TRANSACTIONS

OF

THE LEICESTERSHIRE

Architectural and Archæological

SOCIETY.

VOLUME III.

LEICESTER: SAMUEL CLARKE.
1874.
PREFACE.

It is hoped that the contents of this, the Third Volume of the Transactions of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, will prove of interest and value to its members.

The contributor of each Paper is alone responsible for any facts stated and opinions expressed.

The Editor expresses his own personal thanks, and those of the members generally, to the gentlemen who have so kindly aided in illustrating the following pages by their drawings.

THOMAS NORTH,
Editor.

Ventnor, I. W.,
1st May, 1874.
CONTENTS OF VOLUME III.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting and Report, for the Year 1864</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 27th March, 1865</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 29th May, 1865</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 31st July, 1865</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting at Melton Mowbray, 17th and 18th August, 1865</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton Mowbray Church, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Enquiry Concerning the Founders and Ancient Monuments of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton Mowbray Church, by Mr. Vincent Wing</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Temporary Museum at Melton Mowbray <em>(with Illustrations)</em></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Plate, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A. <em>(with Illustration)</em></td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On a Find of English Coins at Holwell, near Melton Mowbray, by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Asheton Pownall, F.S.A.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Constables of Melton in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Mr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Excursion, 18th August, 1865</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 25th September, 1865</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Langton and its Founders, by Rev. J. H. Hill</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 27th November, 1865</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting and Report, for 1865</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 26th March, 1866</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Melton Mowbray, by Mr. North</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 28th May, 1866</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting at Market Harborough, 21st and 22nd June, 1866</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS.

The Sepulchral Monuments of Leicestershire, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A. 133

The Langton Churches and Charities, by The Rev. George Ayliffe Poole 140

Sketch of the History of S. Mary-in-Arden and the Township of Market Harborough, by Mr. W. H. Gatty 153

The Excursion, 22nd June, 1866 171

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 30th July, 1866 179

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 24th September, 1866 179

Accounts of the Churchwardens of Melton Mowbray, by Mr. North 180

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 29th November, 1866 207

The Archdeacons of Leicester, by The Rev. J. H. Hill 209

Annual Meeting and Report, for 1866 220

Discovery of Roman Remains at Barrow-on-Soar, By Mr. Alfred Ellis (with Illustrations) 222

Destruction of Church Ornaments in Lincolnshire at the Reformation, by Mr. North 226

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 25th March, 1867 236

Grant of Arms, by The Rev. John Fisher 237

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 27th May, 1867 244

General Meeting at Kettering, 4th and 5th June, 1867 245

The Excursion, 4th June, 1867 252

Kettering, by The Rev. Henry Lindsay 255

The Excursion, 5th June, 1867 269

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 29th July, 1867 279

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 30th September, 1867 280

The Restorations of Melton Mowbray Church, by Mr. Vincent Wing 284

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 25th November, 1867 291

The Mowbrays, Lords of Melton, Part III., by Mr. North 291

Annual Meeting, 27th January, 1868 327

The Prebendaries of S. Margaret's, Leicester, by Rev. J. H. Hill 327

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 30th March, 1868 331

Annual Report for 1867 333

Bi-Monthly Meeting, 25th May, 1868 339

Buckminster Church, by Mr. Wing 339

Silchester, by Mr. James Thompson 342
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS.</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 27th July, 1868</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting at Kegworth, 26th and 27th August, 1868</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>349, 373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorials of Kegworth, by The Rev. J. Clark</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discoveries made in Lutterworth Church, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A.</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Fowke’s Journey to Freeston Shore, by Rev. E. Tower</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarks on Leicestershire Architectural Society, by Mr. North</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On certain Sepulchral Effigies in West Leake Church, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A.</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 28th September, 1868</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Archbishop Chiceley, by Rev. John Fisher</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 30th November, 1868</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting (and Report for 1868), 25th January, 1869</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 29th March, 1869</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-Monthly Meeting, 31st May, 1869</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Meeting at Melton Mowbray, 23rd June, 1869</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Objects and Advantages of Architectural and Archæological Societies, by Mr. James Thompson</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Appeal to Religious Sentiment observable on some Early English Money hitherto unnoticed, by The Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A. (with Illustration)</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ancient Schools of Melton Mowbray, by Mr. North</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Excursion (with three Illustrations)</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bottesford Monuments, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A.</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index to Volume III.</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

January 30th, 1865.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Mr. Bellairs presented an audited statement of accounts for the past year, showing a balance of £18. 0s. 8d. in favour of the Society.

Mr. North (Honorary Secretary) presented and read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1864.

It is with pleasure that the continued prosperity of the Society can be reported. The number of members has been increased during the year 1864, by the addition of twenty-five new names, whilst the loss by resignation has been only four, and by death, three. Among the latter we have to lament the decease of our late venerable diocesan, Bishop Davys, of Peterborough. The Bishop, although taking no active part in the proceedings of this Society, always evinced an interest in its welfare, and had for several years been one of its patrons. His deep and earnest piety, the unostentatious filling of his high position, the simplicity of his character, and the courtesy and kindness shown to all around him should enshrine his memory in the hearts of all within his diocese; whilst Leicestershire—and especially Leicester—men should remember that the last days of his life were spent in an anxious endeavour to devise means to meet the rapidly increasing spiritual wants of this large town.

The Annual Publication of the Society, placed gratuitously in the hands of the members during the past year, comprised interesting reports of the progress of the various societies associated for general purposes, and valuable papers read at their meetings. Our own contributions to that volume (in addition to the annual Report) were a concise Paper, by Mr. H. Goddard, upon The present state of the Jewry Wall, Leicester; and three Papers read at the summer meeting at Kibworth. Two of the latter, namely, Mr. Levien's, upon the Manors of Kibworth, and Mr. Slater's, upon the Parish Church, will have been read with considerable interest by all, but specially by those of our members residing in that neighbourhood. Mr. Wing's contribution, The Present Requirements of Architecture in order to a successful competition with Antiquity, possesses a wider and more general interest,

B VOL. III.
as raising questions affecting the progress and development of the art of architecture in this country, and at the present time. In addition to this volume the members have received, gratuitously, Part iv. of the transactions of this Society. This part contains one hundred and forty-three pages of letter press profusely illustrated, and records the Papers read before the Society, and the exhibition of antiquities, architectural plans, drawings, &c., at its various meetings, from the 30th August, 1858, to the 28th July 1859, inclusive. For ready help in illustrating this part of our Transactions the members are much indebted to Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. for the loan of many wood blocks; and to Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Melton Mowbray, for making a special drawing of a recumbent effigy in the church of that town.

The interest attaching to the bi-monthly meetings has been fully sustained. Various architectural plans have been submitted to the Committee for their criticism, and many antiquities of considerable local and general interest have been exhibited. Some of the latter were accompanied by descriptive memoirs, and so were rendered additionally valuable. In addition to the short Papers so contributed the following have been read before the Society during the past year:—Notes on Misterton Church, by Mr. Wm. Smith, architect; Notes on Wymondham Church, by a member; History of Earl’s Shilton, by the Rev. E. Tower; Ancient Hinckley, by Mr. James Thompson; Notes upon Stockings, by Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A.; Stained Glass Windows, by the Rev. T. Drake; The Jewry Wall, by Mr. James Thompson; The Bathursts of Hothorpe, by the Rev. J. H. Hill.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

It was decided in the year 1864, that the general summer meeting should that year be held in Hinckley. The fact that Hinckley had never been visited by the Society, coupled with its accessibility by railway, decided the Committee in its choice. No sooner was the decision known to the vicar and the inhabitants of Hinckley than a public meeting was called, at which, after expressing the pleasure they anticipated from our visit, a local committee, consisting of forty members, was appointed to make arrangements for the intended meeting and excursion. This local committee was headed by the vicar as chairman, and directed by the Rev. E. Tower, the Society’s honorary secretary for that district, and by Mr. J. D. Cotman, who filled the arduous post of secretary to the local committee. The days chosen for the proceedings at Hinckley were the 19th and 20th of July. On the first of those days a meeting of the committee was held in the Corn Exchange for the election of members, after which a public assemblage, presided over by the vicar, was opened to welcome the representatives of the Society.

Upon taking the chair, the Rev. W. Skirrow said—“I feel sure that I am only expressing the sentiment of every inhabitant of the town of Hinckley, when I state that it is with feelings of the deepest satisfaction we receive to-day the deputation of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society. In confirmation of my statement, I would refer to the list of our local committee, in which are enrolled the names of forty gentlemen resident in this town. In one sense the parish of Hinckley may be said to stand in rather an important position regarding archaeology. With the exception of the fine old parish church, our records of the past are mostly legendary. We have but few material ones. Long since have our castle towers and castle walls been battered to the ground by some invading foe, or mouldered into dust under the destroying influence of time. In days long past we once were great, and I trust we shall some day be great again, but in a far different sense. There was a time when the trumpets of the High Constable of England, and John O’Gaunt, sounded within and around our castle walls, calling their followers to rally round the banners of their lords; but we want war no more. It is to the arts of peace—the sound of machinery, and the stocking-looms, that we look for our greatness now; but perhaps I should be wrong in saying that this is all we look to for greatness. No! we must not only look forward to the future, but also back upon the past. It has been said by a great philosopher who lived upwards of two thousand years ago, that the anticipation of the future and the memory of the past, compose the happiness of the present time. Therefore, Gentlemen, we feel that we need not neglect archaeology if we wish to be either happy or great. A study of antiquity teaches all of us to avoid the faults of our ancestors, and also infuses into us a
spirit of reverence for their struggles under a cloud of error darker than ours. We, therefore, welcome with gratitude this visit of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society to our town."

The Rev. E. Towne, in the course of his reply on behalf of the Society, said he was deputed to thank the vicar, the churchwardens, and the inhabitants of Hinckley for the very ready and excellent reception of the Society into their town. The Society upon those occasions was not only the means of pleasing the population by affording a little pastime, and drawing together a number of people of different ways and habits of life, and inducing them to look goodnaturedly upon each other, and charitably upon their forefathers; but it had for its chief object the diffusion of true knowledge of the science of architecture, the study of Gothic architecture in particular, and the spread of good taste in building, and the conviction of the possibility of uniting taste and utility even in common domestic buildings. It is to the noble benevolence of our forefathers that we are indebted for the possession of our beautiful old parish churches. No scanty hand built those houses of God; but by a munificence that is remarkable they were intended to last, not only for their founders' time, but for the use of generations. It is the duty of the members of this Society to lead the way in preserving these churches—the symbols of Christianity in this country—and whenever any of them become dilapidated to see them restored and preserved.

This preliminary meeting having been brought to a close, the members and their friends attended morning prayer in the parish church, where the fine organ and excellent choir lent efficient aid to the service, which was also attended by a large number of the inhabitants.

At the close of the service Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., offered some remarks upon the architectural history of the edifice. He said that wherever a castle was built it was customary to erect a church or chapel near to it; and it was so in Hinckley, where the church and the site of the former castle, of which no remains were now in existence, closely adjoin each other. Not only were there no remains about the church of Norman architecture indeed there are fewer evidences of Norman remains in Leicestershire churches than in those in any other county—but there is abundant proof that the church was rebuilt about the fourteenth century, in the time of Edward III., when all over the county of Leicester there was a complete renovation of the churches, and when, indeed, there were more churches rebuilt in this county than in any other. The church, then, which was rebuilt in the fourteenth century is well proportioned. The portions belonging to that period are the piers and arches on each side of the nave, the lower part of the tower, and the hood-moulding over the east window. There are portions of the church of the fifteenth century, consisting of the clerestory windows, and the wooden roof of the nave, together with the upper portion of the tower. The church appears to have been considerably altered in the last century, when the present mullions of most of the windows were put in, and the windows greatly disfigured, and when also the spire of the edifice appears to have been rebuilt. Mr. Bloxam then directed attention to the noticeable monuments in the church, especially to one of the fourteenth century, with busts, and to the single remaining brass in the nave, which, he said, commemorated a lady of the fifteenth century.

The large party assembled in the Church next proceeded to the Castle grounds, where they were met by the present courteous owner of the property, Mr. Stephen Pilgrim, and were conducted by him over the site and earthworks of the ancient castle. After a time the party assembled on a suitable spot, when the Rev. W. Skirrow said there were no material remains of the ancient castle about them; unfortunately not a single stone was extant. However, he believed that it was supposed that originally it was a camp of the Early Britons, and that after that it became a Roman Camp, but that was all mere legend. What they knew to be correct was, that there was a castle there, inhabited by John of Gaunt. After him it descended to Edward IV. How long the castle had been demolished was unknown, but soon after that time, (the time of Edward IV.) it disappeared, and it was supposed to have been destroyed about the year 1460, in the reign of Henry VI., or at any rate between that period and 1485. It is believed that the final destruction of the castle came from the Priest Hills, or what was now called Priest Headlands. After that time it long lay in a state of desolation, then became the property of a gardener, and subsequently, in 1760, it passed into the hands of the Hurst family, by whom the present house was built, and from them to its highly respected owner, Mr. Pilgrim.
Mr. Bloxam remarked, with reference to its being a British or Roman remain, his opinion was that it was a medieval remain of the twelfth century. The castle must have been very small, and probably had a square tower—some eighteen or twenty feet square—with some few scattered buildings around it. That was, doubtless, the extent of the original castle; what might have been added to it, in after ages, it was impossible to say. All that remained now were those earthworks; they were very extensive, and might have been the works of two or three periods. They showed that they were raised with a great deal of labour, and that they must have been continued onwards, because on the opposite side the ground dropped down; but as in other places, so there, they had nothing to show. For instance, near Groby, there were the earthworks of a Norman castle, consisting of a mound, in the centre of which the original castle or keep was erected, which was a distinctive mark of the Norman castle; they had not, however, got that mark there, but simply those raised earthworks. He thought, therefore, that if it was originally a Norman castle the remains must have been gradually destroyed in after times, when it became, as it were, more a mansion than a castle. But without greater discrimination and a reference to the surrounding country, it was almost impossible, on coming there for the first time, to make any observations that could be relied upon as perfectly correct.

After some further remarks from Mr. James Thompson and Mr. Bloxam, it was announced that the Museum, in the Town Hall, was then open, and that Mr. Bloxam would give a cursory explanation of its contents. The museum contained a goodly array of all kinds of antiquities and works of art. Indeed, it would be impossible in this Report to attempt anything like an analysis of its contents. All seemed pleased to contribute, and all appeared anxious to see their neighbours' store, so the attendance was very large indeed, and it was found absolutely necessary to keep the doors open two days, in order that all who wished might be gratified by a sight of the archaeological wealth of Hinckley and its neighbourhood.

The public evening meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, where papers were read or contributed by Mr. James Thompson on Ancient Hinckley; Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., Some Notes upon Stockings; and Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., on Merevale Abbey. As these papers will be given in the volume of the Associated Societies for this year (1864), it is not necessary here to do more than record their titles, and to say that they fully deserved the high praise accorded to them after their delivery by Mr. Charles Holte Bracebridge and other speakers.

On the following day an excursion was made to Mancester, Merevale Abbey, Atherstone Hall, Sheepy, Orton-on-the-Hill, Twycross, and Gopsall. At all those places the Society was most kindly and courteously received. Mr. Bracebridge, at Atherstone Hall, and the Earl and Countess Howe, at Gopsall, throwing open their houses, and exhibiting their various treasures to the numerous visitors. At Gopsall, too, the company were invited to partake of cooling wines, which the heat of the day rendered doubly acceptable; and his lordship in reply to some parting words addressed to him by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Leicester, on behalf of those present, said he was sorry that the Committee of the Architectural and Archaeological Society had not allowed him, as he wished, to offer them the hospitality which one gentleman usually extended to another, but at their particular desire he had abstained from pressing that point, and could only say, in bidding them good bye, that should they ever again come into that neighbourhood he would heartily welcome them once more at Gopsall.

It would be impossible to report too strongly the entire success of the Hinckley meeting. That success was the more pleasurable and welcome inasmuch as it was to some extent unexpected. Hinckley had been suffering very severely from an extreme depression in its trade, arising from the scarcity and high price of cotton. It was, therefore, felt by many, that we were holding our meeting there at an unpropitious time, and that we could not fairly expect the objects of our Society to receive that attention from the inhabitants which had been so readily accorded to us elsewhere upon previous similar occasions. The event, however, proved those fears to be unfounded. It would not be courteous to our friends who have so kindly received us in other parts of the county, to say that the Hinckley meeting was the best in the experience of the Society, but we may fairly say that Hinckley came behind no other town yet visited in the alacrity with which all the inhabitants joined in the endeavour to make the meeting an agreeable one, in the hospitality and kindly feeling shown by so many to the numerous visitors, in the thoroughly hearty
way in which those gentlemen who undertook to work went through the labour assigned them, and in the consequent successful result, which must have been as satisfactory to them as it was gratifying to those members of the Society who were present.

The Jewry Wall. In accordance with the resolution referred to in the last annual Report of this Society, the sub-committee appointed to take means to preserve the Jewry Wall have proceeded with the projected works so far as the funds placed at their disposal warranted. Their first wish was to place substantial brick supports to carry the overhanging masonry. This was done early in the year, and so the fear of a great mass of the ancient structure falling in consequence of it having no adequate support, was removed. The next step taken by the sub-committee was, under the kind and gratuitous superintendence of Messrs. Goddard and Son, to excavate, for about thirty feet, on the eastern side of the wall, commencing at its northern extremity. These excavations were carried down about ten feet nine inches, to the level of the Roman way, in fact sufficiently deep, and carried out sufficiently in an easterly direction, to expose fully the bases and footings of two of the piers. In order that the portion thus opened should so remain, and be for the future exposed to view, and so convey an idea of the kind of structure the Jewry wall originally was, this Society obtained permission from the Highway and Sewerage Committee, and also from the vicar and churchwardens of St. Nicholas' parish, to leave open the excavations so far as they have been completed, protecting the spot by proper walling and fencing. The information gained by these excavations with regard to the original use of the Jewry Wall, has been laid before this Society, both by Mr. Goddard and Mr. James Thompson. The evidence furnished appears rather of a negative than a positive character. The Jewry Wall was clearly at no period connected with any building projecting in an easterly direction, that is, towards the church of St. Nicholas; and Mr. Thompson’s theory, that the Jewry Wall was the western gateway of Roman Leicester, appears to be strengthened by the information lately obtained.

CHURCH RESTORATION.

The work of restoring the parish churches in this county still progresses. During the past year many restorations—so far as the promoters intended for the present to carry the work—have been completed; others are now in active progress, and many additional ones are contemplated. Many of these restorations have been effected with great care; indeed, in all cases a greater desire is now shown to preserve the ancient features of the fabrics, and to insert, where new work is necessary, details either reproduced in design from such remnant of the ancient structure as may have been preserved, or, where such guides are wanting, entirely new designs in harmony with the general character of the building. There is now—more than formerly—a strong feeling among the clergy of the necessity of employing educated architects of experience in the restoration of their churches; and architects themselves also know that their designs are more accurately criticised, and their skill and good taste more correctly estimated, than was the case even a few years ago. To these causes, tending to the correct restorations of our churches, may be added that spirit of conservation which has shown itself so strongly in churchmen of late years with reference to all those marks of antiquity, vestiges of bye-gone times, disused accessories of public worship, marks of ancient ritualism,—with which so many of them abound. It may not be uninteresting to append to these remarks a few notes upon some of these restorations in this county, effected during the past year. A record of the work to some extent—the list is by no means a complete one—will thus be preserved.

St. Martin’s Church, Leicester. The east end of the chancel of this church has received some ornamentation during the past year, which is worthy of notice. The wall space on each side of the reredos, and nearly to the height of it, is diapered with black circles on a green ground; each circle contains a cinquefoil in dull purple, with a gold centre. This diaper is bordered, a little below the top of the reredos, with alternate red and blue squares, boldly outlined, on which are gold and black conventional rosettes. A similar border terminates the diaper on the floor line. Ornate foliated crosses, in gold and colours, occupy the centre of each of these
wall spaces. Above the hood-moulding of the east window, and parallel with it, a text is written, and the space from that to the roof is filled with a vine scroll in natural colours. This scroll is continued from a stem rising on each side of the window from foliated scroll-work resting on the upper border of the diaper. The remainder of the east wall is filled with a powdering of fleur-de-lis and trefoil alternately. Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth, was the artist employed to execute this very successful and pleasing decoration, which has an additional advantage in not being very costly in price. The chancel of this church has been further enriched during the past year by several special gifts from members of the congregation. There are within the altar rails a pair of very magnificent gas-light standards in polished brass, from the works of Messrs. Skidmore, of Coventry, the gift of a member of this Society (Dr. Shaw); and a very successful Bible lectern, in polished brass and coloured iron, from the same works, has been presented for use in the daily services of the church. Photographs of both these fine specimens of metal work are now exhibited. It is intended to proceed with the restoration of this, the central church of the town, as soon as possible.

Wistow Church. The alterations in this church were commenced in December, 1863, by the removal of a wooden gallery at the west end of the nave, and the opening of the tower arch behind it, which had been bricked up for many years. To compensate for the loss of seats caused by the destruction of the gallery, the private chapel, containing the recumbent effigy of Sir Richard Halford, and monuments to other members of the Halford family, was made available for the congregation. That was done by opening the iron gate dividing the chapel from the body of the church, and by the introduction of seats. At the same time the pulpit and prayer-desk were removed from the north to the south side of the church. During the present winter further improvements have been effected. The space under the tower (formerly shut out from the church by the brickwork and gallery, and used as a belfry) has been converted into a baptistry. Its window has been filled with stained glass, by Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, depicting the baptism of Jesus, and Christ blessing little children. A new font of Caen stone (the gift of Lady Halford), has been placed in the centre, and the floor paved with encaustic tiles, from a design furnished by Mr. C. J. Lea, of Lutterworth. Further improvements are contemplated in this church during the present year.

Oadby Church. The stucco on the external walls of the south aisle of this church, the placing of which was commented upon in a former Report of this Society, has been knocked off, the walls properly pointed by Mr. Firn, and an unsightly brick chimney removed.

Narborough Church. The whole of the walls externally have been restored. The windows of the north aisle are in a forward state, and shortly will be placed in position. The south side of the chancel has also been restored, new windows inserted, and the ancient priest's doorway, known to many members of this Society as one of an extremely interesting type, reproduced with considerable care and fidelity by Mr. John Firn, of Leicester, the stonemason employed.

Barkby Church. The clerestory windows of this church have been entirely restored and reglazed. The stucco which disfigured the church externally has been knocked off, and the walls pointed. The parapets of the nave, which were of brick, have been taken down and replaced by stone ones, with proper coping, &c.

Wigston Magna Church. The improvements in the fittings of this church have been continued during the year. All the large pews are now swept away, and in their place open seats are fixed throughout the edifice. In making this change—as mentioned in the last Report—the old material of the pews has been worked up in an admirable manner. The new seats are of considerable merit, both as to convenience (there being plenty of room for kneeling as well as for sitting), and in design. Indeed, comfort and simple comeliness are happily blended in these very good seats, which are worth the inspection of any clergyman about to reseat a village church. The inconvenient reading desk and pulpit have also given place to a new pulpit showing the linen pattern upon its panels, and a simple prayer desk and lectern. This alteration has enabled the architect (Mr. Kirk, of Sleaford) to open the lower portion of the interesting old screen, and the chancel is now better seen from the nave. The floor, too, has been repaved with simple quarries, which have a pleasing effect. The mode of lighting this church with gas also calls for remark. It is done by having a string of jets or lights around—and just above—the abacus of the capital of each pier in the nave. The desirability of so lighting a
church is very questionable for many reasons; but when, in order to attain that
plan, a supply pipe is carried up the side of each pier, and portions of the neck
mould are cut away, and a large hole bored through the bell of the capital (as is the
case at Wigston) in order to carry it to the circlet of lights above, the whole thing
must be strongly reprehended.

Saddington Church. A new east window in the chancel of this church of an
early Decorated character, has been inserted by Mr. Firn, from designs furnished by
Messrs. Goddard and Son, superseding a square-headed opening of an extremely
uneclesiastical type.

Burton Overy Church. The war against stucco has broken out here. The west
end of the north aisle has been restored, the stucco both externally and internally
being condemned, and the masonry repointed. The west window has been restored
to its original features, and new stone coping placed on the wall.

Hoby Church. Every traveller from Leicester on the Syston and Peterborough
railway, must have noticed, immediately after quitting Brooksby station, this
picturesque church, standing on the rising ground to the left of the Wreke. A
nearer view would, however, a year ago, have shown that the fabric was rapidly
sinking into decay, and that unless energetic steps were at once taken to preserve it,
utter ruin would be (as unseemly dilapidation had long been) the consequence. The
rector and his parishioners set to work, and, placing the care of the church in the
hands of Mr. Ewan Christian as architect, and Mr. Firn, of Leicester, as builder,
have proceeded towards a restoration so far as their funds will permit. Great care
has been exercised in the restoration and rebuilding to preserve the original design
and details. Two three-light Decorated windows (good examples of the work of the
end of the thirteenth or commencement of the fourteenth century) in the south aisle
have been restored. The faces of the walls of that aisle have also been restored in
ashlar. A new roof of oak has replaced the old one, and the doorway, which was
much mutilated, has been replaced by a new one. The nave has been cleansed, and
the clerestory windows, which are poor and debased in character, have been repaired
where needful. The tower (the base of which is early thirteenth century work)
has been partially renovated. The chancel, which was in a wretched condition,
having been rebuilt throughout, and its roof is entirely new. An original window on
the south side of the old chancel has been restored, and reinserted in the new work.
The ancient piscina has also been preserved. It has not been refitted at present,
and some (it is hoped a short) time must elapse before a new floor will be laid.
The face of the walls internally has been judiciously cleansed, and the stone—part
ashlar, and part rubble—shown throughout. Unfortunately, lack of funds prevents
the immediate repair of the north aisle, which is much dilapidated. The most
interesting object to the ecclesiologist in Hoby church is the stone which, in pre-
reformation times, formed the upper portion of the altar. These altar stones are
now very rare in England, and this is (it is believed) the only perfect one in this
county. It was found about forty years ago, by the then rector, forming part of
the pavement of the church. It was taken up and placed on the communion table.
It bears upon it the usual five consecration crosses, which are more or less distinct,
and is, of course, of considerable size—about eight feet by four feet—the altar stone
being always one perfect slab, symbolizing the unity of the Church. During the
late restorations this stone was of necessity removed. It has been carefully
preserved, and it will either be replaced—so your Secretary is assured both by the rector
and the architect—on the table, or put immediately under it for preservation.

Hallaton Church. A new pavement of Whetstone's tiles laid down in the chancel
has effected a great improvement in this church. The altar rails have been restored.
The oak pulpit formerly painted, has been cleansed and lowered, and the prayer desk
appropriately altered.

Withcote Church. This curious church, with its eighteenth-century fittings, has
received some decoration by Mr. Lea, of Lutterworth. The fittings of this church
are all of oak, and are characteristic of the period in which they were erected.
Grecian pilasters and panelled oak pews abound. The reredos is of this character.
In its central square compartment Mr. Lea has introduced the Decalogue on zinc
tablets having a stone-coloured ground. The text is Roman with illuminated
capitals, neatly and plainly written, and so in good keeping with the reredos in
which the tablets are fixed.

St. Peter's Church, Wymondham. A pretentious but very disfiguring and ob-
structive singing-loft has been removed from the west end of the nave of this

REPORT FOR 1864.

7
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

church. This gallery, with the brickwork behind it, entirely blocked up the tower arch. The brickwork has also been taken down, and the fine arch opened. The arch itself was everywhere defaced, and the bases of the pillars carrying it entirely buried. The arch has been thoroughly restored in accordance with such data as remained; and the bases of the columns (remarkable for their octagonal form, thus showing their early character) will now repay inspection. This improvement led to others: a lately inserted belfry door in the western wall of the tower is now blocked up, and the Early Lancet window over it, with a semicircular relieving arch in the interior, is now well seen from the nave. An interior turret staircase to the bell chamber, with a door of the Perpendicular period, also restored, adds another interesting feature to this part of the church. Two very large scene paintings, about eighty years old, formerly occupying the interior gables east and west of the nave, have been removed, and the clerestory of the nave partly restored. The spurious tracery found in the east chancel window of five lights has been replaced by a very elegant design of the Geometrical period by Mr. Slater, and is now filled with stained glass representing the chief passages in the history of our Lord, very successfully executed by Mr. Alexander Gibb. The very ugly reading desk and pulpit, which formerly occupied so much room and obstructed the view of the eastern end of the chancel, have been replaced by a more appropriate and convenient, as well as seemly arrangement, for the same purposes. Other restorations are hoped for in this very interesting and handsome edifice, which it is hoped the members of the Society will have the pleasure of inspecting during the projected excursion from Melton Mowbray in the summer of 1865. One suggestion is offered to those in whose hands the restoration is confided: it will be well to employ experienced masons in any future minor works which may be carried out. It is certainly not desirable to repeat the style of work apparent in the restoration of the columns and their capitals carrying the tower arch. The masonry of the east window, executed by Mr. Halliday, is remarkably good.

St. George's Church, Leicester. A memorial font has been placed here to the memory of the late Rev. Robert Burnaby, by the members of his congregation. It is of Caen stone, with white Mansfield stone steps. The architects employed were Messrs. Goddard and Son, and Mr. Firn was the mason. An elaborately carved oaken canopy is being constructed to complete the original design.

Slawston Church, All Saints' Church, in this parish, has been thoroughly restored, and the chancel nearly entirely rebuilt, under the superintendence of Messrs. Goddard and Son, architects, Leicester, during the past year. The nave and aisle roofs have been renewed in style according with the ancient roofs, which were quite unsafe. The whole of the windows have been restored, care being taken to follow the details furnished by the remains of the originals. The porch of the south door has been rebuilt; during the excavations for which portions of an Early Decorated gable-cross were discovered, which served as a model for the new cross now placed upon the apex of the new porch. The internal stone work has been carefully cleansed, and the walls externally restored and repointed. The doorway on the north side has been walled up, in order to add to the warmth of the edifice; the jambs and heads are left to show its former existence. New doors of English oak, with strong wrought-iron bands, have been placed to the west and south doorways. These and the porch gates are the only portions of the work in which oak is used, the architects being anxious to show that red deal could be employed in the internal fittings with good effect in cases where the funds prevented the use of oak. The pulpit, prayer desk, lectern, stalls in chancel, low chancel screen, and seats in nave and aisle, are consequently carried out in that material. The result is extremely satisfactory. The floors of the nave and aisle are laid with four-inch red and black tiles, and the chancel with encaustic tiles, the whole from the works of Mr. Whetstone, of Coalville. The standards to altar rail, of wrought-iron, were supplied by Messrs. Hart. The chancel is lighted by oil lamps carried by wrought-iron standards made by Messrs. Hunt and Pickering. The contractors were Messrs. Loveday and Stanyon.

In addition to these hastily written descriptive notes upon churches, in which the works are to some extent completed, it may be remarked that at North Kilworth much is doing towards a thorough restoration. At Great Easton a new tower is
being erected. At Billesdon the church is being thoroughly and effectively restored. At Kilworth a recess has been built by Mr. Firn, of Leicester, on the south side of the chancel, for the organ, which is a great improvement. At Blenton, a new church is about being erected under the care of Mr. Street. The churches of Church Langton and Thorpe Langton are about being restored by Messrs. Goddard and Son, and the small church at Tur Langton rebuilt. At Sheepshead new porches and a new vestry have been erected. At Great Ashby, Mr. Lea, of Lutterworth, has been employed in painting some slight mural decorations in the chancel, which he has executed with his usual good taste. The four pinnacles of the tower of Plungar church have been restored and reset by Mr. Firn. Mr. Firn has also taken down, restored, and reset the pinnacles of the tower of St. Mary's church, Leicester, one of them having been blown down, doing much damage to the roof, pewing, &c., upon which it fell. Ossington church is undergoing complete restoration under the supervision of Messrs. Goddard and Son, and the same gentlemen are engaged on the fine village church at Whissendine, which we hope to see in our excursion next summer from Melton Mowbray.

Mr. K. W. Johnson, of Melton, has prepared plans for the restoration of the churches of Somerby and Kirkby Bellars, both of which it is hoped will be commenced next spring. The noble old parish church of St. Margaret, Leicester, has been much improved by the substitution of two windows from designs by Mr. G. G. Scott, in place of two deformities at the west end of the north and south aisles; and St. Mary's church, Leicester, has been further enriched by the insertion of another memorial stained glass window from the works of Wauiles, of Newcastle.

Among the many features calling for remark in the restoration of our churches, is one which cannot fail to appeal to the sympathies and excite the hopes of all churchmen who have any veneration for the ancient structures in which for so many centuries their ancestors worshipped. The many free gifts, such as stained glass windows, mural decorations, fittings for the various parts of the church, service books, and other necessaries for the decent performance of divine service, or tending to the glory of God and the enrichment of His House of Prayer, which are now so commonly met with in churches, is certainly a characteristic of these times, and tends much to unite us with those noble-hearted men of old, who, in times of comparative darkness, begrudged nothing that tended to add beauty and grace to the solemn services which they delighted to witness in those gorgeous edifices which they and their fathers erected, and in which we, their descendants, still continue to worship.

It must not be supposed from this goodly array of Leicestershire churches, which are evidently cared for by those worshipping within them, that there are no cases calling for immediate attention to prevent their destruction, or that there are not wanting instances in which decency and good taste are ignored in a way which may surprise many of the members of this Society. There is (to take only one instance, probably a sample of many) a church in which the roof has to be propped internally, to prevent its falling on the heads of the congregation; and there is another in which a pew has been fixed within the rails of the altar! Many of the new buildings mentioned in the last Report as being then in progress in Leicester have since been completed. The new residences for the Militia staff within the parade ground, in the Newarke, are extremely picturesque in appearance, and are said to be equally satisfactory as to internal arrangements. The architect who has so satisfactorily carried out the works executed there during the past two or three years, has not, it is thought, been so successful in his last design—the new gates opening from the Newarke into the parade ground. The piers or pillars of the gates, which are good in their general design, appear much too high for the gates which they carry. The gates would look better had they been somewhat higher, and of a more massive character. The taste displayed in placing a couple of couchant lions upon oblong blocks of stone placed on the top of the gothic hooded piers is questionable, inasmuch as they are copied from celebrated classical models.

A memorial cross lately erected on the south-east side of the Town Museum claims attention, and from its distinctive character invites criticism. It may be described as a Gothic column (rising from a richly decorated base), carrying a canopy which is surmounted by the Cross. The plinth upon which the base rests, is a cross with arms of equal length (13 feet), having the angles partially filled. The base, which rises seven feet from the plinth, is quatrefoil on plan, is richly
10 LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

moulded, and is divided by small columns into twelve parts. It is surmounted by a richly carved moulding breaking round each column, and forming the capital thereto. The shaft which rises from the base, and is twenty-one feet in height, is also quatrefoil on plan, and is enriched in the angles with conventional foliage springing upwards. The shaft is divided into three portions by two ornamental bands, which mark the spots where the stones join, it being impossible to procure a single stone of sufficient size. This shaft or column is surmounted by a deeply and enriched carved capital, from the abacus of which rises the tabernacle supported by four ornamental columns, above which appears a richly crocketed canopy, terminating in a copper gilt foliated cross, which rises five feet from the stone finial. It is feared this attempted description of this very beautiful memorial will convey but a meagre impression of its excellence. To Mr. Chamberlain (the architect), the town is certainly indebted for an extremely chaste and elegant design, and he is no less indebted to our townsman, Mr. Barfield, for so correctly and efficiently carrying out his conception. The position in which this memorial is placed is not one calculated to enhance its peculiar beauty, its close contiguity to the Museum tending rather to dwarf its proportions, and to destroy the pleasing effect which it would undoubtedly produce to a greater extent, had it been placed in a more open situation.

Whether the building of a new Town Hall will be decided upon by the Town Council during the current year is uncertain; undoubtedly it is a want the providing for which cannot long be deferred. There will, however, be many buildings probably commenced which will command much attention, and which will tend much to the improvement of Leicester if they are designed and carried out in a satisfactory manner. The new Wyggeston's Hospital, a new Post Office, the completion of Alderman Newton's new schools, may be mentioned; whilst the movement now being made by the Bishop of the Diocese in favour of Church Extension will, it is hoped, result in the speedy erection of two or three new churches in the densely populated parts of the town. Now, whilst these churches will in all probability be plain buildings devoid of all unnecessary architectural ornament, they may at the same time be beautiful in proportion, honest in material, and no discredit to the age in which they will be erected.

ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PERMANENT LIBRARY.

It having been long thought desirable that this Society should, so soon as practicable, rent some central and convenient room as a place of deposit for any books, plans, drawings, and other property which it may possess, and also as a place in which members may meet for the transaction of the business of the Society, or to which they may resort for their own convenience, the committee have much pleasure in announcing that they have now been enabled to provide a room for those purposes. By an arrangement with the committee of the Leicester Permanent Library, the room lately occupied by the Leicester Medical Society, adjoining that Library, is now open daily for the use of members of this Society; and by a further and separate agreement with that committee, members of this Society have now the privilege of reading within the above room (subject to the rules of the Institution) any book upon the shelves of the Leicester Permanent Library. That library now contains between 6000 and 7000 volumes of standard works, comprising all the local histories, very many books relating to architecture, archaeology, and the arts, in addition to various books of reference of considerable value. It will thus be seen that this arrangement will be a source of great convenience, and will be of great use to this Society. Indeed, it is hoped, at the same time be a benefit to the old established and valuable library with which it is made.

SUMMER MEETING AND EXCURSION, 1865.

The Committee have received with much satisfaction an invitation from the Townwardens, and some of the principal inhabitants of Melton Mowbray, to hold the General Summer Meeting for the year 1865 in that town. They accepted that invitation with much pleasure, and without any hesitation. The Society has many members in that town and neighbourhood, indeed many of its earliest and most
energetic friends are resident in that locality. It may therefore be fairly anticipated that Melton will show itself not to be behind other towns in the county in its appreciation of the objects and efforts of this Society.

The Statement of Accounts and the Report were unanimously passed and adopted, with the best thanks of the Society to Mr. North for the trouble he had taken in the compilation of the latter. Votes of thanks were passed to the Worshipful the Mayor for the use of the Town Library, in which to hold the meetings, to the Press for so accurately reporting the proceedings at such meetings, and to the Officers of the Society for the past year.

The Committee and Officers for the past year were re-elected. The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. R. W. Widdowson, Leicester; Mr. Cowdell, London; and Mr. J. H. D. Hill, Crancoe.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:

By the CHAIRMAN: A series of designs just issued by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, illustrative of stained glass supplied by them to various churches and civic buildings.

By CAPTAIN WHITBY: Various coins, including some maunday money of George III. A circular piece of stained glass, from Dingley Hall, depicting a coat of arms, which was referred (after some discussion as to the family to which the arms belonged, and to the age of the glass) to a member of the Society, to report upon at the next meeting.

By MR. G. C. BELLAIRES: The jar in which a large number of gold coins were found at Stockerston in this county last year. The coins were claimed by the Crown as treasure trove. The earliest coin, Mr. Bellairs said, was struck in the reign of James I., and the latest was dated 1710. Four of these purchased from the Treasury were shown, viz., a twenty shilling piece of Charles I.; a guinea and half guinea of Charles II.; and a guinea of William and Mary. Perhaps the jar would generally excite more interest than its valuable contents. It belonged to those curious specimens of stoneware jugs called Long-beards or Bellarmines, and stands about eight inches high. Jugs of that description were in very general use in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They were used in the inns to serve ale to customers, and were, of course, various in size. The specimen found at Stockerston would hold about a pint. They appear to have been imported into England chiefly from Holland or Germany, indeed many of them bear the arms of the German town in which they were manufactured upon their front. This vessel has been well described as "a stone pot or jug, with a wide spreading belly, and a narrow neck; on the top of which was represented a rudely executed face, with a long flowing beard, and a handle behind." It is from the presence of this long flowing beard that it derives its first name "Long-beard," and it is from a fancied, or real, resemblance which the face was
sometimes made to assume to the much hated Cardinal Robert
Bellarmine that it received its second. Mr. Bellairs also exhibited
a small collection of English gold and silver coins, ranging from
Elizabeth to William and Mary, and a coronation medal of Queen
Anne.

By the Rev. John Fisher, an ancient colourless glass teapot
which formerly belonged to Mrs. Fisher, of Cossington, in this
county. It was in use by her in the middle of the seventeenth
century. Mr. Fisher remarked that the lady referred to was the
first who introduced the use of tea into that village. The glass
was apparently of Flemish manufacture. Mr. Fisher also pro­
duced a diminutive figure or doll, which formerly belonged to a
member of his family, who was born in the year 1750. It was, of
course, dressed in the style of the period, a style satirized most
pungently by writers of all kinds. The side hoops were so extensive
that the wearers were obliged to fold them round in front when they
entered a doorway. A study of Hogarth's pictures will fully show the
peculiarities of the dress which this figure so curiously illustrated.

By Mr. G. Nevinson, a Roman crucible found in S. Nicholas
Street, Leicester, last autumn, with a Roman bronze coin, un­
decipherable, inside it. Also a fragment of a bronze canopy,
apparently part of a tomb of the fifteenth century, found near
an old cellar opposite the Town Hall.

March 27th, 1865.
The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. John
Bowmar and Mr. Sharp, both of Leicester.

The following Architectural Plans, &c., were laid on the table:—
By Messrs. Goddard and Son, the ground plan and elevations
of a proposed new church to be built at Tur Langton. This design
has been adopted by the Trustees of the Hanbury Charity (who
provide a portion of the funds) subject to certain alterations to
adapt it to a different site to that at first contemplated. The
church will consist of nave, chancel with apsidal termination, north
aisle, (not south aisle as shown in the drawings) with tower and
broach spire at the west end. The style is early pointed in charac­
ter. After offering some suggestions as to minor details the plans
were approved by the Committee. Messrs. Goddard and Son also
exhibited a proof of a Lithograph by Messrs. Day and Son, from
a drawing by them showing the exterior of S. Martin's Church,
Leicester, (N.W. view) as it will appear when the new spire is
erected, according to Mr. Brandon's design, and the windows and
exterior restored. This drawing (which reflects great credit upon Messrs. Goddard and Son) was much commended, and a cordial wish expressed that the spire may speedily be erected, and so form a noble and beautiful object in the very centre of the town. It may be remarked that the nave roof, as shown in Messrs. Goddard’s drawing, is slightly higher in pitch than it is as given in Mr. Brandon’s design. Messrs. Goddard and Son further exhibited the approved design for a new east window for the chancel of Whissendine Church, which was much commended.

By the Rev. G. Mayor, of Cossington, two designs for a stained glass window for the chancel of Cossington Church. The one by Messrs. Wailes was recommended by the Committee as being the most meritorious.

By John Hunt, Esq, an almanac for 1678, “calculated by John Goldsmith,” in which were some curious manuscript notes, receipts, &c., according to which we find that the price of hay in that year was about 12s. a load, and that a “Teirse of wine brought in from London,” cost £6. 13s. Among the receipts was the following rather singular one:—“Take the lungs of an hog, roast it, whosoever eateth thereof fasting shall not be drunk that day, how liberally soever hee takes his drinks.” Mr. Hunt also exhibited a copy of a curious mark (probably a mason’s mark) found in many different parts of the church of S. Sampson, Cornwall, and the rubbings of two Cornish memorial brasses (1508).

By Mr. Sanson, carved oak chest or coffer, the work of the seventeenth century.

By the Rev. A. Pownall: Large sized medallion of Mary I., an electrotype copy of the unique example in gold. The original was struck by a Milanese artist, Jacopo Trezzo, under the directions it is supposed of Philip of Spain, who is known to have been a patron of Trezzo. The obverse presents the half figure of Queen Mary in a splendidly brocaded dress and jewelled collar. The reverse represents Mary personifying peace, and bears the legend, CECIS (sic) VISVS, TIMIDIS QVIES. It is conjectured that the medallion was struck to commemorate the restoration of the Roman Catholic religion in this country; the legend certainly favours such a conjecture. II. A gold “stater” of Philip the second of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, in beautiful preservation. The head of Apollo laureated, and a Biga, or two horse chariot, are represented on the obverse and reverse respectively. Philip’s victories at the Olympic games, were the cause of his adopting this type. III. A gold “aureus” of Faustina the younger, wife of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, the philosopher. This coin is in equally fine condition with the last, but the workmanship of the Greek artist is vastly superior to that of his Roman successor in the profession. IV. Two ancient British coins of Cunobeline, King in Britain during our Blessed
Lord's life upon earth. The son of Tasciovanus, and the father of Caractacus, he is better known to most of us under the name Cymbeline, which Shakespeare has given him. One of these coins is inscribed with the king's name, and were the legend complete, it would read, CVNOBELINVS REX. It is unusual to find the word "Rex" on British coins, and this is the only type of Cunobeline which gives it. The other reads CVNOBELIN simply. This was recently found at Braughlin in Hertfordshire. All inscribed British coins are very rare, and the coins of Cunobeline in particular invariably fetch high prices from the circumstance of his not standing before historians as the mere shadow of a name.

By Mr. Cox: A miniature in ivory of Throsby, the Leicestershire historian; his watch, with his name engraved on the movement, dated 1791; some of the original copper plates used in his history, and plates from some of them recently taken; also Throsby's own copy of his memoirs of the town and county of Leicester interleaved. Mr. Cox also produced a globular lock of Henry VII.

By the Chairman: A book of Hours said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, dated 1512, and containing twenty-one large illuminations, and twenty-one small ones. On the 22nd page are the following words:—"Pray you pray for your loving cousin, Mary Reg." The book is bound in fine crimson velvet.

"Full goody bound in pleasants coverture
Of damas, satin, or els of velvet pure."

Ship of Foles.

The Chairman also laid upon the table the autograph and seal of Lord Griffin, of Braybrooke and Dingley, 1729, and a prospectus of a new work of considerable local interest about to be published by subscription by the honorary secretary of the Society (Mr. North) entitled "A chronicle of S. Martin's Church, Leicester, during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth, with some account of its minor altars and ancient guilds." This work will be compiled from original and contemporaneous documents, and any profits arising from its sale will be expended upon the church of which it treats.

May 29th, 1865.

The Rev. J. H. Hill, in the chair.

M. Lefranc was elected a member of the society.
The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By the Chairman, a Roman coin (Arcadius, small brass) lately
found at Tur Langton; pen and ink sketches of churches, monumental effigies and memorials, antiquities, seals, &c., in and relating to Framland Hundred, Leicestershire, with notes.

By Mr. North, a shilling silver token, without date, bearing on one side the inscription “Derby, Leicester, Northampton, and Rutland, licensed shilling silver token,” around which is the name of the licensed manufacturer, H. Morgan, 12, Rathbone Place, London, on the other side the town arms of Leicester, imperfectly drawn, with the inscription, “One shilling silver token.”

By Mr. A. Turner, two fragments of Samian ware lately found on the Danett’s Hall, estate, Leicester, one the bottom of an open flat vessel bearing the potter’s name, the other a fragment ornamented with a figure (probably one of the series representing a gladiatorial combat), and stiff foliage.

By Messrs. E. Staynes and Sons, several Roman and other coins (among which was one of Antoninus), mostly undecipherable from corrosion, found during the late extensive alterations and improvements in Cart’s Lane, High Street, Leicester, where also a mass of fragments of Roman pottery was found similar in character and identical in form with the many specimens found a short distance from the same spot during the excavations for the new tower of S. Martin’s Church. Some of these fragments Messrs. Staynes exhibited. One, the base of a small vessel in Samian ware, bears, as is usual in that beautiful ware, the name of the potter, SILVI, OF—that is, Officina Silvi, from the workshop of Silvus.

Mr. Ordish (architect) brought under the notice of the meeting specimens of opaque glass (?) tesserae for wall or floor decoration. These tesserae, which are extremely beautiful in colour, and admirably adapted, by their composition and by a thin film or chemical transparent coating, to resist the influence of the atmosphere or of damp, were introduced a short time since by artists of the Florentine and Venetian schools. This mode of decoration has been used to a limited extent in the Cathedral Church of S. Paul, London, and in a few other places. Its costliness has, however, hitherto prevented that wider use which its merits and exquisite jewel-like effect will, no doubt, eventually command. The specimens produced by Mr. Ordish tended to show that English artistic ingenuity had already seized upon this invention, and while it has produced, (according to Mr. Ordish,) an article equal in merit to the foreign one, it also produces it at a much less cost. Mr. Ordish ended his description by strongly urging upon clergymen, and all interested in church decoration, the use of this new and most beautiful vehicle for giving warmth and colour to the usually cold and blank walls of our ecclesiastical buildings. The specimens exhibited were from the works of Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne. Mr. Ordish further expressed his views respecting the
mode of drawing and colouring stained glass for windows. He deprecated the copying of old glass for modern windows, inasmuch as the former impresses us with its glowing colour, and nothing more; it dazzles, but does not edify. He would therefore do away with all conventionalism in form and costume, and advance in the art of glass painting as in painting upon canvas. Mr. Ordish eulogised the paintings of Herbert, now being publicly exhibited in London—"The Delivery of the Law by Moses," and "The Sower sowing the Good Seed"—and looked upon the style of those pictures as the prototype of future glass painting.

July 31st, 1865.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Mr. North (Hon. Sec.) gave a sketch of the intended proceedings at the Society's meeting, to be held at Melton Mowbray, on the 17th August next. The Lord Bishop of Peterborough will be present, and will act as President of the Society.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. Towne, Mr. Fetch, and Mr. T. N. Wing, all of Melton Mowbray.

The Chairman exhibited tracings of three coats of arms on the exterior of the tower of Ashby Church. Two were the arms of Bassett of Weldon, and Bassett of Sapcote.

The Rev. E. Tower called the attention of the Society to the deplorable state of the ruined church and the churchyard of Elmesthorpe, in this county. He stated several facts, showing how in many ways that church has a claim upon the regard of all feeling any interest in the past history of the parish. At present the building itself is desecrated by having within its walls beds of potatoes, and is a refuge for chickens and any animals which may choose to resort thither. The boundary wall of the churchyard, too, has been removed, and what was once consecrated ground set apart for the quiet and decent repose of the remains of the parishioners, is now unprotected from any acts and from any trespass, however repugnant they may be to that feeling of respect for the dead which is so strongly and so justly felt by all in this country.

Mr. Tower also suggested the desirability of the Society applying to the clergyman of each parish in the county for information respecting the antiquities of his church and parish.

It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Tower be requested to bring forward a complete scheme for carrying this suggestion into effect at a future meeting.
Melton Mowbray, August 17th and 18th, 1865.

THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING.

PRESIDENT, THE LORD BISHOP OF PETERBOURGH.

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of this Society has now become an event looked forward to with considerable pleasure, as a means of exciting an interest in, and of discussing the salient points of, the many topics embraced within the province of the Society, such as the preservation and restoration of our ecclesiastical and civic buildings, with the best modes of their decoration, external and internal; the drawing out, by the attraction of a temporary museum, the great mass of curiosities and works of art which are scattered throughout the county, and which not only admirably illustrate the state of our manufactures and of the arts at the period when they were made or executed, but cast no uncertain light upon the way in which our ancestors conducted their business, furnished their houses, passed their leisure hours, and added to their store of knowledge and information. These objects, in fact, are ocular illustrations of history, furnishing corroborative evidence of its truth, and imparting much and varied information in a manner much more likely to be impressed upon the memory than if it were derived from written works, however graphically and artistically their tale may be told. These meetings, too, by bringing men of similar tastes together, tend to strengthen and encourage the pursuit of those special branches of literature, and those researches, for the fostering of which this and similar societies were formed. Many of those church restorations, also, which are now so happily common among us, receive an impetus from these meetings, and their promoters gather suggestions and hints which in after time are found most useful.

It was with much pleasure that the Committee were able to announce early in the year that the friends of this Society at Melton Mowbray had requested that its Annual Meeting for that year might be held there, and that the Excursion was to be made from thence. And this not because Melton is now rich in many objects of antiquarian interest, but because of its one great attraction—its magnificent church—and its many historical associations. For although Melton has now almost a world-wide reputation as the Metropolis of fox-hunting, it has other and different claims upon the antiquary. It is a town fixed among a host of Danish villages; it was a place of some extent in Saxon times, as is shown by the recent discovery of a Saxon cemetery; it was by no means a despicable part of the estates of the great Mowbray family soon after the Norman Conquest, and from them received its distinctive...
Leicestershire Architectural Society.

appellation; it once had its Castle and its Priory; it was close to the renowned hospital at Burton S. Lazarus, founded by one of its lords; in its neighbourhood are very many most interesting parish churches; and it has other claims to notice which need not be recounted. The meeting of this year, too, received additional interest from the presence of the Bishop of the Diocese, who, being Patron of the Society, at once, with his ready courtesy and kindness, acceded to the wish of the Committee to fill the office of President during the visit of the Society at Melton. Neither were the inhabitants of Melton backward in their desire to render the visit an agreeable one to its members as well as to themselves. Having invited the Society to their town, a General Committee, consisting of a large number of clergymen and gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood, in conjunction with the leading inhabitants of Melton, nominated a small working Committee, to make such arrangements as might be deemed necessary. Having been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. R. W. Johnson, architect, as their secretary, the working Committee carried out all their plans in such an efficient manner as to aid the Society much in furthering the success of the Meeting.

The General Meeting at Melton Mowbray was commenced on Thursday the 17th August, by an assemblage of the members and friends in the Corn Exchange, at half-past eleven o'clock. The assemblage was a large one, comprising—in addition to the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, the President of the Meeting, and numerous Members of the Society—very many of the resident and neighbouring clergy and gentry.

The Rev. W. M. Colles, the Chairman of the Local Committee at Melton, stated that he had been told it was usual upon those occasions for the clergyman of the parish to offer a kindly welcome to those who were interested in the restoration of churches and other kindred subjects. He welcomed them from the bottom of his heart, and upon this occasion he welcomed them with feelings of a deeper and more abiding character, for it happened in the dealing of God's providence, a work of vast magnitude was about to be commenced in the restoration of their church. Therefore the attendance of a Society like the present was a most auspicious omen, because it was most important that the understandings of men should be directed to the state of the Church of that town. It was an immense structure, standing upon the third part of an acre of ground, and the great difficulty was to draw the attention of the people to it. They had determined to make a beginning, leaving it to those who came afterwards to complete it. He felt most thankful for the Society coming here at this particular time.

The Lord Bishop of Peterborough said he had, on behalf of the gentlemen present, to acknowledge the courtesy with which the Rev. W. M. Colles, in the name of the inhabitants of that
interesting place, had expressed their readiness to receive the Society, and for the arrangements which they had made for their comfort during their visit to the town. Upon the objects of the Society he would not dilate; it was probable that upon another occasion some words might be said upon the subject, and, what was better still, it would be seen at work. They would hear the Papers read, which had been prepared by those learned persons who take a deep interest in the Society; and he trusted that the mode in which the Society carried on its work would commend it to many who were not now interested in its operations. To the inhabitants of Melton this visit would be of great interest, for their church was second only to the great cathedrals of the country. He had always found that the objects with which they had been familiarized from infancy were very scantily appreciated; and it was very desirable that the learned eye and the learned tongue should enable them to see better and know better the treasures in their possession. He had himself derived great benefit from hearing an eminent professor explain the history of a cathedral with which he had been familiar for twenty years. He learned a great deal he did not know, and he always listened with fresh interest. He had in his hands abstracts of letters from very eminent persons in this county, whose presence amongst them would have afforded them unmixed satisfaction, and would have conferred honour upon the Society and the town. They regretted that they could not be present. They were all well aware that presence at home during this and the month which followed was not the rule but the exception, and those who had been engaged in public and other business during the whole year, were very glad to take a flight, and a long flight too, from the scene of their labours, in order to obtain some rest. Lord John Manners had written to state that his engagements in another part of the country prevented his being present, and he could only express to the assembled members his great regret that he could not be with them; and his anxious hope was that the Meeting at Melton might be in all respects agreeable and successful. Similar letters had also been received from E. B. Hartopp, Esq., M.P., the Hon. and Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton, W. Perry-Herrick, Esq., Sir George Beaumont, Bart., W. U. Heygate, Esq., the Ven. Archdeacon Fearon, and W. A. Pochin, Esq. His Lordship concluded by thanking them for the reception they had given them, and repeated the hope that the meeting would be found not only agreeable and useful to the members of the Society, but also to the inhabitants of a town which had so cordially received them.

MELTON CHURCH.

The company then proceeded to the parish church where, after morning prayer, the edifice was described by Mr. M. H. Bloxam,
F.S.A. Taking up his position in the eastern aisle of the south transept, Mr. Bloxam said—

It was a matter of very great gratification to him to give them a short explanation, and it would not be more, respecting the character of this church, and also some peculiarities belonging to it, and why there were those peculiarities. The advowson of this church in early times was vested in the conventual establishment of the Priory of Lewes. He had not the slightest doubt that in the thirteenth century the then existing church was entirely done away with, for there was no fragment of the old Norman, or pre-existing church before the Norman period. Of the features of the thirteenth century they had simply the two lower stages of the tower, and the doorway in the north aisle, now blocked up. But in the fourteenth and succeeding century, they set about reconstructing the whole of the church, with the exception of the tower; and because this was a large parish they built the church upon a large scale. And building it upon a large scale the expenses would be very considerable, and they were not enabled to spend much money in ornamentation; and that was the reason why, with one exception—of which he would speak about by and bye—throughout the church the architecture was of an extremely plain, though good character. The choir or chancel was formerly of a conventual character, although this was not a conventual church itself; for, seventy or eighty years ago, when the church was repewed, conventual stalls existed. The windows in the aisles were, perhaps, of the plainest description of windows they had in the Decorated style of the fourteenth century. The piers were also of the fourteenth century, and exceedingly plain, and if they cut a section of them they would find they formed a quatrefoil, having a fillet on the edge. The mouldings were also very plain, and not particularly good. The two transepts were exceedingly singular. In the arrangement of conventual churches—especially of the Cistercian order—they found a nave, aisles, and transepts, and then a short chancel or choir. In conventual churches of the Benedictine order—which was the great aristocratic order—for the members of the Cistercian order were described by one writer as "farmers rather than monks")—who had their churches in towns and cities, they had their chancels or choirs very much elongated. The Priory of Lewes belonged to neither one or the other of these orders, and could adapt itself to either. One of the singular features of that church was that in the transepts they had a double aisle, which in a parish church he had never met with before. They might meet with it in some of their cathedrals, but not in a parish church. In the aisles of the transepts they would observe that the piers on one side were different to the piers on the other, although they were both built at the same period; but that they would find to be the case in many country churches. It was a
fancy of the architect. In the fifteenth century another change
took place in the church. They took the roofs off the transepts,
and also off the nave, and they ran up the walls with large clerestory windows, and put on the roof which now existed. That also
was a very common feature in country parish churches. They
frequently found that a clerestory had been added to the substructure; that was one of the most common features they had, and there was therefore nothing peculiar in it. He apprehended
that at the time when the church was repewed, sixty or seventy
years ago, a great deal which might be of interest to them was
removed. It was simply on record that there were some ancient
stalls in the choir.

Though it was a large church, there was not much to be said
upon it. In the fourteenth century some portions of the tower,
as now, showed signs of giving way, and therefore were used arches
of construction uniting the tower to the north and south aisles.
Arches of construction, as they were termed, were not at all unusual,
and he found them in some of the churches in Northamptonshire,
where they were very ornamental. They were raised when the
tower was giving way to counteract the pressure of the tower.
The western porch, or galilee, or western entrance, was exceedingly
peculiar. It was very rich in architecture, and was probably the
only part of the church which was built at the expense of an
individual—that individual they did not know, but if they would
search, as they now could, the State Paper Office, the ancient wills
deposited at Doctor's Commons, and the episcopal registers of the
province of Canterbury, which contained a vast amount of valuable
materials, they would throw a great light upon past history, and
they would no doubt tell the name of the bishop who consecrated
the church, and the donor or the builder who built it—whether it
was built by the Prior of Lewes or by an individual. Many
churches were built by individual benefactors. Some of the archi-
tectural features of the porch were to be found in other churches
in the county—especially at Gaddesby. There was one peculiarity
attached to it, that it was not only a porch, but a chapel also, for
there was an unmistakable appearance of a piscina having existed,
in which the water was poured with which the priest washed his
hands before using the consecrated elements. There was also
evidence of an altar having existed there. When that porch was
restored, some few years ago, they placed what was called the water
table, where such a thing could not have possibly existed before.
There were also some small square windows. This was a curious
feature, and it was almost impossible to divine their use, excepting
this, that as there was some connection—as had been suggested to
him—between that church and the Lazar house at Burton Lazars,
the windows had been used for the purpose of enabling the lepers
to attend divine service. According to the ancient ritual of the
church the seeing of some portion of divine service, such as the elevation of the Host, was very essential, and thus means were adopted to enable lepers to take part in the service without entering the church. He thought the porch was a very fair subject for conjecture and further enquiry. Along the walls of the transepts of the church were indications of various altars which had previously existed, and which in former times had been very numerous; the altar in the choir or chancel was called the high altar in contradistinction to the others. The date of the royal arms was that of the time of Charles II. The introduction of the royal arms into churches was a matter of historical interest and enquiry. The earliest notice he found of it was in the controversial works of the sixteenth century. In Dr. Harding's "Confutation of Jewel's Apology," &c., there were some curious allusions to the royal arms. The work was imprinted at Antwerp, in 1565, and was proscribed. It was exceedingly scarce, but he had a copy in his possession. It was in these controversial works that he found curious references to the practices of our church in former times. That being a large church, he was surprised to find that there was no chamber where a recluse might have lived. The font, he believed, was modern, and the monuments Mr. Wing would be kind enough to make some observations upon.

Mr. Vincent Wing next occupied the position vacated by Mr. Bloxam, and read the following paper:

AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE FOUNDERS AND ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF MELTON MOWBRAY CHURCH. (The Statements respecting the Mowbrays, &c., were abridged.)

Scarcely is there an ecclesiastical structure, excepting cathedrals and collegiate and abbey churches, so well calculated to excite the admiration and engage the interest of the discerning architect as Melton Church. Referring to the exterior, it may be said advisedly, that the Early English work of the tower, and the sculptured Decorated parts of the porch, are equal to anything of the kind in existence; but the ornate pinnacles of the turrets must be recovered to do justice to the exceeding beauty of this porch front. Many of the aisle windows, too, are poor, which with the loss of the parapet gives an inferior impression of the edifice. In the interior the obstructions and innovations injure the general effect, and an acquaintance with ecclesiastical architecture and mediæval art is necessary to the formation of an estimate at all adequate—there is not a pillar in the church whose base is not concealed, or partially so. The transept is remarkably fine: it has aisles on either side, and its arcades, on entering by the north door, if seen clear would be peculiarly grand and pleasing; the six bays, which there are
besides the crossing, have octagonal pillars on the west side, whilst those on the east are elegantly formed, and both possess superior moulded capitals: the whole transept, with the terminal arrangements of the arcades, and including the majestic centre of four lofty arches resting on their clustered piers—all four detached from the walls, presents an exquisite piece of architectural design. The nave arches are noticeable for their mouldings so very effective in light and shade, and could they be properly seen with their shafts and bases would present a noble feature. One intolerable defect demands innovation upon the original:—In this district, the mullions running up with intersections to the window arch instead of tracery prevails usque ad nauseam; and—as if the designer had been at his last gasp—that wretched arrangement infests the large north and south windows in this church, even without cusps. Their jamb and archivolt mouldings are good, and the insertion of real tracery would be neither difficult nor very costly. The west window is upon the vulgar plan described; yet it is cusped, and the cusping is so peculiarly good and redeeming that for one window we could have nothing better. But those of the transept cannot be made like it, for the cusp member of the mouldings is different, and would admit only of a dull imitation—with all the poverty of sameness in the three windows, and at the expense of the sacrifice of the original character in addition. It is to be hoped that good tracery will be introduced into one, if not both, of these windows during the restoration. If all were set well in order, the internal view of the church would also present a display of taste and magnificence seldom equalled. Thus much being felt, a desire naturally arises to discover to whom we are indebted, in times that are past, for such efforts of skill and munificence. By ransacking ancient wills and state papers possibly some direct information may be obtained; but at present we have no documentary statements that expressly tell us who they were, and we can only arrive at conclusions respecting them by collating the history of the lords of the manor, and that of the priory in Melton, with the dates of the various portions of the building. This, however, affords a revelation with inferences complete and but little questionable. For, it is observed, the possessors of lands formerly, from age to age, owned their obligation to erect and maintain ecclesiastical edifices, as if it were a point in common law; and in the rebuilding of churches in the middle ages, it was customary to allow some portion of the previous church to remain;—which practices deliver to us, in the very stones of these venerable fanes, a mystic record of the varied history connected with them. And in this case, like many others, there is the curious fact, that whilst the architecture of the church, on the one hand, without the aid of historical records shows the architectural antiquary the efforts that were made at different dates; on the other hand, the local history, by such particulars as advancement in
wealth and dignity of the lords of the manor, providential deliver ­ances, long minorities, contentions with the Cluniac Monks for the advowson, and other circumstances, without consulting the edifice almost equally maps the efforts and dates of this magnificent structure: thus reciprocally corroborating the conclusions respecting the builders. In the instance before us the dates, for the most part, have been determined previously to acquaintance with the history, and the agreement is singularly coincident.

In exploring Melton church, then, in order to discover these worthies, our first enquiry is, Where do we find the oldest part?—That there was a very early church here cannot be doubted: Melton being not an insignificant town at the time of the Conquest, and its proprietors for many generations amongst the most renowned of baronial lords. The great crusader, and (even when under age) the victorious leader at the battle of the Standard, Roger de Mowbray, the founder of the far-famed hospital at Burton Lazars (which is a hamlet of this parish), and also of so large a number of religious houses, had a castle for his partial residence at Melton, which he built; and, possessed, as he was, of more than three hundred manors and innumerable knights' fees, we cannot but suppose that the church he must have frequented was erected by him, or at least beautified from his resources. It would be gratifying, therefore, to discover, if we could, some fragments of this ancient building. All that has any, even slight, pretensions to such antiquity, however, is the lower part of the tower staircase: the wall is of a rubble character, unlike the inside and outside ashlar of the tower adjoining, and it has a straight joint not bonded with the Early English pier, which indicates that it was not built at the same time, nor would it be built later; the inner lintel of the doorway, and the buttress, are of Norman character; and there is an incised line on this portion showing, possibly, the position of the Semi-Norman roof of the chancel. This, if any part, may be given as coeval with Roger de Mowbray, c. 1170: as the stairs are not vaulted underneath, it cannot be dated earlier. The Norman-shaped windows of the ringing-chamber are of later than Norman date. Nor is it probable that the supports of the tower have been transformed into a later style: though this has been suggested, and as much has been accomplished at Winchester and elsewhere. Portions of the tower piers, it has been said, give evidence of an earlier origin; but a careful examination refutes it. The nave arcade responds adjoining the tower have had very rude capitals; as their bases, however, agree with those of the tower, we must assign both to the same period. Of the hospital alluded to, we may remark by the way, the vestiges remain; and some fragments of ancient glass from the church at Burton, in which it was depicted, are now in the miscellaneous window in Melton church. Of Melton castle there is left hardly a doubtful "wreck behind:" the fragment of a large
newel stone staircase in the King Street may have been part of the
barbican, or gatehouse, &c.* But the south arcade of Burton
church, being Norman and coeval, may be concluded to be the work
of the founder of the hospital. We may here also stop to observe
that Melton priory stood, it is supposed, to the east of the vicarage
garden: a decorated piscina, and late perpendicular piers, arches,
and linen-pattern wainscots, exist in old walls on the south side of
Sherard Street;—some or all of these may be remnants of the
monastery. What is called the Sage Cross is in front of these
buildings;—the shaft and head are broken off. The Prior's Close
adjoining the railway station still retains its name. And Spital
Leas and Chapel Close, which denominate property beyond Notting­
ham Street—formerly Spital Gate, preserve the memory of the
establishment here belonging to the Templars and afterwards to
the Hospitallers. In the premises lately of the White Swan Inn,
is a considerable amount of old masonry; and the town arms (baron
Mowbray's), and those of Lancaster (Mowbray Norfolk), Burges (de
Melton), and Digby, were in the building some time ago;—it may
have been an ancient important hostelry, or a public edifice. †

We have, then, to discard the idea of any further traces of
Norman work existing in Melton church. But we get very clearly
the skeleton of an Early English edifice underlying, as it were, or
amalgamating with, a church of later production. It may be shown
from the present remains, that it was cruciform without aisles to the transepts; and the earlier portions are as follow:—The tower
from the ground to the ringing loft inclusive; the vestry doorway
with some of the lower parts of the chancel walls and outer walls
of the nave; parts of the responds of the nave arcades; and an
archway to a chantry chapel at the north-west end of the chancel.
The Early English church, of which these portions remain, would
be erected in the beginning of the thirteenth century, when the
lord of the manor was William de Mowbray, one of the famous
barons, be it remembered, who acted so gloriously in the extorting

* Melton Castle was probably at a little distance from the north side of the
Market Place. On either side of King Street many massive fragments of chimneys
and masonry, though gradually disappearing, countenance this tradition. The newel
staircase mentioned, has recently been taken down! The writer has obtained the
stairs, and a moulded voussoir of an arch, c. 1300: the stairs appeared in situ, the
voussoir inserted accidentally in an old wall near to them. On the same spot still
remain two ancient chimneys; the opening of the lower one is 6 feet, and the upper
5 feet; the external measure of the large flue, above 6 feet 6 inches by 5 feet.
A small half-timber cottage, c. 1600, includes these relics, and its old roof goes above
the moulded top of the original chimney. In Mrs. Tyler's house, at the north-east
corner of the Market Place, are fragments of similar chimneys, &c., and in the cellar
a partition wall more than 6 feet thick. The site of the above stairs is 35 yards to
the north from the front of this house, at the western end.
† The other public crosses have disappeared; the high cross in the Market Place
was taken down about fifty years ago. There are several seventeenth-century houses
in the town. Hudson's Hospital was erected in 1640: though not strictly a Bede­
house, the Trustees endeavour to make it such by striving to appoint only such as
are worthy of the name of Bedeman or Bedewoman, as the Founder intended.
of Magna Charta, and who with but little doubt may be pronounced the founder. Melton not improbably was one of his chief domestic residences, and the previous church in such connexion would be unworthy. It is possible, since Richard I. was entertained here soon after his ransom, in which he was assisted largely by William de Mowbray, that the most brilliant day that Melton ever witnessed was made such by the visit of the King on that occasion with a numerous retinue, as recorded. And some years afterwards, when time had allowed the recruiting of his means, and when subsequently, by peculiar vicissitudes, everything had been lost and was almost miraculously regained, this lord of Melton being reestablished with so great riches and dignity, reedified, we may suppose, the house of God in devout acknowledgment. The architectural details point not earlier than his critical year, 1217; and we may, therefore, fairly conclude that the Early English church, whose magnificence is to be inferred from the present remaining centre, was built by this munificent baron out of gratitude for his providential deliverance, with recovery of all his estates, after he had been taken prisoner while fighting in the hostile ranks of the French Prince at the battle of Lincoln. He died in 1222, leaving the church, as the work shows, and as we might imagine, not well completed. His sepulchre is not here, but in the Abbey of Newborough, in Yorkshire, founded by his grandfather.

From 1230 to 1250 may be dated the improvements comprising that incomparably beautiful Early English middle portion of the tower, the doorway of the south aisle, and the inner west doorway with the Early English niches whose traces only are now visible. As these in part embrace a time when the Mowbray representative, Roger, was in his minority; and, as the Prior of Lewes to whom the priory at Melton was in subjection, had then got hold of the advowson, it must remain more a question, to which of the two parties these invaluable enrichments should be attributed. The possessions of the Cluniacs of the priory at Lewes gave them great importance, for they were most extensive, and at Melton they were at this time increasing. Nor, on the other hand, was the lord of Melton, in his majority, inferior in standing to his predecessors: he, with other barons, amongst whom he was a leader, having power to wrest from the king his observance of the great Charter, and being at the same time so in favour as to have much entrusted to him in the expeditions into Wales: Possibly a rivalry between the two had an influence upon the style; which had hitherto been plain, but now was elegant almost beyond comparison. This portion may be the work of the rich Cluniacs, who had been grasping at advantages during the baron’s minority (which extended from the death of Nigel, the previous baron, in 1228 to 1241); and they would not lose their opportunity whilst William de Mowbray was in
hostility to the king—all the more probably theirs, because foreign connexions would give them more extensive command of artistic talent; and the order was a branch from the Benedictines, distinguished for the splendour of their churches. Nigel's time was short, and he was much abroad.

If we regard the last mentioned as an extreme effort of the regulars and ecclesiastics in the direction of beauty, we may suppose that, the next change falling again to the turn of the Mowbray family, the latter made up in magnificence, when it was hopeless to attempt to rival in architectural design. Roger de Mowbray, who may this time be regarded as the benefactor, was the first baron Mowbray by writ; he succeeded to the lordship in 1266; his parents married about 1241, and, besides three daughters, had six sons, of whom this was the eldest; as he did not do homage for his estates before 1277, crusadal service may have occasioned the delay. He would seem to walk in the steps of his great ancestor in the twelfth century: for his effigy in Fountains Abbey declares him to have been under vow to the Holy Land, and we can imagine that, several years after, having returned in safety from the crusade, wherein successes at first attended the English, his gratitude on such occasion found similar expression in erecting these monuments of his piety. It is to him that we conceive the church indebted for the grand scheme of a richer nave, and two transepts with the rare arrangement of ailes on either side. But this not till late in his life, when he had regained the advowson; and his death occurring in 1298, he could accomplish but little more than the south transept. He with others may have emulated his famous progenitor in details even, for Melton has peculiar correspondences with Byland; which superb abbey was founded by Roger de Mowbray, and one biographer states that he was buried there. The abbey church has the very unusual double-ailed transept; in its western doorway, as in the western arch of Melton tower, is the peculiarity of the capitals of one side foliated and the other moulded; and in both churches a Galilee porch, as a narthex at the western entrance, has formed part of the building. Several local transactions connected with Melton are recorded of this Roger de Mowbray about 1294. The clerestory of our church is of later date.

The next successor, John de Mowbray, was a minor eight or nine years—it may be that his father married later than usual, owing to engagements in the east—but on attaining his majority he displayed the religious feeling of his family in founding churches, and appears to have carried forward with great zeal the design of his predecessor here; as at this time the nave would be rebuilt, except the west window and some minor portions, and, of course, the clerestory. He would be prevented from completing the north transept by the misfortunes in which he became involved, and which terminated in 1322 with his cruel execution at York as a
rebels, his wife and son being sent prisoners to the Tower. In opposing the evil influence which misled the king, thus fell this noble member of that illustrious house, than which none was ever more religious, patriotic, and loyal. The baseness of such ingratitude and rigour has fit expression, when the great dramatist gifts with prophetic wisdom one of the last Mowbrays under almost similar circumstances, and puts into his mouth—

"Our valuation shall be such
That were our royal faiths martyrs in love,
We shall be winnow’d with so rough a wind,
That even our corn shall seem as light as chaff,
And good from bad find no partition."

Subsequently to this, the relations of the Mowbrays with Melton were scarcely such as to suggest that they would be the chief benefactors to the church: the manor was given to an antagonist; and though it was afterwards restored, and the family again rose in rank and royal favour, their connexion with Melton was not what it had been. They ceased probably to reside here. Framlingham became the favoured residence; the advowson undoubtedly went from the family; and the chief interest in the church must now be looked for elsewhere.

About 1328, the disputes with the lords of the manor having concluded, the priory of Lewes obtained permanently the patronage of the living, and to that wealthy fraternity we set down most of the church improvements which took place in the remainder of this century. The remodelling of the chancel and the erection of the porch seem to have occurred first, and must have been undertaken nearly at the same time, c. 1325, as inferred from a strict correspondence in details (e. g., the window heads and tracery, the angle buttresses, internal string course, &c.), whilst both correspond with this period. The *galilee* porch is well affiliated in such a quarter, and is an architectural gem to be classed with the enchanting productions of monastic aestheticism. The supposed use of its four *closed gratings*, and the theories given to explain the Galilee, favour an ecclesiastical rather than a civilian parentage for this vestibule. The unusual number of these apertures, as well as the fourteen priests whose residence was hard by, in the now called rectory at the south-east corner of the churchyard, would be required by the lepers on their way to Burton, where was a Lepers’ well, preeminent above all others for its gifts of healing. For reasons that we have elsewhere stated, this porch may have been a benefaction of William de Melton, archbishop of York at the time, and previously rector of Melton Mowbray: the Cluniacs had become paramount, and levied, it may be, this valuable contribution on the gratitude of their former protegée—the archbishop being influenced by obligation to them for advancement in early life, as well as
Melton's inspirations of first love. This great man was born in Melton, was rector here at the close of the thirteenth century, afterwards provost of Beverley, in 1317 made archbishop of York, lord high treasurer of England in 1325, and in 1334 lord chancellor. He was a warrior, and commanded the forces against the Scots; and was probably a star of the first magnitude in architecture, for under him, chiefly, was erected that stupendous nave of his minster. The large west window there, unrivalled in beauty, had the contract for its painting taken two years before his death, which occurred in 1340, and he was buried near the western end of the cathedral. A string of MMM—forms a running ornament over the western doorway, and the sculpture corresponds remarkably with Melton porch.

To the Priory of Lewes may perhaps be ascribed the credit of the north transept, which was erected subsequently to the chancel, c. 1380,* also the west window and other ornamentations of the west front; but this is given with some reserve, as it is possible that the lords of Melton who succeeded, or the Belfers lords of Eye Kettleby, had a hand in these matters. John de Mowbray, whose father with other notables fell a victim to the weakness and ingratitude of his king, Edward II., wrought upon by his barbarous minions, the Despencers, a few years after—when, by a signal retribution, that king had been murdered, and both his favourites had been executed with every circumstance of ignominy—was regarded with much consideration by Edward III., who on his accession to the throne, remembering the great services of the Mowbrays, reinstated him in this manor and all the possessions which his father had lost: under these circumstances it may be he who erected the north transept—to finish the work designed and carried forward by his two last progenitors. The next king was not less mindful of royal obligation, for he created Thomas Mowbray duke of Norfolk. When the church was thus far completed, it was in the most perfect condition, from its congenial character, to give effect to the processions and pantomimic services then in vogue, aided, as they would be, by the numerous unobstructed ailes illumined by the "dim religious light" stealing through stained glass windows.

Subsequently to the fall of the Mowbrays which has been alluded to—the baronial mansion here being probably deserted and the owners absentees—the manor of Melton appears to have brought little to the church, unless the north transept be from that source; and as somewhat later the incomes of the Cluniacs in this country were invaded by the crown during the wars with France, in consequence of their alien appropriation, we accept from another quarter the church's latest great benefactor. After the decease of the last Duke of Norfolk of the house of Mowbray, which occurred in 1475,

* In the restoration going on, an original decoration was discovered here with a run of four-leaf ornament, &c., proving this date, but this has been destroyed.
the manor of Melton came to the Berkeley family; but we are unable to discover any expenditure on the church consequent upon this transfer—the abstraction of the advowson and non-residence might lead to the same want of interest in it in the new lord of the manor. The whole of the clerestories of the nave and transepts, and their congruous and costly roofs, with the upper story of the tower, are of the beginning of the sixteenth century, and the vestry is a few years later. At this time Sir John Digby, of memorable name, was lord of Eye Kettleby in the parish of Melton.* His father, Sir Everard Digby, fought in the Lancastrian interest, and was slain at the battle of Towton; his death, however, was amply avenged afterwards at Bosworth Field, where all his sons, seven in number, constituted amongst the victors a band of heroes, who would contribute greatly to that successful reversing of the fortune of the house of Lancaster. This Sir John Digby, having wealth and honours heaped upon him by his grateful sovereign, would be in a position that forbids the thought of any other, under the circumstances, being the chief munificent benefactor to this his parish church; and, moreover, his remains have the honour of interment here in a benefactor’s tomb with the customary distinction of a mural arch. All honour to him, therefore, as the largest contributor to this church’s splendour! By these alterations the tower acquires excellent proportions and outline. And, for a Protestant place of worship, where the “dim religious” is obsolete and the purer light of heaven demanded, nothing can excel the clerestory—as a lantern to the body of the church it is as good as one continuous window, but so executed that this line of fenestration is without appearance of weakness: viewed internally, it is curiously elegant in design, and magnificent in extent—comprising the long transept as well as the nave; its innumerable pendants have corbels of superior sculpture; and its mouldings are deeply cut, and equal to those of the better periods. It was the harbinger, nor was it less a fitting emblem, of the light and beauty of that Anglican truth, which was about to enter, and consecrate afresh the temple, of which this was the final completion.

Of the three ancient monuments in Melton church,—one is a large tomb of Purbeck marble, in the top of which the matrices for the brasses have the outlines of a Knight and two ladies: those of the latter show the angular headdress called the kennel; the knight has been depicted in full plate armour, his head uncovered and resting on a helmet with crest and mantlings. Below the feet of himself and his wife on the dexter side have been two groups of children. Obscurity has long veiled the persons here represented;

* The mansion and church were beautifully situated upon elevated ground on the left bank of the river Eye, a mile hence—vestiges mark the place. At Sysonby and Welby the churches and services continue; but the mansion at each of these three hamlets was taken down about a century ago.
partly through the painting of wrong charges upon the escutcheons on the sides of the tomb, and partly through the conclusions that have been erroneously adopted, because the ancient historian of the county has said "south aile" in speaking of the transept and naming the place in which the tomb is fixed. His description, however, is so very ample that there can be no doubt of the identification; and as the transept was sometimes formerly, and in stricter accordance with the etymology, called aile, all difficulty vanishes. This tomb covers the bodies of the illustrious Sir John Digby and his two wives. Burton mentions their interment in Melton church, and in his time the inscriptions were in existence. The arms, too, were to be seen: they were,—"Azure a fleur-de-lis argent, impaled with or on two barres gueulles three water bougets argent. And Digby, impaled with sable a griffin sergeant argent." The epitaph was,—

"Of your devotion and charitie,
Say a Paternoster and an Ave;
That God to his grace and light
Receive the soule of Sir John Digby Knight.
And of Dame Catherine and Dame Anne his wives;
Which Sir John Digby died An. Dom. 1533."

This tomb, in its original brilliancy, must have been a rich ornament to the church, worthy of its famous occupant. He died the year after contributing his last benefaction by the erection of the vestry. The arch is characteristic of this period, and the date is corroborated by both the brasses and the tomb.*

Another is a structure of alabaster. It has a recumbent figure of a lady; the head being supported by two angels, and at the feet are two dogs at play. The costume, especially in the sleeveless garment and the style of the crespine, refers us to about the time of Richard II. It has been incorrectly ascribed to Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, granddaughter of Edward I., because this lady possessed lands in Melton, and her daughter was married to John de Mowbray; the arms, too, being a little like those of the family of Howard. But they are very different from the early Norfolk, or Mowbray.

* The floor of the church shows the matrices of many brasses, post-Reformation as well as earlier. Near Digby's tomb there is an incised slab, c. 1660, with a male and a female figure. The Latin inscription, on a mural monument above, describes them as John and Elizabeth Pate, whom God made one flesh, death parted, and the slab brought together again. It invites to behold John Pate of Sisomby, descended from the ancient family of the Pates of Kettlebee. He is set forth as an eminent Royalist who sacrificed himself in the cause ("vetum pium! a quo licet cecidit"); and a blast of laudation, in the style of that period, "dies on the walls" with "Nil addat celebrius fame tuba." Elizabeth, "generis sui gloria," receives equal commendation. Their two daughters, the only survivors of a large family, "conjuges dilectissime et mcerentes cohæredes," record their filial affection in erecting the monument. J. P. was buried ("ritu sepulchrali donatus") at "S. Giles near London," and E. P. beneath the alabaster slab. The epitaph, referring to the deceased, in correct taste terminates with—"resurrectionem praestolantes. Amen." The arms of Pate are on the wall at the feet of the effigies.
arms. They are carved on the shields, and are—Argent on a bend between six cross crosslets fitchée gules three lozenges argent. From a seal connected with a deed bearing date the first year of Henry V., Burton certifies them to have been borne by a family of the name of Burges. In the reign of Richard II., one Robert de Burges held lands here; his son also called himself de Melton. From these particulars we presume that this monument was erected to the honour of the wife, or a relative, of that Robert de Burges. But this is not a benefactor's or founder's tomb, for it is not built partly in the wall like Sir John Digby's, and there are no traces of any work done at the church at that time.

The effigy in the recess of the south aisle invites speculation, and presents a problem of some difficulty; it will, it is feared, tax our patience with a few moments' dry research. It is without inscription. The shield has the Mowbray arms; but it is no guide, as the painting is recent, and it has been tintured several times differently. A later inscription on the wall states, “This is the Lord Hamon Belers, brother to the Lord Mowbray;” this erroneously refers to a person of earlier date. In 1681, the officers from the College of arms say of it, “Commonly called Mowbray, but supposed to be Beler.” A Harleian MS. dated June 8, 1583, referring to Melton church, says, “There lieth one Bellers, who lieth cross-legged, armed all in mail, with his sword, and his shield upon his arm, whereon this coat is depicted in these colours: Per pale sable and gules, a lion rampant argent”—which are the original Beler arms. The monument is in the south aisle; and the “south aisle” was the burial-place of the Lords of Eye-Kettleby, who at that time were of the Beler family; but “south aisle” may not mean this aisle, because aisle often signified the transept. There is not room for an interment in the wall underneath the figure, which is some four feet above the floor, it must also be borne in mind. The costume alone gives any positive guidance; it fixes the date about 1300. With these knotty particulars, then, we have to find the solution. The question first presents itself—have there been two effigies? For, if so, we may suppose the Beler one with its tomb has been destroyed, and the one existing is a cenotaph, or merely a monument to commemorate the church benefactor. And in such case the person represented is, we conclude, the Roger de Mowbray who died in 1298 at Ghent, and was buried in Yorkshire, in the Abbey of Fountains—he being the promoter of the rebuilding of the church. In support of its being a cenotaph only, the following may be advanced:—Roger de Mowbray, being the rebuilders of the church, would be worthy of that distinction. Again, the figure must have had no tomb connected with it for at least two hundred and fifty years; for Burton, who wrote an account of the tombs in Leicestershire, makes no mention of this. Nor is there very precise record of a tomb having ever existed with an effigy like this. In the south transept,
moreover, there has been a chantry, as appears from a piscina of a date corresponding with that part of the church; which, it might be inferred, was for the benefit of the promoter of the building, the last named Roger de Mowbray: and as no mural arch or tomb was connected with this chapel before the Burges tomb was placed there, a cenotaph might naturally be looked for, like the figure in question, in a more conspicuous part of the church—still, this is not of much force to prove its being a cenotaph only, for the chantry might not be for the benefactor of the church, but for the ancient guild of S. Mary, or that of S. John, established in this town. The monument certainly, as seen in its recess, has all the appearance of being merely such memorial to a founder or benefactor—but, on the other hand again, the recess looks modern, and the sculptured knight may have been translated to this niche from his demolished tomb. Now, if from these various considerations—some of them albeit conflicting—we could determine it to be a benefactor’s memorial only, and never connected with a tomb, it is more easily identified with a Mowbray, lord of Melton, resident at times in his castle at Melton, than with a Beler of Eye-Kettleby: seeing that the care of the edifice would at that date, under ordinary circumstances, devolve upon Baron Mowbray as lord of Melton; whilst if a Beler had been commemorated there would probably have been interment in a tomb, and the cenotaph would not have been required. There is also a tradition of at least one hundred and eighty-four years in favour of the effigy representing a Mowbray. It is true that the Beler arms were on the shield in 1795; but they were not the original, they were the more recent arms of that family, and the painting of them may have proceeded erroneously from a vague tradition of the Beler monument, of some sort, known to have existed, according to the Harleian MS., in 1583. This conflicting statement is, however, all that we can plead on the side of Baron Mowbray: and it must be confessed that it is not conclusive; whilst the proof of a tomb having been connected with the sculptured remains, concerning which we have to enquire further, would refute it entirely. The theory would at once be overthrown, too, if it were shown that the Belers, and not the Mowbrays, were the chief benefactors to the church at this time, for a Mowbray cenotaph would in such case be out of the question; that they were the chief benefactors, however, is not very likely, for the Belers had their own hamlet chapel to provide, and Melton castle and manor belonged to the Mowbrays. It might be urged that the Belers lived in the parish, the church was theirs to frequent partly, and to bury in, and their arms having been in a window in Melton church gives a presumption that they were benefactors; their successor, too, Sir John Digby, is presumed to have made the last magnificent improvement of the church. But to this it would be rejoined, that from the obligations then resting on the Mowbrays,
the Belers can only, in any case, be regarded as secondary benefactors, not responsible for the main care of the church, that must have pertained to the Mowbrays. Yet, though this point of the Mowbrays' obligations be so determined, we have arrived at no satisfaction in our main enquiry, since we fail to establish the hypothesis of two effigies, and after a careful weighing of all these circumstances, we are compelled to admit that it has conducted us into little better than a maze, and shows only that we must return to the testimony afforded by the Harleian MS.: for upon fair reflection and investigation we shall be constrained to say, that, whatever argument may be advanced on the other side, it is that MS. which throws the light on the question of the monument being a sepulchral covering, and gives the clue to the better solution. Though not in precise language, yet, in the words "there lieth," the document points to a tomb then existing, and containing the body of "one Belers," with sculpture exactly corresponding to that under consideration, and with inscription and arms to identify. This being so: in the absence of real evidence for another similar effigy, what can be more reasonable than the conclusion, that the crosslegged personage, after severe cross-examination, declares himself to be the bereft owner of that tomb; and the explanation, that because of obstruction in the pewing of the church, his tenement was demolished, and reduced to this fragment on the principles of modern ecclesiological economy—the recess being hewn out at that time to receive him, as the style of the arch indicates. The date of the sculpture also squares with that of a certain lord of Eye-Kettleby, who, though not as inscribed, "Brother to the Lord Mowbray," was of the same name as tradition has inscribed above the monument, and the only one of that name in the pedigree, except the first, and the grandson of this one, who died young, and was of too late a date to be, as the effigy denotes, a crusader. Under all the circumstances then,—as the Belers, though not chief, must have been in some measure benefactors; as the church was frequented by them, and was their place of interment; as such a sculpture is known to have commemorated one of them; and as a Beler of Eye-Kettleby of the name of Hamo died about the end of the thirteenth century; the date, the name, and all leading to it—we shall do best by placing this appeal for merited remembrance to the account of that Hamo de Beler. We may further remark of this warrior lord—whose feats of arms in the din of battle, we are admonished, would contrast strongly with the cold and silent stone here carved to recall them—that, whether we take him to be a Beler or a Mowbray, the two families were of the same original stock, and from their connexion with the crusades and patronage of the Templars he must have been a crusader, and in the lower sense a Templar. Had he been a Knight Templar, the figure would have been given with a long beard, and in the
dress of that order: the dress was a long white mantle with a red cross over the left breast; it had a short cape with a hood behind, and fell down to the feet unconfined by any girdle. As he is not so habited, we can only regard him as an "Associate of the Temple," not bound to the severer discipline and gloomy life of the regularly professed. He would, at the time of the expedition, be in the vigour of manhood to perform his vow to the Holy Land: in an effigy of a contemporary of the crusades the crossing of the legs (a sculptured attitude adopted in England only), according to a learned and able writer upon this subject, denotes that he was bound by such vow: Camden, too, in 1586, makes the same assertion. Females have been known to have taken the vow, and are occasionally found thus depicted. The device of the Frog, which has been introduced in the same way in more instances than this, may have reference to the crusades; it would not be placed under the sword for support only, but emblematically, we may suppose, to signify the part borne by this champion of the Cross, when the English, under Prince Edward, vanquished the Egyptian infidels—the multifarious objects of worship amongst the Egyptians, and the plague of the frogs, though rather far-fetched, suggesting the emblem: in the effigy at Fountains Abbey his contemporary and kinsman, Roger de Mowbray, who was probably his companion in arms with Prince Edward, is very similarly clad, and has a reptile biting at his shield: he too appears as a "vowed" crusader; his legs being crossed, and his belt is twisted into a cross, with a cross also ornamenting the belt. Seals, in some cases, were at this time carved with reptiles; &c., at the sides of the shields: which, though afterwards but idle fancy resulting in heraldic supporters, may have originated with the crusades. In another view, the frog being the ancient royal badge of France, it may proclaim the knight's proud origin: a similar insertion occurs in a very fine brass to the memory of Lord Beaumont in Wivenhoe church, Essex, were the plante-genêt, or broom-cod, is introduced to tell his royal derivation. The inscription before-mentioned seems to be of the seventeenth century. The helmet, which is fixed above this monument, is also much later than the effigy. Very possibly there was, as usual then with distinguished persons, a funeral achievement connected with Sir John Digby's tomb (including perhaps a banner from Bosworth Field); and it being pulled down to make way for the tablet afterwards erected there, the visored helmet we may imagine was a part of that achievement—wrested from the hand of the spoiler, and taken into his custody by the ghost of Beler! At Kirby Bellars an achievement still remains in its place upon the wall.

In concluding, we will add one word upon the devices and artistic merit of these mediaeval relics. They have been objected to as being incompatible with the proper aspect of a Protestant
place of worship, inasmuch as they present the figures of the deceased apparently making the long wail for deliverance from the intermediate state of torment. Be it that they were intended to do so; yet we are not necessarily carried into Purgatory by them—a happier interpretation offers to happier minds: for, in truth, these recumbent figures, with an almost natural transition to present sentiments, invite contemplation upon the rest which remaineth to the believer—the “peace eternal;” and to the intelligent Christian, in addition to their historical interest and memorial claims, the general device is in many points not uninstructive. Various reflections suited to the sacred edifice are suggested: by this panoply of armour, for example, and unchanging attitude of prayer, the thoughts are readily carried on to the Christian’s spiritual conflict; and his source of strength and the secret of his victory are symbolized. How different are the black-bordered mural disfigurements of the last century! Though not chargeable with heterodoxy, yet, decked in the sanctu­ary in the livery of the mausoleum, they impart gloom where “glowing hope” should gladden; and with their cold marble freeze, and stifle, rather than excite, the aspirations after immortality.

When memorials of the dead form conspicuous objects in churches, they certainly ought to be in good taste. These three monuments, which are now in a manner lost through mutilation, paint, and lumber, have been very impressive; and it is difficult to imagine anything better designed. The position and material of the two first, when the delicate alabaster of the one and the glowing brass on the dark shining marble of the other appeared in their pristine beauty, would render them most striking: they were admirably placed, and not encumbering, but furnishing, the aile they occupy, they added a repose, and a more eloquent solemnity.

ABSTRACT.

Lower part of staircase, possibly Norman, by Roger de Mowbray, c. 1170, page 24.
Lower part of tower, &c., by William de Mowbray, c. 1290, p. 25.
Middle story of tower, &c., by Prior of Lewes, 1230 to 1250 p. 26.
South transept, by Roger de Mowbray, c. 1290., p. 27.
Nave, by John de Mowbray, c. 1310, p. 27.
Porch and chancel, by Prior of Lewes, or Archbishop of York, c. 1325, p. 28.
North transept, by the same, c. 1330, p. 28.
Clerestories and upper part of tower, by Sir John Digby, c. 1500, p. 30.
Vestry, by the same, 1532.
Purbeck tomb: Sir John Digby and his two wives, 1533, p. 31.
Alabaster effigy: Lady of name of Burges, c. 1300, p. 31.
Cross-legged effigy: Hamo de Beler, c. 1300, p. 32.

It is not implied in the above Paper that those named were all unassisted in their benefactions to the church, or that more private individuals never did anything: indeed the contrary is hinted—in the porch and other cases. And the expedient of Indulgences was often resorted to; the guilds also would do their part; besides which it is a known fact, and exemplified in Mr. North’s valuable researches, that as the feudal system relaxed, and land, which had been almost the only property, became more distributed, smaller contributions in aid were made. Yet, times have not so far altered but that, in the present requirements of Melton
Church, our main dependence is still upon the cooperation of the rich and great. The inhabitants have responded well to the energetic appeal of their clergyman (and will do so); but, the demands so far exceeding the abilities of a small, and not wealthy, town, unless the munificent help from the Landed Proprietors be forthcoming, it is vain to hope for what amounts to the restoration of a great national monument, or, rather, the redintegration of almost a cathedral falling into ruin.

The great failing of Melton church has been in its windows. The large north and south ones were very plain without cusps; but the south has just been renewed, and cusps have been introduced. The Debased east window was superseded previously, and now it is suggested that the north window, the largest in the church, should have something worthy of the name of tracery. To accomplish this desideratum, a design had been prepared which would at the same time palpably associate the great man born here, whose benefactions are referred to. It introduces the leaf tracery of York west window, of which not improbably he was the author—certainly the promoter. At present, objection is made on the score of exact and faithful restoration, a principle to be applauded; yet the window being so ugly may plead exception. Doubts of correspondence in date have also been expressed: on the next visit these will be removed; for there are several constructive proofs, as well as most ample details, to show that this part of the church is c. 1330, which is the unquestionable date of Archbishop Melton's west window—spoken of by Britton as "an unrivalled specimen of leafy tracery." The cost, between £100. and £200., was specially subscribed for this purpose, if it met the judgment and wishes of our architect.

The clerestory and arcades of the transepts are now in a forward state, and more than realize the expectations herein expressed.

At the conclusion of Mr. Wing's paper (upon which he was much complimented), and whilst the fine organ* pealed forth the National Anthem, the members and friends left the church and proceeded to the Bede House (itself worth visiting), to inspect the contents of the Town Museum, in which is preserved a goodly collection of articles, antique and modern. The next place visited was the site of the ancient Priory of Melton, which is now occupied by several tenements, in which various traces of the fourteenth century work were pointed out by Mr. Bloxam and other archaeologists present.

THE TEMPORARY MUSEUM,

Formed in the upper room at the Corn Exchange, was opened to the members and the public in the afternoon. The collection was as usual upon such occasions, a miscellaneous one. Many of the articles exhibited were exceedingly rare and interesting, and as each one was plainly described, they afforded much interest and instruction to the numerous visitors. The following were a few of the many objects placed upon the tables:

Exhibited by the TOWN OF MELTON MOWBRAY:—The following manuscript documents, selected by Mr. North from the town records preserved in the church chest:

- The following is a description of the organ of Melton Mowbray church, kindly furnished by Thomas Hickson, Esq.:—Built in western gallery of nave, by Gray, of London, 1832; rebuilt in chancel, with important additions, by Groves, of London, 1850; thirteen stops in great organ; seven stops in swell; bourdon; and sixteen feet open pedal pipes.
A lease for three years (between John Harplay, yeoman, of Melton, and William Benson, draper) of a house in "Bothe Row," Melton, for twentypence a year. Dated 1495.

Order from the chief constable of Framland Hundred, for a return to be made by the town of Melton: 1st. As to eating flesh in Lent. 2nd. As to common alehouses. 3rd. As to rogues and vagabonds. Dated 17th March, 1599.

An order for the collecting of certain monies on account of a subsidy. Temp. James I.

Receipt for 8s. 6d., paid by the town of Melton, for the provision of poultry for the royal household. Dated 20th September, 1608.

An order to the constables of Melton to discharge certain persons from selling beer, because they refused to take out a license. Dated 26th February, 1599.

Receipt for 44s., laid upon the town of Melton, towards the cost of providing provisions for Queen Elizabeth's household. Dated 9th August, 1600.

Receipt for 16s. 8d., paid by the town of Melton, towards the erection of beacons, to give warning of the approach of an invading foe. Dated 4th December, 1599.

An order for the town of Melton to pay a tax of twelvepence for the relief of the gaols; and 3s. 4d., for hospitals and maimed soldiers. Dated 1599.

A bill, or list of payments, made for repairs of the church of Melton: it includes a charge of 43s. 4d., for a register of parchment. Dated 1602.

An order for the town of Melton to pay a tax of 3s. 4d., towards the relief of Leicester gaol. Dated 4th February, 1599.

The charge of a light horseman, supplied by the town of Melton to the army, in 1569.

Conveyance of land in Melton parish, called Saint John's Wong, containing twenty acres. Dated 30th August, 1607.

Specimen of accounts kept by the townwardens of Melton Mowbray. 1561-2.

Specimen of accounts kept by the spinneywardens of Melton Mowbray. 1556-7.

Specimen of accounts kept by the churchwardens of Melton. These accounts show the visit of the Reformer, Hugh Latimer, to Melton, and that he preached in Melton church. 1553-4.

Specimen of constables' accounts for the town of Melton. 1591-2.

Memorandum showing the cost of a light horseman (£11. 3s. 7d.), supplied to the army by the town of Melton about the year 1600.

Inventory of the household goods of Edward Pate, Esquire, of Eye-Kettleby, taken 1594, showing there was then a large mansion at Kettleby. The water mill belonged to it.
Saxon Fibula, found at Saxby, Co. Leicester.

Length of Original, 7½ inches.    Length of Drawing, 6½ inches.
Saxon Fibula, found at Saxby, Co. Leicester.

Size of Original, No. 2.
THE TEMPORARY MUSEUM.

Articles of apprenticeship. Dated 1st March, 1602.

Conveyance of the "Chapel House, otherwise called the Spital Chapel," in Melton Mowbray. Dated 29th September, 2nd Edward VI.

By the Town of Melton, selected from the Town Museum:
Two fine Saxon fibulae;* four Saxon ring fibulae; tweezers and pin, all found in Stapleford Park, in 1823. Umbo of shield and two spear heads (Saxon), found at Sysonby, in 1859. Saxon necklace, umbo of shield, and spear heads, all found at Saxby, in 1823.

By Messrs. Goddard and Son: Several architectural drawings, plans, and elevations.

By Mr. Vincent Wing: Ditto.

By Mrs. Hubberstey, Eastwell Hall: Roman fibula, and various coins, found in Goadby Hall.

By Mrs. George Norman, Goadby Hall: Gold ring; a piece of gold found in tumulus in Goadby Park; various coins also found in Goadby Park.

By Mr. S. G. Bennett, Market Overton: A large collection of Roman and other antiquities, found chiefly in the parishes of Market Overton and Thistleton, including the following: Ancient British coins, Roman coins, Samian ware, iron clamps, portion of amphora, steelyard, knife, short sword, stylus, bone pins, bone bodkin, broken fibula, flint celt, Roman pottery, plaster head found near the Castle, Oakham, Roman brick, fragment of hypocaust tile, wild boar's jaw, vessel nearly whole, hand-mill, Roman plaster, tassels from the bed on which Richard slept before Bosworth Field, flint, revolver upwards of seventy years old, swords about the time of Charles II., also helmet of same period, a capital of Roman pillar, weighing six hundred-weight.

By H. C. Bingham, Esq., Wartnaby Hall: Carved oak picture frame (supposed to have contained a sliding calendar), carved oak panel, two pieces of old "Malines" leather, carved cherubim, two spear heads found in Wartnaby stone pit, amputating knife and saw found in the walls of the citadel at Antwerp, two helmets, cuirass from Waterloo, horse shoe found in the wash pond at Wartnaby, ancient halberd 1659, Spanish carbine, rifled; piece of dog-tooth moulding, found at Wartnaby, west of the chapel; keys of Ab-Kettleby and Scalford church doors.

By Mr. R. W. Johnson: Architectural plans, drawings, and elevations.


By Mrs. Johnson: A collection of Moorish and other curiosities, and photographs.

* The Society is indebted to Mr. G. C. Bellairs for the accompanying drawings of these very beautiful fibulae, from Photographs by Ferneley of Melton.
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

By Mr. John Allen: Rubbings of brasses in Melton church, and of the inscriptions on the bells of Little Dalby church.

By Mr. Fetch: Saxon beads, found in a field near Melton, in March, 1860.

By Mr. Webster: A curious collection of antique swords, pistols, and gun locks; carving to represent the Holy Trinity, &c.

In addition to the above articles, were large and valuable miscellaneous collections, exhibited by Mrs. George Marriott, Messrs. Henry Bickley, J. W. Bickley, E. H. M. Clarke, Leadbetter, Stone, Thos. Johnson, John Hunt, Barfield, Weatherhead, North, Ward, Greasley, W. T. Crick, Webster, Thomas Hickson, Mrs. F. Mason, and many others.

During the afternoon the museum was visited by a very large number of people.

An ordinary was provided at the George Hotel at six o'clock.

THE EVENING PUBLIC MEETING

Was held in the Corn Exchange. The Right Reverend the President took the chair at eight o'clock. His lordship opening the meeting, said:

The object of the meeting they had already learned in the fullest manner; they had come together that evening to hear gentlemen who had devoted a large portion, he would not say of their lives, but of the leisure hours of their lives, in the pursuit of archaeology and architecture, and who had united together in a society in which they sought to interest them all in their pursuits; and rightly doing so, because they knew full well how much gratification their elegant taste had procured for them; because their natural desire was that others should share in the pleasure; and because men of kindred tastes naturally united to stimulate each other in their common pursuit. With archaeology and with architecture he himself had but a very slight acquaintance; but he could not come in contact with those intelligent persons who had given their minds to the subject, but he found a thirst awakened, and would fain slake it if he were like them able to approach the fountain. The term Archæology—the science of antiquities—was one which oftentimes provoked a smile, and had as often been the subject of satirical novelists. With Jonathan Oldbuck and his quaint humours, and the deceits which were put upon him by the beggar, the genius of Sir Walter Scott had made them all familiar. It was not singular that ever since antiquities had become an object of study, pursued as they were without much discrimination at the first—the object apparently being to bring together a museum of strange things which had no connexion but their oddity—that the study had from the first excited the hilarity of those who were not well acquainted with it. But they called it now Archæology, because they wished
to denote the fact that it was no longer a mere enquiry, no longer a mere indulgence of curiosity, but that it had become a science with certain rules and definite objects. Archaeology was a study of what was old, and not only that, but of what was old and had passed away. And independently of the wish to know—that sacred thirst for which there needed no apology—their minds were so constituted that the wish to know for the sake of knowledge, was in every high and liberal mind as much a passion as the desire for any pleasure whatsoever. Enjoyment or pleasure was a thing which did not need to be accounted for; it was in itself a noble and lofty instinct implanted in the nature of man for a high purpose; but independently of that purpose, finding its reward in itself, stimulated by the very constitution of their minds, prior to reflection and to any idea of the benefits it conferred.

The study of archaeology—of that which was passed away—was one well worthy of the attention of every age, and that in proportion to its civilization. He thought they must often have heard in the course of conversation, persons exulting in the sense of a superiority of the times in which they lived. They were apt to look backward with a kind of contempt on their forefathers. They apologized indulgently for the times which had gone by; they pitied those who were not so fortunate as themselves; but they were apt to forget—to use a simile that had been often used—that the dwarf was taller than the giant when he stood on the giant's shoulders. They were raised on the pedestal that their forefathers had reared, and they should not imagine for one moment that one civilized and Christian age was very much superior to another; at least in the men who composed it. It was perfectly true that what would be wisdom in a past age would be folly if done now. Change of times and circumstances made all the difference in men's conduct. They might depend upon it if they went backward they would find that the successive stages of improvement required as much genius, caused as much pleasure, produced as great benefits, as those which had been made in later times, and which would continue to be made by their children, who would look upon them as having existed in the infancy of the world, it might be. Many, many inventions had been made which really advanced humanity far more than those of which they were so proud. The ancients deified the man who invented the saw, and he was not quite sure if the man who invented the bit which enabled him to command the noble courser, did not do as much for humanity as the man who placed the steam engine on lines of iron. The study of archaeology enabled men to reproduce past times, to understand the history of their fathers, and the successive stages in the improvement of mankind: rightly to appreciate the past, and also rightly to appreciate the present; and if all it did was only to moderate their sense of what they had done, and diminish that amount of pride.
which was so often offensive in their own day, it had rendered them
a very great service; and he thought the conclusion at which they
would arrive in the long run was this, that human happiness
depended very little upon the progress of material improvement, but
that in every age, and under every circumstance, the degree of
happiness depended upon the moral and religious condition of those
who lived in that age. Many of them were old enough to have
lived before the invention of most of those things which had given
such an impulse to material improvement and the wealth of nations.
Some of them lived before the steam paddle dashed through the
waters—before the lightning conveyed human intelligence—before
a thousand of those improvements in which they rejoiced; and they
could testify, he thought, that those with whom they lived were
just as happy as they were then. Archaeology taught them of those
who had lived in times gone by, enabled them to understand past
ages, and to understand their own better.

But that Society was not only archaeological, it was architectural.
They made an enormous transition when they went from archaeology
to architecture; because archaeology, if they would, referred to
things that had passed away; but architecture referred to things
that now existed, and especially architecture, when applied to its
noblest purpose, the glory of God and the well-being of men; that
was to say, ecclesiastical architecture, which was the pride and
glory of that ancient people. Their great cathedrals, their great
churches, were like badges of nobility on the nation's breast; but
old as they were, they were ever young. They were adapted to the
worship of their forefathers; they were adapted to their own. Like
Christianity itself—which was unchangeable in its doctrine, but was
ever new in its effects upon the hearts and feelings of successive
generations—their churches were just as impressive, produced as
strong an effect upon their souls as they did on their forefathers';
and it was one of their delights that where their forefathers knelt
they knelt; where they were taught God's truth, they in the present
day were taught God's truth; where their forefathers' salvation was
brought about instrumentally by the means of grace, there their
salvation was brought about by the means of grace too. They were
now passing into a new element, a living element, the element of
architecture, and most important it was that it should be studied in
their own day. They were in a wealthy age, and wealth always
manifested itself in building: pyramids in one age, fortresses in
another, bridges, railroads, churches, palaces, according to the
changes of time and men's manners; but where there was wealth,
its traces always remained in the form of the building. Now, their
age was one of very little original genius in the way of architecture:
they were simply content to reproduce or imitate what had been
done in ages before. It had been said again and again that no new
order of architecture had been invented, and that perhaps none was
possible—as if human genius in past ages had reached a limit in building which it was humiliating they could not overpass. It was of great importance, then, if that was a building age, but not productive of genius, that they should distinctly understand in their imitations and reproductions the principles which guided their forefathers. Now that science was a science almost of a day, and the Quaker, Mr. Rickman (whom he could remember), he believed was the father of modern architecture in this sense; not that his productions were modern, but that he first discovered that one age built in a particular manner, and another age in another style, but that the whole was uniform; and men of ability—such as had been displayed that morning in narrating the history of their beautiful church—could tell them from the slightest fragment, almost within a year, when the first part of a church was built, and when the second was erected, by canons as certain as those which enabled Cuvier, from a single bone, to reproduce the whole animal; for they had laws in their own minds as closely connected with the minds of the builders of former ages, as the laws upon which the Creator had constructed each wonderful living fabric. Those laws were not founded upon caprice but reason, and the observance of them produced what was delightful to the eye. If they had gone on fumbling their way in architectural darkness, they would have produced something like the "Strawberry Hill" of Horace Walpole; but their restorations were more in character now, and they had learned to appreciate what their forefathers had erected, and thus their own evil tendencies—the tendencies of the age—were checked and corrected. They would scarcely believe that in the last century one of the greatest philanthropists and most eloquent orators, Bishop Berkeley, spoke of Gothic architecture as perfectly barbarous; and he (the speaker) was not sure if they were not in an age which had become insensible of the beauties of that architecture which he (Bishop Berkeley) admired; he did not think they sufficiently appreciated the architecture which they had borrowed from Italy. But so it must be; love was always exclusive, it fixed on the object of its affection and underrated the charms of every other; but that soon corrected itself in the man of taste, who, whatever his own predilection, became fully alive to merit in everything that had merit, and a right judgment was ultimately formed by educated people. Now, it was of enormous importance that they should understand the principles on which their forefathers worked, and it was really marvellous, when they read architectural discourses, to see the tact, the power of investigation, and the acuteness displayed; as they had heard that morning the well-balanced reasoning and just views expressed in the Papers respecting certain monuments in their church. Such discussions cultivated the mind, and fed and exercised the judgment. It was, he repeated, of great importance that they should attain to that kind of power;
and he had been lately very much struck by the arguments of Mr. Fergusson with reference to the distinctive architecture of the Holy Places of Jerusalem. It appeared that from the architecture alone—and history confirmed him—he had been enabled to fix and determine where stood the Holy Sepulchre, and by consequence the spot on which our Lord was crucified; a subject full of interest; but it had awakened interest in his mind especially from the beauty and closeness of the argument by which it was urged. Those studies were eminently calculated to exercise the best faculties of the mind, and were deserving of their attention, for they would reward the curiosity of those who pursued them. They were pregnant with practical and living interest; and therefore it was with very great pleasure, though but very little acquainted with the subjects that occupied the more distinguished and learned members of that body, that he had undertaken the duty of presiding during their meeting that evening.

His Lordship then called upon Mr. Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, F.S.A., to read a paper on

CHURCH PLATE,

Which he proceeded to do as follows:

Your worthy Secretary, Mr. North, has, I think, with great judgment announced that short Papers are to be read at this evening’s Meeting. I cordially concur with him in opinion as far as I am individually concerned, and though the subject matter of my Paper is capable of indefinite extension, I have endeavoured to render it as concise as I well could. When I went the round of the churches, which some of you propose to visit to-morrow, in company with Mr. North and Mr. Wing in May last, I took occasion, where I had an opportunity, of inquiring after the communion plate. At one church I was informed there was an old communion cup, not considered much of, and which might be beneficially exchanged for another of modern design. I asked to see it, my request was readily complied with. I examined it, and I found it to be the oldest communion cup of the reign of Elizabeth I had ever met with. I then pointed out its value as such, and trust it will long be preserved and not exchanged. It was this circumstance which induced me, when asked to read some Paper at this meeting, to say a few words on the communion plate belonging to your churches. We have notices that the church plate belonging to the greater, that is, the conventual churches, even in Anglo-Saxon times, was exceedingly costly, and the materials of the precious metals gold and silver. Of such was the gold pectoral cross, and the silver plate apparently the covering of a portable altar, altare portabile, found in the coffin of St. Cuthbert at Durham:—articles, perhaps, of the earliest and
rarest description of the kind we have existing in this country. 
In the year of our Lord 1070, William I. is said to have despoiled 
the English monasteries of gold and silver, not sparing even the 
chalices.* Changes took place in fashion in each succeeding age, 
and towards the close of the twelfth century, in or about the year 
1193-4, most of the articles of church plate throughout the king­
dom, more especially the chalices, were disposed of to raise the 
ransom from captivity of King Richard I., fixed at 180,000 marks.† 
If, then, there remain any articles of church plate of the precious 
mets prior to the thirteenth century, they are exceeding rare, 
those, I mean, of this country.

By the Constitutions of William de Bleys or Blois, Bishop of 
Worcester, A.D. 1229, various articles of church furniture are 
enjoined to be provided. I cannot give you the Latin quotation, 
Wilkins’ Concilia is a scarce work, and I have it not to refer to. I 
believe the substance when translated to be as follows. I take it 
from Hart’s Ecclesiastical Records:—“In every Church let there 
be (inter alia) two chalices, viz., one of silver to be used at mass, 
the other unconsecrated and made of tin, with which the priest is 
to be buried; two pyxes, viz., one of silver or ivory, vel de opere 
lemonitico for the host, the other neat and clean for the purpose of 
receiving oblations.” One of these pyxes de opere lemonitico, or 
Limoge enamel of the thirteenth century, I now exhibit.

Now, I do not know when the practice of depositing a chalice 
and, in some instances also, a paten on the breast of the body of a 
deceased prelate or priest commenced, but it was undoubtedly a 
custom generally observed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centu­
ries. With the bodies of ecclesiastics of episcopal or abbatial 
rank, these chalices and patens were of the more precious metal, 
silver or silver gilt. I made enquiries some ten days ago, when 
passing through York, after some chalices of precious metal which 
had been found in the tombs of some of the archbishops of that 
see, one of them a native of this town. I was informed I could 
not see them, that they had been recently regilt, and were now 
used at the celebration of the Holy Communion. This was not 
the purpose for which they were originally designed.

About three years and a half ago I was present, by invitation 
of the Dean, in Worcester Cathedral, when the remains of a 
bishop of that see were discovered in a stone coffin. The vest­
ments were of cloth and gold, and from the patterns I was enabled 
to appropriate the remains as those of a celebrated Bishop of 
Worcester, Walter de Cantilupe, who died in 1266. With these

* Anno Domini MLXX. Rex Williemus pessimo usus consilio, omnia anglorum 
monasteria auro spolians et argento insatiabilius appropriavit et ad majora Sanctæ 

† Unde calices anglies . . . . . . ad ejusdem regis liberatiorem cesserum 
in alienam possessionem. Unde anglia ruina incurrre et damnnum irreversibilib.
remains, and deposited in the stone coffin, was found a silver gilt paten, as bright as if it had just come out of the goldsmith's hands.

Of chalices of a baser metal deposited in the graves of priests, I have two, or rather the fragments of two, the one found in the grave of a priest in Theddingworth churchyard in this county; the other, with a paten, found in the grave of a priest in Saccomb Church, Hertfordshire. These are of the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries, and I now produce them to your notice.

On the incised sepulchral brasses of priests we not unfrequently meet with the chalice. Sometimes it appears on incised slabs, as one I found the other day in Lincoln Cathedral. This, from the form of the chalice, was of the fifteenth century. On the bowl was the representation of the host, the consecrated wafer impressed with a cross.

In the foundations of the old church of Lower Shuckburgh, Warwickshire, demolished in 1863, was found a sepulchral slab covered with an incised cross, with the representation of a chalice on the sinister side, and a book on the dexter side. This sepulchral slab was of the coffin shaped form, and of a period not later than the fourteenth century.

The chalice of the fifteenth century was in fashion different to those of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the bowl was, perhaps, as small, but the stem was elongated and the foot larger or more ornamented. In Trinity College, Oxford, is preserved an ancient chalice and paten of the early part of the sixteenth century, A.D. 1527. Round the paten is engraved—"*Calicem salutaris accipiam et nomine Domine inrocabo.*" In the centre of the paten is engraved a representation of the *Veronica* or face of Christ. The bowl of the chalice is plain, but appears to have the same inscription. This chalice is said to have belonged originally to the Abbey of St. Alban's, Herts., and to have been given by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College.

I have a cast of an ancient chalice of the fifteenth century, which cast I purchased at the sale of the museum of the late Mr. Cottingham, architect. It indicates the general form of the chalices of the period.

I am enabled through the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Sutton, of Theddingworth, to exhibit to you a chalice of the fifteenth century. It may be of foreign manufacture, but the general fashion is the same as those used in England. A few ancient chalices and patens are yet remaining in our churches. At Nettlecomb, Somersetshire, is an ancient chalice and paten of the middle of the fifteenth century. The bowl of the chalice is hemispherical, or nearly so, the foot sexagonal; on one of the curved sides of the stem between the knob and the foot is engraved the image of the Crucified; in the middle of the paten is engraved the head of Our Saviour. Both
the chalice and paten have the hall mark, a semi fleur-de-lis, the leopard's head, and the letter B—a very early instance of the kind. Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., has expressed an opinion that these articles of church plate cannot be later than A.D. 1459.

Amongst the church plate at Monk's Kirby, Warwickshire, is a silver gilt cup of the fifteenth century. This is, however, not an ancient chalice, but a gilt cup evidently presented to the church to serve as a Communion cup. It is 6¼ inches high, and 5¼ inches in width at the mouth. It is uninscribed, and perfectly plain, but the outline is elegant, and resembles in form a cup richly engraved and inscribed, preserved at Pembroke College, Cambridge. The confiscation of church plate on the suppression of monasteries and chantries in the sixteenth century was very great. The plate belonging to the high altar in each parish church or chapel was alone retained. Even of this plate, returns were required from the different counties during the reign of Edward VI. I will read you a return of church goods from the parish of Lapworth, in Warwickshire, in the sixth year of Edward VI.:—"j challise and iiij belles, a saunce bell; iiij vestments, One vellet, iiij dornix; iiij copes, One Vellet, one Silk; iiij albes; iiij altar clothes; iiij candlesticks laten; One pix laten; iiij cruets; a crosse, coper; One censor laten." So that of church plate there was then only remaining the chalice, and perhaps the two cruets, containing the wine and water preparatory to their admixture in the chalice.

The Royal Proclamation prefixed to the Order of the Communion, A.D. 1547, set forth in the first year of the reign of King Edward VI., commences as follows:—"To all and singular our loving subjects greeting. Forsomuch as in our High Court of Parliament lately holden at Westminster, it was by us with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons there assembled, most Godly and agreeably to Christ's holy institution, enacted that the most blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ should from thenceforth be commonly delivered and ministered unto all persons within our Realm of England and Ireland and all other our dominions under both kinds, that is to say of bread and wine." This was the restoration of the cup to the laity of which they had been deprived for several ages. The difference in size between the small ancient bowl of the chalice and the larger size of the bowl of the post-Reformation Communion cup, shows a meaning not altogether esoteric, which many of you will doubtless comprehend, but on which I shall not now dwell. In the rubric in the Order of Communion in 1547, the priest is enjoined to "bless and consecrate the biggest chalice, or some fair and convenient cup or cups full of wine with some water put into it." In the rubric of the Communion Service in the first Liturgy or Book of Common Prayer of King Edward VI., A.D. 1549, we find it thus set forth:—"In the meantime whiles the Clerks do
sing the Offertory, so many as are disposed shall offer to the poor men's box every one according to his ability." But in the second Book of Common Prayer, A.D. 1552, this practice of offering to the poor men's box was changed according to the alterations in the rubric thus:—"Then shall the churchwardens or some other by them appointed gather the devotion of the people, and put the same into the poor man's box." The poor men's box was not a novelty. Offertory boxes existed in our churches long previous to the Reformation. They were one of the kind of pyxes for the receipt of oblations mentioned in the Constitutions of Bishop Blois, A.D. 1229. There is a fixed stone pyx of this kind in Bridlington Church, Yorkshire. A chest for the poor was ordered to be provided in every church by the injunctions issued by Queen Elizabeth in 1559. This will account for the omission in early post-Reformation Communion plate of any offertory dish or platter.

In 1552, the 6th of Edward VI., amongst the royal instructions given to the Commissioners for the Survey of Church Goods within the county of Northampton, when church plate, ornaments, and jewels were confiscated to the crown generally, this exception appears, "leaving nevertheless in every Parish Church or Chapel of Common resort one, two, or more Chalices or Cups, according to the multitude of the people in every such Church or Chapel, and also such other ornaments as by their discretion shall seem requisite for the divine service in every such place for the time." Amongst the Articles of Visitation by Bishop Bonner in 1554, in the reign of Mary, when the old Ritual, was for a while, up to her death, restored, the sixth enquiries whether the things underwritten (which are to be found at the costs of the parishioners) be in the church. Amongst these are enumerated a chalice, two cruets, an incensor (i.e., a thurible), a ship or vessel for frankincense, a little sanctus bell, a pix with an honest and decent cover.

I have here a little sanctus bell, but I think of an earlier period. In the reign of Elizabeth a change was made again. In Archbishop Parker's Visitation Articles, in 1569, the fifth inquiries whether they (the curates or ministers) "do use to minister the Holy Communion in wafer bread according to the Queen's Majesty's injunctions or else in common bread. And also whether they do minister in any prophane cups, bowls, dishes, or chalices heretofore used at Masse, or els in a decent Communion Cuppe provided and kept for the same purpose only." This is the earliest notice of the Elizabethan Communion cup I have yet met with. It almost implies that some previous order had been made for the change of the Communion cup for the chalice, perhaps in that eventful year, in the history of the Church of England, 1564. In the church accounts of St. Martin, at Leicester, sub anno 1567, the following entry occurs:—"M" sold by Mr. Willm Manbye by thassent of y p'ishe one Chales weying xv ounce 3 quarters aft
CHALICE AND PATEN.

WYMONDHAM LEICESTERSHIRE.
v\textsuperscript{3} iiiij\textsuperscript{4} the ounce \textsuperscript{w}th comyth to iiiij\textsuperscript{4} iiiij\textsuperscript{4} iiiij\textsuperscript{4} ; and also bought by the sayd Mr. Will\textsuperscript{m} Manbye one Communyon cuopp \textsuperscript{w}th a kever duble gylte wayinge xxj ounce & a halfe at vi\textsuperscript{m} the ounce \textsuperscript{w}th comyth to \textsuperscript{vj} ix\textsuperscript{4} so \textsuperscript{y} there remaynythe to be payd unto \textsuperscript{y} sayd Mr. Will\textsuperscript{m} Manbye over and above \textsuperscript{y} p'ce of \textsuperscript{y} Chall\textsuperscript{a} by \textsuperscript{y} p'ishe the some of xliiiij\textsuperscript{4} viij\textsuperscript{4}.

"anno domini 1567."*

In the Articles to be inquired of within the province of Canterbury in the Metropolitical Visitation of Archbishop Grindal in 1576 the second inquiry is "Whether you have in your Parish Churches and Chapels a fair and comely Communion Cup of Silver, and a cover of Silver for the same which may serve also for the ministration of the Communion bread." This is the first notice I have found of the cover of the cup being used as the paten. The seventh Article inquires "Whether your parson, vicar, curate, or minister do minister the Holy Communion in any Chalice heretofore used at Mass, or in any prophane cup or glass." We gather from these Articles of the two Archbishops Parker and Grindal, that the ancient chalices were proscribed and superseded by the Communion cup and cover of the Elizabethan age. The Communion cups of the early Elizabethan period were alike as to their general form, though they were different in size. The bowl was deep, the stem bossed or annulated round about the middle, the foot forming a plain circle, about the same diameter as the mouth of the bowl. They were ornamented with more or less of engraving in a scroll-like pattern. In general form they were alike, in ornamental detail they differed. There being an inhibition against "prophane," that is common, drinking cups of silver being applied for use at the Holy Sacrament, it is probable that the form differed from such cups. The cover had a kind of button which formed the foot of the paten when used for the ministration of the bread or wafers. On this button was frequently engraved the date of the cup and cover, with certain initial letters—probably those of the churchwardens and clergyman of the parish. The earliest Elizabethan Communion cup I have seen noticed is one with the Hall mark of 1566. The earliest I have met with is that preserved at Wymondham, which you will visit to-morrow, a church in this county. It is of the usual Elizabethan form; and on the foot of the paten, or button shape termination of the cover, is engraved the date (Anno. Do. 1568).† At St. Mary's Church, Bedford, is a silver Communion cup and cover of the Elizabethan era thus inscribed:—"The Paryshe of Saynt Maryes in Bedford. I.C. T.W. 1574."

At Hillmorton Church, Warwickshire, is a fine Elizabethan cup and cover, the latter serving also as the paten. On the foot of the paten is engraved

* North's Chronicle of the Church of St. Martin, in Leicester. † See Illustration.

E Vol. III.
The height of this cup and cover, which I produce for your inspection, is eight inches, of the cup alone \(6\frac{3}{4}\) inches, the diameter of the cup at the mouth \(4\frac{3}{4}\) inches, of the foot \(3\frac{7}{8}\) diameter, of the stand or button of the paten \(1\frac{3}{4}\) inches, depth of the bowl \(4\frac{3}{4}\).

At Withybrook Church, Warwickshire, is a small Elizabethan Communion cup, \(5\frac{3}{4}\) inches high, but this is uninscribed.

At Caxton Church, near Thetford, in Norfolk, is the smallest Elizabethan cup I ever met with. It is only \(4\frac{1}{2}\) inches in height, exclusive of the cover or paten, which is in height \(\frac{3}{4}\) of an inch.

At Long Itchington Church, Warwickshire, is an Elizabethan Communion cup and cover or paten of the usual form, 6 inches in height. The button or termination of the cover is inscribed thus:

\[\begin{array}{c}
I.R. \\
1581. \\
E.K.
\end{array}\]

The silver mark on this cup is a rose.

At Monks Kirby, Warwickshire, is preserved the paten or cover of the Elizabethan Communion cup with the following inscription on the button:

\[\begin{array}{c}
1584. \\
P.S. C.H. \\
T.K.
\end{array}\]

At Churchover, in the same county, the old Elizabethan cup and cover are still kept.

But I need not multiply examples; I am persuaded that many of the old Elizabethan Communion cups and patens are still in existence. They ought not to be exchanged for others of more modern design.

These Communion cups and patens were, I think, purchased at the costs of the parishioners, and may probably be found noticed in churchwardens' accounts of the early part of the reign of Elizabeth. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, and from thence to the present day, much Church Plate has been given by individual benefactors to different parishes. Of these I shall enumerate a few. In the churchwardens' accounts for Great Wigston, Leicestershire, which extend from 1591 to 1660 we have the following items:—“1594 John Bartlett gave a Pewter Flagon for the Communion wine;” subsequently we have an account of the Church goods, viz.: “1612 Communion Cup and Cover of Silver, two Pewter Pottes, a flasket or box, a carpet, a table cloth, a surplice.” The flasket or box was for the purpose of collecting the offertory. Wooden flaskets are still used in some churches for that purpose. Amongst the Communion Plate at Rugby,
Warwickshire, all the gifts of individual benefactors, is a silver gilt Communion cup and paten inscribed “The gift of Thomas Shingler of London, Haberdasher, unto the town of Rookby.” “Ann Dom 1633, James Nalton, then rector.” This Communion cup differs in form from the Elizabethan cups, the bowl being more of a bell shape, and it is impressed with the Hall mark of 1633. At Barton on the Heath, Warwickshire, the Communion Plate consists of a massive cup, inscribed simply with the date “1638.” Of a paten inscribed “The Legacie of Walter Overbury, Esq., 1638.” Of a flagon inscribed “The Guilt of Magdalen Overbury, wife of Walter Overbury, Esq., 1638;” and of a Communion cup inscribed “The gift of Nicholas Overbury, Esq., to the Church in Barton on the Heath, 1670.” At Brailes Church, Warwickshire, the Communion Plate consists of a silver cup inscribed, “Brayles 1659,” of a silver paten inscribed “Brayles 1659,” and of a larger silver paten inscribed “The Gift of Mrs. Catherine Middleton to the use of the Communicants of Brailes 1784.” There are also five pewter plates inscribed

Jno Walker, Church
Wm Walker, Wardens
Jno Walker, 1708

The fashion of the Communion cups of the seventeenth century, and subsequently, has differed from those of the Elizabethan era. When uninscribed the date may in some instances be ascertained from the Hall mark on the Plate, but this is often not very clear. The most costly benefaction of Church Plate I have met with in the seventeenth century was that of the Duchess Alice Dudley, who, in or about the year 1638, gave sumptuous and elaborate services of gold plate, i.e., silver gilt, to the churches of Stoneley, Leek-Wootton, Kenilworth, and Monks Kirby, Warwickshire, and to two other churches the names of which I do not now recollect. The following entry in the Register Book of Monks Kirby, refers to one of these gifts of plate:—“Octob 25 Anno Dom 1638. Received from y* hands of Mr. Richard Bankes of Coventry one guilt flagon one guilt bread bowle and one guilt Chalice being y* free & bountiful gift of y* Hon^ble Lady Alicia Dudley given to y* church of Monks Kirby for y* use of y* blessed Sacrament only And it is enjoyned by y* said Hon^ble Lady that if y* said Plate shall at any time hereafter be changed to any other use or made away Then that it shall be lawfull for her heirs or assigns to challeng from y* said parish of Monks kirby y* worthe of y* said Plate that being about threescore Pounds in value Richard Stapleton Vicar.”

The Church Plate given to Stoneley Church and to St. Giles in the Field, London, by this good Lady, have been stolen. That at Leek-Wootton and Kenilworth are still preserved. The Church Plate at Staunton Harold, in this county, given about the same time, is very rich and costly, and worthy of examination. I must
not forget to mention that in 1685-6, Archbishop Sancroft formally consecrated the Altar Plate given to the church of Coleshill, Warwickshire, by the good Lord Digby, consisting of a paten, two chalices, a flagon, and a basin. It is difficult to conclude a Paper of this kind,—it is, I may repeat, capable of indefinite extension. May you who have the means keep and preserve these articles dedicated to God's service, not parting with any because they are old, and in your eyes, perhaps, seemingly mean, but adding to them, if you will, as much as you list, and so transmit them to your successors, and God willing, to future generations.

The Right Reverend Chairman next called upon the REV. ASSHETON POWNALL, F.S.A., to read the following Paper:

ON A FIND OF ENGLISH COINS AT HOLWELL, NEAR MELTON MOWBRAY.

In the month of August, last year, as some labouring men were employed at Holwell, near Melton Mowbray, in levelling ground for a gateway on the farm premises occupied by Messrs. Fisher and Helmsley, one of them, named Tyler, struck his pickaxe into either a wooden box or bag of leather containing a quantity of silver coin; which receptacle, whatever it was, crumbled away quickly on being exposed to the air. The coins it held, on examination, proved to be groats, half groats, and pennies of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. A portion remained in possession of persons in the neighbourhood, but the bulk of them were soon claimed by the authorities, as treasure trove. Now, whatever may be the opinion of coin collectors about the present exercise of this crown right, touching objects of archaeological interest, and of no great value as bullion,—objects which do not answer to our notions of treasure, and the ancient intention of the term;—in this instance the result of the claim satisfies one person; excepting a few retained by the officers of the British Museum for the national collection, the rest of the hoard has found its way into my hands. I propose this evening to give you some account of it; for, independent of any interest the coins may arouse from having been found in this neighbourhood, I conceive an examination of our early English money to be well worthy of a Society which professes, not simply architectural, but archeological enquiry generally. Our coins illustrate our history, if they do not embody it. In one sense they are manuscripts, the imprint of the hands of the very men we ourselves have sprung from, and they can perhaps be made to tell us something about them. If ancient castles and houses and churches speak to us of our forefathers' social and religious position in past days, and architectural study is continually throwing light on their records, I claim for numismatic investigation a place by the side of architectural study, as
equally subserving the purposes of history. In the opinion of Hume, the historian, no king’s reign deserved to be studied more than that of Edward III.; now the coins found at Holwell take us back to his time at once. I question whether some of the smaller pieces, bearing that name, are not earlier still; but the groats and half groats, of which there are about a hundred, point with great exactness to the date we must assign to one considerable portion of the find. It was in Edward the Third’s twenty-fourth year that there was issued what William of Worcester called a “new money.” (“hoc anno fit nova moneta, sicelict grossum, dimidium grossum.”)* Edward I. had struck a pattern groat, but it was Edward III. who made the representative of our modern fourpence a current coin. His reasons, I fear, did not arise wholly from a wish to benefit his subjects. William Edington, Treasurer of England in that day, “a wise man, but loving the king’s commodity more than the wealth of the realm and common people, caused a new coin called a groat, and half groat to be coined; but these were of less weight in proportion than the pennies, by reason whereof victuals and merchandise became the dearer throughout the whole realm.”† This coinage was very large, and to bring it out Henry Brisele and John de Cicester, being masters of the mint, were authorized “to make choice of proper workmen of every kind, wherever they could find them, and compel them to come to work there;” an exercise of royal authority which would not be welcome to our silversmiths now, though common enough then. The right of using compulsory labour was the king’s prerogative; and it is to Edward’s exercise of this right in those days that we are told Windsor Castle owes much of its magnificence in our own. We have before us then nearly a hundred examples of that great coinage, and I think they will be found to present several points on which our antiquarian interest may properly dwell. Take, first of all, the superscription, which runs thus: EDWARD D. G. REX. ANGL. Z. FRANC. D. HYB. (King of France and Lord of Ireland). The Dominus was exchanged for Rex by King Henry VIII.; but it was not until the Act of Union at the beginning of this century that the empty title of King of France was silently dropped;—a title which Edward had assumed 462 years before, in virtue of his French conquests, and to satisfy the scruples of his allies, the Flemings, who were bound by an oath, a penalty of two million florins, and the threat of excommunication not to act offensively against the King of France. The letters D. G. (Dei gratia) now appeared for the first time on the English money. On the great seal they had been used as far back as the time of William Rufus, but never before on the coin; and they still form a part of the royal style and title, for, although

* Ruding’s Annals, vol. i., p. 236.
† Stow’s Annals, quoted by Leake (Historical Account of English Money, p. 95.)
a late master of the mint tried quietly to suppress them, the attempt excited common remonstrance, and his graceless florin was speedily withdrawn.

Several of these Edward groats differ from the others by reading REX. ANG. DNS. HYB. Z. AQT., omitting his claim to the French crown. These were certainly struck after the treaty of Bretigny, when the king consented to suppress his assumed title, and reverted to the style he had used at the commencement of his reign—"King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Aquitaine." That treaty only lasted nine years, and upon its rupture, in 1369, he again was calling himself King of France. It is worth observing how these lesser points of difference in the legend enable us to fix the period in which these coins were struck,—how the coins illustrate the history, and how history returns the compliment by assigning the precise date of the coins.

But the legend on the reverse has its story too. "Posui Deum adjutorem meum" (I have made God my helper),—a motto chosen by Edward, it is said, to assert a belief in God's aid while engaged in his designs on France, is akin to that worn upon his arms, "Dieu et mon droit," and the "exaltabitur in gloria," which is found upon some of his gold pieces. This motto so commended itself to our English princes that its use was long continued, even until James the First's time, when one equally pertinent was substituted for it, referring to the union of the kingdoms. Edward III., however, is not the only person who appears to have used this motto upon the groats to express a second meaning. There is a note in Ruding's "Annals of the Coinage" which quotes a story from Camden's Remains, of "a rude scholar who grounded his apology, when he was charged to have gotten a fellowship in college indirectly, by protesting solemnly by his faith and honesty that he came in only by "Posui Deum adjutorem meum." And no marvel, for some are said to have "higher place and mediation by angels!"

So much for these pieces of King Edward III., as far as he is responsible for them; but now one word about them in their present condition, for which he is certainly not responsible. There is scarcely a single well preserved coin among them. All are so much worn that no collector of any taste would give them a place in his cabinet. Yet honest wear is not all they have suffered from; the shears have much to answer for. Clipped as they have been, however, and unfit as they have become by clipping, to represent England's goodly coinage of that day, they will serve to illustrate a common practice then, which the legislation of our Plantagenet kings vainly strove to suppress. Edward's grandfather ordained "quod proclametur per totum regnum quod nulla fit tonsura de nova moneta, sub periculo vitae et membrorum, et amissionis omnium terrarum et tenementorum,"* &c., and in thus

* Leake, p. 76.
FIND OF ENGLISH COINS AT HOLWELL.

ordaining he was only doing what his predecessors, Henry I. and III. had done also—not without good reason too. The king's money then was everywhere subjected to discount by clipping—clipping it almost to the innermost circle on the coin—cutting away sometimes all the letters of the legend. Rare indeed was it to find a piece of full weight. Every man's hand was against the money, for owners "terrarum et tenementorum" seem to have been as great offenders as the Jews, against whom lay the accusation chiefly; but a scapegoat had to be found, and they provided it in their own persons. Two hundred and eighty of them were put to death by Edward the First, in London only, "by which the king was a great gainer." That they were not alone in the offence, then or afterwards, is clear from the terms of the above statute, as well as from more direct evidence. From the Patent Rolls of Edward's thirty-fifth year, it seems one Robert Marshall, abbot of Missenden, was actually convicted of clipping and coining, in the manor of Lee, and was condemned to be drawn and hanged. Fancy this of a mitred abbot! But in those times of barbarous monarchy, even-handed justice was not in fashion, so the abbot's sentence was remitted, and he received the king's pardon. Whether the groats before us owe their loss of weight to Robert Marshall and his abettors, or to the Jews, cannot now be proved, but they are witnesses anyhow to our improvement as a people in respect to both morals and money. As for those days, when great lords even were not ashamed to patronize men guilty of every crime—when it was found necessary in the twenty-second year of Edward (i.e., just before these Holwell groats of his were issued) for the Commons to pray that "whereas it is notorious how robbers and malefactors infest the country, the king would charge the great men of the land, that none such be maintained by them, privily or openly, but that they lend assistance to arrest and take such evil doers,"*—when license of this sort obtained, was it likely that the gold and silver, current as coin, should escape. I fear it must be admitted that the religious sentiment so generally to be observed in the legends imprinted on our early English money is more to be regarded as having provided a possible safeguard from the clippers, than as an expression of pious thought on the part of their rulers. "Jesus autem transiens per medium illorum, ibat,"†—had certainly been often used as a charm; and in the motto on the "angel," which is positively devotional in character, if a form of prayer was furnished for the people, a "tutamen" of presumed efficacy was ensured for the coin.

Passing on from the earliest money of this hoard to the latest we arrive at that which constitutes the bulk of the whole,—the groats, half-groats, and the pennies of the Henries of the House of

* Hallam, vol. ii., p. 298: Prot. Parl., ii., p. 201,
Lancaster. Of these there are not less than 470 struck at various mints:—London, York, Calais, and Durham. But how is anyone to say to which of those three Henrys the coins belong? They bear no numeral after the king’s name, and in appearance they present to the eye but slender marks of distinction. This difficulty is one which numismatists have yet to surmount. Certain tests there are indeed which assist in some, but not in all, cases. The scales provide one. Henry IV. reduced the weight of silver coin in his thirteenth year, and Henry VI. still further reduced it on his short restoration in 1470. Any coins above fifteen grains to the pennyweight must, therefore, be attributed to Henry IV., just as any coins below that weight must be attributed to Henry VI. Yet when this test is applied to the Holwell pieces, it avails us naught. None of them are of Henry the Fourth’s early, or of Henry the Sixth’s later, money; and as far as the London pieces are concerned we are as much in the dark as before. But the case is otherwise with the 324 groats and half-groats issued from the Anglo-Gallic mint, for contemporary records enable us to attribute them to Henry V. or Henry VI., and to say positively that none of them were struck in the reign of Henry IV. The first notice of the Calais mint appears under the year of 1347. Edward III. having just colonized the newly-conquered town, and established in it a mint, he commanded the “white money” made there to be such as was to be coined in England. How long this mint was kept at work there is no evidence to show;—not very far into the subsequent reign I suspect. This we do know, however, that in 1421, the mayor, constables, and merchants of the king’s staple of Calais presented a petition to Henry V., stating therein their inability to pay certain monies “unless the king had his mint and coinage there as it was of ancient time.”* Their request in this petition was granted, and the mint was set to work; and, therefore, these pieces of the Calais mint we may fairly assume to have been issued after the year 1421. I am inclined to say that the exact period of their issue lies between that year and 1429; because in that year a petition was presented praying the king that the statutes might be enforced, from the neglect of which “the mint was like to stand void, dissolute, and to be distraed.” Another complaint was made in 1432, that the mint at Calais was “not sustained.”† So if we say these groats were struck in the ten years which include the last of Henry V., and the earliest of Henry VI., I do not think we shall be far wrong. But a certain kind of testimony as to date has been found, as some think, in a portion of the coins themselves. It has been observed that on either side of the king’s head a number of them have a little circle, as a mint mark; and coins

thus distinguished have been supposed to belong to Henry V.,
for a reason given, I believe, by both Stowe and Speed. These
little circles marked on the coin, are intended for "eyelet holes,"
and they maintain that the mark was adopted as a device, from
an odd stratagem practised by King Henry, when Prince of Wales,
"whereby he recovered his father's favour, being then dressed in
a suit full of eyelet holes." This, perhaps, you may consider too
fanciful for us to build assertions on; but what I before advanced
does certainly to me seem to fix with great exactness the period
when a great part of this find was hammered into money.

A very few more still remain to be noticed. There are two
Scotch coins, and three of King Richard II. With regard to the
last it will probably not have escaped your attention that in passing
as I did from Edward III. to the Lancastrian Henries, the reign
of Richard II. was unnoticed. His money is extremely scarce,—
how scarce this Holwell find sufficiently exemplifies, for out of 733
coins, Richard can claim only these three! Now this leads me to
dwell for a few moments upon the scarcity of coin, which prevailed
in his reign particularly,—not alone in his reign, however. Money
was not, in the middle ages, what it has since been called, the
"circulating medium." Other things circulated but coin did not,
and it is impossible to read the monetary history of those times
without frequently coming on this fact. "No change given" was
perpetually the practice of kings on one side, and the constant
complaint of the people on the other. Early in his reign Richard
issued a writ "for the discovering of subterranean treasure hidden
of old in the county Southampton," but I imagine with the result
we might expect, for his faithful commons were always asking
for a further supply of small coin. In 1378 or 79 they say that
"certain weights for bread and measures for beer, such as gallon,
pottle, and quart, were ordained by statute, and that the said
commons had no small money to pay for the smaller measures,
which was greatly injurious to them."* This complaint was
repeated in 1380, and in 1393 the commons again said that
"whereas there had been great scarcity in the realm of half­
pennies and farthings of silver, whereby the poor were frequently
ill-supplied, so that when a poor man would buy his victuals,
and had only a penny, for which he ought to receive a halfpenny
in change, he many times did spoil his penny (il perdra son denier)
in order to make one halfpenny. And also, when many worthy
persons of the commonalty would give their alms to poor beggars,
they could not on account of the scarcity of halfpennys and
farthings, to the great withdrawing of the sustenance of poor
beggars." What would the Mendicity Society have to say to this?

Froissart is quoted in the *Annals of Coinage,* to show that,

* Ruding, vol. i., p. 245.
† Vol. i., p. 293.
as a consequence of this state of things, "numbers in the city of London began to say that the kingdom was badly governed, and that the nobility had seized all the gold and silver coin." I need not remind you how this dissatisfaction culminated, but I may observe how strikingly this hoard of coins found at Holwell illustrates the historical fact, and how the fact so curiously brought out by it, strongly suggests to the thoughtful mind a thankful feeling for the better days which we, by God's Providence, have fallen upon.

I have now described the circumstances under which this treasure became treasure trove, and I have spoken of the coins themselves as they would be arranged by numismatists. But together with them I am told some human bones were discovered, and it is impossible to avoid an inference that the individual whose remains were thus deposited with the coins, was formerly their owner. Who the man was we shall never know. Whether he came to his death by violence; if he did, why his money should have remained untouched; and, if he did not, why his body should be lying in unconsecrated ground, some fifty or sixty yards on the north side of the church? These questions, which obviously arise, constitute a little mystery—and as a mystery I fear they must remain. Here conjecture may step in and take the place of fact. Looking at the coins themselves for such evidence as they can give, I could easily bring myself to believe that their possessor was some one who had lived abroad, and acquired them in that part of France which then belonged to England. These pieces of the fourteenth century show marks of hard service, such as one might expect coin to exhibit which had been current in a limited territory, where exchanges were frequent, and frequently made with the same pieces of coin, while the greater part of these Calais groats bespeak their quick transit from the coffers of the mint to the "gipsire" of the person who died possessing them. May be he was a stout Leicestershire esquire who had followed Henry V. during the French wars, in the train of some knight of high degree; or perhaps he was a bold archer, who had "laid his body in the bow"* on the field at Agincourt, or fought under the Regent Bedford against the Holy Maid. In those days the pay of an archer was six pence daily; that of a man-at-arms six of these groats; so that the amount of silver before us would represent nearly a year's pay in the one case, and more than that of four months' in the other. Compared with other labour, soldiering appears to have been highly remunerated then. But what does this quantity of bullion represent according to our modern notions

*"My father taught me to lay my body in my bow," said Latimer in his well-known sermon before Edward VI., 1549. See note in Last of the Barons, Lytton Bulwer, p. 9.
of the value of money? What sum now would it require to provide the means of living which this buried silver coin could have procured in Henry the Sixth's time. Many things have to be taken into account in answering this question, but assuming 16 to be the proper multiple of value for the fifteenth century, this hidden hoard, so long useless to man, must have been to its possessor then little short of what £250 is now to us. These calculations are intricate, and I fancy they sometimes convey wrong impressions; so that I shall content myself with referring any one who desires further information on this subject to the pleasant pages of Hallam. And yet it was Hallam who complained, in words which are almost mournful, of the difficulty, the immense difficulty, we have now in obtaining information, complete and exact, about those times. "We can trace the pedigree of princes,"* he says, "fill up the catalogues of towns besieged and provinces desolated, describe even the pageantry of coronations and festivals, but we cannot recover the genuine history of mankind." Something like this might be said about these coins at Holwell. In them we see, and touch, and handle the very handiwork of men who once filled places in England as English artisans; we can discover, in these examples of their craft, marks of difference such as I have brought before you this evening, and which, if not history, are closely bound up with history; but after all, what do they tell us of "the speechless past?" How vainly should we try to learn from them about the lives of those, who also, in their little day, saw and touched and handled them, without ever supposing the use they would be put to in 1865, full four hundred years after! And yet coins would lose half their interest for me, and I suppose for you a good deal more than half, if they did not somehow enable us to connect ourselves with the men of days bygone. Who of us can look over these, which have been lying all this time almost under your feet, in your own Melton neighbourhood, without summoning up what he can recollect of Wycliffe, in his association with another of our Leicestershire towns? For it was while he was earning, in his professor's chair at Oxford, the title of "Evangelic Doctor," that these groats of Edward III. first passed into circulation; and while he was rector of Lutterworth, in this county, at the end of the fourteenth century, they had become current money of the day, just as much as Queen Victoria's fourpenny-pieces are current money in our own. Again, who can look over these coins, and hear many of them described as groats, without remembering how much the groat had to do with Wat Tyler's insurrection? It was a poll tax of three groats, in 1381, that occasioned the dispute between King Richard the Second's taxgatherer and an Essex blacksmith, bringing up in arms

* Vol. ii., p. 304.
upon Blackheath one hundred thousand angry subjects. As much as this our old coins may do. They can rub up our history if they cannot reveal anything new in it; they can fix it in our minds, and make it look more real to our eyes; nay, I shall have wasted some of your time this evening if I may not add that coins can read us lessons; for the better a man knows and understands the past, the less likely he is to misunderstand his present place in the world, or the many reasons he has for rejoicing that his life was to be, not then, but now.

Mr. North was next called upon to read the following Paper prepared by him upon

THE CONSTABLES OF MELTON IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

An enquiry into the origin of the Town Estate of Melton, which now produces so goodly an income, and is productive of so much benefit to this town, would be a subject fraught with considerable interest to the local antiquary and historian. That enquiry would result in establishing the fact that although the town possessed certain property prior to the Reformation, it was at, and shortly after, that epoch, that the town estate was considerably augmented, and assumed something like its present proportion and importance. It would show that a portion at least of the lands previously belonging to the Guilds of the Blessed Virgin and S. John, whose priests sang at the Guild altars in the parish church, came into the possession of the town, and that the townsmen acquired by purchase several considerable portions of land, some of which formerly belonged to the rectory of Melton, and had in consequence been part and parcel of the possessions of the dissolved priory of Lewes, in Sussex, the head of which house had for a long time possessed the advowson of Melton. It must not, however, be my object, to-night, to enter upon this enquiry; it would occupy a longer space of time than is usually allotted to Papers upon these occasions, and the subject is one, which would not, perhaps, be sufficiently interesting to a mixed audience such as I have now the honour of addressing. It is rather my object to show one immediate result arising from the possession of this augmented Town Estate, and by tracing somewhat more in detail one thread of that result, we shall, perhaps, arrive at some particulars which will tend to hold up to our view a few reminiscences of Ancient Melton, to throw a few rays of light upon the every day life of our ancestors, their local government, and, in one or two directions, their public expenditure.

Here I may premise that any statements which may be brought forward in the course of this Paper are derived from your own Town records, which have been, by the courtesy of the Rev. W.
M. Colles and the Townwardens, placed in my hands. These records have not been noticed by the historians of our county, and the extracts which I shall read to you have never before been published. They are therefore original, and the circumstances to which they refer are authentic facts.

The results arising from having become possessed of a Town Estate of considerable value, to which I shall now refer, were the appointment of the expenditure of the rents and profits arising therefrom, the nomination and choice of proper persons to superintend the same, and the appointment of officials by whom the local government should be carried out. In a minute or Vestry Book preserved in your town chest, marked on the back "TOWN RECORDS, 1575," is a memorandum under date of 1582. The pith of this memorandum is this:—Two neighbouring justices of the peace—Mr. Pate who resided at Eye-Kettleby, and Mr. Hartopp—offered certain suggestions to a meeting of the inhabitants of Melton as to the appropriation of the revenue of the Town Estate: whereupon they requested those two gentlemen to choose twelve men, who, from their own body, should nominate five to receive all monies, and to make all payments—to be, in fact, Townwardens. Those Townwardens—they were not the first, there had been many previous ones—proceeded at once to raise money, and to expend it as indicated in the memorandum: That is, they repaired the two bridges then described as "two stoned bridges of xiii. arches standing vpon the Ryver of Eye," and known as "Kettleby Bridge" and "Burton Bridge;" they repaired the pavement of the town streets, which the town was obliged to keep in good order, notwithstanding the privilege exercised by the Lord of the Manor of taking up and damaging the pavement in the fixing of stalls, &c., the tolls of which went into his pocket, and they procured an estimate for the repair of the roof and walls of the church and ordering of the seats.*

The memorandum referred to above is here given entire: M'd That the nyne and twentie daye of Aprill ano dni 1582 Edwarde Pate Esquyer and Willm Hartoppe gent at the requeste of Tho. Chauncey als (alias) Gyles came to the Towne of Melton Morwrey, and then or there vppon the metinge of all or moste parte of the Inhabitants w' in the churohe of the same towne did move them for the repayringe and amendinge of the churche, bridges, Highe wayes, and pavemts of & aboute the same Towne. And for and vpon other good cawses and orders to be hade and made as well for the lettinge and settinge and Leasinge of all the Landes Tenements and shoppes, as for the expellinge removinge or chaunginge the Ten-nts of the same Towne, and for other good orders to be hade amongst The same Townesmen Ther was chosen at the gen-all requeste of the wholle companye by the said Edwarde Pate and Willm Hartoppe Twelve men wh' should nomynate and appointe fyve of the same Twelve to Lett Sette and Lease or otherwise to Improve the same lands and tenements And to take order for other cawses concerninge the estate and common wealth of the same Towne and Inhabitants as in stintinge the number of Beasts to be putt vpon the common pasture, or for the repayringe of the churche and church-yard of the same Towne.

With Twelve men so nomynated and appoincted dyd electe and choose theise fyve to the Intente purpose and effects before rehearsed viz: Willm Lacye, Thomas Chauncey alias Gyles, Henry Shipwarde, Jyhn Wythers and Mychaell Bentley.

And at the same Tyme all the Ten-nts of the same Towne yelded theire consents
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

Among other notices of the proceedings of the Townwardens at this time, tending to give some clue to the appearance of Melton streets, may be mentioned the fact of the destruction of two out of the several stone crosses, which then stood at the entrance and in various parts of the town.

Under date of 1584 are found the following entries:

"Itm. the stockstone at Thorpe Crosse was sold to John Wythers for towne shillings & towne pense, and to plante or sett one Ashe tree or a thorne, and to renewe the same till ye pleas of god theye grow.

"Itm. the stooke stone at Kettelbye Crosse was one stone standing, is solde to Willm Trigge for fyve shillings, and he to sett a Tree and husband ye till ye growe as abovesaid." In addition to these two crosses thus destroyed, was a Butter cross in the market-place, the Sage cross at the east end of the town, and the Corn cross at the west end.

On the 21st of April, 1586, three "newe Coeffeoffees for the Townes Lands" were chosen and the following appointments made, shewing that the town officials were many, if their dignity was small:

"Spynye wardens this yeare:—Mychaell Bentley, Willm Trigg, Henrye Gulson, Matthewe Lacye.

"Itm. John Castell allowed Heardsman till Martill: Itm. was chosen by comon consente Thomas Kinge to be Swynehearde.

"Itm. John Donnewell is appointed to be common Haieward or Pinder till Harveste, and to take for everye beast impounding ob., for everye Swynegog ob., for everye flocke of geese 1d., and for every flocke of sheepe iiijd., and to be crowe scharer, and to have for wages for everye yard land 1d., for crowscharinge, and 1d. for pyunning.

"Bridgmasters and overseers for pavements, Willym Lacye, Willm Lane, Robte Oldhame, and Mychaell Bentleye."

Add to these officers, Townwardens, Constables, Collectors for the Poor, Churchwardens, Schoolmaster, Usher, "Keeper of the clock and Chyme," and the staff of officials was surely sufficient to carry out the local government of ancient Melton in an efficient manner: not so thought the inhabitants, for they made one more appointment; M[1]d., was chosen and agreed w* Abrahame Shelton,
to be the Towne's husbonde for overseeinge the busynes of the Town till mondaye come a yeare, and we promise to allowe hime for his fée xxs., and more if he deserve yt."

The way in which these several officers performed their duties, and the various items of their expenditure (for we learn something respecting all of them from the Local Records) would all tend to illustrate the every day life of ancient Melton, but we must now— as before intimated—choose but one thread in this labyrinth, and follow it as best we may. THE CONSTABLES OF ANCIENT MELTON, then, will engage our attention for a few minutes.

These officers were elected annually, and their duties—so far as we must notice them now—consisted in preserving the public peace and protecting the property of the inhabitants, collecting various taxes now obsolete, carrying out the laws relating to the wandering poor and vagabonds, taking precautionary measures with regard to the plague, attempting to carry out the regulations respecting the brewing and selling of beer, and the providing men and arms for the Queen's service, according to the exigence of the times.

We have a few glimpses of the Constables of Melton fulfilling the primary duties of their office in protecting the property and lives of the inhabitants. Thus in 1595-6 they charge:—

"Payde Bartholomew Bruckesby for carringe Shaw, to Mr. Caves for stelinge gese, iiiijd."

In 1601:—

"Item payde to the crowner for his fée aboute the mead that poysiened herselfe v*. viiiid."

In the accounts for 1603 there are many charges for watching prisoners, for candle, for cord to tye them, for their conveyance to Leicester Gaol, for going to the justices with them, and for whipping two.

This whipping was generally accompanied by a provision for the immediate wants of the culprit:—

1595-6: "Pyde for meate for a roge which was whypte iiiijd."

There appears at this period to have been no place in Melton for the lodgment of prisoners. They were sometimes placed in the charge of watchmen at the Swan Inn, then, and for many years afterwards, the principal Inn in the town. There are some entries in the Townwardens' accounts for the year 1599 which shew this:—

"Paid the Crowners for ther fīyes upon the inquisession of the dethe of Smelle the some of xiiij" iiiijd.

"Paid the belye and amner to carry the pryssoners to the gayle at Lester that tyme the some of vi*. viijd.

"Paid them for the gelers fee for the pryssoners some is i*. xd.

"Paid at the Swan for the pryssoners suppers, breakfasts, fyare and candell all nyght the some of iiij*. iiiijd.

"Paid for ij watchmen watching all nyght the some of i*.}
"Paid for corde to pennyon the prysoners the some of i4."

"A room called the "Stockhouse chamber," was also occasionally used as a prison, but shortly after (in 1634) a House of Correction was erected in Melton as appears by the Townwardens' accounts for that year:

"Pd. at Swan when Ser Henery Hastins and the other Justeces sat & settele the howse of correction 0. Is. 6d."

The Constables also provided and used several of those old established modes of punishment for minor offences, which have now almost become matters of history and antiquarian disquisition. Within the memory of many in this room the stocks stood in King Street for the punishment of male offenders, but it may not be so generally known that here, as elsewhere, the cuckstool was used for the punishment of those offenders of the other sex who as "common brawlers and scolders" made themselves, in accordance with the cruel custom of those times, amenable to the disgrace, pain, and obloquy, attending its infliction. Originally, scolds, and those women not having a proper command over the unruly member, were placed on the cuckstool and fixed before their own door exposed to the taunts and jeers of the passers by, and then to add to their disgrace were carried to some of the principal parts of the town. Bad as this punishment was, and slightly fretful as it might be to the already irate feelings of the fair occupant of the chair or stool, a later age added a new feature to the punishment, which rendered it at once brutal and disgraceful. The Cuckstool, became the ducking-stool, for to use the words of an eminent local antiquary, and a bachelor, "The ladies were in former times very frequently subject to visitations of ill-tongue, and their lords and masters were sufficiently un gallant to consider no remedy so effectual for preventing a recurrence of the disorder as the cold-water cure applied by means of the Cucking or Ducking stool." The chair or stool in which the unfortunate offender was fastened, was affixed to the end of a pole placed over an upright beam, and her tormentors played at see-saw with her over a pool of water, each time the chair descended the miserable woman receiving a severe "ducking," or some other similar arrangement was made for carrying the sentence into effect.

The reference to this now happily obsolete custom in the accounts of the Constables of Melton, is this under the date of 1613:

"Item for a chere for the Cucke-stoole and for a locke and stapell ij."

The lock and staple were probably to fasten an iron rod extending from elbow to elbow in front of the chair (like the wooden rod in front of the chair of an infant) to prevent the occupant falling forwards. In the museum at Scarborough a Ducking-chair is preserved with this rod in iron, and in the Museum at Leicester the Cuckstool formerly used in that Borough may now be seen.
The Constables of Melton were also the collectors of the Government taxes—the Subsidies and Fifteenths granted by Parliament to the Sovereign, and of those minor taxes, some of which have been long since replaced by a more general and comprehensive taxation, and which therefore may claim a passing notice.

The subsidy was a direct tax upon real and personal property, upon land and goods. The rate was not uniform but, like the present property and income tax, varied according to the wants of the Government. In 1602 the tax upon "goods" at Melton was one shilling and eightpence in the pound, and upon "land" two shillings and eightpence in the pound. This tax was no doubt as unpalatable to our ancestors as the present property and income tax is to ourselves.

Assessors were appointed whose office it was to report to the Commissioners the names of such of the inhabitants as were liable to be taxed. Here is a written authority upon which they acted early in the reign of James the First:

"Melton Mowbraye

Constable you must be before the King's Commissioners for the subsidie and theis psons whose names are herevnder written with the names of all that may dispand XXs. a yeare in land and that are worth iij. li. in goods in yo' towne at Melton vpon satterdy the xxiiijth. of M'ch . . . . . . by me Tho. Snape, Bayliff.

Willm. Lacey
Willm. Boswell
Tho. Thurbarrne
Henry Shipward

Sessors for ye Subsedy."

When the Commissioners had received the returns of the assessors, the Constables were commanded to collect the tax, and pay the sum collected to the proper officer. Here is a copy of a document received by the Constables of Melton relating to this tax in 1602—a specimen of several preserved in your archives:

"To the constable of Melton Mowbrey deliver this. This is in the queenes Mat 9 name straighlie to charge and commaunde you Imedyatlie vppon the sighte hereof, you do collecte and gather of these psons herevnder subscribed the sevall somes of money annexed to there names beinge Imposed vppon them Towards the paymente of her Maæst firste paymente of the Seconde subsidie Graunted this last pliamente. And that you bringe the same to me, or my lawfull Deputie to Melton Mowbrey, vppon Twesdaie, beinge the xj Daie of maye next, to the signe of the Swane there. Fayle you not hereof att your pell (peril). Dated att Wymeswolde this xxiij of Aprill, 1602.

(Here follow ten names of townsmen taxed) some iijth. vth. viijth.

By me Edward Ballards, collector."

The "Fifteenth" was a fixed charge upon the town and was raised by a general taxation of all the inhabitants. This is
explained by the following memorandum in the book labelled "Town Records, 1575," already alluded to, under the date of 1583:

"M\(^{4}\). The fifteene for the Town of Melton is viij\(^{d}\). xiiij\(^{s}\). iiij\(^{d}\). w\(^{th}\) (is) Taxed and Imposed vppon Everye man inhabytinge in the towne accordinge to the Discressyon of the Sessors."

And again under 1589:

"The fiftene Beinge allwaies viij\(^{d}\). xiiij\(^{s}\). iiij\(^{d}\). is taxed by a generall Levye vppon everye man, and if any moneye be wantinge it is paide sometymes by some comon Letten (that is a letting of town land) and this year the levye beinge but viij\(^{d}\). xiiij\(^{s}\). iiij\(^{d}\). xx\(^{s}\). was paide by monye to be taken for pte (part) of the Mill close."

There are lists of inhabitants contributing, and the amounts contributed by each, to this payment, preserved among the town papers.

The Constables were also summoned to collect several minor taxes some of which are now obsolete, and some are merged into the County rate or general Government taxation. A tax was then laid upon Melton in accordance with the practice of "purveyance" then exercised by the Sovereign "towards her Ma* 1 provision of her most honorable household," the land, or the sheep upon it, being assessed for its payment. This we learn from a note in the town minute book, dated 1513, which at the same time incidently shows the wealth in sheep of the Melton graziers at that period:

"M\(^{4}\) in Anno Dni, 1583. The Seasemente for provision was levyed and seassed by sheepe beinge then in the feeldes towe thousand sixe hundrethe, and yt hathe benne Leyd sometyme by yarde lands, and sometyme by sheepe, and sometyme by boathe."

Here is a receipt given to the Constables for one of these payments:

"IX. of August, 1600.

"Receved by me John Standford, the daye and yere abovesaid, the some of thirtie eight shillings and xjd., of John Wright and John Roe, constables of the towne of Melton, towards the paym\(^{4}\) of fortie foure shillings, seassed of the said towne, towards her Ma\(^{4}\) provision of her most honorable houshold, within the division of Willm. Boswell, gent, one of the highe constables of the hundred of framlad, in the countie of leic\(^{e}\). dewe for this yere, 1600, I saye the some of xxxviijs. xjd."

John Stanford."

During the progress of the Sovereign through the kingdom this payment was frequently made in kind. In 1571-2 the Townwardens of Melton charge:

"Payd more to ye Chiefe Constables for hennes towards pryssions for ye Queene, Ao. 71 - - - xxd."

And again in 1587-8:
"Pd to Jo" Withers towards a sturke for the queenes
prision - - - - - - iijs. viijd."

The following will show some other taxes to which our ancestors
were subject, and the mode of their collection:—

" 1599.

"To the Constables and Churchwardens of Melton. By vertue
of a precepte to me directed to the iij day of December last past,
by iij of our maiestyes Justyces of peace, for the releefe of our
maietyes Jells, as also by a statute made att the last parlament,
for the releefe of the poore Hospitalls and meamed souldiers, these
are to will and require you, and in her Maiestyes name straitly to
charge and commaund you to collecte and gather wthin your towne
xijd. imposed vppon your towne for the Jelle, to be payd presently
at the syght hereof to me, And also iijs. 4d. for the Hospitalls
and meamed souldiers due to be payed x. dayes before the next
sessions, holden att Leicester. As you will answer to the contrary
at your vttermoste perrill.

Yr Loving frend,

" Ed for the Jelles, xijd. WILLM. BOSWELL."

of the Constables."

There is also an order from the high constable of Framland
Hundred, dated 4th February, 1599, for the collection of 3s. 4d.,
for the relief of Leicester Gaol, which is described as then con­
taining a great number of poor prisoners to the great charge of
the county.

The dissolution of the Monasteries proved that however bad the
monastic system might have become in the aggregate, it had its
redeeming qualities. At the Abbey-gate the poor received the
never refused dole of food, the monastery was a refuge for the
destitute, the almshouse for the aged, the foundling asylum for
outcast children, the infirmary for the sick. Imagine then the
state of the poor throughout the land when in consequence of the
dissolution of the religious houses they were turned adrift upon
society, without any means of procuring the necessaries of life,
which had for so long a time been provided for them through their
instrumentality. The monks were accused of covetousness; yet
it is singular that no legal provision for the poor was wanted so
long as the property was in their hands, and that it had scarcely
left their hands before it was found necessary to make such a
provision; the statute of the 5th of Elizabeth being the first direct
one of the kind.

We have seen that among the officers appointed to manage the
business of the town of Melton were "collectors of the poor." Upon
them devolved—as is shown by some of their Accounts
preserved among the town manuscripts—the duty of providing for
the wants of the resident poor by means of voluntary or compulsory
assessment; but the relief of the wandering poor carrying a license
to beg, and the punishment of the swarms of vagrants who then infested the country, in accordance with the stringent laws then in force, devolved upon the Constables. These licenses to beg were granted by the Justices of the Peace in accordance with Acts of Parliament passed in the 22nd year of Henry VIII., and in the 5th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (cap 3,) which provided that if any parish had in it more impotent poor persons than it was able to relieve, then the Justices of the Peace of the county might license so many of them as they should think good, to beg, in one or more hundreds of the same county. It is to the relief of persons bearing these licenses under the seal of a county Magistrate, that such charges as these in the Constables’ Accounts refer:—

"1602.

“Geven to tow pore men with lysence - - - - ij 3d.
“Geven to tow pore women with lycence - - - - ij 4d.”

In the same Act of 22 Henry VIII. (cap 12), it is ordered that if any begged without a license or beyond the limits named in such license, the offender should be whipped, or else set in the stocks for three days and three nights, and fed with bread and water only. And vagabonds (who are described in our old laws as “such as wake on the night and sleep in the day,” that they may do mischief) taken begging should be whipped, and then sworn to return to the place where they were born, or last dwelt for three years, and there put themselves to work. How these clauses in the Act were carried out by the Constables of Melton, is thus shown by their expenditure:—

“1601.

“Pd. and geven to bluett that was taken vagrant after his wippinge - - - - - - 0 0 2d.
“Pd. more for his wipping - - - - - - 0 0 2d.”

“1602.

“Geven to Robert Moodee for wippin tow pore folkes - - - - ij 3d.
“And gave them when they were wipped - - - - ij 4d.”

Women were also subjected to this punishment:—

“1597.

“Pd. for whipping Bess Knowles - - - - - iiiij 4d.

“1601.

“Pd. and geven to a poore man and his wiff that was wipped - - - - - - - - 0 0 4d.

“1602.

“Geven to Tomlyn’s boy for whippin a man and a woman ij 3d.
“And gave them when they went - - - - ij 3d.”

A woman whipped by “Tomlyn’s boy”!!! After being chastised these vagrants had passes given them by the Constables to save their backs in the next town:—
THE CONSTABLES OF MELTON IN ELIZABETH’S REIGN.

"1625-6.

"Payd for pap (paper) and wax to make passes for wagrants with was punished - 00 00 03."

There are many payments shewing this, for instance:—

"1602.

"Geven to one that was whipped at buxminster - ij^d."

And as it was customary to appoint a beadle to drive the dogs out of churches, so the vagrants and wandering poor whose numbers were alarmingly large were driven from town to town. The Townwardens of Melton, under date of 1557, charge:

"Itm. alowed Wyllm Dyng for a yere for dryving of beggers out of ye town ..... iij^s vj^d."

Under the old vagrancy laws, what were then styled "outlandish persons calling themselves Egyptians or gypsies," were punished very severely. By Acts of Parliament passed in the reigns of Philip and Mary and Elizabeth, if they remained within the kingdom for a month, they were guilty of felony. Under these circumstances, the Constables of Melton probably thought it less troublesome and less expensive to bribe them to leave the town than to prosecute them at the assizes, for in the year 1613 they charge:

"Gyven to the gippsis to ridd the towne of them - - xij^d."

The same method was sometimes resorted to to rid the town of poor unfortunate people whose presence might be burdensome to the inhabitants. In 1582 the Townwardens say:—"Item geven in rewarde by the consent of the towne to Martin Walley, being blynde, yt he might dpte from the towne, ij^p."

The Chamberlains of Leicester shew a similar payment in their accounts for the year 1599:—"Itm. geven to a pore woman called Jone Harrison al^s Olyver beinge sent forthe of the towne because the towne shoulde not be further charged w^th her...ij^p."

The execution or non-execution of these laws against vagrants was by no means optional, as we find by an order from William Boswell, high constable for Framland Hundred, addressed:—"To the constables and churchwardinges of Melton Mowbrye: These are to will and comaunde you in her Mat^s late pclamacon nowe lately publisshed throughe her whole Realme that ye bringe to me at Melton by Tuysdaye in Easter weeke a true and pfect certyficate under euye of there hands that ought to sett there hands, beinge officers appointed to doe the same, what waye and howe you have executed yo r offices in charge . . . Thirdlye how yo r Rogeies and vagrant psomns are punyshed and sent to there places of aboade as in the sayde statute is playnlie sett downe, and ther names, and what ye have done synce the pclamacon published. . . . This doe you as ye will answeire to the contrary at yo r pills (perils). Dated at Melton Mowbreye the xvijth of March 1599. Yr Loving ffrend WILLM. BOSWELL."

It is well known that during the middle ages, and down to
comparatively modern times, fearful epidemics raged among the people of this country. That direful disease known as "the plague" appeared in Leicestershire, by no means for the first time, during the latter years of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth. The chief precautions taken against its spread appear to have been a strict guard at the gates or entrances of the town to prevent the ingress of persons arriving from places visited by it,* and the placing of persons already infected or suspected of infection, apart from their neighbours, and so preventing all unnecessary communication with them, or by so marking the exterior of the houses where any lay sick, that all might avoid the risk of contact.† In the Constables accounts we find a few references to this scourge, 1603:

"Payd to Walter Parker and Hickson for keppinge the townes folke of Tythe and Aswell out of o' M'ket benge suspected for the plague vj d."

It was about this time (1604) that an Act of Parliament was passed making it felony, punishable by death, for a person with an infectious sore upon him to go abroad and converse in company. Searchers, watchers, examiners, keepers, and buriers were to be appointed in each town where the plague made its appearance.

Again in 1625-6:

"Payde to Wydow Powlie for vittelinge yonge Queniborough Lodging in the feild being suspected of the plague for hys dyet j month and watching some nights of hym 00 07 08."

It was, however, a few years later than this date, namely, in 1636 and 1637, that the plague raged with the greatest violence in Melton, for whilst the average yearly number of deaths at that period was about sixty, the number recorded in the year 1636 was one hundred and twenty-two, and in the following year it reached the fearful extent of 405.†

As during the middle ages, and down to the time of which we are now speaking, the sumptuary laws regulated the dress of the...
people, and prevented any excess in that direction among the middle and lower classes, so the food sold in the shop or market was subject to strict supervision both as regarded its quality and its price. A reference to the statute book will fully illustrate this. In our larger towns the Mayor or other chief official fixed the assize, or determined the weight, quality, and in some cases the prices, of the principal articles of daily consumption. For instance according to an order made by the Mayor and Corporation of Leicester, in the seventh year of King Edward IV., no baker in that town was to take upon him "to carrie any manner of bred into the country but that first they and every of them shall bryng ther bred on horsebake to the Mayor for the tyme beyng, or to the wardyns of that occupacon, and ther to be weyyd and to se whether yt be able bred and holsome for man's body according to the statute uppon peyn of forfeyt, &c., &c." (Book of Acts, page 30.)

In like manner the butchers were looked after, the "tippers" or retailers of beer, the chandlers, the "fysshers," the "vytulers" were ordered to "sell ther vyctull on reasonable p'ces takyng resonable gaynes:" and the brewers—but as the order relating to them is characteristic of the whole, it is here given:

"An Acte for bruers.

"At the same Comon Hall yt was agred that all bruers that brythe to sell shall make good alle and holsome for man's bodye nther saured nor roppie, but that yt be cleyn bryed according to the statute, and to sell accordyng to thassyse that Mr. Mayer shall gyve, and to make good holsome smalle drynke for the pore peopyll afit* ob a gallon that the pore may the bett r be releuyd uppon peyn of euy bruer makyng defalt for the fyrst, seconnde, and thyrde tyme to make fyne at Mr. Mayer's and the Justices will and pleasure, and the fourthe tyme to suffer imp'so'ment, accordyng to the words of the said statute." (Book of Acts, page 29.)*

1605-6: Paid to two women abowte the xxiij of September w* for appoynted to serche Henrye Stanford's Doughter who dented at Mr. Nixe's howse wheyther it weare the sicknes or not, xijd. Itm. paid to ij women for watchinge the vizited howses one daye, xijd. Itm. the xxiij of September p* for to Agnes Hall before she went into Sampson Large howse beinge vizited to kepe the folks therein, xijd. Itm. for a peale for to carrye water in to the visited people xijd. (Mr. Wm. Mott, a physician in Lincolnshire, was sent for 'to helpe to cure them.')

1607-8:—Itm. for the charge for the keepinge in of the visited people in their howses and for theire keepers and for pvizion for them and other theire charge as dothe appeyre by a Booke of the pticular charge viijd. Itm. p* to Michaeell Tyars to kepe him beinge sick, att w* tyme it was feared to bee the plague. But not see. xijd; xijd. 1609-10:—paide for hurdells stacks and corde sett att the dores of the visited howses to bee knowne from other howses in ye towne, xijd. Itm. for boults for the watchmen to shewte att the visited people such Parsons as woulde not bee kepte in there howses, xijd."

* In the year 1598-9, John Overend, of Leicester, "Comon Brewer," and several other were fined 6s. 8d. each "for breakinge of the Assise of Ale." In the same year Richard Ynge, "Typler," or retailer of beer, was fined 10s. for "unlawfull gamyng in his house, and also for feightings and quarellings in his house seall tymes."
Although the law was thus strict in its supervision of the quality and price of the beer, it was not until the time of Edward VI. that the present system of licensing its sale was introduced. According to an Act passed in the fifth and sixth years of that king's reign (cap. 25), no one was to be suffered to keep any common alehouse or tipling house but such as had been admitted thereunto at the sessions, or by two Justices of the Peace, and all so admitted were to give bond or surety by recognizance for their good behaviour.

The way in which this order was carried out in Melton shows how slowly all such regulations were at that period obeyed, and proves that, as in almost every other item in our domestic polity, so in this, the progress from its introduction to its present state of regularity and simplicity was slow, uncertain, and almost undefined. Although the Act ordering no man to keep an alehouse without a license was passed in the reign of Edward VI., it had been so inoperative that Elizabeth towards the close of her long reign found the old system still prevailing, and issued a strong proclamation respecting it. In 1597 the Constables made a charge for going to Buckminster to certify to Mr. Cave, who had licenses in Melton, to "brew and malt," and shortly after he (Mr. Cave) issued the following stringent order to the Constables respecting those who dared still to brew without a proper certificate:

"To the Constables of Melton Mowbraie.

"Theis are to will and requier you and in the Quenes Mie neame straitlie to chardge and comaunde yow ymediatlie upon the sight hereof that yow do repairi to theis psns whose names are herevnder written: and that yow dischardge them and everie of them for victualinge and brueinge to sell because they did refuse to come before her highnes Justices to enter into bound according to a late proclamation sent from her Ma: And yf aine of them doe refuse to take aine such dischardge, that yow pr'sentlie certefie their names to me or some of my followes beinge Justices w in this countie, that further order maie be taken w01 them. Hereof faile yow not as yow will answare the contrarie at yr pills (perils).

"Dated at Pickwell this xxvi of february, 1599, "Wylym Cave."

"Richard Burgon [and nine others.]"

Again, the High Constable for Framland Hundred, in an order addressed to the Constables of Melton, dated 17th March, 1599, requires them amongst other things to deliver to him a certificate as to how they had executed their office in allowing no one to keep a common alehouse without being bound according to the statute.

Perhaps the most important duty of the Constables of Melton in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was the equipment of the number of men required from the inhabitants as soldiers for the Queen's service, the providing and caretaking of the town armour, and the
making due provision for that "ghastly war-flame" which in those days, before the age of electric telegraphs, started up from innumerable cressets or beacons on our church towers, our headlands and our hill tops, warning the whole country of the approach of the hostile fleet, or the invading foe. The earliest mention I have found of the town armour is under the date of 1562, in which year the Townwardens, Robert Odam and Denys Sheparde delivered to their successors in office "ij Jacks," that is two upper defensive garments stoutly quilted with leather, "ij Salletts," or light helmets, "ij payre of splints," or metal guards for the body, "ij bills and ij sheffs of arrowes."* The town armour was then kept in a press in the church vestry, and a man was paid one shilling a year for keeping it in order. The mention of arrows in this short inventory reminds us of a time when the English archer played a most important part in our military achievement, when the bow—to use the words of Strutt—in time of war was a dreadful instrument of destruction, and in time of peace an object of amusement. In the reign of Elizabeth, however, archery had ceased to hold the high position which in earlier times it had so deservedly won: and this not from any wish on the part of the Government to hasten its decay, for in the reign of Henry VIII. three Acts of Parliament were passed for promoting it; and though towards the close of the reign of Elizabeth the use of the bow and arrow in the army appears to have been almost, if not entirely discarded, still, from what occurred in Melton, we may fairly judge that even after her decease the townsman still, at least, amused themselves by practising at the town butts. In 1603 Robert Moody is paid twopence "for warninge at there severall houses for the makinge the comon Buttes." And it would appear that the providing of these butts at the expense of the town was not an optional matter, for a few years later (in 1613) the town being amerced, or fined, twenty one shillings for "nott haveinge a payre of buttes," proceeded to erect strong and durable ones. There are payments for giving warning to the inhabitants for leading stone for that purpose, and charges for ale to the workmen employed.

The next list of town armour I have met with is dated 1613. It shows the change in the military equipment. There are now no bows and arrows mentioned: "Three corslittes (or body armour for pikemen) with sleeves, hedd peesis and colleres belonginge to the same;"† "One muskett with the reste and Bandelers (or small wooden cases covered with leather, each containing a charge for the musket) and hedd peese belonginge thereunto;" "Three pikes att Thommas Clarkes att Lester which are to be called for there." Two years later (in 1615) it was increased:

* A sheath contained twenty-four arrows.
† Sir H. Dryden, Bart., in his notes upon the Army of Elizabeth, says, "A corslet was understood to mean the breast and back plates, with the hassets and headpiece. Hence in some accounts we find 'the Corslet and that which belongs to it.'"
"Imprimis iij payre of curates (cuirass, armour for the breast and back)."

Itm. iij payre of Pouldrons.
Itm. iij Gorgets (pieces of plate for the neck).
Itm. one payre of Tasies (armour for the thigh).
Itm. iij head pieces and iij capps.
Itm. iij swords and scabberds and iij girdles and iij daggers with sheathes and chapes.*

Itm. the oulde corslett wantinge onely the headpiece for the same.

Itm. ij muskettas, ij bandelerres, iij resta, one moulde, one skrewge, and ij skowerers.

Allsoe ij pikes w* are, and have been, remayninge at the sign of the White Harte in Leicester, ever sithence the tyme that Thomas Owndle and James Lovett were constables."

We learn from these lists the stock of armour then possessed by the town, and about the same date (viz. in 1610) we learn the amount of ammunition then in stock,—the amount being unusually large on account of "the troble by them that threw downe the ditches." viz., xxxix pounds of gone powder, xxxvij pound of match, a hundred weight of musket shot, one calyvershot wantinge a pound and one barrell wayinge ix li and a half," The powder was sold when the "troble" ceased, but the shot and match were kept for the town.

Melton contributed at this time four men to the trained bands or Militia. They were mustered at the Sessions. This number was increased to seven in 1715, when the town armour was composed of—probably among other things—"Seaven musquets, seaven swords, seven bayonets, seaven cartridge boxes and belts, and seaven sword belts all clean and in good order;" and which were then lodged in the kitchen of the Swan Inn, in the Market-place, under the care of Thomas Crane. This Swan Inn, by the way, was probably in earlier times the town residence of some of the wealthy families of the locality. Various coats of arms were figured therein early in the seventeenth century—those of the Digbys and of Burgess, alias Melton; and when Nichols wrote his history he found there the remnant of the town arms, and he says there still remained on the kitchen wall the armorial bearings of the House of Lancaster.†

* The chape was the metal cover which protected the bottom of the scabbard.
† The following extracts from the accounts of the Chamberlains of the borough of Leicester (in MS.) may illustrate this part of my Paper:

1597-8.

"Imprimis p^d to Gilbert Mayres for Tenne muskettas with theire furniture xxvij^d xi^f.
Itm. p^d to Mr Robert Hevrcke for twoe muskettas & ij murrains (probably morirons or iron caps), with theire other furniture savinge cappes ...
Itm. p^d to George Brooke for X^d of Gunpowther & ij & halves of Matche .. xij^v viijd.
Itm. p^d to one Armstronge for presse monye ...
Itm. p^d to Thomas Nurse the younger on tuesdaye the xxij of Maye for playinge on his drume ...

The following extracts from the accounts of the Chamberlains of the borough of Leicester (in MS.) may illustrate this part of my Paper:

1597-8.

"Imprimis p^d to Gilbert Mayres for Tenne muskettas with theire furniture xxvij^d xi^f.
Itm. p^d to Mr Robert Hevrcke for twoe muskettas & ij murrains (probably morirons or iron caps), with theire other furniture savinge cappes ...
Itm. p^d to George Brooke for X^d of Gunpowther & ij & halves of Matche .. xij^v viijd.
Itm. p^d to one Armstronge for presse monye ...
Itm. p^d to Thomas Nurse the younger on tuesdaye the xxij of Maye for playinge on his drume ...

+ The following extracts from the accounts of the Chamberlains of the borough of Leicester (in MS.) may illustrate this part of my Paper:

1597-8.

"Imprimis p^d to Gilbert Mayres for Tenne muskettas with theire furniture xxvij^d xi^f.
Itm. p^d to Mr Robert Hevrcke for twoe muskettas & ij murrains (probably morirons or iron caps), with theire other furniture savinge cappes ...
Itm. p^d to George Brooke for X^d of Gunpowther & ij & halves of Matche .. xij^v viijd.
Itm. p^d to one Armstronge for presse monye ...
Itm. p^d to Thomas Nurse the younger on tuesdaye the xxij of Maye for playinge on his drume ...
In addition to providing in this way for certain men contributed to the militia, the Constables had further to collect the proportion due from Melton Mowbray towards the sometimes heavy county assessments for defraying the cost of her Majesty’s forces. In 1595 William Boswell and Robert Dodson, constables, collected thirty-seven shillings and one penny “for the seamen for the soldiery.” In 1585, too, the town contributed two horses with “gears,” or furniture “to goe into the north abowte the Quenes Ma’8 affaires.” But by far the most costly thing of the town was the proving a light horseman occasionally. There is an imperfect document dated 1569, detailing the charge then incurred in providing the clothing, &c., for one; and there is another paper undated, but apparently written about the year 1660, which is extremely curious as minutely detailing the dress and furniture then used, and the cost of each article. It is headed:—

“The charge of a lyght horsman.

For his horse p. to Mr. Henry Poole, of Dalbie - - iijd. xiijd.
For ye saddell & bridell gerthes, sterops, sersingle pettill - - - - xiijs. iiijd.
For his boots - - - - - iijs. iiijd.
For his spurs - - - - - viijd.
For his plate cote - - - - xxvjs. viijd.
For his sword - - - - - vjs. viijd.
For his skull* - - - - - xviijd.
For his Red cap - - - - - ijs.
For his Dagger - - - - - ijs.
For gerdell and hangers - - - - - xijd.
For v yards d whit frese to make him a Jerkin and slopps vs. vjd.
For a yard of linen cloth to tye about his neck in stead of a gorgett - - - - xiiijd.
For his vppermost grene cote conteyning one ell of brode clothe - - - - xijjs. xd.
For pointing rebin to y* same - - - - - xd.
For his staffe† - - - - - vs. vjd.
For arming points| - - - - - vjd.
P. to Bayllyes for vij bare staves for pikes
Itm. p. to W= Newton for playinge on the flute the said ij dayes before the said soldiers - - - - - - - - - iijs.
Itm. p. unto Willm Rawlyn the armorer for makinge blacke of fyye spanishe murrins & makinge eares to foure of them - - - - - xit.
Itm. p. for v eares made to Burganets - - - - - xid.*

In the accounts for 1606-7 are found the following references to Bows, intermixed with charges for “Bullitts” and Gunpowder:—
Itm. p. to the fletcher for dressinge of the Town Boes & for ij dozen of Bowe strings - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - iiij*
Itm. the vjd. of June p. to the fletcher for Boe strings - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - xxijd.
Itm. p. to George Shittlewood for xj Bowestrings - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - xxid.

* Or Iron Cap.
† Probably a short spear.
‡ Points or laces. The Chamberlains of Leicester charge in 1606-7:—“Itm. payd for one dozen of poynts then used to tye on the armor, ijd.”
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

For his saddell cloth  

For his boote hose  

For his Condyth money  

For making a Jerkin a payre of slopps & a p of boote hose  

To" of ye charge amth to sina  

It was said the Constables had also to assist in providing the Beacon lights to give warning of the approach of an enemy to our shores. By a payment by the Townwardens dated 1596, it is apparent that a Beacon was set up at Buckminster in the neighbouring county of Rutland, and that the town of Melton contributed towards its erection:

"The xiij of Janeuarye, 1596, paid to Andrew Lasye, w 1* is towards the makinge of a becon at bucmester, the some of vs."

And in the next year the Constables charge four shillings as paid to Nicholas Wallanes "towards the seting upe a Beacon," perhaps upon our own church tower. Two years later, again (in 1599), Mr. Cave's clerk is paid sixteen shillings and eightpence "for becons, watchinge and powder."

"So on and on, without a pause, untired they bounded still,—  
All night from tower to tower they sprang; they sprang from hill to hill;  
Till like volcanoes flared to Heaven the stormy hills of Wales,  
Till twelve fair counties saw the blaze on Malvern's lonely height,  
Till the proud peak unfurled the flag o'er Darwin's rocky dales,  
Till broad and fierce the star came forth on Ely's stately fane,  
Till Skiddaw saw the fire that burn'd on Gaunt's embattled pile,  
Till streamed in crimson on the wind the Wrekiu's crest of light,  
Till like volcanoes flared to Heaven the stormy hills of Wales,  
Till twelve fair counties saw the blaze on Malvern's lonely height,  
Till the proud peak unfurled the flag o'er Darwin's rocky dales,  
Till broad and fierce the star came forth on Ely's stately fane,  
Till Skiddaw saw the fire that burn'd on Gaunt's embattled pile,  
And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of Carlisle."

There is, perhaps, little in these reminiscences of our ancient town to connect Melton in the reign of Elizabeth with Melton in the reign of Victoria. The lives and the property of the townsmen are now protected by an organized system of police; the provisions for the Queen's household are now provided by means much more simple and agreeable than a direct tax for that purpose; the poor are now relieved in a far more efficient manner, and in a way much more creditable to our humanity, than by granting them, through the magistrates, licences to beg; and even the vagabond—although the law still meets his case in an efficient manner—is not—regardless of sex, supplied with twopenny-worth of whipping for every twopenny-worth of charity. The plague is happily unknown; the electric wires now supply the place of the blazing beacon; and whereas Melton formerly contributed seven men—at a considerable cost—to the militia, and an occasional one, perhaps, to the regular army, she now numbers between sixty and seventy Rifle Volunteers, ready at any moment, with strong arm and steady aim, to defend, even to the death struggle, their Queen and their homes.
If there is little in these practices and customs to connect Melton past and present, there is also but little in the town itself to connect the Melton of to-day with the Melton of the middle ages. Its castle has long since been levelled with the dust, not leaving even a trace behind. A few traces of mediaeval masonry, one showing an indispensable appurtenance to an altar, is all that tradition can point to as showing the site of its Priory. Its town crosses have long since disappeared; the base of one only being left to mark the spot on which it stood. During the last few years the inhabitants of Melton have discarded the old name of this street in which we are now assembled—Spital End, or, as it was more anciently called, Spital Gate—and have called it Nottingham Street, thus substituting the name of a town with which you have no connection, for a name, the only indication left of the Spital Chapel, which stood at its upper end, and of your long connection with the old order of Knights Hospitallers who once held possession in Melton, and to which order more than one of the Mowbrays, Lords of Melton, belonged.

There is, however, one link, and that a most glorious one, between Melton past and Melton present. I mean the Parish Church. Your town Records teem with most interesting matter connected with that edifice during the important period of the Reformation, showing that the furniture of the Church, of its altars, and the vestments of its priests, harmonized well in costliness and beauty with the fabric in which they were used. The contents of a portion of these documents have been brought before this Society, and many in this room, in a Paper upon the Reformation in Melton, read by one of our members. I have transcribed many of the original documents, and shall be pleased to present this Society with copies of my transcripts for publication in its Transactions. The restoration of your church, then, to something like its original beauty of design and comeliness of ornament, which you have now commenced, should be a work appealing in the liveliest manner to your sympathies. The edifice is, as I have said, the connecting link between your townsmen in former times and yourselves. They reared its now venerable walls to God's glory and their own use and benefit; whilst you, in now wishing to restore the parts gone to decay, or shorn of their pristine grace, seek to hand down to your successors a building hallowed by associations extending over many centuries. A church properly restored will, therefore, bear upon it the impress of the various epochs in which its different parts were erected, and through which it has passed. It will retain every atom of the original work so spared by time or other destructive agencies as to be safe and, where necessary, strong. It will retain every vestige of ritualistic practices now obsolete; it will even retain, sometimes, the marks of the "axes and hammers" which, in times of grief
and gloom, were with violent hands made upon it. In a proper restoration all these will be preserved as ocular proofs of the antiquity of our church, whilst our own new work will only be supplied where it is absolutely required by the real decay of the old. The restoration of Melton Church will be a work of such magnitude as possibly to alarm the timid. They may be encouraged by Mr. Wing's chronological table, in thinking that the building was erected solely by the munificence of the Mowbrays, or by the Prior of Lewes, and that the inhabitants of ancient Melton had therefore to use no self-denial in the matter. They may consequently think that the burden of its restoration, falling upon this generation, is unduly heavy. By way of dispelling that idea, I trust I may be permitted to quote an entry or two from a scrap of paper found among the town manuscripts, which will show that although undoubtedly the Lords of the Manor and the owners of the Advowson, as in duty bound, were the chief benefactors, still the inhabitants of ancient Melton contributed handsomely towards its erection. The fragment of paper to which I refer is apparently a part of a schedule of deeds belonging to the town about the time of King Edward IV. I there find:

“Julyan Wydowe of Nycolys Cementary did give to the worke of the churche of our blessed Lady, in pure devocon and almesse, one Rode and halffe arable Land and one chenet of medowe lying in the marshe, as appithe by the deede.

Itum. A dede of Renald, the sonne of Hughe Lidulff, did geve to God and the churche worke of our Lady all the medowe of one oxing of Land and pastoure to the same belonging.

Rادus de Belton gave to the woorke of the churche of our Ladye one selion in the west ffielde.

Willm., the son of Matild of Melton, gave to God & the yron woorke of the churche of our Lady, one selion (i.e. a ridge of land lying between two furrows) of arable land, one chenet in the mar" (marsh).

John Belton gave to God and the woorke of the churche of our ladye one selion in the West field.

Gilbert Davie of Scallford has geven to God, and to the yron woorke of the church of Melton one pece of . . . . in the tenure of Wyllm. lane, Ao. Edward ye III., the iij. year.”

John the Merchant, of Melton, and Robert Aresby were also donors.

The work of preserving your church in which you have now embarked is a great, an arduous, a self-denying, but a glorious work—a work which must be undertaken heartily, energetically, free from all party rivalries or petty jealousies. For the reparation of your noble and beautiful church is not a question to be entertained only by distinct classes or sections of the community, by professional men or by tradesmen, by rich only or by poor; no,
it is not even a question of churchmanship or dissent, conformity or non-conformity, it is a question appealing to our common Christianity. It must be entertained by each according to his degree: all must forget their differences, and in the spirit of those noble men who raised that fabric which is at once your glory and your responsibility, determine to preserve it not only from ruin but in such a state as shall not disgrace our generation, or give our successors cause to regret that its renovation fell perforce upon evil times, into the hands of men without either the eye to see its ancient beauties, or the liberal spirit to preserve them. Pardon me for speaking plainly. I feel that the preservation and restoration of so magnificent a fabric as the Church of Melton is a most important work for the present generation inhabiting this parish to carry out. It will stamp you—your characters—during many succeeding years, perhaps centuries, in the estimation of your successors as exercising a painstaking and almost reverential care, or as showing, to say the least, an apathetic and indifferent spirit.

This concluded the list of Papers.

The REV. W. M. Colles briefly proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. M. H. Bloxam for his able description of the architecture of Melton Church, and to the readers of the various papers that evening.

Mr. Geo. Marriott seconded the proposition, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Bloxam, in acknowledging the compliment, observed that he had attended those meetings for a great number of years, and he found that they were now attended far more numerously than they used to be by all classes of society. He was perfectly sure that they did great good: they brought all classes together, and all kinds of questions were mooted. With regard to the ancient customs of Melton Mowbray, of which they had heard, he might say that precisely the same existed in his own town; with the exception that whereas Mr. North looked upon the stocks as obsolete, they had not yet got rid of the practical use of them, and occasionally immured persons in that wooden prison, which was so well alluded to by Hudibras. Until late years that was the only punishment for drunkenness in default of a fine. Mr. Bloxam concluded by urging all persons, in whatever station of life, to contribute towards the restoration of their handsome Church, and expressing his obligations for the compliment the meeting had paid him.

Sir Henry Dryden then rose, in response to a call from the Chairman, and said, it was so late they would not want above a few words from him; but still, as they had heard a good deal about the restoration of churches, he would say a few words upon
archaeology. It seemed to be a taste common to mankind almost; even in trade they were constantly seeing it advertised, as a great claim upon their patronage, that such a shop had been established fifty years, and that sort of thing. They had heard that that taste had made great strides of late years, and, as in all reaction, a great deal had been very ill done. Now, the ancient buildings which were, in fact, the most solid and material evidences of this country's history—the castles, they might be thankful, had passed away; and they had grown too luxurious to want many old houses; consequently, by far the most important part of the ancient remains of the country were the churches. There were two lights in which old churches might be looked upon; first, that of evidences of the country's history—the history of art and the history of war, too—and they might be looked upon as simply to be used at present for Christian worship. Sir Henry then went on to say that he was quite within the mark when he said, that, in the rage for restoration, in nine cases out of ten, churches were irremediably damaged: he did not mean to say that everything done in the way of restoration was bad, but only that, to some, irremediable damage was done in restoration, and in most cases that damage need not have been done. Therefore, what he wished to impress upon all of them, whether members of that Society or not—and it could not be too often hammered into their heads—was not to allow the ancient features of the church to be obliterated; for if they did, they would just be blotting out a bit of English history. They might put up a church as good as that, and one as pretty to look at, but it would be tantamount to scratching out one line of Doomsday Book, and rewriting it on a new piece of parchment—one was worth nothing, and the other was of a value so great as hardly to be appreciated. Those who had the supreme direction of those things, he hoped, for goodness' sake, would not let architects and parson's daughters—who were very fond of pretty things sometimes—alter their churches. Then, too, the importance of keeping a record of what was done, could not be too much impressed upon them. It was very much neglected by many of the clergy. That at all events might be done by sketches and drawings, and by description; and the Architectural Societies in the particular districts where the alterations were made, were the proper places to send those records to, as well as to the parish churches: in his opinion duplicates ought to be made, but that was very seldom the case. They now knew enough of architecture to put up buildings that in a few years would deceive people. That was what he did not want to take place; therefore, when alterations were made, he trusted that a record would be kept; but hoped that as little alteration would be made as possible. He concluded by proposing that the thanks of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Architectural Society be given to the inhabitants of Melton for the way in
which they had received the visit of the Society; to the Sub-
committee for the efficient way in which they had performed their
duties; and to the contributors to the Museum.

The Rev. J. H. Hill seconded the resolution, and suggested
that the name of Mr. R. W. Johnson, who was the secretary of the
Local Committee, should be added to it. He had with great care
and diligence got together a Museum that was an honour to the
town of Melton.

Mr. Towne briefly responded.

The Rev. G. E. Gillett proposed "that this meeting gratefully
acknowledges the kindness of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of
the Diocese, in attending at, and presiding over the present con-
gress of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological
Society."

The resolution was duly seconded and carried with acclamation.

His lordship briefly replied, and the meeting broke up shortly
before eleven o'clock.

THE EXCURSION.

On the following morning (Friday, August 18,) a considerable
number of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the George Hotel,
from whence they started for the excursion at an early hour. The
first place arrived at was

THORPE ARNOLD.

Here the tourists alighted and entered the church, which stands
on a slight eminence, and is partly covered with ivy. Taking up
his position near the chancel, Mr. Bloxam described the architec-
tural features of the fabric, prefacing his description with the
remark that there appeared to have been in the fourteenth century
a general movement in Leicestershire to rebuild the churches, as
he had noticed a good many, and had found but very little Norman
or Early English work. He then went on to say that that church
was built almost entirely in the Decorated style (plain work) of the
fourteenth century: the clerestory was of that period, and the roof
of the fifteenth century. The tower was a very good type of plain
work with Decorated piers and arches; the chancel was Decorated;
the aisles were of course rebuilt, and he had no doubt were an exact
copy of the originals. In the south chapel there was a curious
piscina and locker or aumbry above it. The piscina in the chancel
had been filled up, and there was now only a locker. The windows
were of a plain character. The font was rather celebrated: it was
one of the old Norman structure, and there was a figure of S. George
and the Dragon upon it. A Norman tympanum at Hallaton was
sculptured with the figure of S. Michael, represented as an angel

Vol. III.
with wings, also combating the Dragon. The church was a type of Leicestershire churches generally, and a very good type too. A curiously carved capital was pointed out as having supported the rood loft, which was an unusual method of doing that. The architecture of the church was extremely simple. A sepulchral slab in one of the windows of the chancel was stated to be of the thirteenth century. Having exhausted the time allotted to the inspection of this edifice, the bugler sounded his horn, the party were quickly reseated and the journey was resumed. In a brief space they had ascended the hill, and the little village of

BRENTINGBY,

with its quaint-looking church, was exposed to view in the valley below them. Very few words need be said upon the church at this place. From the remarks of Mr. Bloxam, we learned that the tower was a nicely decorated one of the fourteenth century, with exceedingly good base mouldings; and that, though the architecture of the church was very plain, it was an exceedingly interesting structure, and historically characteristic of the period in which it was erected; it was rebuilt or altered, and the present windows in the debased style inserted in 1649. The windows were exceedingly plain. The church contained no monument. Some of the ancient benches of the church as it existed prior to 1649 were still remaining, but of the plainest possible description. The communion table is very simple, and of no character. From the church the party passed on to

BRENTINGBY HALL,

A stone structure, nearly contiguous to the church. It is at present occupied by Mr. Wilder, as the tenant of Sir John Hartop. It is situated in the midst of very charming scenery. It was noticed, as a peculiarity of the architecture of this structure, that a drip was made to the stone mullions of the windows, which, though of the same period as the windows in the body of the church, were much richer in character.

Sir H. Dryden remarked that the date of the erection of Brentingby Hall was shown by a letter in his possession, from Mary, Lady Hartop, to her brother, Sir John Dryden, of Canon's Ashby, who died 1658, written after the death of her husband, Sir Edwd. Hartop, of Co. Leicester, who died 1652. The extract referred to was this:

"For brentingbee (hall) the seay is A conuenient dueling hows (with) no brou hous nor dery hous nor was hous for the hous is but half done."

Sir H. Dryden remarked that the date of the erection of Brentingby Hall was shown by a letter in his possession, from Mary, Lady Hartop, to her brother, Sir John Dryden, of Canon's Ashby, who died 1658, written after the death of her husband, Sir Edwd. Hartop, of Co. Leicester, who died 1652. The extract referred to was this:

"For brentingbee (hall) the seay is A conuenient dueling hows (with) no brou hous nor dery hous nor was hous for the hous is but half done."
The bugle now sounded the return, and the grounds were quickly cleared of the visitors, who having taken their places, a start was made for

**WYFORDBY.**

The church of this place, dedicated to S. Mary, appears to have been sadly neglected: the lead of the roof overwraps, and no provision is made to carry off the water, which is absorbed by the earth, and must be doing considerable damage to the foundations of the structure. The church was somewhat larger than the last one visited, and the interior fittings were somewhat better. The walls inside appeared damp from the cause just noted. The church is Early English, that is, of the thirteenth century; the roof is comparatively modern, and of rather rude workmanship; and the royal arms are not of a very early date. An examination of the communion plate revealed the following inscription:—“DEO ET ECCLESIE DE WYFORDBY, D.D. THEO. BRIGGS, L.L. DR. ET CANCELL CESTB FILIUS THEO. BRIGGS QUONDAM RECTORIS HUJUS ECCLESIE ANO SALTIS 1677.” There is a locker in the chancel with a wooden shelf in it. There have been two chantry chapels in this church, at the east end of the north and south aisles, as shown by piscinae and lockers. The font is in the Decorated style, and it was stated that there is some stained glass in the windows in the north wall of the chancel, which have been plastered up. The registers preserved here commence, the first in 1557, and the second in 1655.

The excursionists having resumed their seats in the vehicles, they departed en route for Garthorpe. Passing through the village of Saxby, they emerged into the open country, and soon the massive tower of

**GARTHORPE**

hove in sight. Arrived at this village, a halt was made, and the party entered the church. This, Mr. Bloxam informed them, was one of the most interesting churches they had yet seen: it was one of the fourteenth century, with the exception of the tower, which was of the fifteenth century. The chancel was very interesting: there had formerly been chantry chapels on each side of the church. There were also interesting roundels of painted glass of the fourteenth century, in the east and west windows of the north aisle, each containing a figure in the centre of fine pencilled scroll-work. There was likewise a roundel of painted glass in the west window of the south aisle, the centre of which was of yellow and ruby-coloured glass, encircled by white diapered glass. There was a piscina and locker in the south aisle, and a piscina with sedilia in the north aisle. There was also a sepulchral arch, or Easter sepul-
chre, in the chancel, where were formerly deposited the crucifix and the sacred elements from Good Friday to Easter. There was a similar one at Long Itchington, Warwickshire, one in Lincoln Cathedral, and four or five in Lincolnshire. That sepulchre was certainly a peculiar feature of the church. The round-headed arches were of the fourteenth century, and were not at all uncommon. The piers on one side of the nave were cylindrical, and on the other side octagonal; they found that to be the case in many churches. There was a little scroll-work of the fifteenth century on the chancel wall. The roof was of the fifteenth century, and probably put on when the tower was built. The clerestory was of the fifteenth century. There was a small fragment of the rood-screen in the existing pulpit. The communion plate was of the seventeenth century.

COSTON.

The exterior of the church at this place needs attention: the lead of the roof overwraps, and there is no means of carrying off the water. The interior has undergone considerable restoration, and the fittings are neat and tasteful; the chancel is paved with encaustic tiles, with which the walls (several feet from the floor upwards) are also faced. Mr. Bloxam said a great portion of this church appeared to have been built by the same builder as erected the last church they visited. They had here the round-headed arches of the fourteenth century on the north side, and pointed ones on the south side. The chancel was modern. There was a singularity about the tower, which appeared, as it were, to spring out of the nave, but was not supported from it. There were three sedilia and a piscina in the chantry, at the eastern end of the south aisle, which showed that it must have been one of some importance. There were also two most beautiful specimens of ancient painted glass in the east window of that aisle: one represented the Crucifixion, and the other S. Mary; there was reason to believe they occupied the position they always did, and that a third figure (S. John) occupied a corresponding place to that of S. Mary, thus representing the Crucifixion as almost invariably given in mediaeval art. The font was a panelled one, and there were some good corbel mouldings of the fifteenth century in the north aisle, plans for the restoration of which have been prepared by Mr. William Gillett, architect.

Having spent about a quarter of an hour at this church, the party remounted the carriages, and continued their journey onwards towards WYMONDHAM,

which village they reached in about twenty minutes. Here a halt was made, and the party partook of the good things provided by
“mine host” of the Angel, the repast being presided over by the Bishop of Peterborough, the Rev. J. Bacon officiating as Vice-chairman. After dinner,

The Rector expressed in happy terms the pleasure it gave himself and the inhabitants of Wymondham to see the Bishop among them, and to welcome the members and friends of the Architectural Society.

The Bishop said, having the honour of occupying the position of president at that meeting, he felt it to be his duty to express the gratification he was sure that company shared with him at the kind reception with which they (the people of Wymondham) had honoured them. Of Mr. Bacon’s kind words regarding himself, he would say no more than that he thanked him cordially. He (Mr. Bacon) had not taken all the credit he ought for the cause of their visit to that place. There was no doubt the length of their stay was only to indulge themselves, and was due to the lower wants of their nature; yet it was some credit to his parish that it should be one in which such accommodation could be furnished, and it was very creditable to the landlord of that inn that his part of the business had been so well discharged. They had not received a formal expression of welcome from every place to which they had gone that day; but he believed their visit would, if anything could, be of benefit to those places. He could not say that he had been very much satisfied with all the churches they had that day visited. In the worst of the cases he was told that it was utterly impossible that the churches could be restored; but his experience (which was not a very long one) had satisfied him that zealous and earnest churchmen could perform impossibilities, and he hoped the result of their visit would be even more satisfactory in other places where they had received no formal expression of welcome than it was there. He had seen something of that church, and it was one for which neither the parishioners nor the incumbent need blush. He did not say that nothing was wanting; but what was wanting, and what had been done, led him to anticipate that under the care, and with the ability of the rector, and the good will manifested by some, if not all, of the parishioners, on their next visit they would find the Roman villa fully displayed to their admiration; and that they would also have the church placed in the position it really deserved, and one that would command their estimation and the estimation of more impartial judges.

At the conclusion of his lordship’s remarks, the company left the room to visit the church.

Here Mr. Bloxam mounted one of the pews in the chancel, and proceeded to explain the prominent features of the structure. They had, he said, in that church, architectural specimens of three periods. The lower stages of the tower were of the thirteenth century; the arches of the nave, the chancel, and the windows, were of
the fourteenth century; and the upper portion of the tower, the clerestory, and some other details, were of the fifteenth century. It was a very fine church—it might almost be called a town church—and had evidently been built by some one who was able to expend a considerable sum in decoration. The decoration of the pier arches was very pleasing, and the mouldings and carving were exceedingly good. In that respect the church afforded a favourable contrast with those they had visited that morning. The architecture throughout was of a more finished style, and the sculpture was more masterly. *En passant,* Mr. Bloxam remarked that he had found that though the fourteenth century was a great era for church building and restoration in this county, in the eighteenth century everything was as much as possible knocked about and neglected. Speaking of the painted glass in the east window, he said the artist was much to blame in his use of colour. In that window there were no less than twelve different colours, whereas it would have been infinitely better, and had a far grander effect, if only four had been used. It had now the appearance of a kaleidoscope, and it was difficult to make out the detail because of the immense mass of colour. Having spoken at some length on the subject of coloured glass windows, Mr. Bloxam and the company left the chancel and repaired to the south chantry to inspect a monumental effigy, which Mr. Bloxam said by no means belonged to the tomb on which it rested; the latter was a century and a half later than the monumental effigy. The monumental effigy he took to be of about the date of Edward the Second, or early in the reign of Edward the Third. It represented a knight of the period in a hawberk of chain mail, with a hood of mail over the head, and the chain mail coming round the chin, and having on mufflers with the fingers undivided (when the hands were taken out of these mufflers they remained suspended to the wrist), surcoat, and sword; the feet resting against a lion, in allusion, it was supposed, to a passage in the Psalms: "The young lion and the dragon thou shalt trample under thy feet." A frog was represented near the sword of the figure, of which, however, Mr. Bloxam said he could give no explanation. There were formerly two effigies in this chapel; one is now destroyed. A fragment of it was afterwards shown by the rector in his garden. The communion cup with cover belonging to this church was the earliest he had ever seen, and was dated 1568, and was a good Elizabethan pattern. The registers of this place commenced in 1588. Opening one casually was noticed the interment of a person aged 106; and in another place the following: "Queen Mary began to reign 6th July, 1553.  

"Ye papiste queene  
In five years made her exit  
And was no more seen."

The party next visited the *Roman Remains* in a field known as
Gann's Close, adjoining Wymondham House, the residence of Mrs. Day. These consisted of a few yards of Roman pavement, at about a foot below the surface, from which, together with the existence of a brook in the same field, and the general arrangement of the ground, it was inferred there had been a Roman villa on the site. A few relics of the Roman occupation were next inspected on the lawn in front of the rectory. These were portions of Roman pavement and painted frescoes; the remains of the effigy of a crusader, supposed to be the second formerly in existence in the church, were also exhibited: these had been found in the rectory grounds. Shortly, all were reseated, and the party started en route for the next village. A pleasant drive of twenty minutes sufficed to bring them to

EDMONDTHORPE.

Extensive restorations are being carried on at the church in this village by Mr. Fast, of Melton Mowbray, directed by Mr. R. W. Johnson, architect, of that town. The excursionists having alighted and assembled in the edifice round Mr. Bloxam, that gentleman explained that the church was a very fine Decorated one, of the fourteenth century. As he stood there in the chantry chapel, there was a piscina on one side of him, and an ornamental stone of the fourteenth century, and another of the fifteenth century, on the other. There was also a rood-screen of the fifteenth century, which was the first they had met with that day, and which he strongly urged on the rector and churchwarden to preserve exactly as it then stood, and paintings in the chancel, representing Moses and Aaron, which he apprehended were introduced into the church soon after the Reformation, and had reference to the commandments. The monument of the fourteenth century was to the founder of the chapel, if not the rebuilder of the church, and was a very nice one. The church seemed to be all of the same period, except the clerestory, which was of later date. It was now undergoing repair, and it was to be hoped that nothing would be taken away that could be preserved, and that the old monumental stone of the fifteenth century just uncovered, and upon which was inscribed "Hic jacet Alicia Forman uxor Rogeri Forman cujus animi ppiciet' Deus Amen," would be preserved in the same place. Mr. Bloxam then led the way to the monument in the south aisle, remarking that it was the finest they would see that day; indeed it was one of the most interesting in the county. It was very much in the style, and was of the period of Nicholas Stone (a celebrated English artist), but was probably designed and executed by a pupil of his, in the middle of the seventeenth century. It was not a first-rate work of art. The monument was erected in memory of Roger Smith (a descendant of Henry I.) and his family, and consisted of a tier of three full-length
figures, with a busto on either side. The allotted time for the stay having expired, the party pressed forward to

ASHWELL CHURCH.

This is a handsome structure, and the interior fittings are of a superior kind. In the north aisle lies a wooden effigy of the fourteenth century, regarding which Mr. Bloxam remarked that there was not a single one in Leicestershire or Warwickshire, and only one other in Rutlandshire. The one in question, he said, was originally painted all over. By the side of this was an incised slab of the fifteenth century, to the memory of John Vernam and Rose his wife, the parents of John Vernam, prebendary of Salisbury and Hereford. John Vernam died 20th January, 1480; Rose, his wife, on 17th December, 1479. He is represented as a layman in gown and gypelride, with a baselard by his side. It was dated 1480, and was a very fine one. Passing to the chancel, a double piscina was pointed out, which arrangement, Mr. Bloxam remarked, he first found mention of in the works of Claude de Vert, a French author of the early part of the last century. One was for the water in which the priest washed his hands, and the other for the reception of the remains of the consecrated elements. The sedilia were a copy of the original design. In the north chapel there is a monument in alabaster in a good state of preservation, which had been originally painted, as was shown by some faint remains of gilding and colouring. It represented a priest of the reign of Henry VII., or perhaps of a somewhat earlier date, dressed in chasuble, alb, with its apparel, and stole appearing under the chasuble, and maniple over left arm; and was based on a tomb of an earlier date. There was no other remarkable feature in this church; and the excursionists having resumed their occupation of the vehicles, the last stage of the journey was accomplished by arriving at

WHISSENDINE.

The church of this place is in course of restoration, under the direction of Messrs. Goddard and Son, Leicester. Mr. Bloxam said that was one of the largest churches they had seen that day, and was very interesting in its structure. The architecture was either of the latter part of the thirteenth or the early part of the fourteenth century. The pier arches and window arches on one side were of the same period, and those on the other side were of the fifteenth century. The west window was of the fourteenth century. The church had either been a cross church or intended for one: it contained an early painted stone of the thirteenth century, but no monuments. In the course of the restorations which were about to
be made it was probable some monuments would be discovered. There were some curious wooden figures of the fourteenth century, which supported the comparatively modern roof. He was of opinion that these figures were placed in the church before they occupied their present position, because they were of much earlier date than the clerestory windows. There were some fragments of painted glass in the windows of the fourteenth century, and some of a little later period. There was a fine piscina in the chapel on the south side. The side piers were put up in the time of James I., probably to strengthen the arches, which were bulging out. Altogether it was a noble church, if put in proper order and condition. He noticed that there were two or three niches here and there, in which it was possible images were formerly placed. The Royal Arms were of the date of George III. Time would not allow of a longer survey of this interesting edifice; and after a hasty leave-taking the party separated—some going forward to Whissendine station to meet the train for Leicester, and others returning to Melton.
LEICESTERSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

September 25th, 1865.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—The Rev. E. L. Horne, Rector of Whissendine, Mr. J. H. Williams, and Mr. Thomas Holyland, both of Leicester.

A letter was read from Mr. R. W. Johnson, architect, detailing the progress made in the restoration of Edmondthorpe Church, and describing some discoveries made during the progress of the work. Mr. Johnson also enclosed a drawing of an ancient monumental slab of the fifteenth century, uncovered in the north aisle of that church.

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

By the Chairman: Some fragments of stained glass (fourteenth century work), chiefly with foliated designs, from the church of Church Langton, which is now being restored.

By Mr. North: The following antiquities, lately found in Cart's Lane, Leicester, during excavations there:—A portion of a long necked, long spiked rowel spur (the neck and rowel nearly perfect) of the time of Henry V. and Henry VI. (1413-61). This specimen of the remarkable spur then in fashion measured six inches from the heel to the tip of the rowel, and the spikes in the rowel, six in number, were each one inch in length. Two good specimens of mediæval pottery, a jug and drinking cup. The jug with handle at the side was made of a thin highly glazed dark brown ware, was eight inches in height, and about three inches in diameter. The diameter is nearly the same throughout, there being merely a slight curve in the rim to answer for a spout. This jug, which is remarkably plain, there being only this slight curve at the lip or rim, would hold about a pint and a half. The drinking cup of the same ware, though somewhat stronger, was...
quite perfect, excepting the loss of the lip. It was circular, (with a handle on either side,) about 2½ inches in diameter, and the same in height. This cup is probably one of the kind known in mediaeval and later times as a crusyn, cruske, or cruce, that is, a small earthen drinking cup.

"They had sucked such a joue
Out of the good ale cruce,
Wherein they found no dregges,
That neither of them his bed
Could carry home to his bed
For lack of better legges."

_The Unluckie Firmentie._

The Irish still use the word with its Irish diminutive een—"a cruskeen of whisky," being a small pot or cup of that favourite liquor.


By The Chairman: A silver penny of Edward VI. (?)

By Mr. Goddard: Antique silver finger ring, apparently of foreign manufacture.

The Rev. J. H. Hill read the following paper, detailing some interesting discoveries made in Church Langton Church:

**CHURCH LANGTON CHURCH AND ITS FOUNDERS.**

This Church, dedicated to S. Peter, now undergoing a complete restoration, is one which may claim the very highest rank in the county of Leicester, owing to its beautiful architecture and its size, and especially from the perfect elegance of its magnificent tower, which, from its simplicity, massiveness, and fine masonry, deserves especial attention and commendation.

The church consists of a chancel, nave with four bays, north and south aisle, south porch, and western tower. There is a rood loft staircase leading from the north aisle, and a piscina close to the doorway of the staircase.

The nave of the church, as well as the tower, are of the fourteenth century; the north and south aisles are of the Early Decorated period. In the chancel the door originally leading into the vestry still remains, and on the other side of the north wall are the vestiges of the vestry, with the remains of a beautiful fourteenth century piscina. The three sedilia and the piscina in the chancel are all of the fourteenth century date.

In the north and south aisle of the church there are two monumental arches called Founders' Monuments. These monuments were built at the same time as the church, and upon inspection I found that the large stones forming the arches extended nearly through the walls of the church. It was upon the 7th day of
September instant, that the workmen found the stone coffin belonging to the monument in the north aisle.* The coffin had been removed from its original position in the year 1831, when some alterations were made in the aisle. The lid was not upon the coffin; the coffin was filled with clay, and paved on the top with common bricks. Having removed these, I found at the bottom of the coffin several pieces of fourteenth century glass, which I now produce. The size of the coffin was as follows:—Length, six feet six inches; breadth, two feet at the upper end, and sixteen inches at the lower end; the thickness of it was three inches, depth fifteen inches, and it was wrought out of a solid block of Weldon stone. The coffin contained no bones. In this same aisle was the monument of Thomas de Langton, who was supposed by some to be a founder of the church. Burton writes thus of it:—"Upon the monument of Thomas de Langton are engraved the arms of Langton, azure, an eagle displayed with two heads; and argent, on a bend, sable, five bezants, or." That indefatigable and learned antiquary, Mr. Trollope, in his remarks upon the aisle in the year 1863, making mention of this tomb, observed that some one had not scrupled to steal it,—a practice, he added, common in the days of their predecessors. I hope this may not be true. Upon the tomb was inscribed this legend—"Ora pro anima Thomæ de Langton." I have searched diligently to find even a remnant of this tomb, but up to the present time my search has been in vain. I found several fine alabaster slabs which were taken up in this aisle, but none with either arms, legend, or date upon them, I regret this the more, because I have no doubt that this Thomas de Langton, though not a founder of the original early church, was a great benefactor to it, having built the noble tower and nave of Langton Church (about A.D. 1414), works of such solidity and strength that hitherto they have defied the ravages of time,—indeed, when roofed again, they will be in as perfect a condition as they were when first completed.

The most interesting discovery connected with this church was made upon the 14th day of September. Upon visiting the works in the south aisle on that day, I observed a wedged-shaped stone close by the monumental arch in that aisle. I was quite sure that this stone had some connection with the arch, and I procured a spade and dug into the ground close by it. The earth about the stone was so very soft and wet that I found little difficulty in readily arriving at a conclusion. The wedged-shaped stone was the covering of the founder's coffin. I obtained assistance, with some difficulty the massive slab was raised, and the remains of the founder were exposed to view. The bones were quite black, and embedded in a dark mud about three inches deep. The skull, vertebrae, thigh bones, leg bones, &c., were in a very good state of

* See Illustration.
preservation,—the skull had rolled from its original position a trifle to the right side of the coffin. The leg bone was moved also a little to the right. I have no doubt this was caused by the coffin being filled with water for several days in the year; the water with which the church was cleansed having been swept into and left to sink in this corner of the church. This coffin was remarkable from the fact that the upper part was hollowed out for the reception of the head. I believe there is one of a similar kind in the crypt of Worcester Cathedral. The coffin was quite plain both at the sides and ends. It was cut out of a solid block of Weldon Bag stone. The dimensions of the coffin were as follows:—Length six feet six inches; two feet across at the head, eighteen inches at the lower end; depth, fourteen inches without, nine inches within; thickness three inches; the lid of the coffin six feet ten inches long, three feet broad at one end, and two feet three inches at the other; it was ten inches in thickness, and slightly hollowed within as you see in the drawing.* In the year 1863 when the late Mr. James and myself visited this church together, we came to this conclusion, that there were two founders to it, which opinion seems to have been perfectly right, as both founders' tombs are now discovered, and in a similar position opposite to one another. I remember very well my friend remarking that the monumental arch on the south side was at least three hundred years older than the effigy, which after the fashion of the day interpolated the arch. It appears that some years back (when an alteration was made amongst the pews in this aisle), the effigy of Sir Richard Roberts, Kt., was removed from the place it stood in originally, and put under this arch. And at the same time I have no doubt the ponderous alabaster slab which bears the legend "Hie jacet Willielmus Latimer," was moved from its position which it formerly held near the founder's arch. It will not be out of place here to enter into a short enquiry of the early history of Langton, and we shall then get at a knowledge of the names of the founders of this ancient and interesting parish church.

Robert de Braibroc purchased in 1210 the manor of Langton, which was inherited by his son Henry de Braibroc, who married Christiana Ledet, daughter of Guiscard Ledet, Baron of Wardon. Walter Ledet, grandson of Henry de Braibroc, married Ermintrude de Lysle. From this marriage issued two daughters, viz.: Alice and Christiana Ledet. The eldest daughter Alice, became the wife of Sir William Latimer le Riche, Kt., and the youngest daughter Christiana was the wife of Sir John Latimer. Now Sir William Latimer was brother to Sir John Latimer. Thus two brothers married two sisters, who were coheiresses, and in right of their wives they became lords of the manor, and patrons of the

* See Illustration. The Society is much indebted to Mr. Hill for making the accurate drawings which illustrate this Paper.
Founders' Stone Coffin and Lid, South Aisle, Church Langton Church.

Seals of John, Nicholas, and Alicia de Lathom of Church Langton.
rectory of Langton. It appears that the two brothers as joint patrons presented Geoffrey de Newbent to the living, (he died in 1279), and also Richard de Baumfield was presented to the rectory of Langton in 1279. The living was again vacated in 1287, but at that time Sir John Latimer, Kt., was dead (ob. 1282) therefore Sir William Latimer was sole patron, and presented the living to John de Langton. Now the North and South aisles of Church Langton were built late in the thirteenth century, and I would point to these two brothers as the probable founders of the church. A third person has been suggested as a benefactor to this church, and his name indeed ought not to be forgotten, for he was a very great man of this time, a Bishop who found his Cathedral mean and left it magnifical, as Fuller says. I mean Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, Lord Treasurer of England, the prime favourite of King Edward the First, to whom the said king granted free warren here and at Thorpe Langton. Learned men have assumed that this Walter de Langton had something to do with the building of this and Thorpe Langton Church, and I apprehend that this too is probable, because he lived coeval with the two Latimers. Now I think that these gentlemen, Sir William Latimer and Sir John Latimer, were the joint founders of the church, because they lived at the time that the church was built, and at a period too when the nobility and gentry of the land erected and endowed the churches within "their capital manors," and I have no doubt that a man like Walter de Langton, who was so celebrated in adorning his Cathedral with all the splendour that the most exquisite workmanship and the most costly materials could give it, would readily lend a helping hand to complete the church in his native parish as far as he was able. The date of the north and south aisles of Langton would be about 1280. Sir William de Latimer died in 1304 (33 Edw. III.) The good Bishop lived until 1321; he was buried at Lichfield in St. Mary's Chapel of his Cathedral, which he himself had built. It has been suggested by Throsby (I believe) that the two memorial arches of the founders had effigies in the recesses. I think this is very probable, and that the effigies were placed upon the two fine alabaster flags found in the north and south aisle, which originally held a position as coverings for the stone coffins of the two founders.

November 27th, 1865.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Mr. John Featherstone, F.S.A., was elected a member of the Society.

Plans for the restoration of Elmsthorpe and Peckleton churches,
and for the erection of a tower and spire to the church now erecting at Tur Langton, were submitted to the Society. After receiving a lengthened consideration, resolutions were passed embodying the opinions of the Committee in each case.

Mr. G. C. Neale called the attention of the Society to the importance of having efficient lightning conductors properly affixed to all large public buildings; conductors being mischievous from the fact of their being placed in position by persons not understanding the aptitude or otherwise of the various metals, &c., to attract or conduct electricity. It was strongly recommended by the Committee: "That no lightning conductor be affixed to any church or other public building unless under the direction of a competent scientific person."

The following antiquities were exhibited:

By Mr. North: A facsimile drawing of an interesting mural painting lately discovered in Whissendine Church, Leicestershire. The painting, which measured eight feet eight inches, by one foot ten inches, formed the reredos of the high altar in pre-Reformation times, and was uncovered during a recent restoration of the east window of the chancel. The subjects depicted were those usually found placed upon the rood loft, viz.: the crucifix in the centre, with S. John on the one hand, and the Blessed Virgin on the other. To the right and left of these appeared S. Andrew with his cross, and S. Margaret treading under foot the dragon—her special symbol; whilst at the four corners were placed the evangelistic symbols. The stones upon which this curious painting was depicted were obliged to be removed during the late works, and are now placed for the inspection of the curious in the south transept. The painting, although sufficiently clear to declare its meaning, was much obliterated and defaced in the removal of the colour wash from its surface. Mr. North remarked that although the parish church of Whissendine is supposed to be dedicated to S. Andrew, who was represented by one of the figures on the reredos, the village feast is ruled or governed by the festival of S. Margaret, who was represented by the other figure there discovered.

By Mr. Henry Goddard: An ancient horse shoe, and a mediaeval key, lately discovered in St. Peter's Lane, Leicester.


By the Rev. John Fisher: Latin Book of Common Prayer, dated 1670, dedicated to Charles II.

By Mr. John Hunt: Ancient silver table spoon (circa 1600), found near Stoughton. Hall mark obliterated. A curious brand, and a pair of handsome knee buckles.
REPORT FOR 1865.

January 29th, 1866.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

Mr. North (Honorary Secretary) presented and read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1865.

Upon again presenting their Annual Address to the Members of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archeological Society, the Committee have the pleasure of being able to announce that the Society still maintains its ground, and that during the past year the number of its members has been increased. Its meetings have been fairly attended. Many Plans for the restoration of churches in the county have been submitted for approval or correction. To these the Committee have always given the most careful consideration. It should, however, be remembered that the rules of the Society require that all Plans for the building, enlargement, or restoration of churches, schools, &c., sent for the inspection of the Committee, be placed in the hands of one of the Secretaries of the Society, at least fourteen days before the Committee meeting, for the Secretary to prepare a special report thereon.

It is obvious that were this rule more generally adhered to, the report of the Committee would be more carefully prepared, and a more correct estimate of the merits or demerits of the Plans submitted for its inspection would be arrived at than can possibly be the case when they are produced for the first time before a large meeting with much business before it, and to the members attending which, the site, history, &c., of the building referred to in the plans may be unknown. The advantage attending a more strict adhesion to this useful, but generally neglected, rule of the Society, is, therefore, respectfully commended to the consideration of all desirous of the Society's opinion or help in any works they may be wishing to undertake.

The Papers read before the Society during the year 1865, in addition to minor memoirs of articles exhibited, were—

1. The Ancient Monuments of Melton Church, by Mr. Vincent Wing.
2. Church Plate, by Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A.
3. On a find of English Coins, at Holwell, by the Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A.
4. The Constables of Melton, temp. Elizabeth, by Mr. North, Honorary Secretary.
5. Church Langton Church and Founders, by the Rev. J. H. Hill, F.G.H.S.

The objects produced for exhibition at its meetings (not including the large exhibition shown at Melton Mowbray) comprised Stained Glass, ancient and modern; Coins—Greek, Roman, British, and English; Pottery; Roman and mediaeval curiosities; Ancient Books; Carvings in Oak; Copies of Mural Decorations, ancient and modern; and ancient Plate.

The annual volume of the Associated Societies has been issued as usual, and its contents have, no doubt, been read with the interest and attention many of the Papers so well deserve. It is a cause of regret to the Committee that Part IV. of the Transactions of the Society has not yet been placed in your hands. Unavoidable delay on the part of the printers is the cause of this apparent neglect. That part is now ready for distribution, and with it the first volume is completed. It will be remembered that it was long the wish of many members that the Papers read at the bi-monthly meetings, and an account of the objects then exhibited, should be permanently recorded. In order to meet that wish, the Committee resolved, in the year 1863, to print each year a part of a volume of the past Transactions of the Society, such part to contain about a hundred pages; and to continue the publication until the whole of the past Transactions are put into the hands of its members. The conclusion of the first volume appears a fitting time to consider whether the plan then proposed, and since carried out for four years was a good one, and one likely to conduce to the preservation of matter and memoranda of historical and antiquarian value and interest, which otherwise would have a mere fugitive existence,
or be entirely lost. Your Committee—whilst fully recognising the truth of several objections which may be urged against the plan, are convinced of its utility, as providing a depository for those sometimes apparently trifling facts upon which history itself is built, and as furnishing a medium for recording the many changes which time necessitates, and the sometimes ruthless and destructive hand of the so-called restorer perpetrates upon our churches and other buildings of a national and monumental character. They also appeal to the large increase in the number of members during the past four years as a proof that those who cannot, from distant residence, or other circumstances, attend the bi-monthly meetings, are pleased to receive in a permanent shape a record of the business transacted, the Papers read, and the objects of antiquity or art exhibited.

The Report proceeds to give an account of the General Meeting at Melton Mowbray, and the excursion therefrom, which will be found at pages 17-89 of this volume. It is therefore not repeated here.

NUMISMATICS.

There have been several "finds" of ancient coins in this county recently. Indeed, it is a noteworthy fact, that according to a Parliamentary return, lately issued, of all objects coming under the denomination of Treasure Trove, which have been claimed by the Solicitor of the Treasury, on behalf of the Crown, between the 1st of March, 1864, and the 10th of May, 1865, Leicestershire contributes two out of the five findings claimed. The first of these was turned up at Stockerston, on the 5th July, 1864, and consisted of 62 gold coins, valued by the Treasury at £58 4s. 1d. These coins were found in a stoneware jug belonging to the class denominated Longbeards or Bellarmines. The earliest coin was struck in the reign of James I., the latest was dated in 1710. Five of these coins were granted to the Lord of the Manor, on payment of their value; ten were presented to the Leicester Town Museum (where the jug has since been deposited), and the value of the whole was paid to the finders. The second hoard registered from Leicestershire was found at Holwell, near Melton Mowbray, on September 1st, 1864, and is said to have consisted of 760 silver coins which, at the time the return was made, were valued at £15 3s. 1d., but were then undisposed of. Since the issue of the return this find has been secured by a learned member of this Society, the Rev. Assheton Pownall—who has recently been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries—and formed the text of his admirable and popular numismatic paper read at the general meeting of this Society, at Melton Mowbray, in August last, and which will appear in the next volume of the Associated Societies. There has also been a discovery of coins made at Enderby. These being found above the ground were not Treasure Trove. As Mr. Pownall has promised to exhibit and explain them here to-day no further note is here made upon them. It is satisfactory to learn that through the thoughtfulness of the Curator of the Leicester Museum specimens of the gold coins found at Stockerston are now deposited there under his care. The operations of the law of Treasure Trove have more than once been brought before this Society, and its probable effects discussed at our meetings. It is the almost unanimous opinion of all interested in the preservation of antiquities, as exponents especially of the history of particular localities, that they have their greatest, and in some cases almost their only value, in the places in which they are discovered, and that therefore the local museums are the proper depositories for them. It cannot be too strongly urged upon all to exert their influence in the first place in the preservation of any antiquities which may be brought to light in the county; and in the next place, to encourage the sending of them to the Leicester Museum, as a central depot where all students may see them either for comparison or for making drawings.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.

The rapid commercial strides made by Leicester during the past few years have given occasion for the erection of many buildings in this town, which, whilst they are a token of the increasing wealth and prosperity of our townsfolk, add
much to the dignity and impressiveness of our street architecture. Most of them bear ample testimony to the ability and skill of our local architects, when considered merely in a utilitarian view, as erections for the transaction of business, or in which to manufacture those numerous articles of commerce for which Leicester has now become so famous. But apart from this—the primary object to be attained—very many of them present features of a more purely architectural and artistic kind, which whilst they add a grace and a beauty to our street architecture, and prove our architects to be no longer simple builders but artists, also show that there is on the part of our merchants and manufacturers a taste for, and a liberality to pay for, those many and appropriate beauties of which civic and domestic architecture is susceptible. Several buildings of this class, showing the happy union of the artistic and utilitarian, have been referred to in previous Reports of this Society; others are in course of erection, and may call for comment when completed. Prominent amongst them will stand the new office of the Leicester Waterworks Company, which is now being completed by the same architects who designed and superintended the very excellent offices of the Leicester Gas Company, which elicited some remarks in the Report read at the last annual meeting. The new Hospital now being built by the Trustees of Wigston's Charity will, from its size and the sharp competition shown for the honour of raising what should be one of the most important and handsome civic buildings erected in recent times in Leicester, be viewed with considerable interest by all anxious for the reestablishment in its proper supremacy in this country of that national style of architecture which is now reasserting its claims after being almost ignored for several centuries. The most notable public building completed in Leicester during the year 1865, and especially claiming the attention of this Society, is undoubtedly Alderman Newton's School. It is of brick, with stone dressings, in Perpendicular Gothic, and presents a pleasing appearance. The front has a tier of lofty windows, with transoms and four-centre heads. The straight line is admirably broken by the introduction of a quasi oriel; this semi-octagonal projection tells well, and in the roofing also, which—topped at this part with a hipknob—makes the sky-line good and becoming to a public building. A little vestibule or porch, with a small room on either side, is another feature worthy of remark. Without crowding with ornament, its sculpture and battlements, together with the flying buttresses, give enrichment to the façade. The structure is certainly a great acquisition to the town of Leicester, and it is only to be regretted that the situation is not more worthy of it. The architects (Messrs. Goddard and Son) have shown much judgment in applying the amount of funds granted in a manner to combine external ornament in the front with utilitarian contrivance in the rest of the building. It should also be said that the ventilation is perfect, as may be proved by a visit to the school immediately after the boys have left it; and according to the best testimony that of the master the architects have studied acoustics sufficiently to make the building all that could be desired in that very important particular. Apart from these more prominent buildings there is not wanting evidence in the streets of Leicester that something better than a spirit of greed, a getting a large per centage upon outlay, occasionally actuates the owners of property in the many changes which the necessities of a large town force upon us. Several shops and private houses have been recently erected, which show at any rate a strong desire on the part of the owners to relieve the dull monotony of our streets by the use of external ornament, and a return in some features to the Gothic forms; and although severe criticism might possibly point out blunders, still, it may fairly be hoped that when the desires and aspirations are good, the whole life will become gradually purer and better. Foremost among these improvements may be placed that effected in Cart's Lane, where some mean tenements are replaced by large handsome buildings, honestly built, and well ornamented,—buildings which whilst they justly claim our encomium, reflect great credit upon their proprietor and his architect. Should the erection of a new Town Hall be determined upon, in the opinion of this Society, the public authorities of Leicester would not need to travel out of its limits either for examples of Gothic architecture, suggestive of what that style is capable in connection with civic structures, or for proofs of the capabilities of local skill and talent. In the case of the Waterworks Company's Office, the style selected approximates to the Decorated, which was used chiefly in the fourteenth century; in Alderman Newton's School, the Perpendicular or Florid style—that of the fifteenth century—has been adopted. These are examples on a limited scale,
100 LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

...what might be accomplished by the development of the Gothic in grander forms and proportions.

CHURCH RESTORATION.

If proof were required that we have emerged from the age of neglect, and were rapidly passing through one of restoration, we have only to point to the vast number of our parish churches which have been restored during the past few years, or are now in the hands of the architect. Even the few instances cited at the end of this Report would be sufficient to show that in this county neglect is not a charge to be generally made against us. But as every popular movement, however laudable in itself, is apt, when carried forward with the energy and perseverance which characterise most expressions of public opinion in this country, to run into excess, so this spirit of restoration—if it does not require checking—certainly needs closely following and watching by the spirit of preservation. It is surely time for inculcating more strongly than ever that restoration should be carried on in strict alliance with conservation. There are signs that the importance of this union is being felt, and many works are being carried out under its influence. Take for instance the case of Stoughton Church, where the tower and spire and other portions of the fabric have been taken down and rebuilt with the old material, each old stone being again placed in its original position. And the lofty and handsome Perpendicular steeple of Bottesford is now being taken down; the stones will then be simply reset, so that when rebuilt the steeple will be in material and design the identical structure it was before. As it was twenty years ago the province of societies like this to hail with pleasure the desire then manifesting to restore our ancient churches to something like decency and order, and to encourage the restoration movement as much as possible under proper restraints and in proper directions, so now it is clearly more a duty to guide, and in many cases, to check, the strength and energy of that movement, which in so many instances would sweep away all the ancient vestiges, monumental, architectural, and ceremonial, in our churches; and forgetting that restoration does not mean rebuilding, would tend to make us rather regret than sympathise with a movement which all hailed with such pleasure at its birth. While upon this subject it may be mentioned with regret that in unfortunately too many instances, where church restoration has been undertaken within the observation of the committee of this Society, many ancient features have either been mutilated or destroyed; the removal of monuments, fragments of ancient detail and similar objects being left generally to the operative builders, without any provision being made by the architects for their replacement in their original positions. The result of this is that monuments which often supply many a missing link in local history, and are the only existing records of genealogical connections, are for ever destroyed. Your Committee have borne this consideration in mind in giving their opinion upon the different plans for the restoration of churches in this county, which have been during the past year submitted to them. In one case they hope they have caused the preservation of a chancel screen of a Decorated character, one of few in this county; in another instance not to multiply cases they felt bound to protest very strongly against the adoption of plans, which whilst altering the architectural details of an interesting village church, proposed sweeping away entirely a founder’s tomb on one side of the chancel, and spoiling the features of another monument on the opposite side. It should, however, be borne in mind that notwithstanding this desire for conservation, and this wish to preserve in almost all instances the ancient architectural features of our churches, there are cases—few it must be remembered—where utility demands imperatively alterations even in the original ground plan of the edifice. Such a case was lately submitted to your Committee, who, after carefully weighing the reasons on both sides of the question, and naturally inclining strongly (could they have shown its practicability) to a strict restoration of the edifice, were bound to recommend the erection of a chancel in a position more in accordance with the requirements of our present ritual.

The following are a few notes upon church work executed during the year 1865—

S. MARTIN’S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

The works of restoration and rebuilding which have for so many years been in progress at S. Martin’s Church, Leicester, were resumed during the past year. The
north and south chapels have been rebuilt; the former from the cills of the windows, the latter from the foundations. They are both erected in the Perpendicular style of architecture, the north chapel correctly so, the south, it is to be regretted, incorrectly. A mistaken idea that uniformity in style with the adjoining chancel was more desirable than a restoration of the ancient features of that portion of the chancel, appears to have led the building Committee to sanction its erection in the Perpendicular style, instead of restoring the windows, door, &c., in the style in which they found it—the Geometrical. The roof upon this chapel was a late Perpendicular one, which, under existing circumstances, must have been used had the more ancient and more beautiful features of the other portion of the chapel been preserved. It is, however, a cause for congratulation that this important feature of the church, through the munificence of a lady parishioner, is now again restored to it, after being for so many years lost by the usurpation of the site by an accumulation of masonry, which entirely blocked up the eastern end of the south aisle, and detracted much from the beauty and just proportions of the building.

It may be mentioned that during the alterations in this chapel, two external weather mouldings on the eastern wall of the south aisle showed that a much earlier chapel upon the site of the present one had a very high pitched roof; and within the chapel itself a small turret staircase, long known to exist at its eastern end, apparently led to an upper chamber, the purpose of which in that particular position it is now difficult to solve.

S. MARGARET'S CHURCH, LEICESTER.

The gradual restoration of this fine church has been going on during the year 1865; two new windows from designs by the architect employed—Mr. G. G. Scott—have replaced two wretched insertions in the western walls of the north and south aisles; the external ashlar near, with the parapets, have also been renewed. The north-west buttress has been taken down and rebuilt. The Perpendicular south porch, which is much decayed, is shortly to be thoroughly restored under the care of the same architect.

MELTON MOWBRAY CHURCH.

The restoration of this church has been commenced, though the funds are far below the amount mentioned in the last Report of this Society as the lowest at which it was thought desirable to commence operations. The Rev. W. M. Colles has obtained promise of between £2,000 and £3,000. At least seven times as much is required to accomplish the whole work satisfactorily. This large and handsome church is pronounced to be in very many parts in a most dilapidated and perilous condition. Two piers out of the four supporting the tower have given way—the north-east and south-west—considerable underpinning is, therefore, necessary. The south transept, except the aisle, is giving way in all directions. All the roofs of both the body of the church and the aisles are much decayed; the chancel roof is debased, and should be raised about twelve feet higher; the nave roof has been pronounced decidedly unsafe in some parts by a competent authority, and requires careful and immediate attention, the walls of the nave having been pushed out of the perpendicular by the roof giving way. The timbers and rafters in the roofs of the transepts and aisles are also very defective. Some of the windows require restoration, especially the large ones in the north and south transepts. Externally there is much and costly work to be done. The parapets of the greater part of the aisles have been removed, and require restoration. At present the money that has been actually received is being spent upon the lower part of the tower. It is being underpinned with a mass of good stone bedded in concrete, instead of the rubbish which it displaces. The process reveals a shallow foundation scarcely half the depth of the latest interments. More agreeably, it discovers additional base mouldings, with a floor of a lower level, which being now readopted, together with a clearance of obstructions from the piers and arches adjoining, brings out almost incredible improvement. One inhabitant, a member of this Society, will be at the expense of the stonework, &c., of a new south window; and it is earnestly hoped that funds will be forthcoming to enable the Committee to take the south transept in hand, to renew the buttresses and walls, and make them perpendicular, so that
his welcome gift may be placed in an upright and not in an inclined position, as it will be if fixed in the present wall. The Committee of the Society feel that if Melton Church—a church described by Mr. Scott, the eminent architect, as having from its grandeur and beauty, its noble proportions and beautiful architectural features, a peculiar claim upon those to whose care it is committed—should fail to have its turn in the great restoration movement of the age, not only will the spiritual benefit be lost which follows from the usual increase in the congregation thereby, but the fabric will eventually become a ruin.

EDMONDTHORPE CHURCH.

The church of St. Michael, in this village, is undergoing complete restoration. It is, with the exception of the tower and clerestory, a Decorated church, and of very pleasing character: the nave circa 1320, the chancel circa 1340, the clerestory a little later. All the windows of the aisles are of three lights, and, excepting the pointed ones at the ends, have square heads with good tracery; they are large and are worked with a cornice, which has a profusion of ball-flowers, and, must have been unusually good when the upper part of it was in existence. We trust it will be reproduced complete. The chancel is unique in some of its features; the side windows are of two lights, and peculiar in tracery and arrangement, square-headed outside, with pointed rear arches. The east window is one of three lights, and has very beautiful leaf tracery. Just above the ground at the east end are three small windows—one on each of the three sides—which have been blocked up; they are ornamented as panels, but may have been intended to light a crypt or charnel, in which case the altar would have been considerably elevated, as there is an example in Walpole S. Peter's, Norfolk, where an open road underneath the chancel has led to a feature of considerable grandeur—a flight of twelve or fourteen steps to the "altar's pale." The south porch is ancient, but out of repair, the north has its beautiful cross preserved, but the porch is chiefly modern and unsightly. There is a fine semi-Norman tower, with a noble archway into the nave; it has a projecting circular staircase, and is surmounted by a good Perpendicular upper storey. The nave arcades are good. The mouldings of the founder's tomb in the south aisle are singularly so. The stone coffin of the founder appears coeval with the tower, and replaced underneath this Decorated mural arch. There are some incised slabs. The east end of the south aisle is filled with fine monumental sculpture of the Jacobean age. The very beautiful rood-screen is left, and will—we are glad to learn—be carefully preserved; the stairs in the wall being too low for this, give evidence on the vexed question of the time of the introduction of rood-lofts, by the inference of a loft much earlier than this having existed. Fragments of stained glass, Early English as well as Decorated, remain. On the south side of the church, externally, is one of those vault-coverings which in a past age have been erected in defiance of all rules of taste; it looks like a huge cucumber-frame, with stone—instead of glass—covering, and as if intended to break the legs of some unlucky wight who might be tempted to ascend its inclined plane to look through the church window. Many years ago there were several richly-carved benches, which disappeared in a so-called restoration. We are glad to say that a better guardianship will be exercised by the present architect, Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Melton Mowbray. And as in mediaeval times this church had munificent benefactors, who were of the honoured families of Derby, and others, so now is it in liberal hands; when completed, we may expect it to vie with any of the very beautiful churches of the district. The works now being done, comprise repairs, and partial renewing of the roofs, removal of a wall dividing the south aisle, new window in south aisle to replace a modern doorway, opening the tower arch and restoration of west window, opening the chancel arch above the screen, and a thorough cleansing of the church. In the chancel, the east window will be restored, and a new reredos, altar-rails, &c., added. A new pulpit, reading-desk, and benches of oak, and new oak doors will be provided: and a thorough system of drainage (with new fence-wall and gates) is being added. A new heating apparatus is being fixed, and the bells are to be rehung.

SOMERBY CHURCH.

By the same architect (Mr. Johnson), Somerby church is undergoing complete restoration. It appears that many years ago considerable alterations were made in this church; the south arcade (like the north one, Early English) was taken down and rebuilt chiefly of bricks, with square pillars, forming a miserable contrast
REPORT FOR 1865.

103

to the opposite arcade, which is very good both in piers and in arch mouldings. At the same time many other unfortunate alterations were made on the south side of the church, leaving only one good feature, a large and handsome Early English porch, with a run of sculpture in the mouldings. In accordance with Mr. Johnson's plans, the south arcade—with the windows, roof, &c., on that side the church, will be restored. The roof of the north aisle will also be renewed; the windows severally throughout the church, will be restored, and new clerestory ones will be inserted. A great improvement will be made by the introduction of a new Decorated window in the west front, and others in the aisles; in accordance with the period of a greater part of the edifice. The fittings of the church, pulpit, reading-desk, &c., will be new, and the church will be properly heated. Many other restorations and alterations will be made. The external walls of Somerby church have had a mean appearance from the absence of buttresses, and from the poverty of the windows. The tower with its neat spire is strangely placed between the nave and chancel; it intersects the church inside, and outside it is a most eccentric contraction.

The works at present are confined to the main body of the church, but plans are prepared for the restoration of the chancel when funds can be raised. The present outlay is about £1,000, raised by voluntary subscription. Clipsham stone has been used for the new arcade, and Ancaster for the windows.

CHADWELL CHURCH.

This church (one of the oldest in the district in which it stands) is now in Mr. Johnson's hands for restoration. It is not without interest. It comprises a Norman tower and nave arcade, now walled up: with Early English south aisle and chancel. The roof of the nave—which had been lowered—was a great disfiguration. Some mediæval work, too, is miserable insertion; and, much as innovation as a rule is to be deprecated, improvement is required. There is no division between the nave and the chancel.

The plans indicate opening the tower arch, restoration of the tower and framework of the bells, new windows in south aisle, and restoration of existing ones where possible: building arch between nave and chancel, new benches, working up such of the old ones as are fit, new door, benches, altar-rails, pulpit, &c., &c.

A few days after the works had been commenced at Chadwell, a hurricane carried the lead off the nave roof, thus exposing the woodwork. This was found to be in a dilapidated condition. It is therefore now proposed to remove the nearly flat roof, and in its stead put on a new one, raised to the original pitch as indicated by the weather mouldings on the tower. In doing this the meagre clerestory windows will be swept away; but, as there will be plenty of light without them, this proposed step appears one likely to add much to the interior appearance of the edifice. The chancel—which is being restored at the expense of the Duke of Rutland—is, as before said, Early English. There is there a piscina with detached column. The roof which is modern, with no architectural features, had a flat ceiling. It is hoped a new roof in character with the building will be substituted.

COSSINGTON CHURCH.

The parish church of Cossington has recently been reopened, after having undergone restoration as far as the funds would allow, under the care of Messrs. Goddard and Son. The church had fallen into an extremely dilapidated state, the roofs having become dangerous. These have been renewed in Memel red deal, stained and varnished. The nave and aisles have been reseated with open benches of oak, the ends being ornamented with the linen pattern, in accordance with the design furnished by a few of the ancient seats remaining in the church. Partly new stalls have been placed in the chancel, the old stall-ends and tracery being carefully preserved. Mr. Firn was the contractor.

WYMONDHAM CHURCH.

A handsome reredos of glazed tiles has been placed in this church, and the floor near the altar has also been embellished in a similar manner. This addition of colour, in union with the two handsome stained glass windows recently inserted,
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

has added much to the beauty of the chancel of this handsome village church. A much wanted appendage—a vestry—has also been erected by the rector, who, like a good ecclesiologist—first searched for the foundations of the ancient vestry where it was known to have formerly existed—on the north side of the chancel;—and having found them, erected the new building upon them, thus restoring an ancient and most useful feature to his church.

NORTH KILWORTH CHURCH.

The restoration of this church was commenced several years ago by the rector restoring the chancel. The work was resumed last year, and now a new roof of oak has been placed over the nave, the western gallery removed, and the arch opened. The new south aisle has been added, to provide room for an increasing congregation. The fittings are remarkably good, the open seats, lectern, &c., being in oak, and good in design. The restoration has been carried out by Mr. Law, of Lutterworth, under the guidance of Mr. Clarke, architect, London. The rector has shown a praiseworthy care in restoring an ancient Gothic pulpit to its place in the church, after it had been long thrust aside and used as a case for the clock-weights.

SHARNFORD CHURCH.

It is recorded that the restoration—if so it may be called—of this church was commenced nearly a century ago. In 1772 a brief was obtained for its repair. The church was then new roofed, and thoroughly repaired, in accordance with the taste or mode then prevalent. The spire (which is supposed to have been a very small one) was then taken down. In 1846 the chancel was rebuilt and the church repewed. The works carried out during the past year by the contractor, Mr. Firn, from designs and instructions furnished by Mr. Wm. Smith, architect, of Adelphi Chambers, London, comprise the entire rebuilding of the upper portion of the tower, removal of a gallery from the west end, opening the tower arch, and giving accommodation to the school children under the tower, the blocking up a comparatively modern western doorway, and restoration of the window above it—which had been shortened to allow of its formation. The chancel has been much improved by changing the pews into open seats, paving the floor with Maw's encaustic tiles, introducing a window and priest's door on the south side, and inserting a new east window. The organ, too, has been placed here in a recess built especially for it. Other restorations and improvements are to follow. The exterior is much improved by the removal of plaster, and by the proper pointing of the masonry.

CHURCH LANGTON.

The fine church here is undergoing thorough restoration, under the care of Messrs. Goddard and Son, of Leicester. The total cost (which is being defrayed by the trustees of the Hanbury Charities) is estimated at £3,000. A report of these works will be given in the next Report.

TUR LANGTON CHURCH.

The old church here being a very meagre one, totally unfit for use, and far away from the parishioners, it has been determined to erect a new one by means of a grant from the Hanbury Charity Trustees, and many munificent gifts from the landed proprietors. Messrs. Goddard and Son have furnished the designs, and are superintending the works, which are rapidly progressing. The style chosen is Early English. The edifice will consist of nave, aisles, chancel, tower and spire, and is being built of pressed bricks with stone dressings; the walls inside as well as outside showing their natural colour. It is relieved with stone bands, moulded red and blue vitrified bricks. The roofs are open-timbered; the seats and other furniture will be in deal, the seats having solid moulded ends. The whole of the floors will be laid with Whetstone's tiles. Mr. Fox and Mr. Loveday are the contractors. The designs warrant the anticipation that this will be an extremely picturesque as well as a conveniently-arranged church.
REPORT FOR 1865.

GREAT EASTON.

The tower and spire of this church have been taken down and rebuilt carefully and well by Mr. John Stauyon, of Market Harborough. The pews have been removed, and are to be replaced by new seats, the tower arch opened, and organ removed to the south aisle. Mr. John Loveday is the contractor.

ANSTY CHURCH.

The pinnacles of the chancel of this church, which were becoming very much decayed, have been perfectly restored in Ketton stone, the roofs flashed, and the moulded stone gutter lined with lead, under the care of Messrs. Goddard and Son.

HOLT CHURCH.

The upper portion of the spire of this church has been taken down, rebuilt, and surmounted with a beautiful and elaborate gilt eagle vane with wrought iron and glass foliage and ornaments. The chancel roof too, which was in a dangerous state, has been taken down and replaced with an entirely new one of Memel deal, boarded and covered with lead. It is intended to restore the remainder of the chancel this year. Messrs. Goddard and Son, of Leicester, were the architects, and Mr. Firn the contractor.

SHAWELL CHURCH.

The old church here has been—with the exception of the tower—taken down, and an entirely new edifice is being erected, from designs by Mr. Wm. Smith, of New Adelphi Chambers, London.

AYLESTONE CHURCH.

A new window has been inserted in the east end of the south aisle, and filled with stained glass, as a memorial gift to the church, by a member of this Society. The wall near has also been repointed, and the parapet above restored by Mr. Firn, under the direction of Mr. Goodacre, architect.

GRIMSTON CHURCH.

A subscription has been entered into for the restoration of this church, and plans have been prepared by Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Melton Mowbray. There is a distinct trace of Early English work, showing the probability of the previous existence of a cruciform church here of that character. The present structure is, however, mainly of the Perpendicular period. It consists of nave, chancel, tower at the west end, and south transept. The latter is partitioned off, and used as a school-room. There are traces of the north transept still discernible. The plans comprise many restorations which, it is hoped, may be referred to in the next Report of this Society.

WHISSENDINE CHURCH.

A step towards the restoration of this truly beautiful—it may be said grand—village church has been taken. A new east window has been inserted in the chancel, from drawings by Messrs. Goddard and Son, of Leicester. It is not only good but extremely appropriate in its design. The edifice bears the name of St. Andrew, and in the tracery of the new window is cleverly introduced the cross of that saint. The window, which is pure Geometrical, is extremely rich. The two centre mullions, their arches, and the circle they carry consisting of three orders of mouldings; the remaining mullions and tracery of two orders of mouldings. All the mullions and the corresponding jamb moulds have bases and carved capitals, inside as well as outside. The floor within the altar rail has been laid with Whetstone's tiles. The altar table and altar rail are also new, the latter being supported by graceful wrought iron standards. It was during these alterations that the curious mural painting was
discovered which was fully described at the last meeting of this Society. Mr. Fast, of Melton, was the contractor. It is hoped this is only the beginning of a careful, if gradual, restoration.

Whissendine is a first-class village church, with spacious nave, transepts, and aisles. The numerous arches and pillars are Early English: the north arcade is the more ancient, the south of a more finished character, but both have elaborate mouldings. Probably the outer walls of the north aisle and transept are Early English, and the other walls of the church of the Decorated period; but they appear to have been refaced with excellent ashlar, and the windows are of later insertion, except the large windows of the transepts. There is also a good Perpendicular clerestory. This noble church is at present sadly despoiled of its magnificence: the north transept is walled off for a school; the roof of the south transept, as well as that of the chancel, is a low, debased affair; and the large five-light window of this transept is robbed of its tracery, having a four-centre head substituted to fit the low roof; a trumeau, too, seems to have been introduced about the same time. There is a porch unusually large, and the gable has been raised to a pitch higher than the original. This, with a doorway to the south transept, and the north and south windows, are about all the features remaining of the Decorated work, except the tower, which is really a grand production. It is massive and lofty, and has evidently served as a watch-tower in feudal times; within each of the pinnacle bases is room for two men to stand, and there are apertures. Nor are the architectural details less remarkable: the archway on the nave side has a suite of mouldings seldom equalled; and the external archway is still finer—so deeply recessed and so richly moulded. The upper part of the tower is something later in style—more florid, yet bold in character, and excellent work. Being in Barnack stone it is in very good preservation.

STONTON WYVILLE.

This interesting church has received a further improvement by an alteration in the seating of the chancel, and the restoration of the west window. It would be a great gain to this church if the south aisle could be rebuilt. The arcade still remains, the arches being filled up with masonry.

HALLATON.

In this parish a handsome school-house and convenient master's house have been built, from designs furnished by Messrs. Goddard and Son.

BILLESDON CHURCH.

This church has now been completely restored, under the direction of Mr. Kirk, of Sleaford. In 1861 the church was carefully examined. Some time afterwards the tower and spire were taken down and rebuilt. Last year the work was resumed; the south aisle, which was taken down some years ago, has been rebuilt, and the chancel arch and south porch restored. The clerestories have been removed, and the roof—an entirely new one—raised to the original pitch. New fittings have also been provided, and are of a good and appropriate character. Several windows have been filled with stained glass, the gift of persons interested in the church. The whole work reflects much credit upon both architect and contractors. The west ends of both north and south aisles are dark; would it be well to insert windows in the western wall?

AB-KETTLEBY CHURCH.

The steeple of this church, which was in a dangerous condition, has been underpinned and otherwise secured. Its antiquity and architectural details make this a valuable relic. The tower is of noble dimensions; it is late semi-Norman, and has early examples of strings of dog-tooth combined with others of nail-head, and singularly introduced. The belfry windows are bold; seen near, this Norman character seems to speak of far off feudal times; and at a distance the boldness and depth of shade give suggestions deserving the attention of the architect.
BOTTESFORD CHURCH.

The lofty and handsome Perpendicular steeple of Bottesford church having been found insecure is undergoing an entire taking down and resetting; so that when complete again, it will be both in materials and design the identical structure that it was before.

BRAUNSTONE CHURCH.

Mr. Firn has renewed the coping to this church and its chancel, and affixed an apex cross. The masonry has also been repointed in some parts.

STOUGHTON CHURCH.

The debased chancel of this beautiful village church has been taken down by Mr. Firn, and a new one in character with the church built by him, under the care of Messrs. Dain and Smith, architects. The details of the north and south windows, which are remarkably good, are faithfully reproduced from fragments of the windows of the original chancel, which have been discovered during the recent alterations.

NARBOROUGH CHURCH.

The restoration has made progress, five new windows have been inserted by Mr. Firn in the north aisle.

MARKET BOSWORTH CHURCH.

A new Bath stone reredos, with enriched cornice and moulded panels, has been placed in this church. The panels are inlaid with alabaster, and carved Caen stone emblems of the Evangelists are introduced. A new south entrance to the churchyard has also been erected. The whole work has been executed by Mr. Firn of Leicester.

MARKFIELD CHURCH.

Very considerable alterations have been made in this church. It consisted originally of a nave, chancel, and lean-to north aisle, with a tower and spire of a rather later date. Increased accommodation being required, in 1829 an addition to the church was made on the north side. This, while destroying the proportions of the building, in time interfered with its safety. It was therefore necessary to place it in the hands of an architect with a twofold object, security to the building and further accommodation to an increasing population. The latter has been obtained by a considerable alteration in the form of the church, which—considering all the peculiar circumstances of the case—appeared to several members of your Committee to whom the plans were entrusted, to be the only, and the best way of overcoming its difficulties. The alterations consist of a new arcade on the north side, adopting the external wall of the additions made in 1829 as the wall of the new aisle thus formed, which is carried westward to a line with the western wall of the tower (which now stands at the south-east corner of the church), and eastward to form a vestry in a line with the ancient chancel. A new chancel has been thrown out eastward from the centre of the line formed by the eastern end of the ancient chancel (now the end of the south aisle) and the eastern end of the north aisle, now the new vestry. A gain of sixty-one sittings is obtained by this change. Mr. Millican was the architect, and Mr. Firn, of Leicester, the contractor.

These are a few of the many churches in this county which have, during the year 1865, been under the care of architects, and have received repairs, alterations, additions, or improvements. In addition to these many have been examined and reported upon. Amongst these may be mentioned Leire, South Kilworth, Aston, Sapcote, Broughton, Carlton near Desford, Glooston, Evington, Iston, Loseby, Thornton, Blaston S. Michael, and Kirby-Bellers.
PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee have pleasure in calling the attention of members to an announcement just issued by the Messrs. Nichols, intimating the speedy publication of "The Physical Geography and Geology" of this county, by Professor Ansted. Subscribers names are now being received by the publishers, or will be gladly forwarded by your Honorary Secretary; the price is 9s. It should also be mentioned, by way of reminder to those of our members who can afford to support a magazine which, for several years past, has faithfully recorded our transactions in common with those of similar societies throughout the kingdom, that The Gentleman's Magazine, having reached its 136th year of publication, has now passed into new hands. A new series, therefore, commences this year under the editorship of a gentleman well known for his literary and antiquarian ability and taste. As the special organ of Architectural and Archaeological Societies, this venerable magazine has a special claim upon our support. A copy is now upon the table.

The following statement of accounts for the past year having been previously audited were read:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1865</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1. Balance in hand</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 31. Subscriptions and arrears received during the year</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Volumes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td><strong>£119 0 8</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1866</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1. Balance in hand</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Payments</strong></td>
<td><strong>£119 0 8</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audited by me, this 27th day of January, 1866.

(Signed) THOS. MERCER.

MR. JAMES THOMPSON proposed, and MR. ORDISH seconded, that the Report be adopted, with the best thanks of the Society to Mr. North for its compilation. Carried. The statement of accounts was also passed.

MR. JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A., rejoiced to find the Report urged the desirability, utility, and importance of preserving the memorials of the dead in churches undergoing restoration. He instanced a church where various tombstones had been removed, but where he hoped he had secured the preservation of some
monumental brasses of local interest. He considered the want of care in that direction a sad accompaniment to the movement in favour of Church Restoration.

Mr. James Thompson also corroborated the statements in the Report with regard to the destruction of monuments in churches, and instanced Belgrave Church near Leicester. Previous to the restoration of that edifice there were two incised slabs on the floor of the chancel—one of them of a former Rector of the place. These were now missing and were said to be buried under the present floor.

The Rev. E. Tower said he was glad to report that the plans for the Restoration of Peckleton Church (exhibited at the last meeting) would be revised, and the ancient monuments now existing in the church would be preserved.

The Rev. T. Drake suggested to architects engaged in Church Restoration, the desirability of forming a chapel in which to place monuments which might be inconvenient to worshippers, or which for good reason it was necessary to remove.

Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., thought Mr. Drake's suggestion a good one in many ways. It had been suggested that there should be a cloister for the reception of monuments at Westminster Abbey. He feared, however, the plan proposed by Mr. Drake would be an expensive one in connection with parish churches. He also urged that the pavements of churches, which were frequently formed of gravestones, should be preserved, and not replaced by tile pavements. The clergy and architects were too fond of these tile pavements.

Resolved: That the present Committee be re-elected.
That the Officers of the Society be re-elected.
That the thanks of the Society be given to the Mayor for the use of the room, and to the Press for so carefully reporting the Proceedings of the Society.

The following gentlemen were elected Members:—Mr. George Stevenson and Mr. Wm. Wale, both of Leicester.

The following Plans were laid upon the table:—
By Mr. Ordish: Interior view of new Dissenting Chapel lately erected on the Humberstone Road, Leicester.
By Mr. R. W. Johnson, (Melton Mowbray) ground plan and elevation, with details for the restoration of Chadwell Church, Leicestershire.
By Messrs. Goddard, and Son: Plans for proposed alteration at Carlton Church near Market Bosworth.

The following Antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—
By the Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A.: A leather bag, containing nearly twenty-three ounces of silver coins, found together at the beginning of October, 1865, in the thatch of an old house at Enderby, near Leicester, while the house was being pulled down.
It held about ninety coins in all, of which the subjoined list accounts for eighty-eight:—One side-faced groat, of Henry VIII, mint mark Lis.; Four shillings and nineteen sixpences, of Queen Elizabeth, of various dates, from the first three years of her reign to the year 1595, and presenting examples of the following mint-marks—Cross crosslet, Pheon, Coronet, Castle, Cinquefoil, Sword, Lombardic A, Scallop, Crescent, Ton, and Woolpack; one half-crown, four shillings, two sixpences of James I, together with an Irish shilling, respectively bearing the following mint-marks—Thistle, Escallop, Mullet, Rose, Lis, Trefoil; and lastly, thirty half-crowns, twenty-four shillings and two sixpences of Charles I. From fifteen of these, the mint-mark is gone; but the others have the Harp, Ton, Anchor, Triangle, Star, Triangle in a circle, letter P in circle, letter R in a circle, Eye, Sun, Lis. The earliest of these mint-marks on Charles’s money was the Harp (1632); the latest is the Sun, which was never made use of as a mark by his moneyers before the year 1645. So that the bulk of the find belongs to the last fifteen years of his reign. As the groat of Henry VIII cannot have been struck before his eighteenth year (1527, A.D.), for that was the date of his second coinage (of which there is a specimen,) and as the latest of Charles I. has the mint-mark of the year 1645, the period of time over which this hoard of old silver stretches, must be about one hundred and eighteen years—eventful years too, in English history. They contain among them witnesses of the Reformation, the accession of the Stuarts, and the Rebellion. Very few are well preserved, and none of them are of any special rarity, or have a value beyond their intrinsic value as metal, and that which arises from our natural interest in such objects. But the solitary halfcrown of James presents a slight peculiarity in the King’s style, on the obverse; the word ET being represented by its common form of abbreviation (&), an uncommon case in a formal inscription. His Irish shilling in the above list, recording, as it does, the Union between England and Scotland in a somewhat rare legend, should not be passed over: HENRICVS. ROSAS. REGNA. JACOBVS. “Henry united the Roses, James the Kingdoms,” illustrates at once the terseness of the Latin, as compared with English, for writing an epigramatic sentence, and shows also how in former days the coinage of this country was enlisted to put on record historical events, by which lasting interest was imparted to it, of a kind which I am sure all Queen Victoria’s shillings and sixpences put together, will never afford. One more piece deserves notice. It is an Aberystwith or Oxford halfcrown of Charles I., of that type which is called by numismatists “the declaration type.” This coin has upon its reverse certain contracted Latin words, RELIG. PROT. LEG. ANG. LIBER. PAR., which, duly expanded, commemorate Charles’s famous declaration of his reasons for taking up arms. Three days after hoisting the Royal
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Standard at Nottingham, August 25th, 1642, his Council prevailed with the King to send the Earls of Southampton and Dorset, and others, to the two Houses of Parliament, with a message, in which he declared,—"Nothing shall be wanting on our part to advance the true Protestant religion, oppose Popery and superstition, secure the law of the land, . . . . confirm all just power and privileges of Parliament, and render us and our people truly happy."—(History of the Rebellion. Book VI.) The other coins in the hoard do not call for special mention. It is impossible for us to do more than conjecture the circumstances, under which they were all hidden, and then never reclaimed by their owner. The date of the latest, 1645, reminds us of the disastrous field of Naseby, and it may perhaps be allowed to suggest to one's imagination, some Enderby trooper, going out to that fight, either for the King, or the Cause, never to see again either his cottage home in that village, or the money he had left in its thatch.

Summary: Henry VIII. ... ... ... 1
Elizabeth ... ... ... ... 24
James I. ... ... ... ... 7
Charles I. ... ... ... ... 56

Weight, 292 3 oz.

MR. POWNALL further exhibited a portion of an ancient British urn found in the parish of North Kilworth, Leicestershire, and upon which he read the following notes:

This portion of an ancient British urn was found in August last, (1865) upon some land at North Kilworth, where gravel is being dug out for railway purposes. It is made of the dull red, soft, half-baked, or wood-baked clay, known to antiquaries as helping to distinguish this class of ancient pottery from both Roman and Anglo-Saxon ware. In form it resembles closely some vessels of the same description, which are figured in Mr. Wright's "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon," (numbers 4 and 5, page 67). Like them, its exterior is scored and lined in patterns, which seem to have been marked with some instrument of the simplest kind—a pointed bit of wood or iron, perhaps. In its present mutilated state, one has to guess its height to have been about seven inches, with an evident diameter of five. That its use was connected with the burial rites of the Britons is shewn by its having been found three feet below the surface, with some human bones. Such remains have been found near the spot where this urn was lying, and a vessel of a kind similar to this was discovered entire by the labourers employed in getting out the gravel some time last winter, but it was destroyed by them in their ignorance of its historical interest. The portion exhibited was also broken into many fragments by them, but it has been restored so as to shew sufficiently
its peculiar hour-glass form, and it serves to point out to archaeologists an ancient British burial ground in this county, which has been hitherto unknown. Within five hundred yards of the site of these discoveries is an artificial mound, which is doubtless a "bearrow" or barrow of the same period, and its existence in that situation confirms the view adopted in the above remarks. There appears to have been another of these burial mounds existing some years ago, but it was levelled at the time the Rugby and Stamford Railway was made, and its contents dispersed. Urns like the one exhibited are seldom found but in the South of England.

By Mr. Whetstone Grewcock: A receipt for hearth money, dated 1678, lately found in taking down a cottage at Stapleton, Leicestershire. The tax was repealed in 1689.

By Mr. North: Photographs of some extremely beautiful carvings, designed and executed by Mr. Barfield, of Leicester, which were much admired. Also with reference to a resolution passed at the last meeting, one of Ealand's patent lightning conductors.

By Rev. J. H. Hill: An ancient knife and fork, circa 1600, found at Welham.

By Rev. C. Berry: A large number of Roman coins—small brass—ranging chiefly from Gallienus to Theodosius. They were found at Cirencester.

By Mr. H. Goddard: A curious copper tobacco box, with this inscription (dated 1768):—

Ask me not for shame: drink less, and by one.

By Mr. J. E. Weatherhead (Curator of Leicester Town Museum): A very fine Roman glass vessel, upon which he communicated the following notes:—

On the 21st December last (1865) as some workmen were engaged in excavating for the foundation of a warehouse at the back of Mr. James Morley's premises, and on the east side of Oxford Street, Leicester, they discovered, five feet below the present surface, and resting on the clay, a glass Roman Cinerary (single-handled) urn or vessel, eight and three quarter inches in height, and twenty-two inches in circumference, of a hexagonal form, hermetically secured at the orifice with a leaden cap, firmly fixed by means of the usual hard cement. The base (as shewn in the accompanying drawing) was highly ornamental, and worthy of special notice. This vessel contained calcined human bones, occupying a space of two inches, and a fluid covering the bones to the extent of two inches; the latter having been subjected to an examination by Messrs. Parsons and Richardson, is found to consist of a solution of common salt with salts of lime. It is in excellent preservation, and is as entire as when first found, the
Roman Glass Cinerary Urn
(and the Base of same)
Found in Tricesior, 21, Dec., 1865.
handle only being wanting, which was evidently of the usual broad fluted character. Rarely does it fall to our lot to secure intact such valuable relics as the one now exhibited, in consequence of their brittle nature; and what is equally to be regretted is the fact, that it not unfrequently happens that such local treasures find their way into the hands of owners or occupiers of property, who, setting little, or no value upon them, and alike indifferent concerning the interesting history attaching to them, suffer them to be carried out of the town by strangers, (probably to enrich other museums,) or to fall into the hands of some private collector, who place them in some corner cupboard, where they remain unheeded, and where no other eye save that of the possessor ever rests upon them.

Mr. Weatherhead having stated that this vessel had been given to the Leicester Town Museum, strongly urged that all local relics should be placed there, where they could be inspected by all, and where a safe resting place would be secured for them.*

MR. JAMES THOMPSON read the following paper upon the same discovery:—

A people was living on the site occupied by the modern town of Leicester, from fourteen hundred to eighteen hundred years ago, of widely different origin and race from the present inhabitants. We, in the present age, have little in common with them. That they were a highly-civilized people when our Saxon ancestors were semi-barbarians, is a certainty. What we know of Roman Leicester, in consequence of antiquarian discoveries—not through the pages of history, for history stands mute when she is questioned upon the subject—attests that a walled city was here existing, within whose limits houses were standing, the abodes of rich and luxurious tenants. The broken pavements of apartments which served them as dining-rooms and drawing-rooms have been discovered, century after century, many feet below the level of the present streets. Portions of the painted walls of these apartments have been found lying on the pavements. The sculptured capitals of thick columns have been brought from their deep graves into the daylight—the waifs of the wrecks of the once stately edifices of the ancient city. A huge fragment of its western gateway still enthrals our interest and perplexes our curiosity. But of the inhabitants themselves how little we know. All we do know is taught us by the relics of antiquity which the soil yields us from day to day and from year to year. We find bone pins—they once secured the hair-knots of the maidens of Ratae, as similar pins serve the same purpose at this hour, to the girls who dwell in the villages on the banks of the Rhine. We find an implement in bronze like a bone pin, with one

* The members are much indebted to Mr. Weatherhead for the loan of an excellent sketch of this valuable local relic from which the accompanying illustration has been kindly taken by Mr. Traylin, architect.
end pointed and the other flattened—this was the stylus, or pen, with which some former Roman-British inhabitant of Leicester wrote on the waxed surface of a tablet his letter to his friend or relative. We find bronze brooches of various shapes—these were once made use of to fasten the flowing garments of the men and women of Roman Leicester. We find broken bits of bright red pottery, stamped with curious figures and patterns—these were portions of vessels which were once placed on the breakfast and dinner tables of our predecessors in this town in the Roman period. We find heavy handles of amphorae of earthenware—these were used instead of wine casks of wood, in which to place the productions of Italian vineyards. We find the necks of smaller bottles of white earthenware, and jars of different sizes and shapes—these once held stewed meats and preserved fruits, or (if they were small) probably stood on the toilet tables of the ladies of Ratae. Last of all, we find in abundance small copper coins no larger than our farthings—these, with gold and silver coins, constituted the circulating medium of the traders and inhabitants of the Roman town. Of what do all these things tell, but of needs, instincts, and sentiments held in common by us and our forerunners of this place, whose ashes lie mingled with the soil over and near which we continually pass in our daily walks? They loved household decorations and personal ornaments; on their tables were placed wine and viands; they had occasion to frequent halls of justice; they bought and they sold; they wrote, and they received letters; and if we could summon from the past the scenes that were daily witnessed on this spot fifteen or sixteen hundred years ago, if we saw many objects which startled by their strangeness, we should see many more which would surprise us by their familiarity.

In one respect, however, a wide difference would present itself. When the people of Ratae died,—I am now speaking of the time before the reign of Constantine, who, history informs us, became a convert to Christianity at the beginning of the fourth century of our era—they did not bury the dead bodies of their friends in coffins: they raised a pile of timber on which they poured inflammable liquids, and threw combustible materials—with an occasional relic of fondness for the deceased—some choice object or ornament. They then placed the corpse of the deceased on the summit of the funeral pyre—an attendant applied a torch to the mass of material—and in a few minutes the whole was in a blaze, in the midst of which the body speedily perished. Hired mourners howled fictitious laments about the remains of the departed. When all was over, and the embers were extinguished, a near relative tenderly collected as many of the bones as were unconsumed, and carefully deposited them in a jar of either glass or earthenware. The poor were content to select common pottery; the rich could afford to provide a glass vessel.
All this is by way of preamble to a few observations upon a glass urn and its contents, which are exhibited to us to-day by Mr. Weatherhead, the Curator of the Leicester Museum. As it has already been minutely described by him, and has been examined by you, I need not add any details to his account. But it appears to me to convey a few suggestions not unworthy of your notice. Its position first arrests attention. It was discovered some distance outside the south wall of the Roman town, and was found by itself, not associated with any other sepulchral remains. I have noticed repeatedly that similar examples of urn-burial have occurred in numerous localities on every side of Leicester, once completely suburban. This shows that the Roman-British townspeople were accustomed to inter the remains of their dead, whether burnt or unburnt, in separate places, probably purchased for the purpose, wherever they could conveniently obtain a suitable plot, though there also appear to have been public cemeteries; as discoveries of congregated remains in the vicinity of Roman-British cities frequently bear witness. The nature of the vessel also invites remark. It is a glass urn of exactly similar material and shape to one found in the Abbey gardens near this town, twenty or thirty years ago, and is the style of vessel figured in one of the plates in Mr. Wright’s work, "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon." As already remarked, the choice of a glass vessel indicates the relatives of the deceased to have been of the upper class of the inhabitants—a supposition which interment apart from other remains confirms. The fact of the burning of the body, instead of its burial entire, shows that the deceased was living before Christian usages were introduced into the Roman-British towns—in fact, before the conversion of Constantine (A.D. 306) had rendered the practice of cremation obsolete.

The bones which lie in the urn before us, and the vessel itself iridescent with the hues of antiquity, speak eloquently for themselves. The former were once invested with the warm and glowing flesh of a citizen of Ratae; playing a part more or less distinguished in its affairs before the belief of the empire in the heathen mythology had been changed into the faith of one God and Redeemer—when the Pagan still believed in the (to us) inconceivable translation from this world to the shades of a vague future. This is the simple story (as it appears to me) of the discovery of the objects we have contemplated.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.
March 26th, 1866.


After the transaction of other business it was notified that the Society has removed from the room lately rented at the Permanent Library, Leicester, and that it now rents for the use of members, a room at Messrs. Crossley and Clarke's, which is open during the usual hours of business.

It was also Resolved that the usual summer meeting be held this year at Market Harborough, in conjunction with the Northamptonshire Society, and a sub-Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited.

By Mr. John Hunt (Thurnby): Fragments of ancient pottery lately found in excavating ground near St. Margaret's Church, Leicester, belonging to Messrs. N. Corah and Sons. The fragments consisted of the upper portion of a huge two handled amphora, and parts of a mortarium. Mr. Hunt exhibited other miscellaneous fragments from St. Nicholas Street, Leicester.

By Mr. Weatherhead: An inedited Leicestershire tradersman's token, issued in 1669, by Henry Flower, of Loughborough, "His Halfpenny."

By Messrs. J. and T. Spencer: A Latin manuscript on vellum, described as being a MS. Bible of the fourteenth century. Many portions have been destroyed.

By Mr. Vincent Wing: An impression of the Common Seal of the Hospital of S. Bartholomew, Rochester, founded by Gundulph, in 1078.

By Mr. North: Several relics from an Anglo-Saxon burial ground, at Melton Mowbray, upon which he read the following remarks:—

ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT MELTON MOWBRAY.

Archæological research has clearly demonstrated that our Saxon ancestors in this country used two kinds of interment of their dead: cremation, or burning the body, and deposit of the remains of the bones in an urn; and simple inhumation, or burying of the body entire, dressed in its usual dress, and accompanied according to the sex, position, &c., of the person interred, by various warlike weapons, or personal requisites and ornaments. The second of these modes of interment was, perhaps, the more prevalent one in this country, and it is well for historical enquiry that it was so, because it is from the grave of the Anglo-Saxon that we learn almost all we know of the state of his civilisation, and so are enabled to form opinions—crude though they may be—of his mode
of life, and of his personal appearance, as evidenced by the articles
which (having been highly prized by him when alive) were, as
marking the affection of his relatives and friends, deposited with
him in the grave after death.

That the body was generally clothed is shown by the discovery
in some Anglo-Saxon graves of shreds of woollen cloth, mere frag-
ments, but sufficient to prove the custom referred to, which custom
is also further demonstrated by the frequent finding of the buckle
of the girdle which once encircled the waist, and from which in
the case of the men, the knife and sword were suspended.

The objects found in the graves of the men of the Anglo-Saxon
period—for to them, passing by the graves of the women, must my
remarks be restricted this morning—are usually warlike weapons
of offence and defence. Taking for example a grave opened some
years ago on Chatham Downs (and we could scarcely, perhaps, find
a better specimen of the mode of interment adopted in the case of
an Anglo-Saxon warrior), near the right shoulder was found a spear
head, the socket of which still contained a decayed portion of the
wooden shaft; near the last bone of the vertebrae was found a brass
buckle, which had formerly fastened the girdle or belt. On the
right side, near the hip, was a knife, with impressions of its case
still remaining upon it; between the thigh bones lay the umbo, or
boss of the shield. On the left side was an iron sword, thirty-five
inches in length, and at the feet of the skeleton was a vessel of red
earth, globular-shaped, twelve inches in height, and five in its
greatest diameter.

Similar objects—as is well known—have been exhumed in many
other instances, our own county having furnished many valuable
relics.

The length of the Anglo-Saxon spear was, as might be expected,
by no means uniform, it varied from about five feet to eight feet.
The length of the shaft is generally traceable in a carefully opened
grave by a dark line of decomposed wood extending from the socket
of the metal spear head to a ferule, which usually protected its
lower extremity. The spear-head itself varies much in length,
being sometimes as long as twenty inches or even more.

The Anglo-Saxon sword, as we gather from specimens found in
graves, was usually a double-edged weapon, in length, including
the handle, about thirty-five inches, in width about two inches.
The hilt having been generally made of some perishable material
(most probably of wood), has in almost all cases entirely disappeared.
It, however, not unfrequently happens that a small cross bar is
found at the extremity of the handle, which probably served in
some way to secure the hilt of wood. Metal hilts have been found,
but they are rare. The sword was worn in a scabbard made of
wood, and probably covered with leather. The discovery of swords
with portions of the wooden scabbard remaining upon them is by
no means uncommon.
The knife suspended from the girdle on the opposite side to the sword was an article probably as much for personal domestic use as for warlike or defensive purposes. These knives vary considerably in size, and, like the swords, are sometimes found with fragments of the wooden case still adhering to them.

The Anglo-Saxon shield, from the fact of its central boss or umbo of iron with its fittings being the only portion discovered, was clearly of wood. The umbo is generally found resting on the breast, or between the thigh bones of the skeleton. It is usually conical in shape, terminating in what are considered the early interments, with a kind of button, and in those of later date with a point. Its diameter at the base is about five inches. At that part it has a projecting rim, through which it was fastened by rivets to the wooden shield. With the umbo is frequently found a strip of metal, which there is every reason to believe was the brace or handle of the shield. A circular piece of wood was cut out of the shield under the umbo or boss; across this opening, at the back of the shield, the strip of iron passed, and which, when grasped by the hand of the warrior, was protected by the boss on the outside.

In Anglo-Saxon graves is sometimes also found a vessel of earthenware or glass, of a type well known to antiquaries. These vessels are thought to have been appropriated to some rites having reference to purification by water or by wine.

In addition to these ordinarily discovered articles, others are occasionally found which need not now claim our attention. Although solitary Saxon graves are sometimes met with, it is clear that as a rule the interments were made in groups or cemeteries. It is to one such cemetery existing in this county that I now again direct the attention of this Society.

About the year 1860, some men employed by Mr. Fetch, of Melton Mowbray (a member of this Society), found, when working for clay upon high ground on the north side of that town, a number of skeletons, and in one or more of the graves some beads, a knife, and some pottery, all of a character indicating their Anglo-Saxon origin. These were exhibited, and some valuable remarks made upon them, and upon the geology of the district, by Mr. Ingram, of Belvoir, at a meeting of this Society, on the 31st of March, 1862. Upon inquiry, Mr. Fetch found that very many interments had been previously discovered, and the contents of the graves scattered by the workmen, who, being ignorant of the value of such relics, took no care of them; indeed, the beads, &c., just referred to, were found in one of the cottages appropriated by the children as toys. Again, in 1862, seven skeletons were uncovered and were carefully examined by Mr. Ingram, and reported upon to this Society at the meeting just noticed. Upon that occasion no relics whatever were discovered. From circumstances then detailed,
Mr. Ingram inferred that the bodies had been interred without any clothing whatever. It is, perhaps, more probable that they belonged to the labouring class, the serfs and bondmen, who would be buried in their rude ordinary dress, without weapon and without ornament, every vestige of which dress would in the lapse of centuries entirely pass away. It should be remarked that the skeletons were found upon the substratum of gravel which lies at a depth of about two feet from the surface of the soil, and that their position was east and west, the feet being towards the east.

Nothing more—so far as I can learn—was discovered in this cemetery until a few weeks ago, when on removing a further portion of the surface soil, in order to work the gravel and clay beneath, more skeletons were found, and, with them, the interesting relics which I have (through the courtesy of Mr. Fetch) the pleasure of producing this morning. The interments appear to have been made with care and uniformity, and the disposition of the skeletons was still about east and west, the feet being towards the east.

In one grave were found the spear-head, knife, and umbo of shield now exhibited. The spear-head, found on the right side of the skeleton, measures 15 inches from the point to the barb, which is 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches wide at the greatest width; its entire length, from the point to the end of the socket, is 22\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches; an unusual length, from 10 to 15 inches being the ordinary one. The knife is 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches long, and was found close by the ribs on the right side of the skeleton. The conical umbo of the shield, being three inches high and 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in diameter at its base, including the rim, with its brace 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches long, and its rivets, was found upon the centre of the skeleton. In other graves were found the other articles now shown, which include a second umbo of a shield, about the same size as the one just described, various spear-heads measuring respectively 16\(\frac{1}{2}\), 11, 11, 9, 9, and 6 inches in length, and three knives measuring respectively 5, 4\(\frac{1}{2}\), and 4 inches in length. In a grave—which I cannot now learn—was found the urn now produced, measuring 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in height, 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in diameter at its mouth, and being 6\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in diameter at its central or widest part. A smaller urn was found with the earlier relics. The last object claiming your attention is an excellent specimen of a double-edged Anglo-Saxon sword, 34\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in length, and 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in width, having the small cross-bar mentioned before as apertaining to the hilt, and bearing upon it many fragments of the wooden scabbard in which it was originally encased. In cutting away the earth sheer down for several feet, the end of this sword was found projecting through the section. It was carefully taken out by Mr. Fetch and Mr. Hickson, and the spot marked for minute examination. Mr. Nevinson and myself, by Mr. Fetch’s permission visited the spot on the 8th instant, and though the surface soil was care-
fully removed, neither there nor in several other places opened in our presence, were any other traces found of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery of Melton Mowbray, in which, according to Mr. Fetch’s computation between fifty and sixty graves have already been disturbed. There is every reason to believe that other interesting discoveries will be made.

By Mr. Thomas Hickson a hone or whetstone, found in 1860, in the burial ground just described by Mr. North.

Votes of thanks to the exhibitors and the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

May 28th, 1866.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—Rev. Septimus Andrews, Market Harborough; Augustin B. Fry, Esq., Kibworth House, Market Harborough; T. B. Saunt, Esq., Market Harborough; John Harris Cooper, Esq., Brox-hill, Oadby; the Rev. A. B. Wrey, Ashby Parva Rectory; the Rev. Richard Pulteney, Ashley; Mr. J. P. Jennings, Market Harborough; and Mr. Felix Gill, Narborough.

It was reported to the Society that the arrangements for the General Meeting at Market Harborough, on the 21st and 22nd June are now completed.

The following communication was received from Mr. North (Honorary Secretary), and ordered to be entered upon the minutes of the Society:—

"Southfields, Leicester, May 28, 1866.

"Dear Sirs,—It is with feelings of very considerable regret that I have to announce to this Society the decease of one of its founders, and of its first honorary officers, the Rev. John Morewood Gresley, M.A., formerly Rector of Overseile, in this county, and latterly Master of Etwall Hospital, in the County of Derby.

"At the first meeting of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, held in this room, on the 10th of January, 1855, Mr. Gresley was one of the three honorary secretaries then appointed to carry out the resolutions of the Committee at its various meetings, to urge, as he best could, the claims of the Society upon all gentlemen in Leicestershire interested in local history and antiquities, and to press forward the claims of architecture and archaeology to at least a share of that attention from men of reflective minds and education which it was deemed worthy of receiving. A reference to the minute book of the Society, and
to its published transactions, will show that Mr. Gresley's appointment was not a sinecure. He not only was a regular attendant at the bi-monthly meetings, but he entered with intelligence, heartiness and enthusiasm into all subjects brought before the members, oftentimes explaining the various objects exhibited, with a clearness and a precision which proved him to be an accomplished archaeologist, and a scholar of no ordinary capacity.

"He was also the contributor of many Papers of great interest and value, indeed scarcely a meeting passed, at one time, without something from his pen. Perhaps his education and various other causes would lead us to expect that ecclesiology and matters bearing upon ecclesiastical history, those especially elucidating the condition of the English Church in mediæval times, and during the eventful period of the seventeenth century, would have great attractions for him; and so it was. His opinions upon those times and upon the men who adorned them were always given honestly and plainly; his own strong predilections being, however, tempered by an extensive acquaintance with the history of the times of which he spoke, and his language couched in terms bespeaking the gentleman as well as the scholar. This is noticeable by all in those memoirs which treated of subjects in which he felt an especial interest, and upon which he spoke most freely. There was always a characteristic piquancy in his side hits at some of the doings of later days when contrasted with the men and times with which he in spirit so thoroughly sympathized, which rendered them not only acceptable to those who felt with him, but which drew the sting from his remarks in the estimation of those of his friends who did not live so essentially as himself in the spirit of the past.

"Mr. Gresley, too, for several years, reported the proceedings at the bi-monthly meetings in the local newspapers; and, in so doing, he was careful to note the minutest object exhibited, feeling with Bishop Kennett that "historical antiquities do deserve and will reward the pains of any English student." At the annual summer meetings of the society he was an energetic worker, and a careful and painstaking observer, never failing to show his readiness to impart his knowledge to others, and to enrich his own note book by many "Jottings by the way."

"Mr. Gresley continued to fill the office of honorary secretary to this Society until the close of 1860. At the first meeting held in 1861, the Committee received his resignation with great regret, and, in order to mark their appreciation of his services, at once elected him an honorary member of the Society. Since that period he has shown the liveliest interest in its welfare, being always anxious to receive from his successor every scrap of printed matter reporting its proceedings; and within a fortnight of his departure he employed an amanuensis to write to him respecting some details in connection with our transactions, simply adding with his own
hand his name, and a request for the prayers of his friends which I have no doubt he obtained.

"Yours faithfully,

"T. North, Hon. Sec."

The following antiquities were exhibited:—

By Mr. Weatherhead (Curator of Town Museum): No. 1. A Roman urn, discovered (1866, May 2) on the premises of Thomas F. Johnson, Esq., East Bond Street, (presented to the Museum). It was found ten feet deep in the gravel, and measures in height eleven and a half inches, by the same at the broadest part. The workmanship evidently indicates the use of the lathe. Of the kind, it is one of the most perfect examples possessed by the Museum.—

2. An exceedingly beautiful Roman jar (or olla) disinterred in Grafton Place, St. Margaret's (1866, May 8), in an old well, eighteen feet deep, whilst excavating for the New London Steam Crane and Engine Works (presented to the Museum by Mr. Joseph Jessop). The well was sunk in the gravel, and walled in with slates. This specimen measures in height seven and a half inches by five inches at its greatest breadth, and is of a dull red colour. Figures of similar vessels are given by Charles Roach Smith, Esq., in his Collectanea Antiqua.—

3. Fossil antler of the reindeer (Cervus Tarandus), found in Grafton Place, in the drift gravel, eleven feet deep (1866, May). This being, it is believed, the only specimen found in this neighbourhood, the discovery proves one of considerable interest to geologists. This specimen has been given to the Museum by Mr. George Holmes.—

4. A cinerary urn of the Anglo-Saxon period (containing human bones) found in excavating at the back of Court A, Church Gate, three feet deep. It measures eight inches in height, by the same in breadth. The top of the urn was said to be covered by a piece of iron, of a conical form, which was produced, and which was pronounced to be the umbo, or centre of a shield. Near to the urn were found two skeletons, at the same depth, the urn being placed against the heads of them. This relic has been given to the Museum by Wm. Moore, Esq., solicitor.—

5. Portion of a mortarium (with potter's mark) also found at the back of Court A, Church Gate, three feet deep.—

6. Portion of a large urn, with indented pattern, also found at the back of Court A, Church Gate, eight feet deep.—

7. Portion of Roman Samian ware, covered with figures, likewise discovered at the back of Court A, Church Gate, three feet deep.—It may be here noted that the remains of another large cinerary urn was found at the back of Court A, Church Gate, three feet deep. It contained human bones, and would measure a foot in height. The workmen came upon three or four pits, sunk very close together, about three feet in diameter, and within a very confined space. The workmen ceased to excavate beyond eight feet.
Relics found in Leicester in 1866 (see page 122).
Saxon Relics found at Glen Parva. Plate I.
Saxon Relics found at Glen Parva. Plate 2.
By Major Knight some Saxon antiquities discovered on February 8th, 1866, at Glen Parva, in a field belonging to him, called the Rye Hill Close, in a grave no doubt of a Saxon lady. They were found by some workmen digging for gravel about two hundred yards from the fourth milestone on the turnpike road (East side) leading from Leicester to Lutterworth. About two feet below the surface of the ground they came to some stones forming a rude arch, which, on being broken into, exposed a skeleton in perfect preservation, lying north and south, the bones strong and free from caries, the skull indicating an age about thirty, the teeth being quite sound and all perfect; indeed, on first finding the remains, the workmen thought the interment to be so recent that they informed the police of the discovery, with the view to holding an inquest, but on further search, the fibulae and beads showed to what age it really belonged. The articles found with the skeleton were of the character of those usually found in Saxon interments, and consisted of two bronze pendants, (No. I, on Plate I.) supposed to have been part of a chatelain ornament worn at the waist, three bronze brooches or fibulae, (No. II,) part of a bone annulet, (No. III.) two flat pieces of bone with corresponding rivet holes, with one bone rivet remaining, supposed to be the haft of a small knife, (No. IV.) the fragments of a Saxon drinking vessel of thin glass, which was unfortunately broken on opening the grave, and was found near the skull. It measured across the brim 2½ inches, and at the bottom three-quarters of an inch. (No. V. Plate II.) The bottom was round, and it was remarked that these vessels from their not being able to stand on their bottoms, were called tumblers, hence the name of our modern drinking glass. The glass was, when perfect, about 6 inches in length. There were also discovered with the skeleton two plain gilt finger rings of large size, (No. VI.) several beads of glass and other material, the claw of some animal, pierced so as to be worn as a charm, (No. VII.) and a crystal ornament cut in facets like a diamond, and drilled completely through. (No. VIII.) The weight of this ornament is three and a quarter ounces; it measured from bore to apex 1 4-10ths inches, horizontal diameter 1 8-10ths inches. It was cut in four sets of angles, five facets to each angle. Mr. Pownall remarked about the remains that in all probability more interments would be discovered. He considered the interment to be that of a lady of the middle class, and the crystal ornament to have been worn as a charm. Mr. Thompson also remarked, that the remains showed three things—1st, that it was the remains of a Saxon lady. 2nd, that it was a Pagan lady, from the fact of it not being near any church, and nothing ecclesiastical being discovered; and thirdly, the remains must have been deposited in the place discovered before the year 650.*

* The Society is indebted to Major Knight for the cost of the accompanying sheets
By The Rev. A. Pownall, F.S.A.: An episcopal ring, discovered at Sibbertoft. It was of plain gold, without any inscription, drawn up in the mitre form, in which was set an uncut sapphire. Mr. Pownall considered it to be of the 13th century. He also exhibited an ancient Saxon coin in beautiful condition, which was struck by Ceolnoth, the first Dean of Canterbury, and afterwards Archbishop about the time of Egbert Ethelwolf. The inscription on the obverse was ARCHIEP. CEOLNOTH, and on the reverse LIABINCE. MONETA, the latter inscription being in the form of a cross. Mr. Pownall also exhibited a Roman coin, a second brass of Antoninus Pius, having on the reverse a figure of Britannia seated holding a shield, the prototype of the device on our modern copper coinage.

By Mr. Hunt: Ten fine gold coins, one of Philip the Second of Macedon, one of Alexander the Great, an aureus of Vespasian, a consular coin, a gold twenty shilling unit of James I., two sovereigns and one half-sovereign of Charles I., a remarkable gold coin of the Lower Empire (on the obverse a head and bust, with pointed beard, with a cross on the top of the head, and another held in the hand uplifted; on the reverse was a figure with wings, holding in the right hand a pastoral staff, and in the left a ball and cross). The legends were partly illegible. Mr. Hunt also exhibited three cornelian gems, with well engraved heads, also two old gold rings.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING AT MARKET HARBOROUGH.

June 21st and 22nd, 1866.

President Sir William de Capel Brooke, Bart.

Thursday, June 21st, 1866.

At 11.30 p.m. the members and friends assembled at the Angel Hotel, Market Harborough, from whence they proceeded to the parish Church. After morning prayer had been said by the vicar, Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., described the architectural features of the fabric. He said he proposed at the outset to explain the reason why the brief description which could be given of the church had fallen to his lot rather than to the lot of his friend Mr. Poole, who would have done so much better. There were peculiar reasons why he should do it, for one hundred and twenty-of Illustrations, and to Mr. Bull for carefully making the drawings of the relics from a Photograph taken by order of Major Knight, immediately after their discovery, assisted by an inspection of the originals, and a reference to some very accurate drawings made by Miss Whitby.
five years since his great grandfather, Samuel Rouse, was chapel warden of that church, and one hundred and one years since his great uncle, Mr. Rowland Rouse, sent a description of it to the Gentleman's Magazine. He did not agree with him as to the founder of that church. He assigned it to John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, and the only reason for doing that was that a great number of buildings, from some cause or another, were popularly attributed to him. In the south of England almost every camp was called Caesar's Camp, and, in like manner, in certain parts of the country every good building was attributed to John of Gaunt, who was not at all instrumental in the erection of them. His own opinion was that that church, which was dedicated to S. Dionysius, the Areopagite, was erected by one of the Scroop family, who were lords of the manor from 1334 till 1405 and again from 1451 to 1492. The church was of two distinct periods. The west end and the chancel, which were the earliest portions of the building, were of the 14th century, the nave and aisles belonging to the 15th. It struck him on examining the church, that originally it was a chapel only, consisting of a tower, nave, and chancel. It was rebuilt in the 15th century, when, no doubt, finding the accommodation not equal to the population, some other member of the Scroop family probably pulled down the nave, and rebuilt it with side aisles, two of the windows of which were evidently taken from the old nave. The windows which he believed to be taken from the old nave were a two-light second pointed (14th century) window at the east end of the north aisle, and a square-headed second pointed three-light window in the south aisle. At the time the church was rebuilt the walls of the chancel were raised, and the clerestory windows were added to the chancel, and here there was a singular arrangement, which was not only a provincialism, but which was also confined principally to Leicestershire. Where they had there windows of the 14th century, they had above them windows of the 15th century. He found that to be the case at Peckleton, and they would see it at Desborough in the adjoining county of Northampton. There was formerly a screen across the chancel, which was taken down in 1750, when the church was repewed with the high-box pews, which at that time were so much the fashion. The old pitch of the roof was still discernible in the tower, and the little that could be seen was sufficient to show what was the original pitch of the tower, nave, and chancel. He had looked carefully over the building, but could not find traces of anything earlier than the 14th century, neither could he attribute the building to any one but the Scroop family, who, as he had said, were lords of the manor at that time. The windows were exceedingly good of the period, and a great deal of care had been expended upon them. The mullions and tracery were very beautifully moulded. One peculiarity of the church and one
which seldom occurred, was, that both north and south porches were at the extreme western end of the church. Over the porches were small rooms, the uses of which it was somewhat difficult to understand; but so far as he was enabled to form any judgment about them they were used as residences for the anchorites, who generally had chambers near the church. It was impossible, however, to decide that point with certainty. The royal arms were erected in stucco in the year 1660, by an artist named Alien, of Northampton, and there were several other churches in Leicestershire (Loughborough, Dingley, and other places) where the royal arms were in stucco. With reference to the royal arms, he might remark that he had never been able to find any express injunction as to their use. Harding, the great opponent of Bishop Jewell, said the royal arms were put up instead of the crucifix and the image of the Virgin Mary. He said it was “Down with the cross, and up with the lion and the dog.” That was the first intimation he had met with of the erection of the royal arms. When he went to visit a church he generally looked for the royal arms, and had found them of every period, from the time of Elizabeth to Victoria, but he had never found any before the time of Elizabeth. As to the present appearance of the church he would not express any opinion. The galleries might be unsightly, but they were sometimes necessary. He was glad to see the fine moulding on the pews. It was done exceedingly well, and gave a very fine appearance to the church. As to the east window, he must confess that he was not disposed to look with favourable eyes upon modern painted glass. The glare was too great, and, generally speaking, they were not well balanced. The east window in this church, however, was one of the best he had seen. Mr. Douglass had reminded him of a promise he made eight years since to put up a window in memory of his great grandfather and of his great uncle. He had not forgotten the promise. He had the cartoons ready, but the manufacturers of the present day were not artists, and he was waiting for better times. He was obliged to Mr. Douglass, however, for reminding him of the promise. The two stone seats in the chancel were for the priest and the deacon. The exterior of the tower was of much interest; it was of the fourteenth century, and was surmounted by a beautiful broach spire, and was all crocketed. The church had been restored in a most excellent manner.

S. MARY'S CHURCH.

The visitors then left the church, and proceeded to the church of S. Mary, which is situated near the railway station, and of which Mr. Bloxam also gave a brief description.

Mr. Bloxam said, the porch was a fourteenth century porch, and was probably built at the same time with the chapel in the
GENERAL MEETING AT MARKET HARBOROUGH.

town. The arch within it was a very fine Norman arch of the twelfth century. The church had been entirely rebuilt, and it was impossible to judge from the porch or the arch as to the original size of the building. It was now used principally as a burial chapel. In the churchyard there was a very curious effigy. The figure was much defaced, but it was an effigy of a lady of the fourteenth century, and belonged to a class which were generally found in the churchyard and not in the church. The figure was clothed with a veil, head dress and gown, with a mantle over it. Many years since, when digging graves, a number of sepulchral urns were found, shewing the site to have been a British settlement before it became (as it is supposed it was afterwards) a Roman encampment. The ground here sloped down, and the settlement was probably on that spot, as they were generally built on rising grounds of that nature.

The site of a Roman encampment was then visited, but of this Mr. Bloxam merely said a few words, as the subject would be fully entered into in a paper that would be read in the evening by Mr. Gatty.

At three o'clock, the Temporary Museum, formed by the Society, was opened in the Corn Exchange. It was unusually rich in valuable and rare antiquities, and works of art; it attracted a vast concourse of people to inspect the treasures exhibited. So numerous were the visitors, that it was found necessary to extend the time allowed for inspection for another day, in order that all who wished might have an opportunity of visiting the exhibition. The following are a few of the articles placed on the table:

Exhibited by the Rev. G. C. Fenwicke, Blaston: Communion Cup, 15th century; Processionale, Sarum, 2 vols., 1555; Manuale, Sarum, 1555; Heures Usage de Lon; Horæ, Sarum, Henry VIII.; Prymer Salisbury, 1557; Psalter, Sarum; Horæ, Sarum, 1555; Exposito Sequentiarum, Sarum; Manipulus Curatorium, 1506; Missale, Sarum, 1509; Horæ, Sarum, 1530; Missale, Sarum, 1554; Missale, Parma, 1626; Missale, Roman, 1483.

By the Rev. C. Spencer and Mrs. Spencer, Benefield: An Alms Bag, in red velvet; an Embroidered Turkish Purse, in red velvet.

By S. Sharp, Esq., F.S.A., Dallington: Worked Flints from the Valley of the Somme, France; Tooth of Elephant, Primogenus or Woolly Elephant, from the Mammalian drift, the bed in which the worked flints are found; eighteen Worked Flints, and two Stone Celts, from Lough Neagh, Ireland, gathered in 1865, by John Evans, Esq., F.R.S.; Stone Celt, from near Towcester; Worked Stag's Horn, from Adstone; two bronze celts from near Peterborough; two Roman imitation gems, Roman enamelled fibula, bird ditto, branch ditto, acorn ditto, five other ditto, one ring, nondescript, one fragment, one wire; one ear-ring, tweezers, nail
cleaner, three keys (one from Northampton), two portions of bracelets, button, link of chain, two stiles, two oz. weight and rings, weight, three bronze fragments, one spoon (Duston), two beads, four fragments of glass, fragment of bone comb, boar's tusk, two cocks' legs, two dibs, iron knife and three iron implements, fragment of pottery—all from Water Newton and Chesterton, near Castor. Forgeries:—Four worked flints large, six ditto smaller, and two cards of ditto; jet seal and rings, Cannel coal seal, two daggers (Thames Embankment), one medallion (Shadwell), photo. of Flint Jack, vase from Misenum, scarabæus, leaden bull of Urban VI., bronze ring (Mater Dolores), Tower ring, gold ring, (Peterborough), two silver rings (Norfolk), two mediaeval seals, badge (Charles II.), Irish fibula. Coins:—Gold coins of Philip of Macedon, ditto of ancient Gaul, copied from the same; ditto British, copied from the last in several receding stages of imitation; ditto Gaulish, ditto; mixed metal coins, imitations of Gaulish and imitations of the Philippi, silver and mixed metal, British and Gaulish coins, bronze wheel money of Ancient Gaul, sixteen coins, thirty coins of Stamford Mint, thirty Roman gold coins, one Mahommedan ditto, three ancient Greek ditto.

By Mrs. Ord, of Langton Hall: Sir Francis Staunton, Lady Staunton, (on panel); Views of Langton Church, Thorpe Langton, and West Langton Hall.

By Rev. T. W. Barlow, Little Bowden: The Four Marys, painted by Annibal Caracci, engraved by Rubens; the Princess Charlotte of Wales, engraved from a painting by Sir Thos. Lawrence; Richard Mowse, M.A., Rector of Little Bowden; modern stoles, for festivals, fasts, and baptism, now used in Little Bowden Church.

By Mr. J. Loveday, Kibworth: Oak pulpit and brass plate from Great Easton Church, eleven pieces of old carved tracery, two old tiles, two newspapers, one gold coin, nine silver ditto, nineteen copper ditto, one knife, one pair of slippers, six old carved bosses from Cossington.

By the Rev. William Monk, F.S.A., rector of Wymington:
Drawings of the parish church of Wymington, Bedfordshire; rubbings of brasses, in the same church, of John Curteys and Albreda his wife, 1391; Lady Margaret Bromflet, 1407; Sir Thomas Bromflet, 1430; John Stokys, rector of Wymington, 1477.

By Edward Fisher, Esq.: Portion of Manuscripts from Marlow Abbey, Bucks.; Pedigree of Rossall family; Deed temp. Queen Ann.

By Rev. H. E. Bullivant, Lubenham: Oil Painting in carved frame; Carved Shield and Head; Stag's Horn; Carved Oak Cabinet; Carved Oak Chest of 13th century; Skeleton of Crocodile's Skull; Sword, Naseby Cannon Ball, three Crimean bullets and shell; Specimen of Mediterranean Cable; Relic; old
hinges and handle; old shoes and buckles; Anatomie of English Nunnery, at Lisbon, 1623; Diodate's Bible; Smetu Prosodia, 1654; a Pectoral Relique; two double pictures, French; Portrait on ivory; Family Arms; three Chinese coins.

By Mr. H. Freestone: Curious Cord Picture; two China plates and teapot; Chinese fan; ladies embroidered cap bag; old church key; Prussian hair cap; old ornaments.

By the Rev. Cave Humphrey: two Bibles, folio; one Bible octavo; one pedigree; one letters patent to appoint High Sheriff, and pipe roll therewith; one old sword; one silver cup, initials M.S.; one seal; one ivory carved card case; family pedigree, commencing 1067, and coming down to about 1772, to the grandfather and grandmother of the exhibitor, the Rev. Cave Humphrey.

By Mr. W. Allen: Two pieces tessellated pavement; three Indian-made elephants; one china teapot; one cream jug; one ancient watch, three polished stones, one old copper jug, one black-letter Bible, two old silver spoons, one Hindoo god, five silver coins, one snuff box, one Roman fibula and ring, one silver sugar tongs, one old almanac, one autograph letter, one case fossils, one case of coins from William I. to Victoria, one case copper, English, Roman, and various silver coins, chiefly foreign; one picture.

By Mr. Richard Slater, Medburn: Fifteen tea cups, sixteen saucers, five basins, two teapots, two plates, four pans, two boxes, one punch ladle, fifteen silver coins, two purses, Breeches Bible.

By Mr. Johnson, Saddington: A glass case, containing a gold ring—Norman French portrait-ring, two hair pins, gold locket, pair of small shoe buckles, three earrings, pair of studs, ivory snuffbox, with portrait.

By Mr. Stevens, Leicester: Six antique rings, by Greek artists, once the property of the Kings of Poland; silver spoon.

By Miss Ward, Saddington: Needlework, 1776; Indian card case.

By J. S. Clarke, Esq., Peatling Parva: Pair of large shoe buckles.

By Mrs. Wood, Saddington: Ivory carving, Chinese fan.

By Mr. W. Johnson, Saddington: Guitar, belonging to the late Lady Bowater; enamelled candlestick.

By Mrs. Thompson, Mowsley: Glass case, containing 113 coins and medals.

By Mr. Hickson, Melton Mowbray: 32 coins and medals, nine impressions of antique seals.

By Mrs. Bickley, Melton Mowbray: Snuffbox.

By H. Goddard, Esq., Leicester: Two Greek vases, 400 to 350 years before Christ; two Majolica plates, fifteenth century; glass Roman vase, two pieces of scented pottery from Chili, gold ring, cat's eye; snuffbox, called Vernic Martin Linear, zig-zag ornament,
French, eighteenth century; print of George Fox, the first Quaker; Daniel Lambert's waistcoat, nine architectural drawings.

By John Hunt, Esq., Naseby: Cannon ball, spur, gunlock, sundial and mariner's compass, box (Oliver Cromwell), Apostle spoons, antique forks (silver), silver buttons and buckles, embossed head of Julius Caesar in leather, ancient key, constable's staff (City of London).

By Mr. Jennings: Echard His. England, 1684; series of photographs of churches in Northampton and Leicestershire; two small Roman urns found at Oundle, Northamptonshire.


By Mr. E. R. Symington: Two cross bows, one clock, one oil painting.

By Mr. W. H. Symington: Collection of china, two daggers.

By Rev. F. Sutton: Illuminated MS., fifteenth century, Italian work; ditto, fourteenth century, French work; ditto, fifteenth century, Flemish work; ditto, fifteenth century, French work; ditto, thirteenth century, English work; ditto, sixteenth century, German work; ditto, eighteenth century, German work; two silver gilt apostle spoons, fifteenth century; four silver gilt spoons, seventeenth century; silver gilt chalice, fifteenth century; silver gilt communion service.


By Captain Knight: Saxon remains, skull of a lady; three fibule, armlet, beads, drinking glass, chatelaines, &c.

By Mr. Bloxam: Celtic.—Celts ancient Irish and two primitive type; two Paalstabs secondary type; two loopholed Celts tertiary type; ancient Celtic bronze dagger; two spear heads, bronze. Roman.—Two small bronze heads, steelyard weights. Mediaeval. Fenestral thurible, fourteenth century; ancient bronze key; broad arrowhead;anelace or dagger, temp. Henry VI.; two long necked spurs, temp. Henry VI.; miniature pistol, temp. Elizabeth; three gunlocks from Naseby Field; drawing, by Sir Thos. Lawrence; portrait of Mr. Rowland Rouse, of Market Harborough; miniature of Mr. Samuel Rouse, of Market Harborough. Autographs.—Napoleon the Great, Duke of Wellington, Lord Nelson, Lord Exmouth, Mr. Pitt, Lord North, Sir Robert Walpole, Turner the Painter, Wilkie, Nichols, &c.

By Sir Wi. de Capel Brooke, Bart.: Portrait of Arthur Brooke, Esq., father of Mrs. Staveley, of Langton; portrait of the Earl of Rockingham; armorial bearings of the Brooke family.
THE TEMPORARY MUSEUM.

By Arthur de Capel Brooke, Esq.—A very costly clock; a series of valuable prints; looking glass of the seventeenth century; ancient screen, &c.

By George Ashby, Naseby: Twelve coins in a case, gold ring, four Naseby cannon balls, helmet, two horns, gun, bullets, tiles, &c., all from Naseby.

By Rev. A. Pownall: Palissy ware, two pieces; fragment of British pottery; earthen jug.

By Mr. Fletcher: Saxon remains.

By Rev. F. Sutton: Small silver gilt portable font.

By Mr. Weatherhead: The Old Newarke wall, Leicester, photographed by Johnson.

By Henry Goddard, Esq.: Several architectural drawings and plans of churches.

By Mr. Bell: Hudibras, 1684, another 1720; John Amos’ Visible World, 1705; Elegantia Poetica, 1679.

By Mr. Betts: Black letter copy of Apocrypha, &c., 1617.


By Rev. M. Osborn: Altar cloth, several photographs.

By Edward Fisher, Esq.: Drawing on panel of Jesus Christ our Lord, from Marlow Abbey; pedigree of Earl Russell; deed of release from Sir Borlase Warren, temp. Q. Anne; several engravings: Lord C. J. Hales, Sir E. Coke, print of Earl of Gainsborough, John Manners.

By Rev. H. Bigge: Bayeux tapestry, an example of the art of embroidery, eleventh century, attributed to Matilda, Queen of William the Conqueror; altar cloth from Rockingham; mat for alms dish, worsted.

By Rev. Thos. Hanbury: The Founder’s Rule of Devotion, a beautiful MS., in folio, with portrait of the Founder of Langton Charity; Hanbury’s Gardening, two vols., folio; Hanbury’s Essay on Planting; Staveley (of Langton) History of the Churches of England; Sermon preached at the First Public Meeting of the Trustees of Hanbury’s Charity, 1767; History of Church Langton, by the Founder; Sermon preached by Mr. Astell, of Hillmorton, in 1775, upon occasion of the meeting of the Langton Trustees in that year.

By Mr. John Thomas: Bible, folio, 1541, ditto, quarto, 1581.

By Mr. Joseph Brown: Paintings of the Duke of Monmouth, Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I., and various other valuable paintings, by Murillo, Jordaens, &c., valuable collection of china.

By Mr. John Painter: Ancient chair, old china, horns, &c.

By Mr. J. H. Clarke: Two Bibles.

By Mr. Lawrence: Needlework, photograph representing the Mariés, two pencil drawings of Harborough Church.

By Mr. Bland: Decorated stick from India, cup and saucer.

By W. H. Gatty, Esq.: Dish of Palissy ware, very beautiful; five guinea gold piece of William III.
By John West, Esq., of Bowden: A valuable collection of coins and tokens.

By Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton: Sulphur casts of seals, rubbings of brasses.

By Rev. C. Smyth, of Woodford: Human Heart found embedded in church wall, portable sundial, bodkin.

By Mr. Brown: Shield and sword, History of Old Testament, 1703, bead picture upon copper (by Mr. Freestone), cap bag and wheel, two china dishes.


By Mr. Law: Photographs of the Northamptonshire churches.

By John G. Bland, Esq., architect: Ten photographs, six architectural plans of churches, photograph of Auch Green Church.

By Mr. Sulley: Portrait of Fleetwood Dormer, by Sir Peter Lely; portrait of Sir Benjamin Franklin; the Fish Market, by Schneider; St. John, by Wyatt; three pictures; Holy Bible, 1634, folio; Breeches ditto, 1608, quarto; Fuller's Holy War, 1640; Josephus; flask, from Naseby.


By Mrs. Arthur de Capel Brooke: Valuable clock, with chimes, &c.

By Mr. Drake, of Uppingham: Twenty-two fine photographs of churches and gentlemen's seats in Northamptonshire and Rutland.

By Mr. W. Shaw: Folio of ancient maps.

By Rev. J. H. Hill: Engravings of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria: these were bought at Naseby twenty-five years ago, and had been in Naseby Vicarage for a succession of years previous to that period; mezzotint likeness of the founder of Langton Charity.

By Mr. Jennings: A collection of beautiful photographs, a photograph of the Rev. W. Hanbury, founder of Langton Charities.

By Mr. Allen: Two cases of coins, containing other valuable articles.

By Mr. Symington: Stoup from Sulby Abbey, rubbings of Rothwell brasses, brass figure found six feet deep in Market Harborough street.

By Mrs. Tite: Sword found in a wall at Naseby, with a saw back; Chinese shoe.

By Mr. Smith: Collection of china, coins, including a penny of King Canute, coined in Leicester.

By Mr. H. Martin: Two horseshoes, temp. Charles I.

By Mr. Jenning: Three Roman coins found at Oundle.

By Mr. Charles Monson: Eighteen photographs taken in Northamptonshire.

By Thomas Heygate, Esq.: Set of china.

By J. E. Wetherhead, Esq.: Two plates of bronze antiquities.
At 5.45 p.m., there was an Ordinary at the Angel Hotel, when about ninety ladies and gentlemen sat down to dinner. At 8.0 o'clock punctually the Evening

PUBLIC MEETING

Was opened by Sir Wm. de Capel Brooke, Baronet, taking the chair, and calling upon Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., to read his Paper

ON SOME OF THE SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

The study of the sepulchral monuments and effigies contained in our churches is one replete with information and instruction. Whether regarded as relics of family antiquity, as memorials of those who flourished in many a past age, in their own generation honoured and respected, but now, except for these records, almost, if not altogether, unnoticed and forgotten; or, as reminiscences of the last six centuries, exhibiting, in language not to be misunderstood, the gradual changes which have taken place in the social condition of the nobles, the clergy, and the gentry of the country,—they are aids to historic research which can hardly be dispensed with. Regarding them in another point of view, we trace through them the incipiency, the rise, the progress, the decadence, the various changes in sculptured art, and, both in design and execution, of architectural detail. Independent of those worthies of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the architects and sculptors of consummate taste and skill, who have left their works, but not their names, behind them, we connect the later period with some of the great names in our country we love to reverence, and who have left the impress of their minds in marble,—of Torregiano, Nicholas Stone, Fanelli, Bernini, Grinling Gibbons, Rysbrack, Roubliac, Bacon, Banks, Nollekens, and last, not least, of Flaxman, not to mention names of living worth. Their works are not confined to cathedral and large churches. In many a retired village church we meet with works of the highest interest in sculpture, in costume, in architectural detail. Even on that vexata questio "De Re Vestiarid," as much mooted perhaps at the present day as it was three centuries ago, how much light can be thrown by an examination of the sepulchral effigies of the clergy of the different grades, episcopal or otherwise, of the post Reformation period, taken in conjunction with other historic records. I do not, however, propose to enter, not here at least, on a question on which so much contention has arisen. If I allude to it again, it will be with no party feeling, but simply, incidentally, and by way of explanation.
Time is of importance, I shall, therefore, now descant, and that as briefly as possible, on some few only of the monumental remains in this county.

Of the more ancient Celtic sepulchral monuments I know of none in this county. In Charnwood Forest there may be one or more of the ancient pillar stones, Maen hir, the most ancient form of sepulchral monument we possess, like that described in Holy Writ, rough, unlettered, and unhewn, but none such have hitherto, to my knowledge, been noticed or described. Nor can I point out any sepulchral monument of the Roman era, although Leicester was a Roman city, and we might reasonably have looked for such in or near its precincts. Again, of the Roman British, of the Anglo-Saxon, and of the Norman eras, I have been unable to discover any sepulchral monument within this county.

At some future period, some such, or the fragments of such, may be brought to light, buried in the foundations of some of those numerous churches in this county, which appear to have been reedified in that remarkable church-building age in this district, the fourteenth century.

There is not, to my knowledge, any wooden sepulchral effigy in this county, although in the neighbouring counties of Northampton and Rutland there are several.

The earliest sepulchral effigies in this county I can bring to your notice are of the middle of the thirteenth century.

In Tilton Church are two early effigies of this period, representing, as Wyrley, an heraldic antiquary in the reign of Elizabeth, who took notes of the monuments in some of the Leicestershire churches, tells us—Sir John Digby, Knight, who died A.D. 1269, and Arabella, his wife, daughter of Sir William Harcourt. The first of these effigies Wyrley describes as "Imago hominis cum crure super crurem hoc inscriptione.

† 'Iehan de Digby gist ici praiies pur lui':

"Et hoc scuto quoque super brachium. Azure, a fleur de lis argent, with a sun and moon."

I have personally examined this effigy, and it agrees with the date assigned to it by Wyrley. It is the recumbent effigy of a knight clad in a hawberk or coat of mail with a sleeveless surcoat over, with the right hand represented grasping a sword. A long heater-shaped shield—the length of the shield on these effigies is indicative of greater or less antiquity, and ought, therefore, always to be noticed—three feet in length, is attached to the arm. This is charged with a fleur de lis. Rowelled spurs are affixed to the heels. At the feet is represented a lion, with the fore paws on a man's head. There is nothing particular to notice in this effigy. The details of armour have probably been painted, and are now worn away. The legs are crossed. This figure has been sculptured
with the taste and artistic skill prevalent in the then rising school of art. The surface is now somewhat abraded, and the paint with which it was formerly covered entirely worn off or removed.

But with respect to the Lady, the effigy of whom is described by Wyrley as "Mausoleum quoddam Dominae cujus toga ornatur his notis gentilitii ut hic notavi. On the upper garment, fleurs de lis; on the inner, or, two bars, three crosslets; in chief, gules, Harcourt."

These charges are now obliterated, the paint has disappeared, and, like the other effigy, the surface is abraded.

This lady appears clad in a gown, with close fitting sleeves buttoned to the wrists, the "manice botonate;" over this gown is worn a mantle very tastefully disposed. On the head is a veil, whilst in the left hand is held a scroll, hanging down in front, which formerly bore an inscription painted upon it, but this is now obliterated. It is this scroll which renders this effigy more than usually interesting, and one of an extremely rare class, as I only know of three others. These are—the effigy in the west front of Rochester Cathedral, of the twelfth century, representing the queen of Henry the First; the sepulchral effigy of a lady holding a child, in Scariscliffe Church, Derbyshire; and the sepulchral effigy of a lady, in Bedale Church, Yorkshire. These two latter effigies are of the thirteenth century, and all three are thus represented holding scrolls.

There is another interesting effigy in Tilton Church, of the same family, Digby, with certain peculiarities of detail, but, as it is of a much later date, I shall allude to it presently.

There are scattered about the country in different churches certain sepulchral effigies, which, as a class, have not hitherto met with that particular notice they deserve. These effigies are those of civilians represented in their ordinary every-day habit, as worn by civilians or frankeleins in the fourteenth century. Now, although we find the same arrangement of vestments repeated over and over again in the sculptured effigies of ecclesiastics, the same details and arrangement of armour, differing, indeed, in successive ages, of knights, the details of the same dress applicable at the same time to ladies, I have not found in the sculptured effigies of civilians of the fourteenth century any that resemble each other so closely in costume, as with regard to clerical vestment, or the armour of knights, or the dresses of ladies; and, therefore, when I meet with any effigy of this peculiar class, I am particular in noting the precise articles of dress, and how worn. Of this class of effigies there are several examples in this county, perhaps as many as in any county. These I shall now proceed to notice.

In Sibson Church there is an interesting sepulchral effigy of this class, probably of the rebuilders of the church, and apparently of the first half of the fourteenth century. Over the head is a pedimental canopy, crocketted externally, and finished with a finial.
Beneath this is a pointed arch, which has, to all appearance, been foliated, but the foliations have been destroyed. Below this canopy, forming part of the sepulchral slab, is the recumbent effigy of a civilian. His head reposes on a lozenge-shaped pillow, supported by two mutilated figures of angels. The head is bare, with curly, flowing locks. The person represented is habited in a long coat or gown—the "tunica talaris"—with somewhat loose sleeves, reaching midway between the elbows and wrists; from these issue the close-fitting sleeves of the "Cote-hardy" or inner vest. Covering the breast and shoulders, but not the head, is the capucium or hood. The feet rest against some animal, now too mutilated to pronounce upon, whilst the hands conjoined together on the breast, or nearly so, are holding a heart.

Effigies of the fourteenth century are often represented holding a heart between the hands, and this was either in allusion to that saying of the prophet in the Book of Lamentations, "Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in the heavens," or to that expression in the Eucharistic service, both of the old and reformed Ritual, "Sursum corda, habemus ad dominum"—"Lift up your hearts: we left them up unto the Lord."

In the church of Sheepy, not far from Sibson, was formerly the recumbent effigy of a civilian of this period, the fourteenth century. This, in some recent alterations, was removed out of the church—a movement to be regretted if we consider, as we fairly may, this to be the effigy of the rebuilder of the church—and placed under a low segmental arch, constructed for the purpose, in the basement of the west wall of the tower, so as to render the effigy somewhat difficult of minute examination, and yet render it liable to the deteriorating influences of the weather.

It represents a man habited in a long gown, tunic, or coat, with close-fitting sleeves, and a mantle or cloak worn over the back, descending downwards not quite so low as the gown. The head is not bare, but covered with the capucium or hood; the hands are conjoined on the breast, holding a heart between them; at the feet are the mutilated remains of some animal, and on each side of the head are some slight architectural details. This effigy is of stone, and in high relief, but somewhat rude and formal in execution.

In Peckleton Church, under an arch in the south wall of the chancel, is the recumbent effigy of a civilian of the fourteenth century. This, from the nature of the material—a kind of blue lias stone—is much deteriorated, and is covered with limewash, which peels off in flakes. The features of the face are obliterated, but the head is bare. The personage represented is habited in a long gown or coat, the tunica talaris, with close-fitting sleeves; the hands are conjoined on the breast as in prayer, the feet rest against a mutilated animal, and the head reposes on a lozenge-shaped pillow. There are other effigies in this church of interest of the fourteenth century,
SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

a knight and his lady, but they appear to be little regarded. Many of the minute details are concealed by coats of whitewash. The material is of a blue lias-like stone, much deteriorated with age; and all these effigies require careful cleansing and attention.

In the ancient chantry chapel of the Turvile family, on the north side of Thurlaston Church, are some most interesting monumental effigies. When I first visited this church, some five-and-thirty years ago, this chapel was blocked out from the church, and the windows were also blocked up, so that I could only examine the monuments by candle light; the nave was of brick, I think, with plain palladian windows, rebuilt in the latter part of the last century in the "style of the time," the whole of the church being in a most deplorable, neglected, and dilapidated condition.

When I visited this church on Monday last, the 18th of June, I found the nave entirely rebuilt in the Decorated style, at very considerable expense, and the whole church in complete order; the chantry chapel of the Turvile family, and in which so many of that family had been buried being, as many ancient chantry chapels were, private property, had, as I was informed, been purchased by the rector, and now constitutes part of the church, the monuments therein of great interest being preserved and kept as they ought to be.

Two only of the sepulchral effigies I shall proceed to describe. The first, executed in a warm-coloured, durable stone, like that of Mansfield Woodhouse, is of a civilian of the fourteenth century. He is represented bare-headed; the *capucium* or hood is folded over the breast and shoulders. The body habit consists of a long super-tunic or sidegown, with loose sleeves reaching to the elbows, and oval-shaped slits or pocket-holes on the sides, disclosing the inner tunic, coat, or vest, which was belted round. From beneath the sleeves of the super-tunic appear the close-fitting sleeves of the tunic. The hands repose on the breast, holding between them a heart; at the feet is a mutilated animal, perhaps a dog.

The dress of this worthy would come under the description we sometimes find in ancient wills—"*Tunica et supertunica cum caputio.*" Under a sepulchral ogee-shaped arch in the north wall of this chantry chapel appears the effigy of a civilian of the fourteenth century, probably, from the position it occupies, that of the founder of the chantry. From the perishable nature of the material, that, like the effigies at Peckleton, of a kind of blue lias, this effigy is not so perfect as could be wished. It represents one bare-headed, with a fillet round the head, clad in a tunic belted about the waist and extending to the knees; the lower part of the legs are gone, but the cross-legged attitude is very apparent, a most singular instance, as I know only of one other example of a civilian being thus represented—an effigy in Much Marcle Church, Herefordshire. The feet rest against a lion, and the hands are joined together
on the breast. I consider this to be the effigy of one of the cruce signati, or those who contributed in money to pilgrimages made to the Holy Land.

I now come to a curious, and what I believe to be a perfectly unique, sepulchral effigy. This is in the church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where, under a depressed ogee arch, cinque-foiled within, is the recumbent effigy of a personage evidently of rank, habited in the garb of a pilgrim. Some years ago my late friend, the Rev. John Morewood Gresley, whose recent loss must be felt by this Society, as it unfeignedly is by myself, drew up, in conjunction with myself, a long and illustrative account of this effigy, which was printed under the "Description of a Monumental Effigy in the Parish Church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch." This account may, probably, be possessed by some of the members of this Society. I shall, therefore, treat of this effigy very briefly.

This pilgrim is represented as habited in the Sclavine, the peculiar garb of pilgrims, a kind of loose over-robe, supertunic, or gown, reaching nearly to the ankles, with short and loose open sleeves falling over the shoulder to a little below the elbows. From beneath these sleeves appear the full sleeves of the inner vest or tunic extending to the wrists. On the feet are worn short boots pointed at the toes, and loosely laced in the front a little above the instep. Partly hidden by the head, neck, and right shoulder, appears the pilgrim's broad-brimmed hat, with an escallop or cockle shell upon it. The palmer's scrip or bag is suspended on the left side by a narrow belt crossing diagonally over the right shoulder; and under the left hand appears the bourdon or pilgrim's staff. I do not enter at length into the description of this effigy, having already done so in the printed account I have alluded to, and which is now before me; but I may observe that, of the Apostles, the conventional garb of St. James, as represented in mediaeval sculpture, or carving, is that of a pilgrim in the Sclavine, and escalloped hat, with the scrip and bourdon. He is so represented in a small figure at the end of one of the stalls in Rothwell Church, Northamptonshire. Many other instances might be adduced, as that on the orphrey of a cope on a fine sepulchral brass at Bottesford, in this county, to which I shall shortly have to allude.

This effigy at Ashby-de-la-Zouch I take to be of the early part of the fifteenth century. From the collar of SS round the neck it is evident that it represents some person of rank and importance.

I must now return to Tilton Church, to an effigy in plate armour, the details of which I shall not enter into, but representing one of the Digby family, the father, indeed, of Sir Everard Digby, who was implicated in the Gunpowder Plot; but the peculiarity here consists, not in the effigy itself, but in having a tilting targe or shield affixed to the left arm, with the bouche or rest for the tilting lance. This was long after the fashion of representing shields on effigies had
ceased; and as shields in the time of this worthy were not worn in actual warfare, I look on its introduction here as a singular but fanciful conceit.

Of the sepulchral effigies of ecclesiastics, there is, I think, in Leicestershire, only one of episcopal rank—that of Bishop Penny, in St. Margaret's Church, Leicester. There is nothing peculiar in this effigy, which is of somewhat late date, with this exception, that one of the episcopal vestments, the Dalmatic, which was worn over the tunic, is not apparent.

Effigies of priests, sculptured or incised in brass or alabaster, are not rare, and are represented in the usual vestments worn at the celebration of mass. There are, however, two incised effigies in brass, which require notice. The first is one in the church of Bottesford, in this county. This, I must confess, I have not yet seen, and, for my description, can only refer to the engraving in Nichols' Leicestershire. This effigy is of Henry de Codyngton, formerly rector of Bottesford, and prebendary of Ortown and Crop-hill, in the Collegiate Church of Southwell. He died in the year 1404, and is here represented in his canonical habit, consisting of the surplice, almucium, aumasse, or furred tippet, and "cope."

The orphreys of the latter exhibit figures of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, St. James of Compostella, as he was called, in the garb of a pilgrim; St. Michael, St. Catherine, and a bishop. The cope was the processional habit or vestment. In the church of Sibson is a very fine and interesting effigy of a prebendary, who is also represented in his canonical habit. He appears in the cassock or long side gown, the ordinary everyday dress of the clergy. Over this is worn the choral habit, the surplice, with long loose sleeves; and over the shoulders, and hanging down in front, is worn the ancient almucium or fur tippet of the canons ecclesiastical. This is singularly represented by sheet lead. The personage here commemorated is John Moore, priest and rector of the parish church of Sibson, and also prebendary of Osmonderley. He died in 1532.

The canonical habit in which he is represented is a late example of the pre-Reformation period. The surplice was the habit inveighed against by Bishop Hooper, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, as the "white vestiment," and the surplice and tippet fell under the ban of the Puritan clergy early in the reign of Elizabeth, when, in 1564, commenced the celebrated vestiarian controversy of the sixteenth century, a full and unbiassed account of which is a desideratum, and has yet to be written.

From the fifteenth to the seventeenth century we have effigies representing the body nude and emaciated, skeleton forms, the lively image of death, and figures in winding sheets, apparelled as for burial. In the seventeenth century the sculptured effigies of the last are generally well executed, and are represented either in a recum-
bent or upright position, enveloped more or less in the burial shroud, tied round about the head and below the feet.

In Frolesworth Church we have an instance of such an effigy represented recumbent on a high tomb, enveloped in the shroud, with the face only visible. This commemorates Mrs. Frances Staresmore, wife of Francis Staresmore, Lord of that Manor, of an ancient family, tracing descent from the reign of Henry the Third. This lady died in 1657, and this monument was erected in 1658. The sepulchral effigy of her husband, clad in armour, is on the opposite side of the chancel.

The effigy, in the habiliments of the grave, of Mrs. Frances Staresmore is sculptured in alabaster, and I can trace the hand and execution of the same artist on another monument, containing no less than three effigies and two bustos, in Whissendine Church, in this county.

With a rich store of materials still unused, I must now conclude, for I have adduced but few only of the sepulchral effigies in this county, and I have not at all descanted upon the architectural features of the monuments, themselves differing much and varied in design. But whether two or six centuries old, the language each and all speak is unmistakeable, though perhaps more vividly depicted by the last effigy described.

"Let no man slight his mortality."

The Rev. George Ayliffe Poole was next requested to read his Paper upon

THE LANGTON CHURCHES AND CHARITIES;

Which that gentleman proceeded to do as follows:

I have been asked by the Leicestershire Architectural Society to read a Paper at the present meeting; and remembering how great an interest I took in them long ago, and knowing also that their present condition and prospects give them just now a peculiar claim on our attention, I have chosen the Langton Churches, and, as necessarily connected with them, the Langton Charities, as my subject.

The Langton Churches are three in number, or four, counting the new church of Tur Langton, not yet consecrated.

Tur Langton

Is a very small, and in its present condition, a very rude church; it has, however, in its Norman chancel, traces of greater antiquity than either of the others. The nave, with its bell gable, is Decorated.
Having for seven centuries (but for some generations very inadequately) served its purpose, this church is at length doomed. Even its site (and a very pretty site it is) will be deserted. But let me urge a plea for leaving, at least, the bell gable to the slow decay of time; and might not the bell, which has called people together for so many generations, be placed in a separate gable in the new church, and be used still to ring the last summons to daily prayer?

THE NEW CHURCH AT TUR LANGTON,

Now nearly finished, is a very good building of ornamental brickwork, with white stone dressings, with a lofty spire, of Early English character, and, so far as I am entitled to express a judgment, most creditable to the architects,* and most satisfactory to all interested in its happy completion.

Next to Tur Langton in antiquity is

THORPE LANGTON,

One of the best small churches in the neighbourhood, and one which will most amply repay its contemplated restoration. The very pretty tower and spire are Early English (about 1240). This, of course, indicates the existence of a church here already, though it tells little of its character. The rest of the church is Decorated, commenced not long after the completion of the spire, and carried on contemporaneously, as it seems to me, with the aisles of Church Langton, to which we come presently. At the restoration of the roof, in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, the chancel arch was removed, and a Perpendicular clerestory carried from the tower to the east end. This is the greatest blot in the present character of the church.

The font is extremely elegant, and groups most happily with the pillar against which it stands, and with which it is nearly contemporaneous. The base of the rood screen, the pulpit, and the chancel seats are Perpendicular. In the nave are some Jacobean seat ends. One would like them to be preserved, though they can hardly be used in the restoration.

CHURCH LANGTON.

Our work culminates in the finest and most beautiful village church, so far as I know, in the county.

In 1320 there was a dispute concerning the advowson of Langton between Nicholas and John de Latimer, joint lords of the manor, which was amicably settled. I am disposed to think that

* Messrs. Goddard and Son, of Leicester.
the oldest existing portion of the church is to be referred to this pair of pugnacious but placable brothers. In each of the nave aisles, which are of about the date above mentioned, there is a sepulchral recess, marking most clearly the tombs of founders of chapels in these aisles, and which I should assign to these brothers. Certainly the aisles were commenced during the lifetime of the two, and finished before the death of one of them; for John died in 1324, whereas Nicholas was living in 1347, by which last date even the latest window at present existing was probably finished. If the longer life indicates the founder of the aisle which on the whole seems the latest, Nicholas was the builder of the south aisle and of the porch.

The work of the chancel was taken up just as that of the aisles was finished. It is Decorated throughout, except that the east window is Perpendicular: a very common case, which may be taken to indicate that the work, begun at the close of the Decorated era, was continued in the next style. There was, therefore, towards the close of the fourteenth century a large Decorated church, of which the present chancel and nave aisles indicate the proportions.

But the chancel was scarcely finished when the tower and the nave seemed insignificant in comparison with the rest, so they were entirely rebuilt. They most certainly stand as examples, both practically and architecturally, of church architecture. The tower, moreover, holds a special place in the ecclesiology of the district. It is the typical example of a large group of towers and spires which agree with it in certain marked features, not found together, so far as I know, elsewhere.

These are Brampton, Desborough, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussel, Theddingworth, South Kilworth, Welford, Winwick, Hazlebeech, Arthingworth, and Stanion, together with Fotheringay, which I mention last, for a reason which will appear presently. These all agree in having shallow pilaster-like buttresses clasping the angles, instead of being set on in pairs or diagonally. These buttresses terminate about the middle of the belfry stage. They have, besides, good, sometimes remarkably good, west windows, excellent belfry windows, sometimes in pairs, very \textit{prononcé} gargiles, and very fine nave arches. There is, however, with this general resemblance no want of variety in design, and where there are spires the difference between them is very great. South Kilworth, Kelmarsh, Desborough, and Theddingworth are about as different as any spires you can well remember.

Of all these towers, Church Langton is by far the finest; indeed, it rises quite into rivalry with the noble Norfolk towers, such as Happisborough and South Repps. It would be, of course, an interesting discovery if we could attribute these towers to any particular master-mason; and I think, with the help of that of Fotheringay, I shall be able to do this. About the year 1424, the
Duke of York covenanted with William Harwood, freemason, of Fotheringay, to build a nave and tower to the church in that place; and this tower has precisely the same buttresses which I have described, though the octagon with which the tower is surmounted gives a very different character to the whole. Now, I think William Harwood is the designer of this series of towers, or, at least, the originator of the type which they all follow; but whether they precede or follow Fotheringay—the only dated example—it would be difficult to say. Judging from their style, I should surmise that Harwood's engagement at Fotheringay was due to the reputation he had gained by Church Langton and the rest; for, judging from their character alone, I should place these at the close of the fourteenth century. The nave is equally admirable with the tower, and may be considered the work of the same architect. It was the peculiar character of this nave, light and open, wide and lofty, crying out for a less cold and dreary service than was common in those days, but which we will hope shall be henceforth impossible, which led nearly a hundred years ago to the magnificent schemes of restoration and decoration, which are now at last not unworthily, though certainly not fully, carried out. In 1753, when the interest of the church had slept for two hundred years, William Hanbury, then twenty-five years of age, was instituted on his own petition, to the rectory of Church Langton. This singular man was an antiquarian, an architecturist, an ecclesiologist, a campanologist, an ardent lover and cultivator of church music, and a learned ritualist, at a time when a man with the spirit of any one of these was a curiosity. I am not afraid to say that he anticipated in his own person much of the study, and even of the work of our present heraldic, architectural, ecclesiological, and choral societies, and that in a most tasteless and anti-ecclesiological age; and if I must admit, at the same time, that some of his plans would not now pass muster with our most critical societies, it is only admitting that he, single and unassisted, did not effect, a hundred years ago, what a whole generation has since effected, with all the stimulus and help of societies, and pleasant gatherings, and cheerful and well directed excursions. If he could but have lived into this time, I doubt whether any of us would have hesitated to doff our hats to William Hanbury as the Coryphaeus of our party. His first thought, on coming to his cure, was to decorate his church. "When," says he, "I found the church so fine and noble a room, my design was to decorate it." But as he was without adequate private means, and as it would have been in vain for a church restorer and beautifier to ask for help, or even for sympathy,—and as bazaars, with all their humbug and buffoonery, with all their vanity and vexation of spirit, as yet were not, he had to weave the web of his designs out of materials furnished by his own ingenuity.

The plan which he adopted was very characteristic. From a
child he had been very fond of planting and gardening, and soon after his institution to Langton he had brought extensive gardens and plantations at Gumley and Tur Langton to great perfection. His stock was worth about £10,000, when he determined to associate with himself twenty-three other gentlemen, most of them of wealth and weight in the neighbourhood, and who actually consented to co-operate with him in proposals which may be briefly stated as follow:—

The trees and plants to be advertised and sold annually; and if the money arising from the sale amounted to £1500, the interest to be applied to the decoration of the church of Langton, and to the support of an organist and schoolmaster.

If the fund should ever amount to £4000, an hospital to be founded at Langton.

When it reached £10,000, schools to be erected in other places also, and advowsons of livings to be purchased; not, however, be it noted, with any sectarian object, but "to give encouragement to virtue, by providing for clergymen of uprightness and integrity,—men that are true to every just and honest cause; in short, such men as act up to every principle of Christian obedience."

He himself specifies the following decorations for Langton church:—An organ for the west end, as good and large as the church will admit, with a gallery on each side; new pewing and a handsome corona before the pulpit; a pavement of black and white stone before the altar; altar rails of iron and mahogany, or, instead of rails, altar steps; the table marble, and a marble altar piece of four marble Corinthian pillars, with a picture of our blessed Saviour either carrying his cross, as in Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, or hanging thereon; three bells to be added to the five; a new clock and chimes, with an index facing the parsonage-house. Such were the comparatively modest beginnings of a plan which assumed afterwards most gigantic proportions.

He did not, however, overlook other means of recruiting his resources besides planting and gardening. He proposed the erection of a house of refreshment in the gardens at Gumley, where "polite liquors" may be sold. He provided for the performance of a Te Deum in the church on September 26th, the day of the general annual meeting of his Society; persons to be admitted by tickets given to everybody, "even to those whom there is no possibility of attending, with a hint that, though they cannot come, yet as a collection is to be made at the church door, if they choose to send their blessing it will be accepted with thanks." The names and gifts of benefactors were to be enrolled in three large books, with something said to endear their pious memory to posterity; and, in short, everything was done to induce people to pour their gifts into this "lap of charity."

But his greatest hopes as a subsidiary source of income were
placed in a series of musical services and oratorios, which grew (for nothing stood still with him) out of his service at the annual meeting. For the first of these, to be held in Langton Church, he made extraordinary preparations. His organ, the first actual installment of his church decorations, was now (i.e., in 1757) completed, and he had erected a huge gallery to accommodate such an orchestra as was never before seen in a village church. His gardens were in full beauty, and crowds flocked to Langton in expectation of a double feast of eye and ear. All sorts of reports were circulated, which he seems to have heard with scarcely disguised satisfaction. Some said the last judgment was to be acted. Some that he was going to set up "The Pretender." Others that the Duke of Cumberland was to be there; and a "real squire" came on purpose to see Duke William, whom, indeed, he may very probably have seen if the so-called Pretender had been expected. The organ pipes had been taken, when brought to the church, for artillery and small arms; and a muster of militia seems to have been the least thing that was anticipated. The crowd grew beyond all calculation. Provisions were nearly trebled in price. Harborough was so crowded that dukes and lesser nobles were forced to sleep where they could, instead of where they would. The roads rattled with the sound of horses and carriages. The flag was hoisted on the tower; but there being a brisk gale, though the weather was very fine, it blew to pieces in a few minutes, the painter having loaded it with seventy-two pounds of paint. The crowd in the church was so dense that "a boy was fairly squeezed up, and walked upon the heads of the people; and such outrages were made by the fatter part of the rabble, that few could attend to what the band was doing. It pleased them, however. A young lady came with a servant on horseback, and offered twenty guineas to any one who could procure her admittance, but in vain." Perhaps you will not be surprised at the avowal,—"who this lady was I could never learn."

The first day's performance (for we can hardly call it a service) comprised a grand Te Deum and Jubilate, with suitable anthems. When the occasional oratorio was commenced, most of the people were struck into seeming statues, thinking the day of judgment was come indeed. The more judicious, however, were very differently affected, and at the Te Deum their rapture and devotion were raised to such a height, that they declared it was a heaven on earth. Many bent their heads to conceal their tears, till they became aware that all around were affected alike; but they were unanimous in the opinion that "if one part was more solemn than another, it was the striking off of the great chorus, "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth," at the offering of the deed of trust, which yet was but an empty oblation, for it had not arrived in time to be duly signed, and on examination it turned out to be altogether different from
the instructions which the founder had given, and so, though offered in due form, it was never executed. The Messiah, on the following day, seemed to be the repetition of a like triumph: but, alas: when the receipts of both days were summed up, they did but just clear the expenses, and as for the collection at the doors, it was so small that it was not thought prudent to publish its amount. It must have been worth something, however, to watch the various manoeuvres of those who would not give. Some gave half-pence,—one gentleman dropped in a farthing, as a token of his contempt. One lady had had a bad run at cards. A gentleman, whose daughter had been lately married to a lord, came to the front door, then to the chancel door, and so to the back aisle and to the steeple door, but was everywhere repulsed by the apparition of a trustee, with a collecting box; so returning to the south door, he waited till he could burst out with a greater crowd than usual. I wonder whether Mr. Hanbury thought of this scene when he received a letter, not long after, from the Bishop of Sodor and Man (which, by the way, must have been exceedingly gratifying to him, in which the bishop said of certain charities, they “are supported by voluntary collections, especially at the sacramental offertory, to which the whole congregation contribute, as well those who do not, as those who stay at the communion, which I think a very commendable custom.”

Next year two days' festival, and the year after three days' festival, produced no better results. But at Leicester he realised about £100, in 1762. At Nottingham, in 1763, he asked in vain for the use of the principal church: “the theatre, however,” says Mr. Hanbury, “was very commodious and proper for our purpose, though I cannot but take notice of the good will of the Presbyterians, who, upon hearing the churches were denied to us, convened a body of their elders, and with one consent, agreed to offer us their meeting-house; but upon the news being brought them that the theatre was engaged, dropped their intended proposal. The doors were no sooner opened but the ladies thronged in very fast, and notwithstanding we had so strong a guard, we found we had difficulty in receiving them fast enough. In less than a minute (every lady exerting herself to be first) the crowding at the door was so violent, that all order was by this time destroyed. The constables used their utmost endeavours, by crossing their staves, &c., and we were forced all to assist them in repelling what I believe was never heard of before: a powerful, polite, female mob,—a mob of ladies. [Those who are in the habit of attending the Queen’s drawing-rooms have seen many such since.] Our assistance, however, was in vain, for in a few seconds they bore away four constables, with their staves, three or four porters, besides four gentlemen, who used all their strength and skill to keep them out.”
Owing to certain misadventures, which I cannot stay to recount, this oratorio was so disastrous in its whole course that Mr. Hanbury was sickened of oratorios for ever. But by this time it had become apparent that the opposition to his schemes from his trustees was so great that the whole must be given up or re-modelled. He was, no doubt, very well pleased that the proposed trust deed was not executed; that, in fact, no trust could be said to have been set on foot. It was in 1767 that he gathered around him eleven men, most of them farmers in his own parish, and, by a succession of deeds legally executed, constituted them trustees of his various charities. But we shall be mistaken if we imagine that his plans had dwindled under adverse circumstances. The contrary will appear from the very titles of some of the deeds by which the particular parts of his charity were directed: such as schools for ever; organs for ever; beef for ever; deeds for library, for picture gallery, for printing office, for the hospital; for the professorship of grammar, of music, of botany, of mathematics, of antiquity, of poetry.

The church, however, or minster, as he called it, and that most appropriately, for it was to be the church of a body of chaplains and choristers, was the great object of his care. For this he gave most minute instructions. It was to be a Greek cross in plan, each arm, exclusive of towers and porches, 110 yards in length; nave, 120 feet wide, 153 feet high; lantern tower, 453 feet high; and east and west steeples, 399 feet high; all other parts of a proportionate size. In short, it was to be so constructed that it was, in magnificence and grandeur, to exceed all others, and become, not only the principal ornament of the county, but an honour to the island, and a suitable minster for the extensive charity of which it was to be the head. The floors and pillars of marble, and the finest marble, porphyry and jasper for the choir and high altar; the vaulting of stone, curiously painted; the columns, "light, free, and easy;" the windows the grandest that could be devised. To the church was to be added a splendid range of public buildings. In the town, which was to repose under the shadow of his minster, were to be "two pompous inns"—an item which, in its grandiose language, aptly represents his magnificent designs. William of Wykeham, with his Winchester College and New College, and restored cathedral, and costly works in fifty other places, was as nothing to him. Lorenzo de Medici was not the Magnificent, in comparison. In short, his plans exceeded any dream, even of Pugin, in number and splendour; and yet it is perfectly clear that he did actually contemplate them as finished in due course of time, not without praise and happiness to himself in the anticipation, but above all to the glory of God, and to the good of his fellow creatures.

One is absolutely bewildered by the vastness of his designs, nor could I give any adequate idea of them without presenting a
voluminous abstract of the minutes of the meetings of trustees, at which they were all formally announced by the founder, and as formally adopted. The whole scheme was the most wonderful compound of patience and self-denial, with self-gratification and confidence in the result, that we can possibly conceive. And little as I shall be able to convey this impression by a few extracts, I pledge my word that those who will really look into his plan and its details with care, will find in it no little calculation, wisdom, and forethought. You must bear with me if I fortify my opinion with a few extracts. He proposes—“To invite the most able architects to exhibit models for the church and public buildings, pay them well for their trouble, and appoint a committee of approved judges to assist in determining the best.” Have we not here a plan of competition, guarded against its usual defects? “To petition Parliament to be empowered to form a canal from Stamford to Harborough, and thence to Oxford Cut, for the carriage of materials, &c.” “To purchase the stone quarries of Ketton and Weldon, should they be to be sold, or land in these or other parishes in which there is a probability of getting suitable stone.”

Every item of expense he calculated with at least sufficient precision to prove that he knew very well how vast a cost he was incurring; and again and again such notes as this indicate the care with which he formed his estimates:—“Under the floor of York Cathedral are laid three rows of bricks, one on another, consisting of 1,700,000, to keep it dry, &c. We may suppose 2,000,000 will be about sufficient for Church Langton, which, at £1 per 1,000, would cost £2,000.”

Again, though I must cut his reasoning very short, “the grand Church of the Escorial cost 1,200,000 ducats. This may encourage the trustees who might think the building of so pompous and magnificent a church beyond any estimate, and a thing that could never be accomplished.” Then he instances St. Paul’s, and gives very shrewd reasons for assuming that a private undertaking will be carried on at a vastly less comparative cost than a public work. But perhaps his most practical and judicious arrangement was the bringing together of samples of various kinds of stone and marble, with the qualities and prices and other conditions of each duly recorded. In this way he gives the necessary information about Tadcaster stone, from which York Minster is built; Ketton, Weldon, Helmsley, Purbeck, and Portland stone, with several notes about the stone from other quarries; and he gives samples with the prices in block and in slab of fifteen kinds of native and foreign marble, with sufficient mention of their qualities and appearance. By way of example, let us take his notes on the samples of Portland stone, and of blue granite (by no means the most elaborate):—

“Portland stone.—The prices there in the block are 12s., 14s., or 15s. a ton, delivered on board. A ton is 16 cubic feet. Any
quantity may be had for 12s. a ton in the block, though they usually charge 14s., 16s., or 18s. for columns of very large magnitude."

"Blue granite.—They say this is not a dear stone in the block, but it is so hard that the cutting comes to half-a-guinea a foot."

Now, I ask whether Mr. Hanbury did not for himself that work which the nation thought it worth while to appoint a commission to do, before the building of the present Houses of Parliament? And I confess to a little personal feeling on this particular head; for years ago I ventured to propose exactly the same work to the Northamptonshire Architectural Society; and I will say once again, that if their library, and, I will add, the Leicester Museum, were fitted with shelves for samples of stone, brick, tiles, slate, and other architectural materials, with notes attached exactly of the nature of Mr. Hanbury’s, it would form a very instructive collection.

Let us, by a huge stretch of imagination, suppose the fabric of the minster completed, we shall find the founder’s forethought for the service of the church, and the conduct of the whole establishment, very remarkable. I must, of course, take a few of his “orders.” “To be always kept in good repair, and all necessary precautions to prevent bad effects by lightning, &c.” Market Harborough is the last place to deny the importance of this order.

“The doors to be open from morning till evening, every day except on Sunday, unless it is irreverently used by men walking in it with their hats on, women in their pattens, &c., then to be shut up with palisade doors for the due admission of air.” “No pews to be put up in any part of it, unless there be room for a few at the upper end of the stalls.” “No part of the service shall ever be curtailed or abridged, on any pretense whatsoever. This is more particularly enjoined and made a standing law, as the founder in his visits to the different cathedrals of this kingdom, has found the service in many of them most shamefully hurried over and curtailed. One dean professes his dislike to chanting, and tells the vicars choral and singing men they may afford as little of it as they please. Another dean abridges the service under a pretense of being afraid of taking cold in the church. The next shortens the anthems. Another knocks off part of the voluntaries, &c., so that in one church we find those parts which should have been sung, chanted,—for dispatch; in another, those which should have been chanted,—read; and the voluntaries scandalously short, or none at all. In the next, the finest part of the anthems, for the sake of brevity, shamefully omitted. Such kind of indifference or dislike so glaring in those who are termed the head of the church, will ever in some degree influence many of the other least conscientious members, which will occasion the service, wherever it is found, to be hurried over with little or no seeming devotion, and the effect such kind of worship is intended to have, proportionally destroyed. To prevent the like disorders at Church
Langton this law is made absolute, and the respective members of this foundation are hereby obliged to perform the different parts of Divine service according to the above injunctions, which enforce the manner the founder would desire to have them performed for ever. If any member belonging to this foundation should ever show dislike to such kind of worship, or aver its impropriety, it is desired that he may be immediately expelled. And if the visitor, like some deans of this age, should show indifference or dislike, the respective members of this foundation are desired to revolt, obey him in nothing, destroy his authority, and continue in such disobedience until it shall please God to remove such visitor out of this world, and to substitute some more worthy person in his stead."

If we extend our survey to the orders left by the founder for the rest of his establishment, in the midst of much that seems fantastic, we shall find more that is intrinsically valuable. Listen to the duties of his professor of antiquity:—"He shall instruct his pupils in the ancient history of our own country, and enlarge, as he goes along on the virtues, ingenuity, public edifices, &c., of the men that were in renown in that their day; at the same time he shall exercise them in the reflection of the passing away and instability of human things, and from such an history of past affairs, how to admire God in His providence and works, and that He alone is all in all! He shall exercise them in the Anglo-Saxon and old British language, teach them the etymology of towns, the Roman stations, &c., all of which shall be entered by each pupil in a bound book or books of writing paper provided for that purpose. He shall rake the ruins of all abbeys, priories, and monasteries; point out their founders, benefactors, abbots, priors, abbesses, &c. A thorough knowledge of the history of all our cathedrals shall be laid before them. He shall teach them to understand heraldry, coins, medals, &c., and in short, shall so exercise them in every part of antiquity, that no pupil under his care may be destitute of any means to become a thorough and skilful antiquarian."

In the same way I might show how he anticipated the work of the Diocesan Choral Association, and of our Tract Societies, but I must forbear. Only one other extract I will make under this head, and that is his answer to some of his trustees, who would have dissuaded him from making so large offerings to the church, when his parsonage was but mean in proportion:—"I was extremely obliged to them for their good intention, but I had no occasion of trustees for that. Though a good house is a comfortable thing, I don't think it any ways instrumental in promoting the glory of God. It has been the opinion of many good divines that fine rooms, painted ceilings, &c., have more a tendency to stir up the spirit of pride, &c. I have no objection, however, to a good house, and were I endowed with a good fortune, would not be long without one.
But it was known to every one, and it was a saying with all, 'When we go to see Hanbury, we meet with an old-fashioned house and an hearty welcome.' But, perhaps, it may be objected that posterity ought to be considered, and the house ought to be rebuilt on that account; but let us remember 'That anybody who has money will build a house, but few will build a church, or dispose of any share of their money in charitable uses.' Let the house, therefore, be built by those who are less charitably disposed than myself. If they will but have patience, I undoubtedly shall build it, but then it must be at a proper time; and with what pleasure does the present intermediate time pass away with me in the old house, from the reflection of what a new one would cost me, in still going on to the most noble purposes of bringing glory to God and good to mankind."

A very short time before his death, Mr. Hanbury did actually mark out the exact site and extent of his proposed church. Some irregularities in the ground interfered with its exact orientation, and he is not satisfied without excusing himself by the authority of Socrates. Of course it is not Socrates the philosopher, but Socrates the ecclesiastical historian. A minute point of discipline, as it would appear to some, he guards with perfect care. He prepared an order of prayer for the religious society he was founding, but especially orders that the chapel shall not be consecrated, because the ritual is not that of the Church of England, but rather of the nature of family prayer. The order itself indicates an acquaintance with Liturgical literature, which was either very rare or very unfruitful in his day; and it provides, what it still more grievously wanted in most households, a service, Δειτυπτυκтй, an order in which all present really take their part, with confession, prayer, praise, acts of faith, collects, and suffrages, instead of a sermon recast into many petitions, and closed with a single Amen.

It is impossible to deny that there is a ludicrous element, as well as stuff of much more sterling character, running through all this. I think I have fairly, though imperfectly, represented both; but I have not yet done justice to my own view of Mr. Hanbury's character.

You have seen designs vast beyond all ordinary proportions—designs for the perfecting of which the munificence of a George Peabody, with the management of a committee of financial demi-gods, would be utterly inadequate; and yet, without a trace of suspicion that they might in the end prove to be visionary, they are set forth gravely by an obscure country parson, with nothing but his gardens and plantations to draw upon, and with the scanty help of a dozen country gentlemen and yeomen. Is this consistent with a sound mind? I say yes, but I do not say it without a certain reserve. Remember—what he himself never forgot—that the very commencement of his larger operations was to be postponed.
till the capital, small at first, but capable of increase by good management, certain of increase by the accumulation of interest and compound interest, had reached a very considerable sum. Had he expected himself to worship in the glorious minster which he designed, he would have been foolish indeed. But no, he looked for no fruit of his labours to be gathered in this world by his own hand. His reward was his assured expectation of what must be hereafter, if his plans were faithfully carried out.

Still, I freely admit that in the nature of things he must have been deceived. I had written disappointed; but disappointed he was not, since as long as he lived his plan was really progressing towards some large amount of fulfilment, and there is no disappointment in the grave. Take a parallel case. Many an ingenious, acute, hopeful philosopher has laboured after the discovery of perpetual motion. All his calculations have been exactly true, and he has employed in them science and skill which few of those who laugh at him can even appreciate. But he has forgotten friction, or the rigidity of cordage, or the waste of power in some other way. Yet he has left some result of his labours, though not all that he intended. Just so William Hanbury left out of his calculations many possible, probable, and certain contingencies, which would be as friction to the wheels of the mechanist. The first of his rubs, and it was a sore one came from his own chosen allies. He begins with his proposals by saying in the simplicity of his heart “It will be no difficulty to pick out a society of honest and worthy men, whose virtue and probity will render them truly respectable, and who will apply whatever is entrusted to their care to the glory of God and the good of mankind;” but he is obliged to add in a note, “Here I must own myself to have been mistaken, for I soon found it to be the most difficult thing in the world.” Then he forgot to eliminate an enormous per centage of his fund, even when apparently realised, for lawsuits, and numberless proceedings which will cleave to property diverted ever so little out of its ordinary course. And so, in spite of his calculations, it happens that, whereas during the last four or five years of his life, his £1,500. had, under his own management, increased to some £4,000., nearly a century after his death the charity had passed into another stage through the Vice-Chancellor's Court. The funds being, however, not very far short of £1,000. a year.

If we may assign a place to our founder in a Walhalla of philanthropists, he sees now (though we see it not), he sees his foundation gloriously perfected, his professors in their several chairs surrounded by pupils, his sisters and bedesmen devoted to the highest exercise of religion under his roof, his bells* salute the

* “The ringers saluted the morning as before, the flag was hoisted on the top of tower.”—Minutes of proceedings, September 26th, 1769. This flag was a most elaborate one. On one side an oak tree, full of golden acorns; motto—Honor erit huic quaque. On the other side, Faith, Hope, and Charity, with the words, “Now abideth,” &c.
morning every 26th of September, the flag floats on his tower five hundred feet in the air, and his rockets* startle the parishes for miles around with their mimic meteors. His organ peals through the vaults of his minster, and gives body to the creations of Handel, Spohr, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. His brothers and sisters are regaled with the splendid feast he provides for them, and return their benedictions for his bounty. Parishes far and near have their schools, their organs, their well instructed choirs. But even yet he is not satisfied, but he looks for still greater fruits of his beneficence beyond, and confidently counts on their maturity. This is the reward which I assign him, not as affirming a truth concerning his present condition, but as conveying in a figure my own appreciation of his character. As for what he has actually effected, let those sneer at it who with greater wisdom, as they think, and certainly with greater means, have done half as much. The church of Langton is nobly restored and beautified; the church of Tur Langton is replaced by one of excellent character, and amply sufficient for its destination; the church of Thorpe Langton awaits immediate restoration, and something is still left for permanent charities. This is no small contribution from one man, and that a poor one, and one whom some persons have called unwise, to the glory of God and his church, and to the good, temporal and spiritual, of his fellow-creatures.

At the conclusion of this Paper the Chairman called upon Mr. W. H. Gatty to read his Paper, entitled

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY-IN-ARDEN, AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MARKET HARBOROUGH.

When requested by my friends, the honorary secretaries of the Society, to contribute a Paper, to be read at this meeting, on some point or points connected with the town of Market Harborough, it was suggested to me, on the one hand, that a short history of the place would be interesting to you as visitors; and, on the other, that an original Paper on the parish documents and registers would be a more valuable contribution to the archives of the association, and a greater help to any future local historian. A cursory search through the contents of the parish chests soon showed me that to carry out the latter suggestion would require a more industrious and advanced antiquary than myself; I therefore fell back upon the former, and resolved merely to give you a brief history of this town, collected from sources more the fruits of other persons' labours than my own.

* "To add to the grandeur and solemnity of the time, rockets be fired off from the top of the tower from seven till eight in the evening, at intervals of five minutes. The effect this will have on the neighbouring country may easily be conceived." History, &c.
The origin and earliest history of Market Harborough is very obscure. My friend, Mr. M. H. Bloxam—a very high authority on such subjects—writes me, "Market Harborough has been supposed to be a town of Roman origin, but I think it can claim a British origin, for the urns which are engraved in Nichols and Harrod are certainly British, with the exception of the patera, which was probably Roman. The position of the town, rising gently up from the Welland, is such a one as the Britons generally chose for their settlements, and, though it does not appear to have been fortified by them, it would be in the vicinity of a British fortified post, viz., that at East Farndon." That the Romans had a station here is almost certain, from the vestiges of an old encampment still visible in places in a field belonging to Mr. R. Goward, on the east side of the town, and also from some antiquities of Roman manufacture found in the neighbourhood. That it was a permanent station, and not a mere temporary encampment, is rather shown by there being some smaller encampments around it, as at Lubenham and Farndon. This view may be accepted as probably correct, if we notice the situation of the place at the point of crossing the river Welland in the midst of a dense wood, as we shall see was the case when we come to speak of St. Mary-in-Arden. This is, however, only a conjectural view of the origin of Harborough. Even if it had been an important place in the time of the Romans, it is almost certain it declined afterwards, as it is not named in Domesday Book. At that date Harborough, whether a town or village, was included in the royal manor of Bowden, which manor I have reason to believe included the present parishes of both Great and Little Bowden, St. Mary, and Harborough, with the church of St. Mary's as the parish church. This church is remarkably situated: not near any habitations, but almost equi-distant from the three places mentioned; in the midst of a large forest, believed to be a continuation of Rockingham Forest, which at that time extended for some distance south and west of Harborough. It was from this circumstance it derived the name of St. Mary-in-Arden, or in the Wood. There was another manor at Bowden distinct from that held by the King, which was then held under the Countess Judith by Robert de Buci. This unnamed manor has been thought to have been that of Harborough, but, from its size and from the following circumstances, I am inclined to think it was the manor of Little Bowden: First. That in Domesday Book the manor at Bugedone is mentioned without any distinguishing appellative as Great or Little. Secondly. Though included in the manor of Bugedone, it was held by a distinct tenure from the greater manor, whilst Harborough has always been held with it. Thirdly. In a deed of Edward VI., when he exchanged these manors for other lands with Sir Robert Strelley, it says, "Rex . . . . dedit et concessit Robt. Strelley," et "Heredibus suis in perpetuum omnia messuagia
ac terras in Harborough et Bowden in commitatibus Leicestershire et Northamptonshire; and fourthly. The present strangely complicated positions of the parishes of Great Bowden, Little Bowden, and St. Mary.

The earliest authentic record of Harborough by name is in the time of Henry II., A.D. 1180, when that king granted the manors of Great Bowden and Harborough to William Mauduit, his chamberlain. In the Itinerary of 1280 Bowden and Harborough answered conjointly as one vill. At that time, and for many years before and after it, these manors were royal manors, and enjoyed the privileges of "Ancient Demesne," and were several times bestowed on friends and favourites of the reigning monarchs, and again reclaimed as the grants lapsed either by death or forfeiture. By the year 1415 they had been no less than twelve times in the possession of the Kings of England. At this early period Harborough was also ecclesiastically united with Bowden, and the patronage of the two was in the hands of the King. In the matriculus of Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1220, is this notice: "Ecclesiae de Budon Patronus dominus rex, ut dicitur. . . . . Item est ibi quaedam capella sive ecclesia in codem feodo quae . . . . habet capellanum suum residentem per matricem ecclesiam." Mr. Nichols thinks this "capella sive ecclesia" must have been St. Mary's, because he supposed Harborough Chapel was not then in existence. If, however, my supposition is correct that St. Mary's was the mother church of both Great Bowden and Harborough, either the church in Great Bowden village or that in Harborough town* may have been thus referred to in this matriculus.

In 1334 Geoffrey le Scrope, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and, by summons of Parliament, Lord Scrope of Masham, had a grant of these manors in fee farm, and the patronage of the rectory of Great Bowden, with Harborough, to which benefice he presented his youngest son Geoffrey. For one hundred and seventy years this family of Scrope were lords of the manor of Harborough and patrons of the living, during which period, owing in a great measure to their energy and influence, the town obtained substantial benefits as great, if not greater than at any other time. The honour of building the chapel of St. Dionysius, in Harborough, lies between Geoffrey le Scrope, the rector from 1336 to 1378, and John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; though whether either of them did more than enlarge and beautify a pre-existing chapel is, I think, doubtful. In favour of the former may be said that his father, and afterwards his brother, were lords of the manor, and patrons; that the town at this period, from its situation on the high road, and consequent trade had attained a considerable degree of importance, probably had become a much more important place than Great

* The present structures are both of later date than the matriculus.
Bowden; and, therefore, there is nothing unreasonable in supposing the rector, inspired with the ambition usual in the ecclesiastics of that age, would be anxious to see in the rising township a church worthy of himself and of it. On the other hand the claim of John of Gaunt is based upon a very ancient tradition of that romantic character which impresses itself deeply on the popular mind, though not always on that account to be depended upon, and is much strengthened by the circumstance mentioned by Mr. Burton, in his History of Leicestershire, dated 1622, that the old windows of the church were formerly ornamented with heraldic escutcheons, many of the coats of arms being those borne by this prince and various members of his family. I cannot myself think this a conclusive argument when we consider that these manors and the rectory were held by John of Eltham, Duke of Cornwall, brother to Edward III., and on his death were given by the King, John of Gaunt's father, to Geoffrey le Scrope, who, on building the chapel, would be very likely thus to honour and commemorate the giver and his family. That John of Gaunt, who had a house at Leicester, and frequently passed through Harborough on his way there, took an interest in his friend's work, and assisted him in it, is more than likely; and we have reason to believe that, partly to his influence, many of the advantages then obtained by the town were due.

To this period, and most likely to the influence of the Scrope family, aided, perhaps, by that of John of Gaunt, we are indebted for the origin of our old chartered October fair, and for our weekly market. With respect to the fair it may be observed that it commences yearly on the 19th October, and continues to the 29th, or, in words more congenial to the language of grants and charters, and very apposite to the present business, on the eve, the day, and seven following days (exclusive of Sunday) of the Feast of St. Dionysius. To go into the question of the origin of fairs at such times would take up too much time. Suffice it to say it was in no way inconsistent with the habits of that period to institute a fair at the feast of the patron saint of the parish church, and to hold it in the churchyard. I said our weekly market was probably due to the same time and the same family. That it is not of earlier date is shown indirectly by an authentic record that William le Bland, lord of the town of Lubnam, obtained of Edward III., A.D. 1327, liberty of a market twice a week, and a fair to be held annually there on Wednesday in Whitsun week, and it was then a rule that no two markets or fairs should be within the distance of the third part of twenty miles of each other.

About the beginning of the sixteenth century, by the marriage of an heiress of the Scropes, the manors of Great Bowden and Harborough, passed to the family of the Wyvilles of Constable Burton, since which time they have always been held together,
though frequently in divided portions, by a great variety of lords, many of them connected with the public administration of the country. In 1536 the advowson having lapsed to the king, it was conveyed by Henry VIII., by deed of exchange, to Thomas Lord Wriothesley, the Lord Chancellor, and afterwards Earl of Southampton; by him, there is reason to suppose, it was given to the newly-established College of Christ Church, Oxford, for, in Willis's Cathedrals, under the article of "Endowment of the Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford," confirmed by Henry VIII., 1546, we find the rectory and vicarage of Great Bowden, and, under the article of Patronage, it is styled "Bowden Magna cur, cum capellis, Harborough," &c. A curious point connected with this gift to Christ Church is, that in the grant by James I., A.D. 1617, to Lord Stanhope and others, of the manors of Great Bowden and Harborough, the advowson is also included, though in the list of incumbents from 1540, there are none but curates presented to the benefice by the college. In 1564, Bowden Magna was returned as a peculiar exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon, and, as an appropriation belonging to Christ Church, having annexed to it the vicarage of St. Mary, in the township of Little Bowden, and the chapelry of Harborough.

Up to this time the manors and livings of Great Bowden and Harborough had always been united; and, although the latter had long outgrown the former in size and importance, the town was still subordinate to the village feudally and ecclesiastically. But, upon Christ Church becoming the impro priators and patrons, the rectory of Great Bowden, the vicarage of St. Mary, and the chapelry of Har borough, all sank to the same level, and degenerated into curacies.

The earliest parish records now extant start from the beginning of the sixteenth century. They consist, for the most part, of deeds of gifts or bequests for charitable purposes. A full description of them is given in Mr. R. Rouse's Collection of the Charities and Donations given for any Religious or other Public Use to the Town of Market Harborough. To the liberality and kindly feeling of our ancestors, at this time, we are indebted for those several gifts and bequests which together make up that noble property called "The Town Estate," now yielding a revenue of about £700. per annum.

I will do little more than enumerate our benefactors, because all who wish to make themselves acquainted with the particulars of the bequests can do so by reading Mr. Rouse's book: but I think, in gratitude, we are bound, in even the feeblest attempt at giving a history of Market Harborough, to hold up their names to honour and admiration. Foremost in importance, and probably first in time, is that of Mrs. Jane Sanderson. The exact date of this bequest is not known, though most likely about the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century; in 1652 it was
described as being "time out of mind." She gave all her lands and tenements, in Harborough and Great Bowden, for and towards the maintenance and repair of the highways of Harborough, and for the ease of the poor in paying the fifteenth. In 1502 Mr. John Jenyns did enfeoff ten persons connected with the town of certain messuages and lands to the use of his wife for the term of her life, and after her death to the use of the town of Harborough, the profits, &c., thereof to go towards payment of poor men's fifteenths, and to the amendment of the highways. It is well here just for one minute to call attention to the objects of these bequests—the lightening the public burdens of the town, not the maintenance of the poor. As most of us are aware, at this period the supplies to the Crown were chiefly raised by direct taxation, in the form of subsidies or grants of certain proportions of the real and personal property of every individual, whether rich or poor. These demands, inconvenient as they often were to the rich, must have pressed with peculiar hardship on the poor, and frequently occasioned very serious discontent, leading to riots to resist their collection. Again, the maintenance and repair of the highways was effected chiefly by the compulsory labour of the poor, each individual being obliged to give either six days' labour, or its equivalent, for that purpose. From this we can easily understand how it was that charitable persons, more enlightened than most of their contemporaries, seeing the hardship of these public burdens on the poor, should select this mode of relieving them.

In 1600, John Lord Stanhope, a descendant of the Strelley family, was lord of the manor of Harborough. He was Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth, and a Privy Councillor; and, on May 4th, 1605, was created Baron Stanhope, of Harrington, county of Northampton, by James I. This Lord Stanhope, by deed bearing date 1611, empowered twelve inhabitants of the town to build the free school, intended by Robert Smyth to be erected in the market-place. This brings us to another very important period in our town's history, and also to a time when its records are the fullest of information. In the parish register are copies of the various deeds of gift by which Mr. R. Smyth conferred his many benefactions on the town. Of this worthy man's history we know but little more than that he was born at Harborough of poor parents, and left the place when young to seek his fortune in London. There, by ability and diligence, he prospered greatly, and became Comptroller of the City, and one of the attorneys in the Lord Mayor's Court. The effect this prosperity had upon his spirit and his life will be best shown by repeating the letter in which he announced one of his first gifts to the town.

"To my loving brother, Mr. Thos. Walker, and others, my good brethren and friends, inhabitants of the town of Harborough, in Leicestershire."
"Remembering, good brethren and friends, and considering the great mercy and loving kindness of Almighty God towards me, His unworthy servant, not worthy of the least of all His mercies, when I was first fed in that soil, fed, I say, sometimes by the gleaning of the harvest of the neighbour towns, and sometimes by the travails of my poor aged parents, and other weak means; and remembering also, and considering that with my staff I came over that Welland, that I came out of my country and from my father's house with my cup empty, and God of His grace brought me hither, and made me able, in some measure, to be helpful unto others; I have thought it my duty therefore, yet once again, to remember that place where I was bred and fed. And because I know there was then greater want of food of the soul than of the body, I have prepared, and am now ready (by God's grace) to carry another stone towards the building of this spiritual temple. I have provided to make up those thirty pounds parcel of the £50, which you heretofore received an hundred pounds, which hundred pounds, my desire is, should be employed towards the maintenance of preaching the Word by a continual lecture in that town for ever, at such times as may be most for the advancement of God's glory and good of the town. I heartily desire everyone to judge charitably of me concerning this work. I know, and acknowledge, that by grace we are saved through Faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast himself. And I know, and acknowledge also, that when we have done all that we can we are unprofitable servants. Yet it is our duty to show our faith by our works, and 'our light should so shine before men that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in Heaven.' I have three score and ten pounds ready for you when you will send, to be employed as I have above written. The manner of employment I leave to yourselves, and to provide for the continuance of the lecture, that it die not. I lay the charge upon your consciences. I beseech God, for his son Jesus Christ's sake, to give it a blessing, and for which my hearty commendations to you all. I commit you to the protection of the Almighty, desiring Him for to give you here in this kingdom of years, that you may, by the direction of His good spirit, walk in the straight way to the kingdom of glory.

"At London, this 15th of November, 1606."

"Your loving friend and brother in Christ,

"Robt. Smyth.

He died about 1618, having built and endowed the school-house, which forms so prominent an object amongst our antiquarian treasures, besides investing £750., a large sum in those days, to purchase an annuity with which to found a weekly lectureship, and for some other minor charitable purposes. But there is great reason to believe Mr. Robert Smyth's good deeds were not confined to his native town. In the New View of London, published in two volumes,
octavo, 1708, at p. 257, it is stated that "Mr. Robt. Smyth gave
yearly four Bibles, well bossed and buffed, to four poor men's
children, who shall best deserve them by reading; also one dozen
of bread weekly to the poor of the parish of St. Giles's, Cripplegate."
At p. 550 is an account of £50. given for Bibles and bread, by one
"Mr. Robt. Smyth, to the Parish of St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill."
It is not stated that this was Mr. Robert Smyth, the benefactor of
Harborough; but, from the great similarity of the gifts, and the
period when they were given, it is not improbable that they were
all gifts of the same donor. In 1617, Mr. Christopher Shaw, of
the parish of St. Benedict, near Paul's Wharf, London, by his last
will, did give and devise £3. yearly to the schoolmaster of the Free
School, Market Harborough, but in case the said school be dissolved,
and not remain as it now is . . . the said yearly sum of £3. shall
remain for the use of the poor of the parish of Market Harborough for
ever, the same to be paid by the Company of Embroiderers, &c., &c.,
in London. In 1622, Mr. Gabriel Barber gave £40. wherewith to buy
property in Market Harborough, the rent and profits of which were
to be divided into three parts, two parts "to the only use and behoof
of the preaching minister of the chapel of Market Harborough, for
the time being, for ever; and the third part to the use and behoof
of the poor people inhabiting in Market Harborough aforesaid." In
the years 1632, 1634, 1639, and 1641, Mr. Richard Weston, of
Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, purchased four houses and a home­
stead, which he afterwards left by will,—three houses and the
homestead to the preaching minister of Market Harborough, and
one tenement to the schoolmaster. The present parsonage, with the
garden and stable, represent Mr. R. Weston's gift to the preaching
minister.

Besides these there have been, from time to time, many smaller
donations and bequests bestowed on the town for charitable and
useful purposes; but to name and describe them all would occupy
me too long this evening. On the 14th of February, 1636 (13
Charles I.), a decree was issued by the High Court of Chancery,
confirming to the proprietors of certain ancient cottages in Har­
borough, seventy-two in number, and their tenants, their rights of
common, acrehades, &c., in the fields of Great Bowden. What
became of these rights at the enclosure of Great Bowden in 1779?
In 1609, 1625, and 1641, this town was visited by the plague.
During the epidemic in 1641, seventeen persons died of it. In the
old parish register is the entry—"Anne Townesend, a stranger, who
came from Stonie Stratford, and brought with her the plague to
the town, who lodged at one Vid. Nowel's, at the signe of the
'Meremaid,' and infected first that house with the pestilence, and
then dyed, and was buried July 19, 1641." This scourge again
appeared in Harborough in 1645, when it carried off ten persons.
How brought on this occasion is not stated; but to realise the
frightful nature of the complaint, and the necessity for the very
stringent measures taken to prevent its spreading, it is only needful
to look down the names in the register of those who died of it, and
see the awful ravages it made in the families it attacked.

There are some interesting entries in the parish accounts,
showing the means taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and
to disinfect the houses of the sufferers, and the air of the town.

"1609. June 5th. Item: For a warrant from the Justices
of the Peace, upon statute of James I., for the relief and
ordering of persons infected with the plague - - 2 0"
"For glasses for Wm. Green and Geo. Dodgeson - - xvjd."
"To John Smyth, for boxes for the physician - - 2 3"
"To Wm. Stonis, for watching - - - 0 6"
"To Richard Webb, for four graves - - - 1 6"

And at another time:—

"Item: For eight pitch boards and two tar boards, and a
quart of tar - - - - - - - - 1 6"
"Item: Paid to 11 that watched, for beer and bread - 7 4"

"1625. August 20th. For Mr. Prisses, in Frankincense,
pitch, tar, &c., &c., &c. - - - - - - - - 0 3"

In 1614 the church of St. Mary's and the chapel of Harborough
were regularly united. The parish of St. Mary is remarkable for
its being situated, not only in two townships, Market Harborough
(or rather Great Bowden) and Little Bowden, but also in two
counties, Leicester and Northampton. And what adds to the
singularity is that, with respect to situation, it was in two dioceses,
Lincoln and Peterborough, but under the jurisdiction of the see of
Lincoln. A copy of the instrument of union, under the seal of the
Bishop of Lincoln, and the king's confirmation of it, are in the old
parish register of Harborough. The deeds themselves are too long
to recite here. A short abstract will show the grounds upon which
the union was directed. The salutation and the first paragraph
show the relative position of the two parishes at that time; the rest
of the instrument is to this effect:—"That a petition from the
inhabitants of Market Harborough had been presented to the Arch-
bishop of Canterbury, asking that the two churches might be united
in consequence of the disgraceful conduct of the curates of St.
Mary's, and the shameful and illegal practices carried on there;
that the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, the patrons of the
said parsonage or rectory, by an instrument under their common
seal, had not only testified their consent to the union, but also
everently desired the same; and that the Bishop of Lincoln himself,
to whom the Archbishop had referred the case, 'having viewed the
church and chapel, and having deliberately considered all the
circumstances concerning the business,' found that the inhabitants
of the parish of St. Mary's, living in the township of Little Bowden,
were few compared with those in Harborough, and that the chapel
of Market Harborough was not distant from St. Mary's church or from the town of Little Bowden further than these last were from each other, and was larger and in every respect more convenient to receive all the parishioners than was the parish church of St. Mary's; that the curates of St. Mary's were for the most part ignorant and disorderly, having so small a stipend allowed them by the farmers there, as that no sufficient scholar will accept the cure; that frequently no services at all were held in the church by reason of the curate having stood suspended or excommunicated for unlawful marriages, or some other misdemeanour, punishable by ecclesiastical censure, to the great dishonour of Almighty God, offence of the better sort of parishioners, and evil example of others.” “For these causes,” the bishop goes on to say, “We, with the consent of the most reverend Father then had, and of the said Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, patrons of the said rectory, and of the incumbent there, do by these presents annex, unite, incorporate, and consolidate the said Church of St. Mary, in Arden in the field, and chapel of Market Harborough, and both these cures into one; and we do also nominate the minister or preacher of the said chapel of Market Harborough, for the time being for ever hereafter, to officiate the said cures of St. Mary's and of the chapel of Market Harborough, and to have the stipends and other profits heretofore due, now due or hereafter to be due, to both or either of them.” But, at the same time, not wishing the church of St. Mary's to be wholly neglected, he enjoined that it “should be supported and maintained with all due and necessary reparation in such manner as had been accustomed before this union.” He also appointed “that the minister of Market Harborough for the time being should hold certain services in St. Mary's Church, ‘and on one Sunday in every quarter of a year shall make a sermon and celebrate a communion there.’” But in consequence of the scandalous marriages which had been solemnized there, he “expressly prohibited and forbid all marriages henceforth to be made or solemnized in the said church under any colour or authority whatever.”

Till 1646 the two parishes were united, though on account of the state of the building the services at St. Mary's had been for some time discontinued. Under the practical management of the Republican Parliament and Cromwell attempts were made to remedy many old standing anomalies in local government and parochial arrangements, and, amongst others, the peculiar position of St. Mary's in relation to St. Nicholas', Little Bowden and Har­borough, was taken into consideration.

About the year 1646 a petition was presented to the committee for plundered ministers at Northampton, signed by six of the leading parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Nicholas', to this effect; after speaking of the rectory of St. Nicholas, it says:—“There is another
rectory, in Little Bowden, called St. Mary's. The church lies in Leicestershire, the tithes in Little Bowden. Mary's being worth £40 per annum, is inappropriate, and belongs to Christ Church College, in Oxford, and they allow £16 per annum to the vicar of the said St. Mary's, which church is now made useless, and the £16 paid to the minister of Harborough. But the people heretofore went to Bowden Mary's, being a bow shot off, and now to Bowden Nicholas', to which they desire this Bowden Mary's parish may be united, as lying in the same town, and the stipend of £16 per annum to be paid to the minister of Bowden Nicholas', for that some of the houses in Bowden Mary's are distant three-quarters of a mile from Harborough Church, and severed by the river Welland; but Nicholas' Church, in Bowden lies in the midst of both parishes, and is equally useful to both. The commissioners' adjudication was—"We conceive it very fit that these two parishes in Little Bowden be united into one, and that the £16 per annum be paid to the minister of Bowden Nicholas'". At this time the living of Little Bowden was sequestered from the Royalist rector, Rev. Rd. Mowse, the curacy being held by Mr. John Dowell, a Parliamentary minister, and continued so till the Restoration, when this, with many other acts of the Parliament, was abrogated, the Rev. R. Mowse restored to his living, and the parish of St. Mary's returned to its state of union with Harborough, to the curate of which place again fell the duties of the church, and he was paid the annual stipend of £16, though almost ever since the parochial charge of that portion of St. Mary's which lies in Little Bowden has been voluntarily undertaken by the rector of St. Nicholas', and that church the people have been accustomed to attend. There is no doubt but at the time of the union St. Mary's Church was in a very dilapidated state, and unfit, if not dangerous, for regular services, for in the constable's account in 1617 is an entry—"Paid to the watchmen for beer, for watching St. Mary's steeple, when that was suspected to be in danger, the 14th May." And not very many years after, probably in 1658, though strange to say no authentic record of the event has yet been found, it was blown down, when, the spire falling on the roof, demolished the whole building, except the south porch, the only portion of the original edifice now left.

For about thirty years the church was allowed to lie in ruins; but, towards the end of the century, the inconvenience of not having a chapel near the burial ground led to the present small building being erected, most likely out of the best of the old materials, whilst the remainder was sold or otherwise disposed of. In the account of the churchwardens for 1692, and the surveyor of the highways in 1694, are some interesting entries on this point. Four of the bells were, in 1682, deposited in the chancel of Harborough Chapel, and it is stated that, by the sale of these bells and other materials, a large part of the money was raised for building the present chapel. The
large house at the south-west corner of the sheep-market is said to have been built with some of the stone from old St. Mary's.

The Civil War was an eventful period in the history of Market Harborough, not only with regard to its ecclesiastical arrangements, but also socially and politically. Like the greater portion of the midland district, the inhabitants of Market Harborough were favourers of the Parliament, and, as such, were not unfrequently made to feel the enmity of the Cavaliers. On one occasion, September 12th, 1642, Prince Rupert attacked the town with 1,800 horse and some foot, and plundered the houses of the Roundhead inhabitants, taking away their arms and horses, and destroying the hay, corn, &c., &c. During the time he was thus disturbing the town news of the attack was sent to the Earl of Stamford, who was in command of some Parliamentary troops in the neighbourhood. The Earl, having only 800 horse with him, was at first somewhat unwilling to advance to the relief of the town against so superior a force; but, being moved by the distress of the inhabitants, he demanded of his men whether they would undertake so dangerous an expedition. To this they answered by a general shout, "On, on," So, "singing of Psalms," they marched forward till within sight of Harborough, where they perceived the Prince, with all his forces, moving out of the town, very confidently and securely, with the prize of arms and horses, &c., which they had taken. The Earl immediately placed his men in ambush in a wood by the road-side, and, as the Prince's party passed by, not suspecting an attack, fell on them so hotly, and pressed them so hardly, as utterly to disorder them, when the inhabitants of the town, attacking them in the rear, completed the defeat. Thirty were slain, many taken prisoners, and the Prince himself forced to fly for safety, leaving behind him the rich spoil he had taken. The victory thus won, the Earl marched back with the inhabitants of the town, where he was joyfully entertained. The end of the account says:—"There is a troop of horse quartered here for the safeguard and future security of the town against other attempts of the Cavaliers. It is now in a good posture of defence, being a rich town for trading, and well-affected to the King and Parliament, the defence of the Protestant religion, and the liberty of the subject."

I need hardly here remind you of that one most important event of the Civil War with which Market Harborough is connected—the battle of Naseby. So many good accounts have been written of it, especially that by Capt. Whyte Melville, in Holmby House, giving every detail of the battle, as also of the events which preceded and followed it, that I shall do no more than mention it now, as on the immediate fortunes of the town it had but little influence. On June 4th, 1645, the King left Leicester and stayed one night at Sir Richard Halford's at Wistow, and from that day till the 14th he remained in this neighbourhood, the head quarters of his army
being part of the time at Daventry, the rest at Harborough. At two o'clock, a.m., on the 14th, the King, who was sleeping at Mr. Collins's at Lubenham, was aroused by an alarm that Sir Thomas Fairfax had marched from Northampton to Naseby, and was quartered there for the night. The King immediately rose, came to Harborough, where the head quarters of the army were, and held a council of war at the King's Head Inn, the houses now occupied by Messrs. H. Huckett and Remington, when, greatly induced by the over-boldness of Prince Rupert, the ill-judged determination was come to to attack the Parliamentary army. At seven a.m. the King marched towards Naseby, where he found Fairfax advantageously posted on the hills between that village and Sibbertoft. At twelve o'clock the two armies joined battle; by the evening, through the rashness of Prince Rupert, the King was a fugitive at Leicester, his army destroyed, his cabinet, with all his private letters, in the hands of his enemies, and his throne lost.

On more than one occasion after this, Charles I. was a visitor in Market Harborough. Here he came when he left Oxford in disguise, with the intention of joining the Scotch army in the North; and through this town he again returned on his way to Holmby House, after the Scotch had delivered him up to the Parliamentary Commissioners. After the deposition of the King and the establishment of the Commonwealth, Harborough received in some degree the reward of its adherence to the Parliament. In January, 1646, the Committee of Sequestrations ordered "that £50. per annum should be paid out of the impropriate rectory of Lubenham, sequestered from Francis Houltrey, recusant, to such ministers as shall be appointed to officiate the cure of the church of Market Harborough, a great market town." On February 16th, another £50. per annum out of the impropriate tithes of the sequestered rectory of Queniborough; and on March 4th a still further sum of £50. per annum out of the impropriate rectory of Sheepshed, sequestered from Sir Thomas Beaumont, recusant, were ordered to be paid to the minister of Harborough. But although the people of the town were agreed in their opposition to the King, they were sorely divided among themselves on the vital points of religion and politics, some being Presbyterians, some Independents. Between these sects continual bickerings occurred, culminating at length in a great fight, on Tuesday, August 3rd, 1647, in which several persons were killed and many more wounded,—resulting in the defeat of the Presbyterian party. After this trial of strength the inhabitants settled down peaceably, and the town soon resumed its ordinary habits of thrift and industry, undisturbed by any political event till the Restoration, in 1660, when the curates of Harborough lost the Parliamentary additions to their stipend, but regained the charge of the parish of St. Mary, with its emolument.

In 1666 occurred the great fire in London, by which St. Paul's
Cathedral was destroyed. It was rebuilt by Sir C. Wren a few years after, the cost of rebuilding being, to a great extent, defrayed by collections throughout the country under a royal brief. In the old parish register is an entry, "collected at Market Harborough, towards the building of St. Paul's Church, in London, October 19th, 1678, £1. 4s. 0½d." In the latter end of the year 1688, the Princess of Denmark, afterwards Queen Anne, stopped here one night on her way to Nottingham, when she left the Court to follow her husband, on the abdication of her father, James II. She slept at the house of a Mr. Mackrith, the second house south from the Swan Inn. Till 1745 the town was but indirectly interested in the chief historical events of the country. But in December of that year Charles Edward Stuart, commonly called the Young Chevalier, after some unlooked-for successes in the north advanced on his way to London as far as Swarkeston Bridge, a little on this side of Derby. The approach of his half-disciplined Highlanders created the greatest consternation throughout the country where they were expected, the effect of which cannot be better described than by relating an anecdote furnished me by Mr. Bloxam. He says, "Intelligence travelled so slowly, and rumours were so thickly spread, that the inhabitants of Market Harborough expected the Scots daily or hourly. At length an alarm was given that they were really approaching. My great uncle Mr. Rowland Rouse, then a little boy of six or seven years of age, was sent by his father, Mr. Samuel Rouse, my great grandfather, behind a man on horseback, to a neighbouring village to be out of harm's way. The principal inhabitants had baked a large quantity of bread to satisfy the demand they expected would be made on them, that they might be treated civilly. At the same time they did not neglect to hide their valuables. Some of the inhabitants went out on the Leicester road, and came back spreading great consternation by declaring that they heard the bagpipes playing at a distance. This proved to be a false alarm; and as no enemy ever appeared, the good people of Harborough were terribly put out at having baked all their bread for nothing."

For many years the town had been increasing in size and commercial importance. About the time of Queen Elizabeth, a large manufacture of shoes, for foreign trade, was carried on here, and most of the principal inhabitants engaged in it. In the middle of the last century there was a considerable manufacture of tammies, shalloons, &c., employing a large number of the poor both of the town and neighbourhood, which continued till about 1820. Of such an extent was this manufacture that in some years as much as £80,000. had been returned to the town, in the article of tammies only. From these sources many of the inhabitants became wealthy, and in proportion liberal in their expenditure, public and private. The large number of good houses for a town of its size testifies to
the substantial position of the people generally. "The Elms" was built by a Mr. Massey, an attorney of the town, who was part proprietor of the manor; the other proprietor being a Mr. Bliss, who had made his fortune in the town.

But these worthy ancestors of ours did not confine their liberality to themselves. A long list of donations and bequests for the benefit of the poor, and for other useful purposes, might be made out and placed to their credit. The great efforts, however, of this kind were altering, we can hardly call it restoring, the body of the church in 1751-2, and the chancel in 1757. On these occasions the face of the church was entirely changed. The pulpit, which previously stood in the angle of the north-east pillar, between the nave and the chancel, was taken away; a doorway with a small palisade gate on the south side of the chancel, together with the sedilia and piscina were built up, and the area within the altar rails wainscoted; the old chancel screen with the rood loft removed, and the fine east window half blocked up by a screen, on which were printed in gold letters on a blue ground, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. In addition, the church was entirely new pewed, new paved, and thoroughly whitewashed. These "improvements" were effected at a cost of about £300., a large portion of which was raised by voluntary contributions amongst the inhabitants. It is amusing to see the evident feeling of satisfaction which pervades the whole description of this eighteenth-century improvement. How the good people of that time glorified themselves in the blue and gold of the "neat altar piece," and the new pulpit, "which was allowed by judges to be a good piece of workmanship, its several parts and members being adjusted and proportioned by the strictest rules of architecture." Exactly one hundred years afterwards we raised a much larger sum to undo all that they did with so much earnestness and self-gratification. 

*Sic transit gloria mundi.*

In 1783 the Protestant Dissenters of Market Harborough purchased a plot of ground adjoining their meeting-house for a burial place. Previously they had been buried in the parish churchyard, the ordinary services of the church being used and the church bells tolled at their funerals. At first no application was made to have the bell tolled at the funerals, which took place in the new burying ground. A few years later, however, a claim was set up that the Dissenters should have the use of the church bells at their funerals. A case as to the propriety of this demand was submitted by the churchwardens to Sir W. Scott and Dr. Harris; and by the Dissenters to another counsel. The answer by Sir W. Scott and Dr. Harris was, "That by the 88th Canon the church bells are not to be used on any occasion except for the offices of the church, and for purposes approved both by the minister and churchwardens." That of the counsel consulted by the Dissenters was, "That all
parishioners, by the paying of the church rates, have a right to the tolling of the bell, and may require the sexton as servant of the parish to toll the bell, wheresoever they bury their dead."

In 1785 Robert Sherard, Earl of Harborough, became by purchase sole proprietor of the manors of Harborough and Great Bowden, and three years after, with the view of supplying the want of a Town Hall, he built the large red brick edifice which stands in the middle of the street, almost opposite the place we are now in. It was built on the site of the old butchers' shambles, the first stone being laid April 23rd, 1788.

By a will dated July 21st, 1797, Mr. Thomas Ratten gave £125. to the minister and churchwardens, in trust, to apply the interest therefrom "for the benefit of the Sunday School lately established in the parish;" and to the churchwardens and overseers £100., the interest of which was to be expended in purchasing "coals, to be distributed on January 1st every year, amongst such of the poor inhabitants who shall not receive alms or relief from the parish officers."

We have now arrived at the nineteenth century, and what may be called the modern history of Market Harborough. Before proceeding further, I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Cox, who furnished me with the materials for this portion of my paper. At the beginning of the century Europe was in the midst of that mighty contest, the offspring of the French Revolution, and England, anticipating invasion by Napoleon himself in 1805, was stirred to the highest pitch of excitement. To the honour of Market Harborough the utmost loyalty and patriotism were displayed by its inhabitants at this crisis. At the first call of the Government a volunteer corps was formed, and in the course of a few days upwards of £600. was subscribed to defray the expenses, though happily these brave men were never called into active service. The only two members of the volunteer corps now living are Mr. Platt and Mr. J. Hill. Induced by the increasing trade of the place, the directors of the Union Canal extended it by a branch to Market Harborough, which was opened with great ceremony on Friday, October 13th, 1809. Till the opening of the railway about twelve years ago this canal proved of the greatest advantage to the town, and added much to its prosperity by causing a vast amount of traffic with the districts to the south and east of it. Another great source of prosperity was the through coach traffic, as many as forty coaches and vans passing during twenty-four hours. The tammy trade, about this time, began to languish, but a new source of employment was developed by two enterprising men named Clarke and Hall, who erected a factory in the heart of the town for spinning worsted by steam power, to which was added, at a later period, the manufacture of carpets. These together employed a large number of the population, to the manifest advantage of the
town. The carpet manufacture was suddenly discontinued, owing to complications with Goddard's Bank, which suspended payment in 1843. The worsted spinning was continued for nearly twenty years longer, but was at last given up in 1861; and the valuable machinery, disposed of by public auction, followed the carpet looms to the north of England. The proverb "that events repeat themselves," appears to be verified here, for, during the present year, the earliest recorded manufacture of the town—that of shoemaking—has been resumed, the building known as the "factory" being now used for carrying on that business. About thirty years ago our gas works were first established, and within the last two years have been considerably enlarged. In 1845 or 1846 was commenced the Rugby and Stamford railway, the first ray of that star by which we have been connected with the great railway system of the country; but the extension of the Midland by the line from Leicester to Hitchin has been the greatest benefit to Harborough, by placing our town in direct communication with the metropolis. The time which intervened between the cessation of coach traffic and the opening of this line was a period of great depression, but, during the last few years, symptoms of returning activity in trade have shown themselves, and it is to be hoped that, favoured by its central situation and star of railways, Harborough may soon return to its former state of prosperity, and be known, as it was two hundred years ago, as "a rich place for trading, well affected to the Queen and Parliament, the defence of the Protestant religion, and the liberty of the subject."

The Chairman said another paper was to have been read on the importance of preserving ecclesiastical monuments, by the Rev. W. Monk, but, unfortunately, they were prevented hearing it by the lateness of the hour.

On the motion of the Rev. S. Andrews, a vote of thanks was given to the gentlemen who had read Papers.

The Rev. George Ayliffe Poole returned thanks, and said the readers of papers were not only obliged by the kind manner in which their papers had been received, but they felt also exceedingly pleased at the large and attentive audience by whom they had been so patiently listened to. It was of no use to have readers unless there were listeners also; and perhaps he might be allowed to say that their papers were not written for the mere pleasure of writing them, or even to please an audience. They were induced to write them with the hope that good would come from it, as he trusted would be the case on the present occasion. It had struck him that sometimes perhaps it would be well for them to sink their antiquarian character in their visits to the churches, and to take a view of the new and restored churches as well as the old ones. There were many new and restored churches in that neighbourhood which would well repay a visit. As to the good which might result
from that meeting, he did not know why there should not arise from that town some William Hanbury or Robert Smith, and if that should be the case Market Harborough would have good reason to congratulate itself.

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER, BART., proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee, without whose great aid the meeting could not have been brought to such a successful issue. The Local Committee had taken a great deal of trouble, and had contributed much to the comfort and convenience of the visitors. He was not present when the members of the Society visited the churches and other places of interest in the town, but from what he had seen in that room he was satisfied all would agree with him that their best thanks were due to the Local Committee.

MR. NORMAN seconded the motion, and said that, although he was a native of this county, he was a stranger to that part of it, and felt that an honour had been conferred on him in being allowed to take a part, however small it might be, in the proceedings of that meeting. One could hardly tell the amount of trouble the Committee had taken, and the thanks of the meeting were justly due to them. He could not help expressing the great pleasure with which he had listened to the papers which had been read, and in hearing them it had struck him, notwithstanding the ornaments and dresses which had been so graphically described, that the ladies of the present day showed more taste in dress than their ancestors.

THE REV. J. H. HILL returned thanks on behalf of the Local Committee for the kind manner in which their labours had been recognised, and said the greatest credit and the greatest thanks were due to the gentlemen who had lent such valuable objects for exhibition. The museum that day had been superior to anything he had ever seen before; at all events, it had been second to none, and he begged, therefore, to move that the best thanks of the meeting be given to the gentlemen who had so liberally placed their stores in the hands of the Committee for exhibition. He would, also, ask those gentlemen to allow their articles to remain another day, in order that the good people of Harborough might have a longer opportunity of inspecting them.

MR. NORTH moved that a vote of thanks be given to Sir William De Capell Brooke for his kindness in taking the chair, and he wished also to second the proposition of Mr. Hill, that their best thanks should be given to the exhibitors, for they had never seen a better exhibition. He was sure they would all think so when he said that there was hardly a branch of archaeology which was not represented, or hardly a period of English history which was not illustrated in that room. He begged to thank Mr. Bloxam for entering his protest against the wholesale destruction of sepulchral monuments which, at one time, was so common. It must be painfully
evident to all who had given even a cursory attention to those memorials, that they had not been treated for many generations,—even if ever they had been so treated—with the respect we should expect to see bestowed upon the memorials of the dead in a Christian country. In all ages their destruction had been going on. In taking down S. Martin's tower, at Leicester, they found a number of stone coffin lids; and in reading a list of articles sold in the time of Henry the Eighth, they saw a number of brasses were sold, the proceeds going to the coffers of the king. It was evident that owing to various causes that memorials were now being daily destroyed. To prevent the continuance of that, it behoved them all to watch with vigilant eyes, especially when any restoration or rebuilding is going on in our churches, and to impress the same necessity upon the architects and builders employed. At Braybrooke Church they would to-morrow see a monument of which a little story was told. Many years ago, when all the men of Braybrooke were at Harborough fair, two men went and attempted to carry off a wooden effigy. A woman of the village saw it, and roused her neighbours, and they went to the rescue and prevented the robbery. Now, when churches were being restored, and similar acts of spoliation were attempted, if the ladies would all imitate the women of Braybrooke much mischief would be prevented.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bloxam, who also alluded to the same subject.

The Chairman briefly returned thanks, after which the meeting broke up.

FRIDAY: THE EXCURSION.

On Friday morning an excursion took place to several churches in the neighbourhood of Market Harborough, which was accompanied by most of the gentlemen attending the proceedings of the Society. The vehicles were provided by Mr. Roberts, of the Angel Hotel, who also superintended the arrangements throughout to the great satisfaction of the excursionists. The cortege started about a quarter to nine for

FOXTON.

This church, dedicated to S. Andrew, was the first one visited. Its plan consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel, north porch, south porch, and tower at the west end. On the party entering the sacred edifice, the Rev. G. Ayliffe Poole, Vicar of Welford, who acted as cicerone, described the architectural features of the church. He said it was a very good church, and was, in fact, one of the best they would see. The base of the tower was late Early English, of the same date as the chancel, and was
doubtless in existence as at this moment about the year 1200. The extent of the church was thus plainly marked. The nave and aisles were, however, Perpendicular, and of very good character. Not far from the same time as Market Harborough, the old nave was taken down; the present one was built, and the clerestory added. The roof was very good. The north-east window of the south aisle was Decorated, having been removed, probably, from some other part of the church. The four-light east window of the chancel was Perpendicular, the porch Decorated, and the font, a fine Norman one, with rich mouldings. There was a lychnoscope, or low-side window, in the north wall, its situation, like that of the porch, being ruled by the position of the chancel with relation to the village. The lychnoscope, he might explain, was an external opening of the wall, generally close to the angle, between the chancel and the nave. It was generally thought to be an opening through which the lights on the altar, or the elevation of the Host, could be seen, but, in his opinion, the lychnoscope was a place for receiving the confessions of the people outside who came there and confessed, and went away absolved. The opening was on the north side of the church, and evidently had relation to the people who lived in the village, which was also to the north of the church. He should not have to mention a lychnoscope again, but yesterday, a small church was mentioned where there were two. At S. Mary Magdalen's, at Ripon, there were three, and that confirmed his opinion, as there was there a chapel for lazars, who were not admitted inside.

Mr. Bloxam said, he quite agreed with Mr. Poole that the lychnoscopes were places for confession. There was a passage in Elles's "Letters on the Reformation," which considerably strengthened that view, for allusion was there made to an order that the confessional windows should be blocked up. These windows were frequently found blocked up with the stones laid outside. In this church there was a Decorated piscina.

GUMLEY.

This singularly arranged church is dedicated to S. Helen. It consists of nave, chancel, south porch, with tower and spire at the west end. The chancel is modern, its walls being in a line with the mediæval work westward. More recent work also exhibits very questionable taste. A gallery here of a late Decorated character blocks up the tower arch. The sittings are fairly good, but the new font was severely criticised. The Hall, of red brick, was commenced in 1764 by Joseph Cradock, Esq., who was well-known in the literary world, and in it Garrick occasionally performed, it having been built (after the style of Leicester Infirmary) with the view of giving private theatrical entertainments.
SADDINGTON CHURCH,

Also dedicated to S. Helen. At no place in the route were the excursionists more kindly welcomed than at Saddington—church doors not only opened, but bells ringing, the Communion plate set out for inspection, and the old parish registers laid out, opened at the most interesting part. Here again the Rev. G. A. Poole pointed out the most interesting features of the fabric. The history of this church, he said, was pretty clear. The arcades, the porch, and the chancel are of the Decorated style, probably about A.D. 1300. Some of the windows have been since inserted. These and the tower arch, which is very fine, are of the later Decorated period, probably about 1350. The clerestory was Perpendicular. The piscina and sedilia were worthy of inspection as being without partitions. The most peculiar circumstance in connection with this church is its parish register, which dates from 1538, the year in which they were first enjoined to be kept in every parish by the Chancellor, Cromwell. The Communion cup is of the date of Charles I., and within the Communion rails is a curious sepulchral monument, an incised alabaster slab, dated 1620. Mr. M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., pointed out the peculiarities of this effigy. He said that slabs of this kind—dated after the Reformation—representing clergymen in their surplices, were very rarely found. There was only one other effigy, with cassock, surplice, and chasuble, with which he was acquainted, of post Reformation date, viz., that of Archbishop Sands, in Southwell Minster. In respect, however, of alabaster slabs, there are more of them in Leicestershire than in any other county. The tracery of the windows in this church he considered to be very good.

MOWSLEY CHURCH.

This church, dedicated to S. Nicholas, was small, but admirably proportioned, and was one of those churches which proved that it did not require much money to be spent to make a thoroughly good ecclesiastical building. It consisted of a nave, with bell gable, north and south transepts, a chancel, and south porch. This church and Laughton were originally of the same date, for in each they had everywhere the character of late Early English. Mowsley was, however, the better church, the bell gable being a very good feature, and the cross form giving interest both to the exterior view and to the interior arrangement. The only insertion was a decorated window in the south of the chancel; there was a piscina in each transept, indicating in each the former existence of an altar.

Mr. Bloxam called attention to the ancient altar stone, which was laid upside down. Generally speaking altar stones were cham-
ferred off, and were very rarely found moulded. This was, however, moulded all round.

This church was divided off by a modern wooden screen into two parts. The Communion cup was of the year 1663.

LAUGHTON CHURCH.

This was of the same date as the last church. There was a nave, formerly with north and south aisles, with bell gable and chancel of late Early English. The whole church was in that state which promised much of interest, or, at least, of curiosity, but there was not a single feature in it worth noticing. Outside the north of the chancel was a piscina.

MARSTON TRUSSELL CHURCH.

Mr. Poole said the tower of this church was exceedingly good, and at a little distance was even imposing. The church was of the same series as Laughton and Desborough. The belfry windows were in pairs, with the mason's work still apparent in the masonry between them at the west side. The tower was the only feature worth noticing except the porch, which, for the convenience of the village, was on the north side, and which had a wooden outer doorway. It might be observed that the oldest remaining portion of the church was the west end of the south aisle, which was Decorated, the chancel and the north aisle being Perpendicular. The greater part of the south aisle was the most gratuitously awkward seventeenth century boggling. The tower arch was fine, but half hidden, and marred by an unsightly western gallery. There was a lychnoscope to the south of the chancel, and there were a few remnants of original glass in the windows.

The Rector (the Rev. W. Law) called attention to the churchwardens' accounts, which existed in a high state of preservation from the year 1634, and which contained items of a most curious kind.

Mr. Bloxam called attention to a very fine monumental effigy of a Russian merchant in doublet and hose. It was the effigy of a benefactor of that church (he having bequeathed money for the purchase of a bell), who, in the reign of Elizabeth went over to Russia, and was put to the torture for some offence against the Russian laws.

The Rector thought the story was somewhat apocryphal.

Mr. Poole again called attention to the tower arches, which he said were exceedingly beautiful work of about the year 1210. The pillars were of the Early Decorated period, and were perhaps about one hundred years later.
LUBENHAM CHURCH.

Mr. Poole described the tower of this church as Perpendicular, but without any merit, and the rest of the exterior had been strangely hacked about at divers periods, but never with any addition of beauty or of interest. The oldest portions externally were Decorated. The interior had more interest. The north arcade had one perfect pillar, and another without its capital, of Norman date, indicating a near affinity between that church and the church at Theddingworth. The changes also, as there, were most of them made during the Decorated period. There was a north chantry chapel containing a sedilia. A squint or hagioscope opening from this chapel into the chancel enabled the worshippers to see the elevation of the Host at the high altar. The altar was old, but the principal ecclesiological feature was the Easter Sepulchre, on the north side of the chancel, which was of rude workmanship but of the most elegant and elaborate design. It was Decorated in date. The Easter Sepulchre was a mock sepulchre which was used for peculiar services typical of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day. This sepulchre was probably erected by the Monks of Sulby, when the advowson of Lubenham was given to them in 1324. Mr. Poole then called the attention of the inhabitants to the small cost at which the west galleries could be removed and the tower arch opened. It would add much to the beauty of the church.

The party now returned to Market Harborough to lunch, after which Rothwell and Desborough churches were visited.

ROTHWELL CHURCH.

In describing this church Mr. Poole said Henry I. gave the church and advowson of Rothwell to his recently founded Abbey of Cirencester. There can be little doubt that after the erection of their own church, which would be the first work of the Abbey, they proceeded to rebuild the church of Rothwell. Accordingly, while we have nothing earlier than this, we may attribute the church, as a whole, to that time. The existing exterior traces and indications of the size and character of this church are the turret, which formerly flanked the north corner of the west end of the nave, the north-east buttress, pinnacle of the north choir aisle, and a great part of the south wall of the chancel.

In the interior, the traces of the original church are much more numerous; indeed, they give to the whole the general character of a transition church from Norman to Early English.

Beginning, as before, at the west end, we have the inner door of the north-western pinnacle, four bays on either side of transition piers and arches, certain portions of the piers to what was formerly
the intersection of the cross, and in the chancel three arches on either side, with a perfect clerestory to the south, carried to the full extent of the original choir.

But notwithstanding the general prevalence of transition details, there is, especially in the nave, an air extremely unlike that of a transition church; the height and the span of the piers and arches are far greater than we should expect in that style.

The aisles, too, are much wider than those usually found in churches of that style. They are now 18 and 19 feet respectively; but the aisles of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>ft.</th>
<th>in.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fountains</td>
<td>12 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkdale</td>
<td>12 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furness</td>
<td>14 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byland</td>
<td>12 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jervaulx</td>
<td>12 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitby</td>
<td>12 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netley</td>
<td>9 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So that we have here in a church of much smaller proportions than any of those, aisles twice as wide as some of them, and half as wide again as any. Even Furness falls far short of Rothwell. And again, the cross or intersection of the transept with the nave and choir is much less confined here than usual.

I must account for all this. I have no certain proof of the fact, but I suggest that a tower which primarily surmounted the cross, became by its fall the central and departing point of a great modification.

That there was a central tower I infer from analogy; from the certain absence of a western tower; and from portions of its abutment still remaining. That it fell during the second quarter of the fourteenth century is no difficult solution of our question, for so great a number of towers of that date fell that those which did not fall are rather the exception.

At the restoration of the church, then, at that time, if the tower did fall (which, however, is not absolutely necessary to our theory) the whole proportion of the nave and aisles was altered. The piers were raised by nearly half their height, as appears from the fillet on the half rounds above the central band. There is also a string course cut through by the arches which could never have existed if the piers had been originally of the present height.

At the same time the span of the arches was increased, for if of the same width as now, even though with piers of only twelve feet high, they would have cut the string before mentioned; moreover they are now so irregular in width as strongly to suggest a change of plan. I should suppose that there were originally six bays instead of four.
The north and south tower arches were, I believe, much widened also at the same time, so as to trench upon the proportions of the choir.

Finally, one bay was added to the east end of the choir, and a very good tower and spire were built at the west end. Still later, not indeed as a part of the same reconstruction, a Perpendicular clerestory was added to the nave and to the choir.

In 1660 the spire fell, and the upper part of the tower was poorly rebuilt.

In 1673 the transepts were reduced 17 feet each way.

At the close of his architectural notes on Rothwell church, Mr. Poole ventured to remark on the exceedingly mischievous effect of the west gallery on the beauty of the church, and on its fitness for its sacred purpose. The gallery not only hid a very fine tower arch, and otherwise injured the effect of the nave, but it destroyed as many seats beneath it as it supplied, and made it very difficult for those who sat in them to worship with comfort and devotion. This was something worse than an error in taste, it was a moral fault; it was even worse than a moral fault, it was a sin against the souls of Christian men and women.

As for the organ, which was the probable excuse for the erection of the gallery, its best and right place was in the north aisle of the chancel, the little perch or loft which now stops the arch into the transept being removed.

There need be no difficulty, with the great space which the church affords, in giving much better accommodation to most, and as good to all, as is now provided.

Mr. Bloxam then went up to the chancel, and pointed out the interesting objects there, first the effigy of a priest—William de Rothwell—a very handsome specimen of the fourteenth century, habited in cope, &c. There were two other brasses in this church; that of Edward Saunders and his wife, 1514; and that of Owen Ragsdale, 1591. In the chancel was the singular piscina with three basins, said by Mr. Bloxam to be the only instance of a triple piscina to be found in this country. He could not explain the uses of the triple piscina; the one basin was used for the priest's ablutions, another for the relics of the sacred elements, but what the third was used for he could not say. He next pointed out the quadruple sedilia, and the domus inclusi over the chapel, which had most probably been the residence of a recluse, and a large stone coffin was shown in one of the chapels. In respect of the charnel vault below the south aisle, Mr. Bloxam said that Major Whyte Melville might as well have said that the bones contained in it were pre-Adamite, as to have advanced the absurd theory he had advanced. These charnel vaults are not uncommon, and are of the fourteenth century. He gave several instances of these, but dwelt more particularly on the one at Cologne, where bones are
similarly found in immense numbers. He believed that these bones in every instance had been dug up and deposited here, as enjoined in the clergyman's *Vade mecum*. There is nothing extraordinary in this charnel vault, especially when the extensive alterations in the church during the fourteenth century are considered. Many visited the crypt, which is beneath the south aisle, and Mr. S. Sharp, F.S.A., showed that though the quantity of bones contained there is vast, it has been very much exaggerated. He had very carefully measured them, and tested his measurement, and he believed the number of human skeletons was considerably under 3,000. At the eastern extremity of the crypt is a defaced fresco of the Resurrection, and on the south side a blocked up window, which led to the supposition that the charnel house was once a chapel. Besides the church, Rothwell abounds with objects of antiquarian interest, and it is to be much regretted that more time, earlier in the day, was not allotted to this visit; as it was, the market house, the place of next importance, could not even be noticed. As truly remarked by the lecturer, it would take a week to do justice to Rothwell, so a little more time might profitably have been spent there.

DESBOROUGH CHURCH.

The excursion now returned through Desborough. On alighting at the church, Mr. Poole pointed out the peculiar features of the edifice. The oldest remaining portions, he said, are Geometrical, and traces of this style appear throughout. But the only architectural portions worthy of notice are the tower and spire, which belong to the same series as Langton, Brampton Ash, Kelmarsh, Stanion, Welham, Fotheringhay, &c. Church Langton is the mother church of the whole lot, the towers and spires of which were probably built by Wm. Harwood, freemason, of Fotheringhay. This spire is remarkable for an arrangement of pinnacles and pseudo battlements; the buttresses of the tower and the belfry windows are peculiar. It is probable that the tower, &c., were erected about 1424. In the interior there is not much worthy of notice. There is a lychenscope, blocked up, in the chancel; there are three sedilia and a piscina with two water drains; the rood stairs remain, and there are traces of two altars, one in each transept. Mr. Bloxam also pointed out a peculiar projecting stone, carved, in the north transept, near the pulpit, behind which, he said, there was very probably an enshrined heart or other relic. Wherever these sculptured stones are found in the walls of churches there is invariably some relic behind them, as at Yaxley and many other places.

Braybrooke Church was in the programme for inspection, but time did not allow of a visit to that village.
July 30th, 1866.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. Charles Baker, architect, Leicester; Mr. Henry Freestone, and Mr. W. Allen, both of Market Harborough.

Mr. Johnson, of Leicester, photographer, exhibited some very fine photographs of the present buildings standing on the site of Leicester Abbey (two views), of the ancient wall of the Newark, Leicester, recently demolished (two views), and of the Victoria Road Nonconformist Chapel, Leicester, showing the north-west view and the elaborate carving of the principal entrance. These views were much admired as specimens of high photographic art.

September 24th, 1866.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The Rev. W. C. Hodgson, Rector of Swepstone, was elected a member of the Society.

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

By Mr. Weatherhead: The following series of engravings executed in 1730 by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, viz.: South View of Leicester Abbey; East View of Belvoir Castle; South View of Olveston or Owston Priory; North View of Ulverscroft Priory; and North View of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

By the Rev. E. Tower: The following antiquities from the collection of the late Rev. J. M. Gresley, sometime Honorary Secretary of this Society: A cinerary urn (marked with the slight striated pattern so generally found upon urns of the Roman period), found in a field outside the north wall of the gardens of Leicester Abbey, about the year 1846. A jug-shaped vessel of the Early British period, rudely made of sun dried clay, found on the 28th February, 1859, near St. Margaret's churchyard, Leicester. A cannon ball from the breach at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle. A circular vessel of unglazed light coloured clay, of good manufacture, apparently of the Roman period: this vessel was, perhaps, used as a funnel; it was seven inches in diameter at the top, and one inch and a quarter at the opening in the bottom, to which no neck had ever been attached. Also an unusually large flint celt, locality unknown. It was stated these curiosities would be added to the large collection of local antiquities in the Leicester Town Museum.
Mr. North laid upon the table the following copious extracts made by him from the accompts of the Churchwardens of Melton Mowbray in this county, ranging from the year 1547 to the end of the sixteenth century. The original documents were found a few years ago in an old box in a cellar in Melton Mowbray. Mr. North stated their contents to be most curious and valuable, as giving a vast fund of information relating to a period of intense interest—that of the Reformation. In addition to that, their value was of course enhanced by their local character, and the insight they gave into the state of feeling and action in this neighbourhood during those eventful times. The ecclesiologist would gain much and curious information from them as to the fittings and furniture of the English churches at, prior to, and subsequent to, the Reformation. Mr. North further stated that the original documents (many of which were in a tattered condition) were now carefully preserved in the church chest in the vestry of Melton Mowbray Church. He had not thought it necessary to add any lengthy explanatory notes, because in his recently published "Chronicle of the Church of S. Martin in Leicester,"* he had elaborately described all the various vestments, sacred vessels, mediæval customs, &c., &c., referred to in the extracts now given; and had further therein traced by means of similar documents relating to S. Martin's, the progress, the growth, the temporary check, the revival and final consolidation of the Reformation of the Church of England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Copy of an ancient MS. relating to Melton. Apparently an Inventory or Schedule of Deeds formerly belonging to the town of Melton Mowbray. The character of the handwriting points to the time of Edward IV. as the date of the document.

"Julyan Wydowe of Nycolys Cementary did geve to the worke of the Churche of our blessed Lady in pure devocon & almesse one Rode & halffe arrable Land and one chenet of medowe lyinge in the marshe as appithe by the dede.

"Thoms Dalbye clicus did geve to Johi Smythe one tenement with apptennece in Spetilgate.

"Itm. a Relesse of Izabell sumtyme the wyfe of Renald Tavner did geve to Roger Barnard & Emme his wyfe & to theyrrst of theyrr bodyes lawfully begotten all the Right & claym of her in a certen pese of ground seitt; betwene the tenement of Roger

* London: Bell and Daldy. Leicester: Crossley and Clarke. † The heirs. ‡ Situate.
Waltham in Spitelgate of the North and the tenement of the Prior of Monkes Kerby of the South & iiiij acres of Land and dni* of arrable wth the Holmes in the field of Melton & Sycenby. Dated an" Ricci Sedi xxmo.

"Itm. a dede of Renald the sonne of Hugh Lidulff did geve to God & the churche worke of our Lady all the medowе of one ozgang of Land & pasture to the same belonging.†

"Itm. a dede of Willm sonne of Rafe de Brynkelowe to John Peik of a mæsse & a curtalaige† scitate & lying betweene the tenement of Willm Beilhull of the one pte & the tenement sūyte of John Bride of thatthir pte and the seid curtalaige lyethe next the croft called Bridecroft as appithe by the dede.

"Itm. a dede of Walter Peylle to John Walker of Wyvrbye clarcke & to his heires vj Roode of arrable Land in the fieldes of Melton pte lying in marr§ ffurlong.

"Itm. Adam de le Green of Saxby did geve to John Walker of Melton to his heires & assigns all the medowе & past* holly belonging to one yard Land in the fieldes of Melton.

"Itm. John the sonne of Roger Waltham did geve to Willm Glover of Melton & his heires & assigns one tenement in Ship-lane.

"Symon Leike did give to Willm Attalis his heires & assigns one tenement in Spitelgate.

"Henry the sonne of Johh le Baker of Melton gave unto Willm de Lehill of Granth one seldam || in Melton conteynyng xij foote in lengthe.

"John Storke of Burton Lazars releissed unto John Walker of Melton one meæse & one Ley of arrable Land in baxter-lane.

"John the sonne of Robert Palmer gave one shoppe in Melton lying on botht Rowe to Maud his sister & her heires.

"John the sonne of John Davy of Melton gave to Rōbt Palmer & his heires one Seedam upon Boith-rowe.

"John le Merchaunt of Melton gave to the woorke of the churche of our Ladye . . . .

"Radus de Belton gave to the worke of the churche of our Ladye one Selion ¶ in the West fiefide.**

"Willm the sonne of Matild of Melton gave to God & the yron woorke of the churche of our Ladye one Selion of arrable Land one chenet in the mar*.

"John Belton gave to God & the woorke of the churche of our ladye Selion in the West feld.††

"Galfridus Davye of Scalforde gave to god & the yron woorke of the churche of our ladye as appithe by the dede. †††

* Dimidium (half). † Another list adds "Whith owt Date." † A yard or piece of land lying near a house. ¶ (?) Marsh. || "Seldam," or "Seedam." " A ridge of land lying between two furrows. ** Another list adds "no date." †† Another list adds "Whoute date." ††† Another list says, "Gylhert Davie of Scalford have geven to god & to the yron worke of the church of Melton one pace of . . . in the tenure of Wyllm lane A". Edward ye ij the iij yeares."
"Rob^[4]. Aresby gave one mess^e with appenteânce as appithe by the dede.
"Rycharde Ruskyn gave to John Osborn & his heires one pece of ground that ys to saye one orchard lying in Melton as appithe by the dede.
"Cecilia Wisman gave to Walter Baker ij Boodds arrable land with appenteânce to his heires & assignes.
"John freithby gave to Margery talis wydowe all his Right in one tenement in Melton in Spitlegate once Dixon's."

The following is a copy of an Inventory.

"Sylvyr Juells of the Churchys.
"Im^[5]. a crosse of Selvyr and parsell geltt ij crewetts* of selver psell gelt.
"Im. ij paxes † of selver psell geltt and a shyp ‡ of clene selver.
"Im. a grett chalys gelt a grett pyx§ & ij sensys of sellver.
"Im. remaynyng in the church a Cresmatary of selvyr† & a Hooselyng Cop^e^ selver & gelt a pexe on the hye auter.
"Im. a cocomposyyon Ryâll betwen the Vecar and the towne of Melton wheche ys new conformed by my lord of lyncln now beying and under hys sealle geven owt In the yere of our Lord god jmvcxxv fi whech composycyon ys of . . . . effect yff hett be foloed—conserynyng the Vecars Resydens w* other many thyngs moo wheche he ys bownde to as more larglyer spereth In the sayd Composycyon.
"Im. more there ys a chest standyng by our ladys Auter wher in ys dyvers Beconyng & Wrytyng w* evydence wheche belongyng to the church & to bothe the gelds whiche were nessyssary to be loked upon substantally w* dyvers of the honest men of the prshe for the intent y* hett may be knowen in what statte the church w 1 the gelds stands in."

"A°. 1546.
It. getheryd for sent purker lyght** - vijs. ob^.
gethered by me Nycolas Colyshaw & John Rousse chyrchwardyns uppon Ester day for sent pulker lyght vjs.
Itm. receyvyd in money y^e lorde gathered in Wyton Hollidays - - - - - xiijs, iiijd.
Itm. receyvyd of goodman Posterne for lampe medowe- - iijs. iiiij.
Payments. Itm. ps^4 to Hugh Lacy & Rob^t Odam for the Town charges for watching of the Beakintt ivs.
Itm. peyde to Sander Bell for lede & workemanshype off the chappell - - - - - xxiiijjs.
* For water and wine for mixed Chalice. † For the Kiss of Peace. ‡ For holding Frankincense. § For the Reserved Host. || For the sacred oils. «J Communion Cup or Chalice. ** The Sepulchre light at Easter-tide. †† Another similar entry respecting the Beacon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for lede &amp; neles to the chappell</td>
<td>ijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for makyng of a syrplys &amp; a rachyt*</td>
<td>ijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde to Thoëns Smythe for a spade Iarnet† &amp; claspes to holde up y* banners</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for ij bawdryckes to y* bells</td>
<td>xxjd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for a wele to on of y* bells</td>
<td>vs. id.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for glew to mende the orgyns</td>
<td>id.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for an obyt for Mayster Sharpe</td>
<td>vjs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for a maunde† for ale bred</td>
<td>ijd. ob.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. p to Hugh Cotterill for mendyn of the Lorde's harowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for schoweryng of the towne harmys</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for schoweryng of the candlestykes afore they hye alter</td>
<td>vjd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for medyng of the lytyll bell</td>
<td>vd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyd for Wyll† Green for makyng of sent pulker wax</td>
<td>ijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde for xxv pounde of wax</td>
<td>xiiijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itm. peyde to Thoms Smythe for medyng of on of the clok Hamers</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Melton. A°. 1549 (altered to 1547).

The accompt of hus Willam Lane & Nicolas Colisshawe Jesus Churchwardens of Melton the viij dey off Decembir in the iij. yeere off the reign off Kyng Edworyde the viii°.

ffyrist wee charge hus recevvd att our entrye in redy money A°. 1597 - - - - iijii. ixs. xid.ob.

Item Resevd of Whitson mundey in oblaconis as apparithe bye the pticuler reseyte - - - - vjs.

Item for the bels at the buriall of . . Digby child of Oleby - - - - - - - - vd.

Itm. resed of Dynis Shepard for the getheringe of the lord at Whitsondey - - - - - - xxvijs. vd.

Itm. re° more the xvi of August of Mr. Willam brokisbe for the rest dew at Mydsom† for to peye for the charges of the obit for Johnson & Sharpe - xjs. iiiijd.

Itm. recd° of Clement gils for An ymage case - iijd.

Itm. of the vicar for owld Imagis - - xijd.

Itm. of barthelmew wormell for an Image Case - iiijd.

Itm. of John Godiere for Images - - - - xxd.

Itm. for iii. banar poels - - - - iiijd.

Itm. for the green chapell - - - - vijs.

Itm. for iiij quarters of the C & xvjth bronze tacken down in the churche - - - - - - - - vjs. iiijd.

Itm. recevied of Richard thornton ffoe the rent of the lamp medowe dew at Michlmass last - - - - iij. iiiijd.

* Rochet. † A Spade or Blade iron. ‡ Basket.
LEASESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

Itm. rec'd of Rob' Cotteler for ij great candell stycks of brasse - - - - - - - xiijs.
Itm. rec'd of Willm Green for a Tabernacle - - - - xiid.
Itm. rec'd for wax the last day of January which was the churches at the obit of Wm Gonson - - viijd.

Discharge. A°. 1547.
Itm. p'd for cord to mend the orgyans the xi of June - - - - - - - jd.
It. for a cord to tie a bord at ye church wyndow when ye west wyndow was mended - - - - - - - ijd.
Itm. for a neli of . . . . to mend a vesm' - - - - - - - ijd.
Itm. p'd for mending the old croisse - - - - - - - vjs. iiijd.
Itm. to Bartholomew Wormyll wyff for mendyng a Copp* xxz.
Itm. p'd to Willm Barnaby for fetching horses from Nuwark wth my Lorde of Warwik Trayn - - xxiiid.
Itm. ye 9 of Octobre p'd for a pottill wyne geven the Kyng's visitors - - - - - viijd.
Itm. p'd for the Kyng's Injuncions - - - - - - - iiijd.
(Much work in wood and lead at the East aisle)
Itm. p'd Strubull ye xx* day of Novemb' for settynge ye pulpit & other work - - - - - - ijs. viijd.
Itm. p'd for colorygng ye pulpit & ye Poormast's chest & ye leiff of ye table of ye lady alt - - - - - xd.
Itm. geven to the poore - - - - - - - iis. iijd.
Itm. p'd to ye smyth of Kyrkeby for peesying the Grett beill clapper - - - - - - - vs.
Itm. p'd ye last dey of Mche to Wm Green for peyntyng & wtyng in iij places in the soith oyle - - vs. viijd.
Itm. p'd for a payll wyn geven the Comyssyre when he came to touk (Certificate) of the church wardens for the church goods - - - - - vjd.
Itm. p'd for a Parasfrasie of Erasmus accordyng to ye King's Injuncions - - - - - - - xis.
Itm. p'd at Leic the iijrd dey of Mche for charge of they churchwardens at the delvyve off they byll upp before ye King's (surveyors)? - - - - xxxd.
Itm. for wyne geven to my lorde Mkys att ij tymes - - - - iijs. ijd.
Itm. p'd a Gallon of wyne gevyn my lord Mkys carried to M'r Barkley - - - - xijd.
Itm. p'd for a Gallon wyne gevyn my lord Mkys att the muster at Melton - - - - viijd.
(The organist's (Lawrence Caker) salary for ye was 2½/4d)
Itm. for wyne geven to ye bishop of Lyncoln - - - - xvjd.

* Cops.  † Alms Chest.
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

Itm. p^d to ij Ryngers w^th rong to y^e S^mon when the
bisshop of lincoln was here - - - - ijd.

Itm. p^d for wyn & horsemeit to M^r Hugh Rawlys w^th
pached* & shoed my lorde of Canterbyr's licence - viijd.

Itm. p^d for wyn given a pcher - - - - iiijd.

(Many charges for church clock)

Itm. for a byk off the nue s'vice - - - - vijs.

Itm. p^d for a sallitre in ynglishe - - - - xijd.

Itm. to W^m Hilley y^e yong^ the same dey for rydyng to
leic^ & Gettyng the noite ffor the nue s'vice - viijd.

"Anno 1547 or 1548.

Itm. rec^d of W^m Adcock for y^e rest of a chalisse sold
by hym - - - - - - vijs. viijd.

Item rec^d of Clem^t Gils for the sepulcher case - viijs. vjd.

Itm. rec^d for a pere silvy^s sensers & a pax weyng xxxiiij
oz & d & d a quart' at iiijs viijd y^e oun^ Sm^ - vijl. xvjs. xid.

It. of y^e Vicar of Skalfford ffor old tapper wax - - vxs.

Itm. rec^d for a pix Sylvy^ & Gilt Sold att London viii.
ixs. iiijd.

Itm. ffor a pere Sensers Sylvy^ a ship ffor ffrankynsense
of sylvy^ & ij cruyttts of Sylvy^ psell gilt - - xvli. xiiiijs. ixd.

Itm. rec^d for the crosse of sylvy^ & gilt sold at london
xixl. xjs..

Itm. ffor ij Images Mary & John a pix Sylvy^ & Giltlyjs.xd.

Itm. ffor a cheyn Sylvy^ & psell gilt iiijjs. - xxiiij. xjs. iiijd.

(Many receipts for Bells & Burials)

Itm. for the bells att the yere dey of Hugh Smyth - vd.

Itm. of M^r Digbye for the leyar stone^ of John Digbye
of Eye Kettleby, Esquire - - - - - - vijs. viijd.

Discharge. "A° 1548.

Itm. p^d to Christ^ Whitehed y^e he p^d to the late
Gram^s scolem^ for pte of the wages due att Christ-
mas an". 1548 - - - - - - xlviij. xd.

Itm. p^d the 4 day of Sept upon a Bill of Dett of Seth
Lacy & John Fishpoole for the goodwill & favor
of my lady Barkley for certain ground in Melton - ivli. o. o.

Itm. to John . . for mendyng y^e church lant'n - vjd."

1549.

"Memorand^d R^d by vs Joh^h ffyshpoole and robart
odam elect chirchmen on Saynt Stevyns Daye an".
M. v^c. xi ix of Wylliam Lane and Nicholas Colly-
shawe or p^ddecessors the sum in money - - - - xviiiis.

* Preached. + Earth or gravestone.
Rd of Bartyll Mewesome (?) for ij peec of woode of Sainte Nicholas aulter — xiijd.
Itm. rec'd of Mr. Lane the rest of Mary & John* vijs.
(Many receipts for Bells) Rec'd of the Churchmen of Kyreckby for a Bell clapper 6/8d
Paid for mending the cloke and chyme wth ringing ijs. ijd.
(Many payments to Glazier and for glass which was fetched from Mr. Clarke of Langham)
Pd to the scole m. at his hyring iiijd.
Pd to the chauncellar's clerke iiijd.
Pd for the bok of statuits iiijd.
Pd to robart Gervys for defacing the alters beneathe in the churche ijs. id.
Pd to rog* Gervys for takyng downe the highe alter and thalter in the vestre xxd.
Pd to John Gadder for making the Comuniion table iiijs. id.
Pd for ij sallters ijs. vijd.
(Payments to Glazier and for glass which was fetched from Mr. Glarke of Langham)
Pd for the bok of crystinge weading and berying xijd.
Pd for a pottell of wyne gevin to the chaunceller viijd.
Total payments £9. 19s. 4Æd.
" receipts £8. 8s.
Due to "John and Robarte xxxjs.

1553-54.

Itm. Recevid of Harye Tallis for the heygh aulter case & one poyle and a cofore xls.
Itm. Recevid of mast'r gyles for o' ladyes case & bords xiijs. iiijd.
Itm. receivevd of master gyles for sute of whit vestments xxxiiis.
Itm. receivd of Wyllyam Carvar for brass & ij candyl-stiks xxxiiijs. iiiijd.
Payments:
Itm. paid to good wyffe frearche for wyne for mast'r Newell & Mast'r Cave xijd.
Itm. payd for yrne & makinge of the cheynes for the Kyng's presoner Thomas Wyliams iijs.
October.
Itm. payd to John Hynmane & to Robert Bagworth for rynginge of y' great bell for master latimore sarmonijd.
Itm. for ringinge the great bell when St. James made his s'mon ijd.
Itm. for wyne for my lord byshoppe xijd.
ACCO\'UNS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON. 187

Itm. payd for master latymer charges - - - ijs. iiijd.

Receipts:
Itm. reed for the ornamentes that dyd belong to the
churche the xxviii daye of July - - - - iiijji. xiijs.

Item receyved of Nycolasse Coldyshawe for the churche
goodes at the same tyme - - - - iiijli. wantynge ijd.

"1553."

Itm. payed for vij stryks of lyme for the hye aulter
and mendyng of y\'e wall of it - - - - iijs.

Itm. payd to Willm Hawley for caryng of stones for
the aulter one daye - - - - vjd.

Itm. payd to Thomas gulson for mendyng of the wall
over the aulter - - - - iiijd.

Itm. payd to the Ryngers at the dyryge* for the Kyng†
vijjd.

Itm. payd the next daye for masse‡ - - - - id.

(July 1553)

Itm. p* to Willm Dyng to thomas Moydie & to Thomas
Smyth for makyng cleane of the chappell

Itm. payed to John Downes for a li of waxe and the
makyng of it - - - - ixd.

Itm. payd to Wm. Hawley for a vestment and a Gyrdle
vs. iijd.

Itm. payd for a boke of the Communyon

Itm. payd for a aulter clothe

Itm. payd for a payre of gloves for S\' John Stevens

Itm. p* to Roger Jervis for settinge in of ij stolpes
att the brig

Itm. p* to the Smith for a staple to the cheyne that
goeth over the brig - - - - iiijd.

Itm. p* to goodwyffe Freache for wyne and bread agaynst
Ester last past

Itm. payd the xxij daye of Maye to Master frauncis
Cave for our byll - - - - vijs. iiijd. ob.

Itm. payd to the Commyssyoners (xx daye of Julye,) for
y* church goodes - - - - iiijli.

Itm. payd to M* Shipward by the hands of Thomas
Postern nycolass coldyshaw Robt Odam Joh fysh-
pool to the use of y* lord bertlave the xxij daye of
Julye - - - - iijli.

Itm. payd for an ell of canvas and read lace for the
fount the xx daye of August

Itm. payd to Margarete barber the xxij daye of Marche
for a crosse cloth

* Or Service for the Dead. † Edward VI. ‡ Mass of Requiem for
Edward VI.

Vol. III.
Itm. payd to Thomas pyckryng the xxiiij daye of Marche for makynge of the sepulcre and other things the same tyme - - - - ijs. iiiijd.

Itm. payd for neles for the sepulcre - - - id.

Itm. paid the x daye Aprell to Thomas owefeld for castynge of the santa bell - - - - xś.

Itm. payd for iiji & dō of bell mettell for the sanctus bell - - - ijs.

Itm. payd for a clapper for yē bell viijd.

Itm. payed to goodman hobbs for hangyng of the saunce bell - - - vjd.

Itm. payd to Willm Hawley the same daye (22 Apl) for a stremer and a baner pole - - - xxđ.

Itm. payd to Arthur Rose for a peace of wood to make iiiij baner poles - - - xijd.

Itm. payd to John Smythe for iij claspes and neyles for the hye aulter iijiđ.

1557-1558.

"The Reconyng & accompte of us Hew Lace and Denys Shep'd Church wardens from the x day of Jan'y anō m.v°. . . vij to the xi

day of Aprell anō m.v & 1...iij as followeth."

Charge.

Itm. reō of Rychard Trafford & thomś postern of Rede money - - - xiiiis. iiiijd.

Itm. Rō of Robert Hollyngwort of yō lords money yō was gathered att Wyssondey xlvjs. viijd.

Itm. Rō aft Wyssondey in oblationes - vijs. vjd. ob.

Itm. Rō of yō skolemastō for yō belles & yō lerestals in yō Kyrke - vijs. ijd.

Itm. Rō of Robert Bocher for yō lords money we Receved ytt att allhallotyde ixs. ijd.

Itm. Rō of Mastō Waryng for his lere-stall in yō Kirke & yō belles vijs. iid.

Itm. Rō of Wyllm Adkoke for yō belles for his yere dey vid. (More entries of these descriptions.)

Item recōd in yō overplusse of yō offerings of the processions at Wessondey - - - xiiijd.

Discharge.

Itm. pōd for ij pond & a haffe of wax for yō sepulkar lyght - - - iijsd.

Itm. pō to Necon of Sysonbe for settyng up yē patarn* in yē Kyrke - - - vd.

Itm. pō to Wyllm Tryge for yō patarn in yē Kyrke - ijs.

Itm. pō to John Hasson for a Hale warter strynkyll† - jd.

* Query the Paschal, a large candlestick used at Easter.  † Holy water sprinkle.
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

Itm. p^4 to John Hasson for beryng a baner abotte felede - - - - - - - - - - - jd.
Itm. p^4 to Hales Wryght for makyng a nobes a namse* a Rachette & a surples - - - - - - - xiiijd.
Itm. p^4 to John Donnes for pyntyng o' paterne & y' Krosse Klotte - - - - - - - ixs. vjd.
Itm. p^4 for mendsyng y' ston worke by y' Halle wat' stroke† - - - - - - - - - - ijd.
Itm. p^4 for iiii stone of lede to make y' Hale wat' stakes - - - - - - iiijs.
Itm. p^4 to Robert ostyn for eyren worke to y' belles vjd.
Itm. p^4 for papar to make y' Kyrke inmatory - - - - - - - ob.
Itm. p^4 for a peerce of wood to mend y' Rode loft to Hew Lace viijd.
Itm. p^4 for a korde for y' lampe vd.
Itm. p^4 to John Gadder for settyng up Marey & John & mendsyng y' Rode loft & the Heyell (?) in y' Kykke - - - - - - - - - - xvs.
Itm. p^4 for a boke y' my lorde bycchups Hakes† - - - - - - iijd.
Itm. p^4 for a galland of ale to y' Reyngars when y' bycchype was here - - - - - - - - - - - - ijijd.

Total receipts £8 3 0 (Rob° Holyngworth & James Lovett chosen for the Due to the Parish 8 next year.)

1558.

"The Churche wardens Robert Holyngsworth and James lovet y' yer off our lord (1558.
Rec. of y' ofrynge ffor Melt® att Whytsontyde viijs. iijd.
R° clere of y' offrynge off the cunt¥ - - - - - - - vjd.
R° off the lord off myssrulle xvs.
Many entries for the Bells & for Burial in the Church, e.g.
R° of Annye Hendman ffor y' Bell - - - - - - - vjd.
R° of Watchorne ffor hys chyld buryinge in y' churche & one bell - - - - - - ijs. vjd.
R° ffor Mast° broksbye lying in y' churche vjs. viijd.
R° for y' bells for old Cowper vjd.

"Discharges in payments Ann°. 1558.
P^4 ffor beryinge banars off crosse mondye § - - - - - - - - - - - ijd.
P^4 ffor ix yerdes clothe to mak ij surples vijs. vjd.

* An Alb, an Amice. † Holy water stoup or stock. ‡ Acts or Injunctions.
§ Probably Rogation Monday.
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

Pd to Goodwyf Wryght for makynge ij surples & cloth - - xjd.
Pd for wyne & suger to buckmynst - xijd.
Pd for ij cordes ffor y' organes - - ijd.
Pd for a clok rope - - xiiijd.
Pd ffor makyng ye greyt bell claper - vjs. viijd.
Pd ffor caryinge y' bell clap & y' fetchynge - vjd.
Pd for makyng y' clok & the chyme - xiijs. iiiijd.
Pd to Pykeryng ffor makyng y' for* bell - xd.
Pd to Wyllm Webst' for ij Iron wedgys for y' same bell - - jd.
Pd to ye clok kep' ffor hys half yere wagys for our ladye daye - ijs. vjd.

"Ann 0 . 1559.
Rd off Robert Odam y e fyrst of Meye xxs.
Rd for offrynge for Melto att Whytsontyde viijs. jd.
Rd for offrynge off the Contyé - xviijd.
Rd off Mast' Gyles ffor y' Pynakell whyche was on y' gryt table of y' aulter - xijd.
Rd off Mast' Gyles ffor a bord whyche was on y' aulter iijd.
Rd off John Hyndman for y' meye poll - vjd.
(The charge for "the bells" 6d for the great bell 4d) Pd to ye ryngers in y' vestre at the hyrynge off them iiiijd.
Pd to Modye & Love for makyng y' glasse in y' greyt wyndowe - ijd.
Pd to y' glasyar for makyng the glasse wyndowes - xxs.
Pd for a communion bok & a sawter - vijs. viijd.
Pd for owr charge & iiji mowe at leycet at y' Visytasyon & for owr horses iiijd.
Pd y' same tyme for y' Injúctyone viijd.
Pd y' same tyme for owr byll makyng & puttyng in viijd.
Pd for y' byble - - xijs.
Pd to Hicson for takyng downe y' autere & dynge for caryeng awey y' stones - - ijs. ijd.
Pd to lydear for makyng the table & settynge a fyrme iiiijd.

"Anno 1560.
Rd ffor y' holly loft v sondy in lent - - xvjd.
Rd off y' rest off y' Holyeloff for one yere endyd at Est' xiiis.
Pd for wyne att Est' to Hew Dewod's wyf - - ijs.
Pd for wyne to Shyre's wyff - - - ijs.
Pd for breydys to Wyllm Hawleye - - iiiijd.
Pd for owr byll makyng & puttyng in at y' Visytasyon in y' towne - - vjd.

* Fore.
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

Pd for a pynt of malvoseye on Christmas daye iijd.
Pd for takynge downe ye rode loft ijs. iiijd.
Pd for a table & a Kalender ijs.

"Anno 1561.
R of Hewe Tollys for ye trowghte in ye Church & the cover vs.
(Many receipts in each of the above years for bells)
Rd for ye holy luff for fourtye sondyeyes & viij. xxs. ixd.
R of Mast’ Traford & Mast’ Francis brokysbye for ye bells & lyinge in ye church of old mestresse brokysbye vijs. ijd.
"Thomas Mey & Willm Bryern Churchwardens of Melton chosen & apoynted on Sunday the first day of Mehe A°. 1561"
Many receipts for Bells
Recd for the Holly Loofe 63 sondyeyes xxjs.
Total Charge ijli. xxijd.

Pd for ix yads of clotch to make a table clotch in the queare xiis.
Pd for drink at the lifting up of o’ Ladye bell iiijd.
Pd for a bawdrick viijd.
Pd for a newe buckell for ye ijs.
Pd for shoowting the bell clap ijs.
Pd for bredde & wyne for the Comunyon at sundrye tymes vjd.

Regestrye of buryings weddings & Christenings for one hoole yeire ijs.
Pd for drink & bread at ye carrying & lifting up of ye Lëys in ye church vjd.
Pd for a psalter booke for ye church xxijd.
Total discharge ijli. vjd. Rest xvjd.

"And that there is remayning in the hands of James Lovett theis pecells following:
A Crosse, a Lampe, a payre of seïncs and a shipp.
Item in the hands of Robart Odam, a Cooppe of red velvett, a vesment awbe wth aïnyes* & that wth belongeth to yt, a Corpus Case clotch.

Item in the hands of Dyonys Shepp’d a vestment of Stooleworck.
Item in the hands of Goodman Carver a great booke, a greyle, ij books of the psessyon,+ all ye ymagies in ye table‡ of the hye alter.
Item in ye hands of Ba’thollmew Wormewell great booke & a greyle§

* An alb with amice.  † Processional.  ‡ Or Reredos.  § Or Graduale.

Contained portions of the Psalms used in the Church Service.
Item a bell, ij stools, ij stream's on sylke, a vesment, wth awbe & amys, ij bann's, ij crose clothes on sylke, a vesment of satyn, hangyng for an altar of red satyn & grye, ij Coopes of yallow sylke, vj awlter clothes, a Ratchyt & iiij sorplyes, a towyll for East' viij bookes & iiij leads (all theis be in y' churche."

Item a table clothe of ix yards of clothe at xvjs a y. - xij*

The above account was past in the presence of certain Townsmen whose names are given and then "Itm dd them more a Coote armo' of sylke, a Challys."

" 1565
We charge hus wth st'en implements and old stuf
sole by the hole enabtance of Melton the viij of October
ffyrst for iiij pices of olde lynen to Water Sheparde - ijs. viijd.
A nawter clothe of blew satten and Red to the sayd
Water Sheparde xij*

Itm. for a naubé & a namis* to Willm Hawley xxd.
Itm. for a vesmentene of sattin to xpofer Shyres vs. iiijd.
Itm. for a crose clothe of sylke to John Lacy iijs. vj.
Itm. for ij copes to M' Whythed - xxs.
Itm. a booke called a cowchar to Xpofer Shyers iijs. viijd.
Itm. for a payre of orgayne belowes to M' Trafforde ij*.
Itm. for iiij crosclotnes to M' Trafforde viijs. xd.
Itm. for a roode cloth Thoms Worwell xxd.
Itm. for a vesmente & iij stoles to James Lonite - xxd.
Itm. for a vesment of stolowrk to Mr. Broxby xvjs.
Itm. for a lampe to Mr. Broxby - iijs. vjd.

Churchwardens acct. for 1565-66 (a mere scrap) endorsed
" O'naments off y' Churche
M*. y' whe delever up to y' towne wth thys ou' Account
one chall*, psyll gytt w'otw patterne one coot
Armoure of sylk iij Rede capps.

1566.

Churchwardens Account ending 14 July 1566.

Total Receipts £6. 5. 6

Extracts from payments:

Itm. p' ffor halfe y' pharafrecey to Wyllm. ........
Itm. spent at Lecest' y' vj daye belowe to M' Comases Court ffor lack off bowks xxd.
Itm. spent att lecest' beyng somonyd ffor Rynngng off all Halldasye att nyght - - xd.
Itm. p' to Wyllm. Kydder ffor maykyn ij Regester bokes iijijd.
Itm. p' to y' pet' ffor y' Resavyn off y' Regester boke & ffor hys feyes - vjd.
- An alb and an amice. 4 The Apparitor, or, as he is termed in a subsequent account, "The Piter."
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

1567-68. Much torn & worn.

"Rd off Hewe Dewod for an old chyme rope xx. d.
Rd off Mr. Wyllm Dygbie for hys chyld buryall in the churche

Discharges

Pd for ij hundrethe neylls y° were spent at y° makyng seyts in y° churche
Pd to ThoMs Keme for ij dayes & d work a bowt y° quere xxij. d.
Pd in expenseys at y° . . . . . y° newe quere iiij. d.
Pd for chyme wyer v. d.
John Downes for peyntyng & wrytyng . . . . churche

walls

Pd to ThoMs Keme for mendiung y° tryndell gate toward y° backhowes iiij. d.
Pd to Hewe Spens for fframyng wood for y° quier
Pd for vj sets for y° comunyon table xij. d.
Pd for a bok of y° declarasyon of certeyne articles vjd.
Pd for a bok off y° advertysaments viij. d.
Pd for nells for y° newe deske ij. d.

1568-69. Much worn.

"Pd for mendiung a chyme Hamer
Pd to ThoMs Keme for mendiung y° pulpit & the newe Desk
Pd for y° exchaunge off y° communyon cupe
Pd for y° exchaunge of y° Hand Bell
Pd for y° charges att Leic' on seynt Thoms Evyn by psentasyon off y° commissarye for y° of y° communyon cupe

. . . . John Sawell for kyllyng off ratts . . . to y° quenes majesties statute iiij. d.

1571 & 2.

The accompt made by Tho's Wormwell & ThoMs Hudson Churchwardens from the ffyrst of October An° 1571 tyll this psënt xiiij October An° 1572 as aperythe

* Inventory.
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

Imprimis Receyved off Wyllm Trygge & Jhon Worm-
well our predecessars - - - - vjs. viijd.
(Many receipts for Bells 6d. each, for burial in the Church 6/8.
For great bell only 4d)
"M there remeynethe dew to yw acompt by Simon
Shawcross for yw buryall of ij wyffes - xiijs. iiijd.
Payments.

Expensys Ustace Golson & Thoms Hudson before y quenes Comissnrs at Leic'
P for y articles viijd.
P for wrytyng an assure to y articles ijd.
P in expensys at leyvye of them at leic viijd.
Expensys at y visitation at Melton vjd.
P to y piter - - vjd.
P to Jhon Downes for wasshing y church clothes &
kepyng ye harness - - xvd.
Very many payments for "Breyd & Wyne" for the Holy Com­munion.

Total receipts £378
Paym£ 3 3 10

1572 & 1573 (imperfect).
Total receipts chiefly for Bells & the rent of two houses £2 1 9
"P for ij boks off prayer xijd.
P for y makynge our Regest' boks viijd.
(Bread and Wine as before)
Total Payments £2 1 5
Due to the Towne 4

"Symon Shawcrosse" still owes for "his towne wyffes
buryall in y church - xjs. viijd."

"An Dn 1576
Willm Downes & BertlemeW May churchwardons chosen 17 May
An Dn ut supra

Recytes.
1. Imp'mis R of John Dreoote a years rente iijs. iiiijd.
2. Itm. of Margery Poolye in pte of hir rente iiis.
3. Itm. R of Thomas Wormwell and Willm Wormwell
for y mothers leyar in churche vjs. viijd.
4. Itm. rec'd of the Geñall seassment mayde for the
repayringe of the churche and keepinge the clock &
chime as may appeare by the bill beyinge twise
levied xxxviijs. viijd.
5. Itm. R for bord ends and rotten woode xijd.
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

Itm. Rd in o' yeare for the bells - - viijd.
    Summa Totalis - - iiijd. xvijs. xijd.

Among the payments occur the following:
Itm. p' for oure Byble ----- xx js.
Itm. p' for mendinge the style against y' Vicaridge - - iijd.
Itm. p' to Sir Willm Hawley for the commission for Catichisms & a booke anexed therew'm and also a Psalter
    Summa Totalis - - iiijd. xvijs. vd.
    Due to the Towne vjd.

John Sadler & Thomas Spence chosen new C. W. 19th May 1577.

1578 to 1588.

"Anno Domini 1588. The last of June.

The Accounts and reconing of us James Levet and Michaell Bentlye of all somes of money Recev'd & payd during the tyme of our churchwardensp forom the xxiiij daye of August A° 1578 untill this last daye of June A° 1588 as w'in more at large doeth speare.

(Receipts for Bells &c as before)
Itm. recev'd for the holye loffe for Lxij dayes at iiijd.
(The Receipts for burials in the church amount to £11. 3. 4. inclunding Itm. for Mr. Hartops buriall vis. viijd.
(6/8 the usual fee)
Payment'.
Itm. for 360 paving tyle to men the church flowre w'm & x stryke of lyne - - 8s/4d
Itm. payed to Willm Kyder for his wages for keeping the clock & chyme for eyght yeares after twentye sillings the yeare - - viijd.
Itm. more payed to Heugh Brucke for his wages for keeping the glasse windowes tenne years after twentye shillings by the yeare - - xli.
Itm. payed to Heugh Brucke for fyve yeares keeping the leads after three shillings foure pence the yeare - - xvijs. viijd.
Item payed to Willm Kydger for washing the church clothes after xvjd. the yeare for seven yeares - - ixs. iiiijd.
(Charges for Bread & Wine)
In list of Receipts for Bells for the year 1578 to April 1586 the following occur:--
In 1578. Item for Mr. Dygbie his two men vjd.
In 1580. Item for olde Maystres Gyles 6 December vjd.
In 1581. Item for olde mother Shawe 20 June - vjd.
    Itm. for Rychard Lane Mr of arte 22 Maye vjd.
    Itm. for Mr. Digby's lackye 15 July - vjd.
Itm. for Gyllam fountains his wife 10 of Auguste — vjd.
In 1584. Itm. the bells for Wm. Nortons pleasure Sir Wm. Dreways man 8 May — vjd.
There is one sheet of payments in which are these entries
Itm. p" for three fadoms of Roop for y" fourth bell 0 0 3d.
Itm. p" for makyng five catches to y" chyme & the yron for the same — 0 8 0
The above account appears was kept by Wm. Kiddear who "kept the clocke" &c as he speaks of "my" wages.

Anno 1588.
Itom peaed for a ceattechesme xvjd.

"A°. 1590.
"The accomte of me William Trigge churchwardinge w° Mr. Lane for laste yeare begiinge at Michelmas 1589 and so endinge this Michelmas 1590."
This account is very scanty; among the receipts:
Item reaseaved of M° Corner for a pyse of lead w° was founde in the ground at the beareyal of John leacey vs.
Total receipts - 37/4
Total paym° - 46/6½
Due to Trigg - 9/2½

Abram Sheldon chosen to fill W° Trigg's office
The accompt of Ambrose Lane & Abraham Shelton churchwardens from the fyrst of Novembre in the year abovesaid untill the xvj° daye of Marche A° dni 1594.

Extracts.
Itm. reed for the buriall of Valentine Hartop his wife the xi° day of March next after (i.e. 1591 new style) — vjs. viijd.
Itm. receaved of vj of May in the yeare aforesaid for the buriall of Joyse Digbie daughter of M° Thomas Digbye (1592) — iijs. iiijd.
Itm. the v° of Octobre for the buriall of Anne Digbie daughter of M° Thomas Digbie — iijs. iiijd.
Itm. Redd of M° W° Digbye towards the whiting and painting of the Church the x° of Julye in the yeare of o° lord 1591 — xxs.
Item more of M° Edward Pate for the like — xxs.
Total receipts - £10 5 6d.
ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF MELTON.

Payments A° 1590 & 1591.

Itm. p° more the last of Decembre (1590) to Clem't Crowe for a rope for y° chime weying xli. - - vjs. viijd.

Itm. given in reward to one Poole who preached here the xvij of March - - - - - ijs. vjd.

Itm. p° at the bishoppes visitacōn being held here the 4 of Julye 1591 for a tything table, a booke of articles, a pray° for the Queene & making of a bill iijs. viijd.

Item payd to John Weste of Leicestre the xx° of Julye for whiting & paynting of the churche & a quarter of lyme for the same vii. xs. viijd.

1592.

Itm. to Jo° Wright the 7th of May (1592) for hanging a bell xijd.

Itm. p° the xi day of Novemb're (1593) to Raphe Croden for a mending the bell wheels & other things - iijs.

Itm. payd more in exchange for the Church bible vs. (in 1594)

Itm. more given to a poore man the 4th of Auguste being lycenced to gather - - - ijd.

(Many payments for wine for Holy Communion, Claret and Muscadell)

Itm. geven to M° Doct° Cheppingdale at the visitacon held here in Septembre (1593) a qté of sacke & sugar xiiijd.

(I demand for a caliver & Head piece w° b I delivered to the Towne use 16/-)

Item for shooting the great bell rope vdl.

Total paym° - £18 9 2½

So due to this accountant £8 3 8½

This account examined &c. 16 March 1594. Hugh Elwood & Nicholas Wollands chosen new C. W.

"1594 & 1595.

The accounte and reconynge of us Nicolas Wollons and Heugh Ellwood appointed Churchwardens the 16 daye of Marche . . . . . from the 16 of Marche ano 1594 unto this present the 21 daye of Marche An° 1595 as within more at large doth appeare at Melton Mobrey.

Total receipts chiefly from Bells - £6. 11. 2.

Payde to Nyche Merill for caringe the money to london and letters for the bringe of the bookes vjd.

Payde to nyche Merill for caringe of the bybelle and servis booke xxd.

Payde to . . . . . at the visitacion houlden at Melton for dismissinge us oute of there bookes for not reparinge the churche - - iijs. ijd.

Payde for the bybell and servis book at London xxxvjs.
Itë. payd olyfe at the byshopes vicitacion for the towne for not reparinge the church and his paynes - xijd.
Item payde to Raffe Crowdin for two deskes to lay the churche booke on and for ij bordes for the trundell gates and for hinginge the lyttell bell in a new yoke and for neales for the deskes ijs. viijd.
Payde to Croo for a rope for the saunce bell xxd.
Total discharge - - - £6. 11. 2.
"To the churchwardens at this daye clered"
At the end of this account occur the following
"These belonginge to the churche
Item one sylver cupe with a cever and one clothe for the Comunion table and one surplis
Item tow bybiles and tow servis bokes
Bullinger Decades
The booke of Defence of the Polegy, one Homine one homile
A booke called the perafeces which is at mendinge at lester.
Theare is remayninge in William Reves hande iijl. vjs. viijd. that was given to the towne bee William Downes by his will to by a Kowe to be lat forth for iiijs. a yeare for the poore. William Reves bond for this xlvjs. viijd. is put into the cheste wth other bondes
Thomas Spencer & ) Churchwardens for this year
Thomas Owndell / following 1596."

1596.

Melton Mowbraye. A leve made the xiii daye of June in the yeare of o Lorde God 1596 for the repare of the churche by us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Owndell</td>
<td>Whos names be herunder wrytten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Presson</td>
<td>iijd. Wyddow Gulson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Tayler</td>
<td>Nycolas Wolandes - iijjs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wydowe Sonsome</td>
<td>Thomas Epden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parsonage</td>
<td>Hugh Brooke - - jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Lane</td>
<td>xxd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hyckson</td>
<td>jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattye Kying</td>
<td>xijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyddow Rucardson</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathy Lacy</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ffancys Hynde</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostyne Mealye</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hudson</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Coope</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Shawcross</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Holwell</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Teayler</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John ffarlye</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyddow Heanman</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathye Garner</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nycolas Mearyll</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Wormwhel -</td>
<td>xijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Owndell</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owmfrye Pypes</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruchard Burgine</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Shilton</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hogkin</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Pawley</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mychell Dylkes</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Knowles</td>
<td>xxd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M' Brentlye</td>
<td>xvijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John ffreeman</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M' Bruche</td>
<td>xijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lacey</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Powlye</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Cotteryll &amp; Rob.</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dene</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Rouke</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Ridgwaye</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Kein</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Power</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Shawcross</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dūscotte</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M' Bannister (?)</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Nealle</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleamant Croce</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffe Parkinson</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tayler</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Leaye</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorge Luines (?)</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Lynn</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Geste</td>
<td>xijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Parr</td>
<td>xijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorge Stevens</td>
<td>jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adome Wildes</td>
<td>jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hodyne</td>
<td>vjd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Copper</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas King</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Randall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Harrison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Teayler</td>
<td>vijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Emwoode</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wolandes</td>
<td>vjd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Trygge</td>
<td>iijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Parker</td>
<td>iijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrye Hudson</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. . . Scadd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Bydles</td>
<td>iiijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Peate</td>
<td>xvijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cooke</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyddow Byngham</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Blythe</td>
<td>jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Topper</td>
<td>jd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruchard Reanoldees</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Levitt</td>
<td>iijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Smysbee</td>
<td>vjs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Dawson</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter the Spoiker</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mychell Staples</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Hunt</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M' Shipward</td>
<td>ijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyddow Nealle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robarte Kyng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Haryson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nycolas Weathers</td>
<td>xvijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Gulson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Dyckman</td>
<td>iijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Abbott</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Measure</td>
<td>ijs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M' Bruxhe</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Stannige</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mylner</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wydd. Shawe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cheatom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Beanill (?)</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tho. James</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Harleye</td>
<td>ijd.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William Tayler - John Maye
Thomas Dychele - William Shawcross - xijd.
Robert Dodson - yjd. Ruchard Allain - ijd.
Jeffery Talis - xviijd. Roger Nobell - iiijd.
Nycolas Cottrom - jd. Tomulin y" Mylner
Edward Lonne - iiijd. John Castell
John Buclad (?) - xjd. William Knowles
Bartholomew Hawlye - jd. Dynis Swyndell - ijd.
John Crooe - Thomas Spenser - xjd.
Radnulfe Nobell - Celiam (?) Neadom - ijd.
Thomas Brygges - xijd. John Roe - iiijd.
William Mabbes - xijd. John Fouler
Hughe Goodwin - M" Chavntler - xijd.
William Allain - Ruchard Stanham - vijd.
Wydowe Knoules - William Queneborowe
Robart Talles - ijd. Thomas Croson - ijd.
Gorge Thackrake - iiijd. Thomas Smarte - iiijd.
Albinde Hartte (?) - ijd. W. Morrison - iiijd.
Humfrye Trygge &
francke his Sonn - vjd.

The above is written upon long slips of paper stitched together: the whole length being about five feet. It is endorsed "Sin of this bill rec" by the Churchwardings - iiijd. vs. xd."
1596-7.

Thomas Spencer & Thomas Oundell Churchwardens.

Total receipts £8. 2. 4.

Item paid for our byll makinge & putting in to gytt a new day for the Repare of our churche xd.

Item paid to George browne for cominge to see the wyndow & goinge to speake for ston at Clynston the 19 of Aprill ijs. iiijd.

Itm. given to a pore mane that had a lysence in the churche iiijd.

Itm. paid at Lester to gytt a newe day for to Repare our churche xijd.

(Much work about the window.)

Itm. given to another pore man that Reald* in the churche because he could gytt nothing iiijd.

Itm. paid to the Doctter for cominge to Melton towards his charges viijd.

Itm. paid to the paliters man because he did perdoyn this town with own sworne man iiiijd.

Itm. p'd for the fyrst byll making that we gathered the holf fyffen by towards the Repair of our churche iiiijd.

Item paid for the breefe that the doctter sent in Regard of this collection & for the faste xijd.

Item paid to Rulfe Crodyne for leaying faste the bras of the Dawkine xijd.

Item paid to William Cem for medinge the dawkyn whole viijd.

viewed & allowed 28 march 1597.

"Jefery Tallis and Thomas Blythe elected for this year A°. D¹. 1597."

1597-8.

Jefferie Tallis & Thomas Blythe churche Wardens 25 marche

Money red of Thomas Spenser & Thomas Oundell y° 25 Marche in Ann°. 1597 sum : 11½d

Recd. for y° beriall of one Elliott y° myllner in y° Kings Streete vjd.

Total rec'ts £3. 13. 2.

Itm. payd the 27 of marche to Micheall Shiears for writing to sertificat of the contribewsions to the ordinarie iiiijd.

Itm. payd for sending of it to Lester xd.

Itm. payd to Willm. Brewer that gathered for marshall feayes vid.

Itm. payd to Willm. vmfryes having the seayll of the aspitall of Stamford vjd.

* Railed.
Itm. payd to Robert Collington havinge the quenes brod seayll 30 aprill - vjd.
It. payd to Robart Heape a pore man - vjd.
It. payd to Jhon Mearill the first of meay his house burned to the value of a hundrede pound - vjd.
It. payd to an aspitall cauled Knightbridge in Middelsesakes the 8 of Meaye - vjd.
It. payd 10 march to a pore man havinge the quenes brod seaylle being a meamed psone servinge her majest. in divers countres - vjd.
Itm. payd to a pore man of Medwell in Northamptonshire the 29 Meay beinge burned - vjd.
It. payd to Thomas Ston a Staford shier man havinge a Lisence - vjd.
It. payd to the pareter 14 of June - vjd.
It. payd to tow skoulers of Cambrige the on of them beinge blind 14 June - vjd.
Itm. payd to iij meamed strangers ye 21 June Northamptoon shier men - vjd.
(Many similar entries.)
Itm. payd tow pore men Xpor Ston Willm Tomson beinge they had great losse by fire Linconshire men - ijs. xjd.
It. payd for a brasse at Lester - - - ij s. xad.
It. payd to meamed psones ther names Selven Chap­man & Wm Blankford chesher men 18 of June - vjd.
It. payd second of October to towe Hongtingdoneshier men havinge the quenes brode seayle - vjd.
Total payments - - - £3. 12. 10.
Wm Lacy & Matt Lacy Churchwardens for the year 1598.
It. Reed. of M* Digbie for the bells & for the grave - vijs. ijd.
Total reciv'd - - - £8. 6. 4.
It. paid to Johnson for a baldericke for the great bell - ijs. vjd.
It. p'd to Nicholas Wallands for the maymed soldiers - iijs. iijd.
It. p'd for a coppie of the composition for fraibie - vijs. vjd.
It. spent in goinge to Doctor Cheppendale wth the same - xvd.
It. p'd for a lock for the North dore & mendinge a church coffer - - - ijs. xjd.
It. p'd for a rope for the fore bell - - - xxijd.
It. p'd to Mark Jackson for a regester of parchment - xiijs. iijd.
Total paymt. - - - £8. 4. 10.
So dew to the Churche - - - xvijd.

James Lenit (who appears to have died during his year of office) & Nicholas Wethers elected Churchwardens for this year Anne. D4. 1599.
1599.

The Account of us churchwardinges Nicolas Withers & Thomas Brigges for this year 1599 as followinge

Received of M' Lacye when he tendered his accounte - xviijd.

Item Received of William Hartope for his father grave and the belles - - - vijs. ijd.

Total rec. - - £3 3 2
Total paym. - - 4 10 7½

due to C. W. - 1 7 5½

1601.

"A brefe declaration of mony layde forth by the Churchwardings of Melton Mowbray for the repare of the Churche and other necessaries belonginge therunto, havinge relation to what hathe bene received and disbursed by them as maye appeare in p'ticule' by eche of ther accomptes.

Martin Horsley | Rec. of the Inhabitants of Melton
William Mabes | in Ano D° 1601 by the Churchewardings Martin Horsley and William Mabes as maye appeare by ther accomptes - - iiiijd. xxijd.

Rec. a whole yeares rent of Heugh Brocke for his house - - vjs. viijd.

Rec. of the Bell founder, for mettell wher was overplus of the forth Bell wher was caste by him - xxiijs.

Rec. for the Bels and buriales as may appeare by the Regeste' booke xjs. xd.

Rec. of the Hamliters as may appeare upon the accompte - - xxxixs. jd.

Sm. viijd. iijs. vjd."

1602.

Similar abstracts for the following years:

1602. By Inhabitants of Melton - £10 3 7
Hamletters - - - - 3 13 4
Bells & Burials - - - - 2 9 8

Total - £16 6 7

The discharge of Edward Wormell and John Ro laid out for the Repare of the Churche in Anno Dni 1602.
It. for a lode of coles for the glasiers - - - vs. viijd.
It. p for viijd wispes of glasse - - - xvjs. ixd.
It. o' charges at the cort at leic' againste Mr Thurbarn for not payinge his levi for the churche - iijs. viijd.
It. p's Will' Smarte and his men for hanginge the bells & mending them - - - vjs. viijd.
It. paid to John Longtoote for the mendinge the greate sowth window - - - xxvs. vjd.
It. p's frauncis Garland for mendinge the goddgins and other things about the bells - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ixs.
It. p's frauncis Garland for mendinge one of the bell clappers -------- ij«.

Many payments for lead, sawder, stone, &c. 
Wages 1½- per diem.

Paid for a Register of Parchment and for writing of it xlijs. iiijd.

Total Discharge exclusive of Register Book - £13 8 7

1603. By Inhabitants of Melton - - - - - 9 19 5
Hamletters - - - - - 6 6 8
More of them - - - - - 10 0 0
Bells and Burials - - - - - 1 5 6
A year's rent Hugh Brock's house 6 8

Total - £27 18 3

1604. Bells and Burials & an old surplus - - £2 2 8
Total sum of the four years' receipts - - £54 11 0

(N.B. The Burials were graves made in the Church.)

Expenditure Ano D° 1601

Money layde forth for the repaire of the Church of Melton Mowbray and other necesaryes as maye appeare by ther accomptes - xli. xvjs. xjd.
1602. Do - - - - - 15 11 11
1603. Do - - - - - 28 10 0
1604. 3 13 2

Sum Total of the Four years' charges - - £58 12 —

“Anno. 1612.

The accomte of Roberte Trigg and John Bonitt beinge Churchwardens in Año 1612 for mony receaved towards the repare of the Churche of the Towne of Melton and the Hamblittes beelonginge to the same upon a Levy made the 21 day of June 1612 as hereafter may appere.”

The Total amount of Receipts in this account is £22. 0. 4.
From the Towne of Melton - - £10 0 0
Chapel wardens of Sysonby - - 2 0 0
For the High Field - - 2 2 0
For Kettleby grounds - - 0 14 0
From Mr Thomas Digby for Welby 3 10 0
Many receipts for graves and for the Bells 7s 8d.

The Discharge amounts to £21. 8s. 1d. the following items occur:
Payde for mendinge the Trundell yeates - - o. o. iiiijd.
Item for tyles lyme and workmanship aboute the Churche flore - - o. iij. viijd.
Item for a peese of wood to George Bench to make yokes for the Bells - - o. xiiiij. iiiijd.
Item for a bell-rope to Clement Croe the 18 day of Julye wayinge xip. iij oz. - - o. iij. ij^.
Item for a peese of wood to George Bench to make yokes for the Bells - - o. iij. ij^.
Item for the cappes sheres the crowne stapell and the Kayes aboute the greate bell wayinge vij stone - o. xxxvj. viijd.
Item for ij stapelles plates and keayes for the wheele - o. vs. viijd.
Item for Thirtye greate neales and broddes - - o. o. viijd.
Item for for Buckells and for mendinge the Anselltree of the greate bell - - o. o. xviijd.
Item for ij Bvdrickes for the greate bell - - o. iiij. vjd.
(Much work about the ‘foundation’ of the Church)
Item four pound of leade to soder a pynakell of the steepell for ij dogges of lerne and for mendinge of itt - o. iij. vjd.
Item for fechinge twoe lode of ston att Wycom pittes for the foundatione of the Churche - - iijs. od.
Item to George Chaunteler for writeinge the regester - - iijs. iiijd.
(Much work about the steple & the windows there)
Item to Robert Gullson for lyme and workmanship aboute Kinges armes - - ijs. iiiijd.
Item more to Robert Gullsone for tyles and for mendinge the pentis over the trundell yeates - - o. viijd.
Item to Clement Croe for twoe bell-ropes one for the greate bell and a nother for the third bell - - vs. ijd.
Item for a presentment for the church nott being repaired - - iiijs. iijd.
Item to Henry Biddelles for shuteinge the bell-ropes - - o. iijd.
(Several more charges for the trundle gates.)
Item to Rafe Croden and William Allyn for four dayes worke and a hailfe settinge upp windoes in the steepell - - ixs. od.
Item for three pound a £ of wyre for the windoes - - ijs. vd.
Item to Thomas Heane for mending the forth bell clapper - - js. iiiijd.
Item to John Stanidge for a peese of a bord to neale over the Church booke os. iiijd.
Item for a booke cauled Julyan's workes and for covering of itt and cheaening of itt in the churche xxvjs. od.

"Receaved - - - xxijli. os. iiijd.
Payde - - - xxjli. viijs. j'd.
Reste due to the Towne & Parishe xij. iiijd.

Charge. "Anno 1612.
Receaved the 21 day of June 1612 uppon a levye made for the reparate of the Church, and towards the dischargeinge of some matteres which the Hamblitteres refuse to bee contributteres unto as followethe xxij. xod.
Discharge. Imprimis layde oute att Lester att the visetation beeinge the 21 day of April 1612 the some of xjs. od.
Item for a novre glas* and for the carridge of itt from London o. xvjd.
Item for wyer for the chyme and for mending the Jackes in the clock hous js. iiijd.
Item att Lester att the visetation beinge the iiiij day of October 1612 the some of ixs. vj'd.
Item for washing the surplis -- iiij. vs. od.
Item for repareringe of our comon seats in the Churche
(There was due from Burton upon the Levy £3 10 0 Towards the Freeby 2 10 0 repair of & from Mr Edw'd Hartopp for the Fog Close 0 7 0 Church.
The above account was "seen and allowed by the Inhabitants of the parishe undermentioned" Signed amongst others by "Nathl Lacy. Edward Wormell. John Hall.
This account is endorsed "The agreement betwixt the towne of Melton and the Hamblitlers was made the xxxij (?) day of Januarye 1605."

* An Hour-glass for the Pulpit.
November 29th, 1866.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

The Rev. F. H. Sutton presented to the Society a copy of his work "Some account of the Mediaeval Organ Case still existing at Old Radnor, South Wales," profusely illustrated.

Mr. Weatherhead (Curator of Leicester Museum) sent for inspection an urn found June, 1866, in excavating for the site of the intended Leicester Borough Lunatic Asylum, at Humberstone, at a depth of about five feet from the surface; several skeletons were found in the immediate vicinity. Also, a Roman (Cinerary?) urn found in Bay Street, Leicester, near the Canal in 1866, at a depth of seven feet from the surface, the upper three feet being alluvial soil, the remainder drift gravel, in which the urn was found, being the same bed in which was found the large fragment of the tusk of a mammoth which is now (together with the relics just described) preserved in the Leicester Town Museum. Mr. Weatherhead also mentioned that he is preparing a list of potters' names found upon Samian ware, now in the Leicester Museum, and wishing to add to his list the names of potters upon similar ware found in this locality, and now in private collections, he begs the assistance of all gentlemen able to give him the required information, in order that his list may be as complete as possible.

Mr. Hunt (Thurnby) produced an alleged Anglo-Saxon pendant about 2½ inches in diameter, said to have been found at Narborough, in this county. This was at once pronounced to be a forgery. Similar forged Anglo-Saxon antiquities have latterly been manufactured in large quantities. Mr. Hunt also exhibited a small triptich, enamelled, of the kind extensively used by members of the Eastern Church, probably from the knapsack of a soldier engaged in the Crimean war; also a miscellaneous collection of coins, and a South American wrought-iron ornamental stirrup of excellent workmanship.
The Rev. Assheton Pownall, F.S.A., exhibited. 1. A medal in silver of Charles I. Size 19. One of a very rare series struck to commemorate the payment of £30,000. by the Dutch for the right to fish in British waters. The King and his Queen are represented on the obverse. Charles, thus: a three-quarter face, bust in armour, over which is a falling collar, and from his neck hangs a ribbon, to which is attached the "George." The Queen's face is in profile. Legend CAR. ET. MAR. D. G. MAG. BRIT. FRANC. ET. HIBER. R. R. Date 1636. On the reverse is a quotation from the vulgate edition of the Scriptures, + IVSTITIA. ET. PAX. OSCVLATAE. SVNT. Psal. 84. Justice and Peace, personified by two female figures, are kissing. Justice holds in her right hand the sword, but her scales have been entrusted to the charge of an infant at her side, while another is seen standing close to the figure of Pax, lifting up on high the olive branch. This splendid medal is to be found figured in Pinkerton's "Medallie History," and the description given there would lead us to suppose it to have been the work of Warin. It has been sometimes copied, but an example like this, which belongs undoubtedly to the seventeenth century, has been seldom seen; indeed, the medal is so rare, that even the national collection at the British Museum does not possess its fellow. One resembling this, though not from the same identical die, exists in the Haggard collection, and another lies buried in a Scotch Museum, access to its coins being only granted to the stranger who has influence enough to induce three magistrates of the city to bring their respective keys, unlock the treasure, and witness his inspection of it! 2. A groat and silver penny of Henry IV., King of England, 1399. These coins are interesting from their excessive rarity, and the great difficulty we have in assigning any pieces at all to this King. In those times numerals were not added to the name inscribed on the coin. Hence arises for us now considerable chance of mistake in dealing with the money of sovereigns bearing the same name, such as Henry IV., V., and VI., who quickly succeeded each other on the throne. Some of our numismatists are at present giving much attention to this portion of the English coinage, and it is to be hoped they may be able to arrive at unquestionable results. 3. Electrotype copies of three Greek and three Roman coins, shewing the almost perfect imitation of the original, which is to be obtained by the electrotype process. 4. A ribbon of copper impressed with the dies of Charles I. Irish farthing coinage. Never having been cut out from the metal, they never became coins.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited (through the courtesy of Mr. W. H. Walker, of Birstall) a small manuscript volume on vellum, bound literally in boards. It was a Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a Calendar prefixed, and was executed in England about A.D. 1450. The volume is imperfect and the art
very indifferent. It was apparently originally ornamented with miniatures, which have been abstracted. At the beginning is a prayer written a few years later. On one page the following arms appear: Quarterly 1 and 4 sable, a fess argent; 2 and 3 argent, two swords in saltire, sable; in chief, a label, or. These arms are those of Bostock, County Chester. The badge is a sheaf of arrows with the motto, "Pur ma defens."*

The Rev. John Fisher laid upon the table a modern grant of a coat of arms by the College of Arms, several personal curiosities of the last century, and a few English coins said to have been found in the neighbourhood of Bosworth.

The Rev. J. H. Hill, F.G.H.S., read the following Paper upon

THE ARCHDEACONS OF LEICESTER.

In the Church of England, and indeed in most European Churches, each diocese is divided into Archdeaconries and Parishes. The Bishop presides over the whole Diocese; the Archdeacon (Vicarius Episcopi) presides over his Archdeaconry; and the Rector or Vicar presides over each Parish. The name of Archdeacon is derived from the fact that this officer was at one time chosen from the order of Deacons. It is quite certain that the Archdeacon is a very ancient officer in the Church, for we find that Anastasius, in the life of Pope Sixtus II. (who was martyred in the Valerian persecution, A.D. 257), called one Laurentius Archdeacon of Rome, who suffered A.D. 260. St. Jerome, in his Epistle to Evagrius, tells us that the deacons chose one of the most eminent amongst them, whom they called Archdeacon. It is quite plain, therefore, that there were such officers about the end of the fourth century, but they had not then any jurisdiction in the Church, for they only attended the Bishop at ordinations, &c. The distribution of the dioceses into Archdeaconries cannot be assigned to any certain time. It is said that Stephen de Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, was the first English Bishop who established an Archdeacon in his diocese, about the year 1075. The Bishops having baronies, they were tied by the constitutions of Clarendon to a strict attendance upon the King in his great council, and they were consequently obliged to delegate their episcopal powers. Each archidiaconal district was assigned to its own Archdeacon, with the same precision as other and larger districts are assigned to the Bishops and Archbishops.

The Archdeacon was appointed by the Bishop to act as his deputy "quoad forum externum." Till the severance of the ecclesiastical from the civil jurisdiction by William the Conqueror,

* We are indebted to Mr. Levien of the MS. Department, British Museum, for this description and for the identification of the arms.
he sat in the Hundred Court, subsequently to which he had a court of his own, and a power of visitation throughout his district, which included several rural deaneries. It was his duty to present pluralists and concubinary priests to the diocesan; to clip the long hair of clerks; to examine the local clergy and see that they were able to lead the sacred offices; to inspect the books and vestments of the church as well as its state of repair. He might interdict the lands of those who oppressed the clergy, and fine any Rector or Vicar who should neglect to demand his tithes, to the extent of half a mark. He might also inflict a moderate suspension upon such of the clergy as acted contumaciously. The Archdeacon's visitation was, in Lyndwode's time, held triennially, but in some cases it was annual. His attendants upon such occasions were not to exceed the number of five or seven, with their horses, and his procuration was limited to fifty turons* or about eighteen shillings. He moreover claimed a fee of one penny from every clerk coming to officiate in his archdeaconry.

At the Legative Council at York, under Herbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 1195, it was agreed that clerks who despise the crown, (i.e., the tonsure), if beneficed, be deprived: if not let them be shaved against their will by the Archdeacon or Dean. Cap. 9. Wilk. i. p. 92.

At a Council of Oxford, under Archbishop Langton, A.D. 1222, cap. xxiv., it was decreed that Archdeacons, at their visitations, take care that priests know how to pronounce rightly at least the words of the canon, and that they understand it properly. Let them also teach the laity in what form they ought to baptize in case of necessity.

Archdeacons to visit the churches in their districts once a year.—At a synod at Exeter, under Peter Quivil, Bishop of Exeter, A.D. 1287, it was decreed (cap. xx.) that the several Archdeacons make diligent enquiries what Rectors, Vicars, or Priests are enormously illiterate and give us due notice of the same. Let them frequently examine parish priests whether they know the Decalogue, &c.†

Amongst the grievances proposed by the clergy of the diocese of Exeter in the synod of London, 1328. (Cap. vii.)—Whereas Archdeacons and other superior ordinaries exact at their visitations excessive and unlawful procurations, and often by a fraudulent contrivance come on the night before the visitation day, and lodge in the houses of the Rectors and Vicars, to their great cost, with their cumbersome retinues and dogs for hunting; and on the morrow, when the visitation is ended, extort a whole procuration in money, as if they had not received any victuals; we therefore strictly forbid anything of the kind to be done in future.

* The Turon was the twelfth part of a Florin, and the Florin was 4s. 4d.
† The knowledge of many priests was (before the Reformation) often inferior to that of children in our village schools of the present day.
In 1604 the Archdeacons were enjoined to survey the churches in their districts once in three years.

Archdeacons must have been full six years in priests' orders (3 and 4 Vict., c. 27), and they are appointed by the respective Bishops. The duty of Archdeacons is to visit their archdeaconries from time to time; to see that the churches, and more especially the chancels, are kept in proper repair, and that everything is done agreeably to the canons, and consistently with the decent performance of public worship. The Archdeacon may hold his visitation yearly, but he must of necessity have his triennial visitation. He may hold courts within his archdeaconry, in which he may hear ecclesiastical causes and grant probates of wills and letters of administration, but an appeal lies to the superior court of the Bishop. The judge of the Archdeacon's court, when he does not preside himself, is called his Official. Surrogates are Officials of the Archdeacon's court.

In England, according to the Valor Ecclesiasticus of King Henry VIII., there were fifty-four archdeaconries; there are now above sixty in England and Wales. Seven new archdeaconries were erected 6 and 7 William IV., c. 97.

There is an officer belonging to this court called a Registrar, whose office concerns the administration of justice. The Archdeacon cannot by law take any money for granting it: if he does, the office will be forfeited to the Queen.

The emoluments of an Archdeacon are small, and the office is generally held by persons who have good preferment in the Church. The 1st and 2nd of Vict., c. 106, 124, specially exempts Archdeacons from the general operation of the Acts by permitting two benefices to be held with an archdeaconry. Among the recent Acts which affect Archdeacons are 1 & 2 Vict., 106; 3 and 4 Vict., 113; and 4 and 5 Vict., c. 39.

One of the best expositions of the office of Archdeacon is given by Henry Vincent Bayley, Archdeacon of Stow, in a charge delivered to the clergy of his archdeaconry, at a visitation held May, 1826. He says, "The Archdeacon, on his part, is as solemnly pledged to the Bishop to act in his stead, and on his behalf; to be his eye always, and often his hand—to view every corner of his province—and to detect and present unto him offences—to inquire generally of all things, spiritual and temporal, appertaining to good order, within his jurisdiction—and to communicate whatever information he may obtain, as to the state, conduct, and sufficiency of the clergy. Further, it is his business as immediate Ordinary, to visit every Parish Church and Glebe House, and to enjoin proper reparations—to look after charitable bequests and endowments, the rights and property of the Fabric and Incumbent—and, lastly, to take care, as far as in him lies, that all the functions of the ministerial calling, all the duties of residence, and all the services of the liturgy, be legally and canonically performed."
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF LEICESTER,

Which comprises the whole of Leicestershire, was in the diocese of Lincoln from the time of Remigius de Fescamp, in 1092, until the year 1837, when it was transferred in that year by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the diocese of Peterborough.

The first-fruits of this dignity is £87 19s. 2d. It consists only in the perquisites of its office, and pays to the Bishop for exercising of ecclesiastical jurisdiction £22. a year. In 1535 the value of the archdeaconry was, in procurations and synodals, £103 12s. 4d.; induction of benefices, £2.; wills, £1 10s.: out of which was paid to the Bishop of Lincoln, as a pension, £39 6s. 8d., and the clear annual value was £80 12s. 4d.—*Valor Ecclesiast.*, vol. iv.

1. The first Archdeacon of Leicester was Ralph, instituted by Remigius in the year 1092.

2. Godfrey succeeded him about 1100. The next Archdeacon was Walter, who held it about 1120.

3. Robert de Querceto, or de Chaisney, was the fourth Archdeacon of Leicester. He was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, 1147. He built the stately episcopal palace at Lincoln, and founded St. Katharine's priory in that city, for which he left his see in debt. He died 1167, and was buried in Lincoln cathedral. His arms were, cheque a fesse fretty. According to Matthew Paris, Robert de Querceto gave up the patronage of St. Alban's monastery, excluding that and fifteen parishes, the manors of which belonged to that abbey, from his diocese. Henry of Huntingdon says, "At the approach of Christmas, Robert, surnamed de Querceto, the young Archdeacon of Leicester, a man worthy of all praise, was chosen Bishop of Lincoln. He was welcomed at Lincoln for our Lord's Epiphany by the clergy and people with great reverence and rejoicings." The Archdeacon of Lincoln also adds, "May God prosper him in these evil times, and cheer his youth with the dew of wisdom, and make his face to shine with holy joy." He was the third Bishop that Henry of Huntingdon had been contemporary with in that see.

4. Hugh held the archdeaconry of Leicester in 1151-1158 and 1189.

5. Robert de Rolveston was Archdeacon about 1191. He is also called Roger de Rolveston, and was Dean of Lincoln 1195. He died in the year 1223. He was succeeded in the Archdeaconry of Leicester by William, in the year 1199.

6. Reginald, 1204.

7. Robert de Rolveston was Archdeacon about 1191. He is also called Roger de Rolveston, and was Dean of Lincoln 1195. He died in the year 1223. He was succeeded in the Archdeaconry of Leicester by Reginald, 1204.

8. William, in the year 1199.

9. Reymond, 1214 and 1222.

10. Robert Grosthead was Archdeacon of Leicester, and resigned it in 1231. Grosthead was consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, July
18, 1235, but had been Archdeacon of Chester and Wilts, and Chancellor of Oxford, before that time. He presided over the diocese with great wisdom and prudence for eighteen years, and history speaks of him with the highest praise, viz.: that he was an awe to the Pope, a monitor to the King, a lover of truth, a corrector of prelates, a director of priests, an instructor of the clergy, a maintainer of scholars, a preacher to the people, a diligent searcher of truth, and most exemplary in his life.—(Ang. Sac., vol. ii., 325.) He died Oct. 9, 1253, and was buried in his cathedral. His arms were, argent, a cross moline pierced, sable.—N.B. His real name was Copley, the name of Grosthead was given to him in France, where he studied.

12. William de Drayton was collated to the Archdeaconry of Leicester in the year 1281.

13. John de Basingstoke held the archdeaconry in 1238, and, dying in 1252, he was succeeded by

14. Solomon, who held the same in 1254. He was Rector of Gumley, which living he resigned in 1268.

15. Roger de Saxenherst was next promoted to the dignity about February, 1274. He died in 1294, and was succeeded by

16. Roger de Martivall, who was collated to the archdeaconry January 16, 1294. He was made Dean of Lincoln in the year 1310, on the death of Cardinal Reymund de la Goth, from which dignity he was removed to the bishopric of Salisbury. Roger de Martivall is ranked by Fuller among the worthies of the county of Leicester. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, to the library of which college he gave several MSS., as may be learned from the beginning of them; and his name, with the title of Archdeacon of Leicester, occurs, with several others of that college, in a MS. in their exchequer. Willis says that Martivall gave up the prebend of St. Margaret’s, but accepted the archdeaconry, which he held until the 4th year of Edward II., 1310, when he became Dean of Lincoln. Now, seeing Bishop Godwin had nothing more than by name and date (says Fuller) it is charity to inform posterity that he was the last heir male of his house, and founded a college at Nosely. De Martivall died in Lent, 1322.

17. Reymond de Fargis was the next Archdeacon of Leicester, and was instituted October 31, 1310. He died in the year 1346, and was followed by

18. Henry de Chaddeuden, May 14, 1346. He died in 1354, and was buried in St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, with this inscription:—

"Orate pro anima Henrici de Chaddeuden, Archidiaconi Leicestriae, qui quidem Henricus, obit 8 Maii 1354."

19. William Donne, LL.D., succeeded him, and was collated to the archdeaconry May 12, 1354, when, quitting about the year 1385, the king granted it to
20. John de Bottlesham, anno 1385; but the Pope conferring it upon Poncelinus de Ursinis, a Cardinal Priest, Bottlesham gave up his pretensions, and so Poncelinus held it until 1392, when, being displaced,

21. John Elvit became admitted to it by the King’s Donation August 4, 1392. He was also prebend of Leighton Buzzard. He died 1404—5, and was succeeded by

22. Thomas Barnesley, who, as Mr. Le Neve supposes, was admitted anno 1404: he was also Dean of Stoke Clare, co. Suffolk, and held that dignity full forty years, as he did the archdeaconry of Leicester until the day of his death, when

23. Richard Ewen is said to have been collated to it, August 14, 1454. This Richard Evenhoe, or Ewen, was removed to the archdeaconry of Lincoln in 1455, or 1458. He died March, 1463.

24. William Wytham, LL.D., Archdeacon of Stow Nov. 13, 1455, succeeded to the archdeaconry of Leicester in the year 1456. He died July 16, 1472, and was buried in the cathedral of Wells, where he was Dean, with this epitaph:

```
    "Insigis Legum Doctor, Dcus atque Decanus,
    Ecclesie Gemma cuxus hic una fuit
    Altera: Leistrensis simul Archidiaconus ille,
    Wilhelmius Witham nobisc hic recubat.
    Dapilis ac hilaris fuit Hospicio, miserorum
    Solamen Culto Justitie requies.
    Justorum Sp — bonitatis Tutor et Auctor
    Pacis, Concilii Pons, Pagil Ecclesie.
    Hunc mors eripuit Vitam tribuens morienti,
    Umbra mi — at Mors modo Vita mori,
    Anno milleno C quater LX duodeno,
    In Fetodeno clauditur hic Tumulo."
```

25. Roger Rotherham, LL.D., Prebendary of St. Margaret’s, July 17, 1472; was appointed to the archdeaconry in 1472. He was also Archdeacon of Rochester, and was doubtless a relative of the celebrated Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of Rochester, and was translated to Lincoln and afterwards to York. He was a munificent benefactor to Lincoln College, Oxford. He died about 1477. His successor was

26. John Morton, LL.D., installed by proxy (as Rotherham had been), January 3, 1477. This John Moreton was Rector of St. Dunstan’s-in-the-East, Master of the Rolls, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Chichester, and was consecrated Bishop of Ely, January, 1478. He bestowed great sums on his houses at Hatfield and Wisbeach, and London, and would have done other public things, but was translated to Canterbury 1486. He died at Knoll, September 15, 1500, and was buried at Canterbury, where is a handsome monument to his memory. He had been Chancellor of England and of the University of Oxford. In 1498 he was created a Cardinal by Alexander VI. Leland says of him that he spent his fortune in building and repairing his houses at Canter-
burbury, Lambeth, Maidstone, Allington Park, and Charing. One of the last acts of his life was to procure the canonization of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, and he also endeavoured, but without effect, to procure the same honour for his old master, Henry VI. Moreton was one of the many Archbishops of Canterbury who was more of a politician than clergyman.

27. Richard Lavendyr was the next Archdeacon of Leicester. He was admitted by proxy October 5, 1485. He died 1504, and was buried in the chancel of SS. Peter and Paul's church, in the town of Buckingham, where he was Prebendary. His successor was


29. Henry Wilcocks, LL.D., was installed May 1, 1515. He died in the year 1518, being also Prebendary of Cropredy; and was followed by

30. Richard Mawdeley, A.M., who was instituted May 29, 1518. He was installed Canon of Thame, anno 1519, and died 1530. In his will, dated March 15, 1530, he ordained a priest to sing for him at his prebendal church of Thame, and desired to be buried there.

31. Stephen Gardiner, LL.D., was installed Archdeacon of Leicester, March 31, 1531. He was made Bishop of Winchester the same year. Gardiner was believed to be the illegitimate son of Woodvil, Bishop of Salisbury. Through his intimacy with the Duke of Norfolk, whilst Master of Trinity Hall, he became secretary to Wolsey, and was thus introduced to the King, who rapidly took him into favour. He was Chancellor of England in 1553. As the affairs of the nation were intrusted to his guidance, his power became scarcely less than Wolsey's had been. How it was used in the persecution of the Reformers is well known. He died 12th of November, 1555. Gardiner was succeeded in the archdeaconry of Leicester by

32. Edward Fox, S.T.P., who was installed September 27, 1531, but who became Archdeacon of Dorset. In 1535 he was preferred to the bishopric of Hereford. He was a consummate politician and a learned divine, and is said to have conduced to the Reformation as much as Cranmer did. He is styled by Godwin, "Vir Egregie Doctus." He died May 8, 1538.

33. Edmund Bonner was preferred to the archdeaconry of Leicester in the year 1535. Hook calls him the ecclesiastical Nero, and disgrace of the Church of England in the sixteenth century. In 1538 he was made Bishop of Hereford, and zealously promoted the Reformation until 1540. But after the death of the King he altered his policy, and after the decease of Edward VI. his conduct was cruel in the extreme. Fox enumerates one hundred and twenty-five persons burnt in his diocese and through his agency during the reign of Mary. In 1559, upon the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he was indicted in the Queen's Bench, and tried in the
Marshalsea, September 5, 1569, and was buried amongst other prisoners, in St. George's Churchyard, Southwark.

34. William More, Suffragan Bishop of Colchester, was installed Archdeacon of Leicester, September 4, 1539. He died the next year and was succeeded by

35. Thomas Robertson, S.T.P., who was installed March 5th, 1540. He was afterwards Dean of Durham. He had been Rector of St. Laud's Church at Sherrington, co. Bucks, but was forced, on Queen Elizabeth's accession to the crown, to resign his preferment. He was one of the compilers of the Book of Common Prayer. His successor was

36. Richard Barber, LL.D., installed March 5th, 1540, on Thos. Robertson's forced resignation. He died anno 1588, and was buried at his rectory, Foxhall, Staffordshire, with this inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Richard Barber, Doctor of Laws, born in this County, sometime Fellow, afterward elected Warden, of All Souls in Oxon, April 10, 1565, which he resigned Oct. 28, 1571: whence he retired to his Parsonage at Yoxall and there died, Feb. 16, 1590."

37. Hugh Blith, S.T.B., was installed Archdeacon of Leicester May 13, 1589, but resigned the archdeaconry in 1591, and was succeeded by

38. Robert Johnson, B.D., Canon of Windsor, and Rector of South Luffenham, co. Rutland, who was installed July 27, 1591. He died August 6, and was followed by

39. Richard Pilkington, S.T.P., collated August 16, 1625. He died September, 1631, and was buried at Hambledon, co. Bucks., where he was Rector.

40. William Warr, paid the first-fruits, 1631, and was succeeded by

41. Henry Ferne, S.T.P., Rector of Medbourne, who subsequently became Dean of Ely, 1661, and Bishop of Chester. Dr. Ferne was the youngest son of Sir John Ferne, Kt., of Temple Belwood, in Lincolnshire, and was educated at the Uppingham Free School. He was a great favourite with King Charles I., attending the King at Nottingham and Oxford. He was with the King when he took Leicester, and was also at the battle of Naseby; after which he went to Newark, and continued preaching there until the King ordered the garrison to surrender. Charles II. presented him to the Mastership of Trinity Coll., Cambridge, on the Restoration, and he died as Bishop of Chester, 1661. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. During the Commonwealth he was deprived of his living at Medbourne, and was reduced to great poverty. His work, entitled Catholic Safeguards, has been re-published of late years. Henry Ferne's monument is in St. Edmund's Chapel, Westminster Abbey. The following is the inscription:—
"Hic jacet Henricus Ferne, S.T.P., Johannis Ferne militis (civitati Eboreensi à secretis) filius natu octavus, Collegi S. Trinitatis, Cantab, prefectus, simul cestrensis, episcopus, sedet tuntum septimanus, obiit Martii 30, Anno Domini 1663, ætatis 59."

42. Robert Hich, S.T.P., who was afterwards Dean of York, succeeded Dr. Ferne, when he was made Dean of Ely, and was installed July 13, 1661, when, being made Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, he resigned the archdeaconry of Leicester, and was followed by

43. Clement Breton, S.T.P., who was installed July 30, 1663. Clement Breton was presented to the living of Church Langton in 1642, but was ejected in 1644 by the Parliamentary sequestrators. He was restored to his living in 1666. He died at Uppingham, 1669, and was buried there without any memorial. He was succeeded by

44. William Outram, S.T.P., installed 1669 (July 30), upon the death of the preceding. William Outram was a native of Derbyshire, and was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He took his Doctor’s degree in 1660, and was presented to St. Mary’s Woolnoth, London. He was installed Prebendary of Westminster in 1770, with which he held the rectory of St. Margaret’s. He died July 30, 1669, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, with this inscription on his monument:—


He wrote De Sacrificiis Libri Duo, a most able work to defend the doctrine of vicarious punishment. After his death his friends printed from his MSS. twenty sermons on various occasions.

45. Francis Meers, M.A., was collated to the archdeaconry of Leicester, September 10, 1679. He was also Rector of Lutterworth, and died in the year 1688, when he was succeeded by

46. Byron Eaton, S.T.P., who was installed Archdeacon of Leicester, September 5, 1683. He died in the year 1703, and was buried at Newnham Courtney, near Oxford, where he was Rector.

47. The next Archdeacon of Leicester was John Rogers, A.M., who was collated November 29, 1709. He died in the year 1715, and was buried in St. Mary’s Church, Leicester, with this epitaph:—

48. David Trimmell, A.M., Rector of Stoke Hammond, Bucks, (afterwards Precentor of Lincoln Cathedral), succeeded John Rogers, and was collated to the archdeaconry, July 17, 1715. He was nominated to the Precentorship of Lincoln Cathedral, March 28, 1718, by virtue of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s option, and died in the year 1756, May 18. He was buried in Lincoln Cathedral near the west door, with this inscription:—

"Sacred to the memory of Rev. David Trimmell, S.T.P., Rector of Stoke, in Bucks., 48 years, Prebendary of Castor 48 years, Archdeacon of Leicester 41 years, and Precentor of this church."

He died May 28, 1756, aged 81 years.

49. John Taylor, LL.D., 1756, Christ Church, Oxford. He obtained the archdeaconry of Bedford in 1774, was also Prebendary of Aylesbury, which he exchanged for the Rectory of St. Mary, Aldermay, which he held until the term of his death in 1772. He published a sermon, preached at the consecration of Bishops John Thomas, Samuel Lisle, and Richard Trevor (Sarum, Norwich, and Durham), April 1, 1744.

50. James Bickham, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was presented by that Society, in 1761, to the rectory of Loughborough, and to the archdeaconry of Leicester, 1762. He left a valuable library to the rectory of Loughborough for ever. Arms: a chevron gules between three leopards’ faces azure, on a chief in fess argent and gules, in the upper part a greyhound courant, sable. On the south wall in Loughborough Church is a tablet, —

"To the memory of James Bickham, Archdeacon of Leicester and Rector of Loughborough. He was born March 22, 1719, and died August 23, 1785. Also, of Sarah Bickham, his wife, who died May 28, 1781."

51. Andrew Burnaby, D.D., 1786. He was born at Asfordby, Leicestershire, and died æt. 80. He was more than forty-three years Rector of Greenwich, and was eminently distinguished as a writer. He published various works. His Sermons and Charges are excellent, and his Travels, which reached a third edition, are written with great skill and fidelity. He was presented to the archdeaconry of Leicester by Bishop Thurlow. Dr. Burnaby was buried at Hungerton in this county, in the parish church of which place may be seen a monument erected to his memory. Arms: arg., two bars, a lion passant gardant, in chief, gules.

52. Thomas Parkinson, D.D., F.R.S., 1812. He was born at Kirkham-in-the-Fylde, Lancashire, 1745. He was presented to the vicarage of Meldreth, co. Cambridge, by the Dean and Chapter of Ely. He was Senior Wrangler in 1769, and Proctor of Cambridge Univer-
sity in 1786, and afterwards Tutor of Christ's College. He was presented to Kegworth Rectory in 1790, by the Master and Fellows of Christ's College. He was made Prebendary of Chiswick in St. Paul's Cathedral, 1798, and was promoted to be Chancellor of Chester by Bishop Majendie, 1804. He was made Archdeacon of Huntingdon, 1812. He died in 1830, and was interred in the chancel of Kegworth church, November 20 of that year. He published his Charges, but his works were not numerous.

The following Inscription to the memory of Dr. Parkinson still exists in Kegworth Church:

"Near this place
Are deposited the Remains of
Thomas Parkinson, D.D.,
Archdeacon of Leicester,
And forty-one years Rector of this Parish,
Who died Nov. 13, 1830, aged 85 years,
In the Hope of Eternal Life,
Through the Merit of his Redeemer;
A bountiful friend to the Poor,
Zealous in all good works of Charity,
Learned, Kind, and Pious."

53. Thomas K. Bonney, A.M., 1806, was Rector of Coningsby and Normanton and Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral. He was born at Tansor, in Northamptonshire, June 20, 1782. In 1814 he was appointed to Normanton and Coningsby. He was elected prebendary of Welton Beckhall (Lincoln Cathedral), in 1823, and was appointed to the Archdeaconry of Leicester in 1831. During the controversies which agitated the Church while he was Archdeacon, his conduct was quiet and unobtrusive, and though possessing a strong opinion of his own on most of the Theological questions of the day, he was careful to avoid any display of party feeling. He was an excellent church lawyer, and as a magistrate he was universally beloved and respected. For many years previous to his death he ceased acting upon the bench. His death, which took place in 1863, left a void in the neighbourhood where he lived difficult to be filled up again, and his loss amongst the clergy was universally felt. He was buried at the west end of Normanton Church, in the County of Rutland, where there is a marble tablet with the following inscription:

"In Memory of
The Venerable Thomas Kaye Bonney, A.M.,
Archdeacon of Leicester,
Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral,
During forty-eight years Rector of Coningsby, in the
County of Lincoln, and of this Parish,
And for a long period a Magistrate for the County of Rutland.
He died April 7th, 1863, aged 80 years."

Arms: Argent, on a bend azure, 3 fleur-de-lis, or. Crest, a martlet.
54. Henry Fearon, B.D., 1863, the present Archdeacon of Leicester, graduated at Cambridge in 1824, and became a Fellow of Emmanuel College. He was presented to the Rectory of Loughborough in the year 1848, by his college, and made an Honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral, 1849. The Archdeacon has published the following works:—What to Learn and What to Unlearn; and Sermons on Public Occasions, 1859.

January 28th, 1867.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Rev. J. H. Hill in the chair.

After the transaction of business in Committee Mr. Bellairs (Financial Secretary) presented a Statement of Accounts for the past year, Mr. North, Honorary Secretary, presented and read the following

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1866.

The commencement of a new year reminds your Committee that it is again their pleasure and their duty to bring before you, as succinctly as possible, the operations of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society during the year 1866. They would, in the first place, refer to the interest attaching to the bi-monthly meetings of the Society held in this room during that period. Excavations made during the year have brought to light many valuable memorials of Roman Leicester, most of which have been sent for your inspection. Among these—as worthy of special mention—should be noted a large glass vase disinterred in December, 1865, and exhibited at our meeting in January last. It was found in Oxford Street, Leicester, at a depth of five feet from the surface. The shape is unusual, being hexagonal with one handle only. In height it is about nine inches. A peculiarity attaching to this vessel is that it contained a fluid—a saline solution, with salts of lime—covering a deposit of burnt bones, and probably intended to preserve them from decomposition. The fluid had been hermetically enclosed by a leaden cap, firmly fixed on the mouth of the vessel by hard cement, and so had been preserved. The hexagonal shape is rare in Roman glass urns found in this country. A vase of that shape, larger than the one now under notice, also containing bones, was found about the year 1830 in the precincts of the Leicester Abbey, but was afterwards unfortunately broken. A vessel of this form is preserved in the British Museum; it was found at Barnwell, near Cambridge. Another was dug up a few years since, at St. Alban's, with other Sepulchral vessels, in the churchyard of St. Stephen's parish; it measures fourteen inches in height, being considerably larger than our specimen. We may, however, congratulate our Museum authorities upon having secured for the town a most curious relic of Roman Leicester, and a valuable specimen of ancient glass manufacture. Roman Pottery, too, in considerable profusion, and in several cases in good preservation, has been exhumed, and many valuable specimens have been added to the store in the Leicester Town Museum.

Further discoveries of great interest have been made during the year in the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Melton Mowbray. These were carefully noted, and the relics exhibited and explained by Mr. North at the March meeting of this Society. Major Knight also exhibited, at the May meeting, some valuable relics of the Anglo-