures, signifying souls borne in a sheet by two angels, underneath are two open graves.

VII. Psalms of the Passion (with illumination figuring the demi-nude figure of Our Lord with instruments of Passion beneath a cross).

VIII. Psalter of S. Jerome, with an illumination of S. Jerome studying in cell.

This little volume is in modern covers.

By the REV. A. POWNALL, F.S.A.: A Papal *Bulla* or Bull of Clement VI. (1342-52). This was of the usual type. On the obverse appeared the conventional heads of SS. Peter and Paul; on the reverse the inscription CLEMENS PP. VI. This (together with the curious little coin next mentioned) was found in Peckleton Churchyard, in this county, during late works of rebuilding and restoration there. Explanatory of the coin Mr. Pownall communicated the following particulars:

STERLING OF MARIE D'ARTOIS.

This silver coin of Marie d'Artois was found last year in the churchyard at Peckleton in this county, during the time the work of restoration was going on at the church. Its appearance is little likely to attract much notice, but I must bespeak attention for it on account of its excessive rarity. On the obverse is seen the crowned head of a female, with the legend MARIA DCI ARTOSN (Maria Domicella Artosiensis) in Lombardic character; while the reverse bears the cross and pellets common to English and foreign money of the middle age, with the words MONETA MERAUD, *i.e.*, money minted at Meraude. This Maria, in whose name the piece was issued, appears to have been widow of a count of Namur, who died in 1331, A.D. In 1342, she purchased from John of Bohemia the Chateau of Poilvache, situate about three leagues from Namur, on the right bank of the Meuse. Here she struck money—sometime between 1342 and 1353, A.D., but it is only within the last few years that a learned French numismatist discovered Poilvache and Meraude to be one and the same place. An article in the "*Numismatic Chronicle*," written by my friend, Mr. Samuel Sharp, F.S.A., describes another of these coins, and he therein condenses a paper, communicated to the "*Revue de la Numismatique Belge*" for 1850, giving an interesting account of the way in which this discovery came out. After having for a long time puzzled continental numismatists, a M. de Lafontaine

was fortunate enough to find mention made in a charter of the fourteenth century of a certain "*Henry Count of Luxembourg, and of his castle of Meraude, commonly known as Poilvache.*" (*Numis: Chronicle, N.S., Vol. II., 1862.*) Under the name of Poilvache, therefore, that other name, which otherwise coins alone have handed down to us, lay concealed. When I add that only two other examples of this rare sterling are known, that which is in the possession of Mr. Sharp, and another which is said to be in the collection of the Count Robiano, at Brussels, it will be acknowledged that the finding of a third in a Leicestershire churchyard should be included in the archæological annals of the Society. The surprise which some might feel on hearing of this coin being found so far from home in a midland English county, need not last long, when it is remembered that these foreign sterlings were counterfeits of the contemporary English silver money, and often circulated concurrently with it. Before it obtained a resting place in the churchyard at Peckleton, the piece exhibited now probably passed through many hands in the fourteenth century, as the penny of one or other of our first three Edwards.

By MR. THOMAS NEVINSON: Photograph of an ancient alms box found in a niche in a cupboard behind pannelling in a building known as the Bede House, Stamford. Some folded linen but no coin was in it.

By MR. GODDARD: An unguent jar, of Roman manufacture, without pattern, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter in the widest part, lately found on the site of the Red Lion Inn, High-cross Street, Leicester, now taken down. Also from the same locality the larger portion of a bowl (6 inches in diameter and 3 inches deep) of Samian ware. Under the rim the frequent ornamentation known as the festoon and tassel, appeared, the other decoration comprised foliage arranged with considerable elegance. The fact of this vessel having been mended by leaden rivets by its early possessors, shows that the Samian ware was an expensive article. Mr. Goddard also produced a *fac simile* of a Tazza, bearing in the bowl, in high relief, a figure of Minerva, the original of which formed part of the famous "find" near Frankfort some years ago.

March 28th, 1870.

THE REV. J. H. HILL in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: Mr. Fletcher of Belvoir Castle, and Mr. Traylin, architect, Leicester.

MR. BELLAIRS exhibited a silver penny, much worn, of one of the English Edwards, probably Edward II., found during the rebuilding of Leicester Frith House.

The REV. J. H. HILL laid upon the table a series of engravings of churches, &c., in the county of Rutland, including an ancient bird's eye view of Exton Park from Horn Lodge, near to which the last battle between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster was fought.

MR. NORTH showed a drawing made by Mr. Fletcher, of Belvoir Castle, of the cover of a stone coffin found in taking down the south wall of Knipton Church. It has covered a small coffin, being only 2ft. 6in. in length, by 1ft. 4in. wide at the head, and one foot at the feet. Upon the surface appears a fine foliated star-shaped cross of eight members carried by a shaft resting upon a Calvary. It is the work of the middle of the fourteenth century.

MR. JOHN HUNT, of Thurnby, exhibited two fine photographs of the ancient church of Thurnby, in this county, now being taken down; also a series of his own sketches of various details, architectural and ecclesiastical, in connection with the same building, the whole accompanied by some interesting notes upon the edifice, which Mr. Hunt promised to produce at a future meeting in a more regular form.

The REV. MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT, B.D., F.S.A., Precentor and Prebendary of Chichester, contributed the following Paper on the

CHANTRIES OF LEICESTERSHIRE, AND THE INVENTORY OF OLVESTON.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that no Inventories of Church Goods for Leicestershire occur in the Public Record Office, a fate which has befallen also the Returns from Somerset and Sussex. Nichols has collected such lists as fell in his way, and printed the Inventories, or rather Sale Catalogues, of four religious houses; one of these—Olveston—which he has published, with many imperfections and omissions, I reproduce, with the various marginal notes, giving the names of the purchasers and the difference between the valuation and the actual sums paid.

There are some interesting facts connected with the history of Chantry Priests or Stipendiaries. They not only celebrated founders' masses, but also assisted in divine service, (occupying the stalls still found in parochial chancels at the Hours,) and in some instances in the cure of souls, as we find that the Vicar of St. Martin's, so poor as to be unable to maintain a vicar or curate, was wholly dependent on their co-operation. In another parish we find one acting as schoolmaster.

There are two sets of certificates, and both the respective forms are given. The meagre extract from the Treasurer's Roll at the time of the Dissolution is the only unpublished fragment now