Mrs. Kirton had no issue, and her watch was left to a niece, Martha W. Wood, who gave it to her only daughter, who exchanged it away, unaware of its value as a family relic.

The watch exhibited to-day is the one originally presented to Ann Richards, and now belonging to Miss Parker, of Broombriggs, her great-grand-daughter.

The remaining one is in the possession of Miss Harper, now of Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., the lineal descendant of Elizabeth Roby, daughter of Ann Wood. The watches have not been seen side by side, both have white faces and wind at the back; each had two cases, the golden one embossed with the story of Penelope, and an outer case of tortoise-shell.

Miss Parker's watch was exhibited to-day on behalf of Mr. R. F. Martin, her cousin. It has had a new face and new works, patent lever, supplied in 1849 by Mr. Gray, of Leicester. The tortoise-shell case has disappeared. The figures represent Penelope, seated in a chair to the left of the beholder, with a work-basket at her feet, and pointing with her left hand to the famous web or tapestry lying on a table in the midst, on the right is a crowned kingly figure with a bow in his left hand and his right pointing to the table. There are two crested figures in the background, facing the spectator, who seem to represent the suitors.

At the back of the inner case are the letters, script of the period, "W. B."; and when Miss Harper reports that her watch bears the same initials, it seems probable that William Blower, the eldest brother, and not "Jolly Tom," was the donor. It is curious how all the legends, jokes, and good stories seem to crystallize about the best or most popular, or most witty individual of the period.

Some of the Members present thought the workmanship to be French.

MR. J. W. WARTNABY exhibited an old gold ring with engraved inscription inside, "Keep faith till death."

MR. S. KNIGHT exhibited a set of new coins of the Transvaal Republic, President Paul Kruger, dated 1892, *viz.*, Gold: pond and half-pond (or sovereign); Silver: five shillings and one shilling; Copper: penny.

COLONEL BEALLARS then read a further portion of his Paper on

THE ROMAN ROADS OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

This has since been printed, with an illustrative Map, in the Society's *Transactions*, Vol. VII., pages 357 to 364.
March 27th, 1893. Bi-monthly Meeting held at the Society’s Room, at the Library of the Old Town Hall, Leicester.

The Rev. Christopher Rodwell, B.A., in the chair.

The Chairman having referred to the loss sustained by the death of the late Rev. Lewis Weyman Wood, Hon. Local Secretary for the Lutterworth District, it was unanimously Resolved that a letter of condolence be sent by the Hon. Secretary to his widow.

Letters from Sir. Henry Dryden were read, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to him for presenting the Society with 300 copies of his drawing of the Foxton Cross.

The arrangement made with the Leicester Corporation for the use of the Library and adjoining Rooms at the Old Town Hall, the rent to be 50s. per annum and Caretaker 50s. per annum from 25th March, 1893, was approved of.

The following gentlemen were then duly elected Members of the Society:—Mr. John Fewkes of Great Glen, Leicester; H. A. Arnall-Thompson, Esq., Belgrave, Leicester; Mr. H. S. Judd, Architect, Portland Road (now East Avenue), Clarendon Park, Leicester; Mr. E. J. Collins, Manufacturer, of Hertford House, Mere Road, Leicester.

The Rev. Edmund Jackson, of Gilmorton Rectory, was elected Hon. Local Secretary of the Lutterworth District.

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

By Mr. H. S. Judd: Some Roman Pottery and other remains found in excavating on the premises of Messrs. Foster Brothers, Town Hall Lane, Leicester, a detailed account of which will be given on a future date.

By the Rev. E. H. Bates:—A shilling of James I, found in the thatch of an old house at Ullesthorpe, in October, 1892.

By Mr. W. J. Freer:—A Seringapatam Medal 1799 (Silver Gilt). This medal was distributed to officers and soldiers European and Native. On one side of it is represented the storming of the breach of Seringapatam, from an actual drawing on the spot, with the meridian sun denoting the time of the storm, and the following inscription in Persian underneath: “The Fort of Seringapatam, the gift of God, the 4th May, 1799.” On the reverse side is the British Lion subduing the Tiger, the emblem of the late Tippoo Sultan’s Government, with the period when it was effected, and the following words in Arabic on the banner: “Assud otta, ul Ghaulib,” signifying the Lion of God is the Conqueror, or the Conquering Lion of God.
Of these medals gold ones were struck for His Majesty, the Right Honourable Lord Melville, the Governor General of India at the time the Marquis Cornwallis, the Nizam and his two ministers, the Peishwah and his minister, the Nabobs of Arcot and Oude, and the Rajahs of Tanjore, Travancore, Mysore, Coorga, and Berar, Dowlat Rao Scindiah, the Commander in Chief, general officers on the Staff employed in the Service, and for the Oriental Museum.

Silver-gilt medals were struck for the members of council of the three Presidencies, the Residents of Hydrabad and Poonah, the field officers, and the general staff on the service. Silver for the captains and subalterns, copper-bronzed for the non-commisioned officers, and pure grain tin for the privates.

By COLONEL BELLAIRS for Mrs Thursday — Eight plaques of silver repoussé work, six of them apparently by the same artist are in high relief, the name appears on one p. nion. These have either pin-holes or projections at the back, by which they were affixed to, most probably, a casket or cabinet, but there must have been originally more of them. The following explains as far as I can make out, the subjects:—

1. An irregular hollow-sided square ornamented at the corners with cockle shells, in centre a swan swimming in a river in high relief, bullrushes, flags, &c.

2. A similar shaped plaque, in centre a cock apparently in a farm-yard, a thatched building with round-headed door, a basket, weeds, low shrubs, &c. The name p. nion on base.

3. A similar shaped plaque, in centre a Phoenix (with a cock’s head, flames, smoke, &c.

4. Oval plaque without border, figures representing an angel with flowing drapery, star over the head, just alighted on the ground, addressing a male figure with a shepherd’s crook seated on a piece of masonry, who raises his hand and head as if in astonishment, a bank with long grass at back on which a cock is crowing in the background.

5. Oval plaque same size as 6, a female figure seated on a bank holding in right hand a sickle, and in left a tazza, into which a young male figure, probably intended for Bacchus, draped in a mantle, is squeezing the juice of a bunch of grapes with his right hand, and in his left carrying a basket with flowers and fruits, on the ground a large ornamental flagon without spout, the female figure is probably “Ceres.”

6. Another oval plaque same as last, a female figure seated leaning against a cushion with tassel, head supported on left hand, right hand on the cushion, mantle fastened round waist, reaching
to the feet, a large altar at back with fuel and fire thereon, and a
vase by the side of the fire, in front an aged bearded man reclining
on the ground with left elbow on a bank, right hand and arm
lying in front of him, he is draped in a mantle, a tree in back-
ground on which an owl is perched, a landscape and hill in the
distance, a crescent moon in the clouds.

The above six plaques are all by the same artist, and in high
relief.

7. A round plaque in low but sharp relief, within an elegant
border of scrolls, marks and flowers, a representation of Diogenes
in front of his tub addressing Alexander and attendants in armour,
no fixing pins or holes.

8. Oval plaque with broad border of very elegant design
representing masks, cupids, musical instruments, trophies of
arms, flowers, fruits, &c., in centre a man seated in a high-backed
chair, robed in a loose garment but his legs bare, a hat with
feathers on his head, he is playing on a lyre, a table covered with
a cloth and a tankard thereon is by his side, a hare sitting on
its hind legs on one side, overhead a parrot perched on a slack rope
passing through two rings, no fixing pins or holes.

Mrs. Thursby does not know the history of these pieces which
were found in a plate-chest.

May 29th, 1893. Bi-monthly Meeting held at the Society’s
Room, at the Library of the Old Town Hall, Leicester.

J. W. WARTNABY, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. John Henry Taylor, of 109, Belgrave Gate, Leicester,
Malster, was elected a Member of the Society.

The following books were received with thanks:—From the
Brussels Archeological Society, two parts of Transactions; from
the Warwickshire Field Club, Report for 1891; from the Cambridge
Antiquarian Society, Transactions, No. XXXIII.

The announcement of the deaths of Mr. Thomas Holyland,
(one of the Society’s Auditors,) and the Rev. Gerald Charles
Fenwicke, was received with much regret.

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

By COLONEL BELLAIRS:—A number of pieces of Roman
Pottery found in excavations in Millstone Lane, The Castle Yard,
and Newarke Street, Leicester. The pottery was in a good state
of preservation.
By The Rev. E. H. Bates:—A Book which was one of a series published at the time of the Restoration. It contained a collection of tracts purporting to be accounts of prodigies, and was written at that time with a view to dissuade the people from returning to the Church of England.

Mr. Bates read an interesting and amusing paper upon this book, entitled

NOTES ON A PAMPHLET OF THE RESTORATION PERIOD,

and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for the same.

ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING.

The Annual Summer Meeting of the Society for 1893 was held at Melton Mowbray, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 7th and 8th of June, 1893, in connection with the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, and the Northampton and Oakham Architectural Society.

Wednesday, June 7th.

The party left Leicester early, and met at Melton Mowbray Parish Church at 9.15 a.m. In the unavoidable absence through illness of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Nottingham, F.S.A., who was to have acted as guide to the party, the Rev. Precentor Venables explained the principal features of the Churches visited on this and the following day. Precentor Venables said they would all deeply regret the absence of the Bishop of Nottingham, and the more so as it was caused by illness. He had fully intended to be with them, but the doctor forbade him. In his absence, he (Precentor Venables) would endeavour to give some account of the Churches they would visit during the two days' excursion. The chief points of interest in Melton Church were then pointed out, and the building was viewed with great admiration. Precentor Venables gave the following description of

Melton Mowbray Church.

"We may, I think, congratulate ourselves that we are this year beginning our annual gathering with a Church of such singular stateliness—magnificent not only for its size but for the purity of its architecture, and for the harmony of its proportions—deservedly taking rank among the very finest of the purely parochial Churches of England. Were we to see nothing else, we might go away not dissatisfied with having seen the grand and dignified Church of Melton Mowbray. But, noble as it is in its general architectural
design and the finish of its parts, it is not a Church which calls for any elaborate description. What I have to say will not detain you long, and you will thus have fuller time to walk about it and examine it in all its parts, and appreciate its beauty when viewed from various points. You will have already seen that it is cruciform in plan, with a tower rising over the crossing. The transepts are of grand proportions, and are remarkable for having aisles on both sides. This double-aisled arrangement, which is not common even in Cathedrals and Minsters of the first rank—Westminster Abbey, York Minster, Beverley Minster, Ely, Winchester, and Wells, are the only examples that occur to me—is rarer still in Parish Churches. We find it in the grand Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, Algarkirk, Spalding, Witney, and in the exquisite little gem, Pakington Church, near Hull, but I cannot re-call any other. Another remarkable feature in this Church is the western porch or Galilee, which is of rare occurrence in England. We have an example at Snettisham Church, near Lynn, in Norfolk. This is evidently a later edition, which was not intended merely as a porch of entrance, but also for the performance of religious services. The fixture proves that it contained an altar, the Muses celebrated at which might be participated in by worshippers on the outside by means of the curious square apertures in the wall. The great leper hospital at Burton Lazars is within a short distance, and it has appeared to many not improbable that these unhappy outcasts, halting here on their road to their place of refuge, might thus be enabled to assist at the service. But the whole porch is full of singularities, and no part of the Church demands more careful examination. I must call your attention, also, to what is perhaps the most striking feature of this magnificent Church, the continuous clerestory, which, in one of unbroken line of forty-eight windows, runs through nave and transepts, combining all the parts together into one whole, and diffusing light through every part as from a lantern.

The architectural history of the Church, as far as we can gather it from the building itself, is simple. Of the Norman or any still earlier fabric there are no remains. The lower part of the turret containing the tower staircase—the great blot on the beauty of the exterior—with the door into the north transept, seems earlier than anything else, but it does not go back to Norman times. In the 12th century the Church appears to have been reconstructed. The crossing was then erected, with the tower up to the ringing stage, in the Early English style, with sturdy piers and low arches, the only trace of decoration being on the side of the south capital. In the transept are the traces of weather moulding of two roofs of different elevations, telling of successive alterations. At the lower portion of the gable of the north transept, on the west side, we may observe the commencement
of the earlier roof of high pitch. It is of yellow stone, with a shoulder piece of white stone added when the clerestory was built. There is a trace of the original roof on the north wall of the chancel. To the same period belong the doorway to the vestry, a portion of the lower part of the chancel walls and the outer walls of the nave, and some other minor parts. Later in the Early English period followed the lower stage of the tower arch with its beautiful windows and lovely west doorway, with its shafts and foliaged capitals, and the doorway of the south aisle. In the wall of the north aisle is a quatrefoil of Early English date, enclosing a bust. The fabric of the Church generally is of Decorated date, very plain in character, but of excellent proportions, and good workmanship. Those who have studied the Church more minutely than I have had any opportunity of doing, consider the south transept the earliest portion of this great rebuilding c. 1290, followed by the nave c. 1310; the chancel comes next, c. 1325, the north transept c. 1390. After this, the Church being complete, there was a long pause, till about the beginning of the 16th century, the Church was finished, as we see it, by the addition of the clerestories and the upper stage of the tower. The Galilee is a work of the best Decorated period, c. 1330; the vestry, an addition on the north side of the chancel blocking the windows, two centuries later. The ceilings of the nave and transepts belong to the same period as the clerestory. They are panelled and nearly flat, the main timbers borne on wall shafts between the windows, springing from corbels. These ceilings call for the introduction of colour and gilding judiciously applied. As I have said, Melton Church derives its stateliness almost entirely from its proportions. There is little of any richness of detail. The chief ornamental feature on the exterior is the ball-flower cornice, extending along the entire length of the nave. I may remark that this, of which we shall see several examples to-day and to-morrow, is an unusual application of the ball-flower, almost confined to this district. We may notice this same ornament on the hood mould of the great west window. The windows and doors of the Galilee porch exhibit it in almost too great profusion. The window tracery generally is of the simplest character. Nearly all the windows have the most unattractive design of intersecting mullions, in many instances uncusped: even the great gable windows of the nave and transept are of the same commonplace form. The latter had lost their cusps, if they ever had them. These were added in the last restoration. At that time, some urged that these windows should be taken out bodily, and more ornamental tracery substituted. Happily such a course, which, though it might have improved the architectural effect, would have been an unwarrantable tampering with the history of the Church, was averted. The windows of the chancel are, I believe, modern. Those of the
clerestory are equally plain—three uncusped lights under one segmental arch. The piers of the nave arcade of six bays are admirably proportioned clusters of four attached shafts, forming a quatrefoil in plan. They are probably the old Early English piers re-used. Supporting are moulded arches of pleasing outline. The whole possesses great dignity. In the transepts we have what we shall notice in many of the Churches we shall visit, a variety between the arcades on the two sides. Those to the east are clustered, those to the west octagonal. The buttresses of the transept are gabled, of better design than those of the nave. There are fine large doors at each end of the transept, and very pleasing ones of Decorated date. The doorway of the Galilee porch is an exquisite example of Decorated work, with delicate sprays of vine foliage, and other leaves recurring up the soffit. The west front of the porch has four canopied niches of two heights, and there are niches within, by the side of which may be dimly traced the marks of the Early English niches which preceded them. The corner pinnacles of the porch are modern restoration. To descend to minor points. The east walls of both transepts, by the number of piscinas and lockers they exhibit, show the multitude of chantries once existing here. A piscina on the South transept deserves notice for its unusual arrangement. The basin projects, and is mutilated, while in the wall at the back are two small arched panels. In the chancel is a fine piscina with a trefoiled arch, the basin projecting, supported on a shaft. The monuments deserve more attention than I fear we shall be able to give them."

At ten o'clock the party started on their drive, and Wymondham, Edmondthorpe, Teigh, and Ashwell Churches were in turn visited. At Oakham lunch was partaken of, after which the party visited the Church, of which Precentor Venables gave the following description:—

**All Saints', Oakham.**

"This is a Church of great size and beauty, almost rivalling that of Melton in stateliness. It exhibits examples of all the native styles of architecture, from the Transition at the end of the 12th century, to the Perpendicular of the beginning of the 16th. The Church consists of a nave of four bays, with north and south aisles, a large chancel with wide side aisles or chapels, of great richness, transeptal aisles—not real transepts, being merely additional side aisles of two bays—a large south porch, and, that which is its chief glory, a lofty western tower of great dignity, crowned with a spire, which, it must be confessed, is hardly worthy of the tower. It would bear greater elevation. The earliest feature is the grand Norman tub font with an intersecting arcade, standing on a panelled base of Decorated date. Then
comes the inner doorway of the south porch, of three orders, with capitals of foliage, which the square above marks as Transitional. The interior of the porch, with an Early English arcade, comes next, with the lower part of the south wall and a blank recess or window on the east side of the south transept, which all belong to the first half of the 13th century. Then come the corresponding portions of the north aisle, another single pillar in the transeptal aisles. The chancel arch is of the beginning of the 14th century. The very stately nave arcade, with clustered piers of four filleted staffs, is late Decorated c. 1320. The tower is of the latter part of the same century: on the inner face is the trace of the earlier roof. The chancel, the clerestory of the nave, and probably the north chancel aisle, are of the 15th, and the south chancel aisle of the 16th centuries. ‘But,’ to quote the report of the late Sir G. G. Scott, ‘various as are the dates of these different portions of the Church, they unite in forming a symmetrical and harmonious whole, having generally the aspect of a Church of the 15th century.’ The masonry of the tower and chancel, and the south side of the nave, is of excellent ashlar. That of the north side of the nave is not so good. The corbel tables throughout are curious, bearing grotesque figures. The west front of the tower is very striking. The west door and window are set in a fine lofty moulded arch. There are three small canopied niches containing the figures of our Blessed Lord and two Saints. At the apex of the gable of the south porch is a crucifix. The belfry stage of the tower contains on each side very tall coupled windows, giving great dignity to the design. The juncture of the tower and spire, always a difficult matter, is here very ably managed. The angles are capped with octagonal turrets rather than pinnacles, which mark the transition from the square to the octagonal. The tall clerestory, with three-light transomed super-mullioned windows, is very dignified. The external arrangement of the transept fronts, showing two large windows of Early Decorated date, comprised under one gable, cannot be commended. The east front is striking. The chancel has a high pitched gable, with a modern window, flanked by wide Perpendicular aisles, with large windows under obtuse gables. These aisles are richly ornamented with stepped buttresses, pinnacles, and battlements. The north aisle, which is the earlier, is a very fine composition. The interior of the Church delights the eye, with its lofty and stately proportions, and the dignity of the nave arcade and tall clerestory. The capitals of the piers are elaborately carved with birds and beasts, angel busts, and grotesques. The unusual arrangement of the transeptal chantries deserve examination. A second arcade of two bays runs east and west in continuation of the aisle wall, and the span thus formed is divided again transversely from north to south by another arcade, also of two bays, springing from an
Early English shaft. The arcades of the chancel aisles, though late, are of singular excellence. They are different on the two sides, that to the north being the darker, and having foliage in its capitals. The panelled oak roof of this aisle is original: those of the chancel and south aisle are new. The windows are very large and fine. In the north Chantry is a good altar tomb with quatrefoil panels on the sides, each containing the figure of a weight, probably designating a wool merchant. There is no inscription, nor is it known whom it commemorates. Of other minor features should be noticed the holy water stoup outside the south vestry door. In the north transeptal chantry is a trefoiled Early English piscina. There are also piscinas in the south and east walls of the south transept, and in the south chancel aisle."

Oakham Castle was next visited, and Precentor Venable explained that the only portion standing of this, the principal, if not the only Castle in Rutland, was the hall, now used as an Assize Court, to which it probably owed its preservation. This was probably built by Walkden de Ferrars c. 1180, and is a valuable and entirely unaltered example of the Castle hall of the period, as well as a most characteristic specimen of Transition style, of which, for beauty of design, and superiority of execution, it stands almost unrivalled. It belongs to the same epoch as the choirs of Canterbury and Oxford Cathedrals, and, to cite foreign examples, the Cathedrals of Soissons and the chief Church at Blois. Like Westminster Hall as originally built, &c., the hall of Oakham Castle was divided by two arcades, with a centre and side aisles. It measures 65 feet by 43 feet, and stands east and west. The chief entrance was at the east end on the south side. The two arcades are of four semi-circular arches, each springing from cylindrical piers, with Corinthianesque capitals of vigorous richness, much varied in detail. Intermingled with the foliage are female figures playing on musical instruments, and animals. The bases are well moulded, and have the projecting claw. The terminal arches on each side spring from corbels or brackets on the walls of very elaborate design, and curiously carved. Among the sculptured ornaments are two lions, a bull, a catamount, &c., together with busts of Henry II. and his Queen Eleanor, and other heads, valuable for the costume. Though much varied, the windows are all of one general form externally: they exhibit pairs of double lancets internally, under one semi-circular arch, with dog tooth in the jamb coming down to the ground. The opening for light is square-headed. Altogether this Hall is one of the most beautiful examples of the passage from Norman to Early English in England. The workmanship of every part is of singular excellence and beauty. The horse shoes, which are a feature of the place and crowd the walls, are of various size and material.
These are said to be survivals of the custom of the Manor, by which a horse shoe is claimed from every Peer who passes through the Lordship. But the real origin is wrapped in obscurity.

The visitors next inspected "Flore's House," a much-altered example of a house of a wealthy townsman of the 13th century. The chief existing features belong to this century, but it was much altered in the 15th. Roger Flore, with whom it is connected by local tradition, died c. 1482. He was a merchant and a great benefactor to Oakham.

After a stay of two hours at Oakham, the party continued their drive, the places visited being Langham, Whissendine, Stapleford, Wyfordby, and Brentingby, Melton being reached soon after seven o'clock.

After dinner at the Bell Hotel, a Public Meeting was held at Colles Memorial Hall, at 8.30 p.m., when the chair was taken by Precentor Venables. Two papers were read, one by the Vicar on "Melton Church," and the other by Mr. Jebb, of Boston, on "Transition from the Feudal Castle to that of the present day." The Paper read by the Vicar of Melton, the Rev. Richard Blakeney, Hon. Local Secretary of the Society for the Melton District, was as follows:

**Melton Church.**

"The ancient market town of Melton Mowbray, the hunting metropolis of Leicestershire, is famous for its noble and Cathedral-like Parish Church. And even in this utilitarian age, when practical considerations seem to have more weight than any others, there are but few who can survey the stately tower and venerable walls of such a building without some feelings of genuine admiration. Now Melton, in mediæval days, was a more important place, in some respects, than it is at present. We picture for ourselves the castle, with its baronial hall, its battlements and keep, one of the numerous residences of the de Mowbrayes, the ancient Lords of Melton. We think of the Priory of Cluniac Monks, which stood, with its gardens and orchards, on a site now covered with shops, houses, and stables of the most prosaic description. We strive to gather some idea of the Hospital and Chapel of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, which once existed at the end of what is now called Nottingham Street. And as we thus endeavour to imagine a past, of which so few traces or records remain, and to recall from the oblivion with which they are surrounded the pageants, and functions, and stirring deeds of ancient days, we realise something of the interest which clusters around the Melton of olden times. But Castle and Priory, Hospital and Chapel, have passed away, and Melton Church alone survives in solitary grandeur, and restored to something of its original beauty, to tell its tale of the past. Now, it is necessary to bear in mind the
character of old Melton to enable us to account for the size and splendour of the Parish Church. The first sensation experienced by the modern visitor is one of surprise at beholding this magnificent structure in a small market town. The first question which is naturally asked is—How did it come into existence? Now there is good reason to suppose that a Church stood upon the same site long before a single stone of the present edifice was erected. Mr. Bloxam, an authority in such matters, says 'he had not the least doubt but that in the 13th century the then existing Church was entirely removed, for there were no fragments of the old Norman or pre-existent Church before the Norman period.' Mr. Wing, in his very interesting work on the founder and monuments of Melton Church, says—'That there was a very early Church here cannot be doubted, Melton not being an insignificant town at the time of the Conquest, and its proprietors for many generations being among the most renowned of its baronial lords. It would be gratifying,' he says 'to discover some fragment of this ancient building. All that has any, even slight, pretence to such antiquity is the lower part of the tower staircase.' From these and other testimonies we conclude that the ground was cleared before the foundations of the present Church were laid in the early part of the 13th century. The only possible link, then, between the present edifice and its predecessor is the lower portion of the tower staircase. Mr. Wing describes it as follows:—'The wall is of a rubble character, unlike the inside and outside ashlar of the tower adjoining, and it has a straight bond, 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, about 1170.' Mr. Ward, in his work, entitled 'Melton Mowbray in Olden Times,' gives the following table, on the authority of Mr. Wing:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of the Building</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Patron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower part of Staircase</td>
<td>about 1170</td>
<td>Roger de Mowbray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower part of Tower</td>
<td>about 1220</td>
<td>Wm. de Mowbray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Storey of Tower</td>
<td>1230-1250</td>
<td>Prior of Lewes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Transept</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>Roger de Mowbray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nave</td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>John de Mowbray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porch and Chancel</td>
<td>1325</td>
<td>Prior of Lewes, or Archbishop de Melton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Transept</td>
<td>1330</td>
<td>The same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerestories and Upper Part of Tower</td>
<td></td>
<td>1500 Sir John Digby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vestry</td>
<td></td>
<td>1532 The same.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But let us view the Church, first externally, secondly internally. The great feature of Melton Church outside is its splendid central tower, which rises with a grandeur and a beauty quite its own, far above the roofs of the Church itself. The best views of the tower are obtained from the South and South-West, for then the ugly buttress which disfigures the North East angle of the tower is not observable. Why the staircase should have been carried up in this clumsy fashion, is a question we cannot refrain from asking? By this arrangement an exceptionally noble tower has been robbed of much of its elegance and symmetry. Another flaw, from certain aspects, is the small leaden spire which crowns the summit.

There is good reason for supposing that this was a comparatively modern addition. The middle storey of the tower is by far its most beautiful feature. It was in all probability the work of the Prior of Lewes, and was carried out between 1230 and 1250. It is a splendid specimen of Early English work. It is supposed by some that the original intention was to have crowned this stage of the tower with a spire. The upper portion was added by Sir John Digby, of Eye Kettleby, about the year 1500. It is an excellent specimen of the architecture of the period, and, although it differs entirely from the stage below, it gives the tower, as a whole, an imposing and dignified appearance. The spectator cannot fail to be struck with the excellent character of the stone, as well as of the workmanship in the upper stage of the tower, and also in the clerestories. As we walk round the Church, we notice the great depth of the transepts, which, with their side aisles, constitute a feature not often seen in a Parish Church.

After the tower, the next point which specially arrests our attention is the large Western porch. Wr. Wing says that the sculptured decorated parts of this porch are equal to anything of the kind in existence. He also tells us that the remodelling of the chancel and the erection of the porch took place about 1325, and are supposed to be the work of the fraternity from Lewes. He speaks of this Galilee porch ‘as 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 leper’s well, noted for its gifts of healing.’ There is also some reason to suppose that this porch was the gift of Archbishop de Melton, of York, and previously Rector of Melton Mowbray. He was a native of Melton, was Rector at the close of the 13th century, and afterwards became Provost of Beverley, Archbishop of York, and Lord Chancellor. Before
leaving this porch, we notice externally the beautiful carving of the doorway, and of the canopy work; internally, the elegance of the inner Western door, as well as the excellence of the canopies over the niches on either side. In pre-reformation times, an altar existed in this porch, and the piscina is still to be seen. A flat tombstone in the right-hand corner perpetuates the memory of a gentleman who filled the office of tutor to King Charles II. and his brother James. The inscription is almost obliterated. As we enter the Western end of the nave, we gain an imposing view of the Church. The rows of stately columns on either side, surmounted by the clerestories, the lofty roof, the massive tower arches, the partial view of the transepts, and the distant chancel—all combine to produce an interior seldom excelled in a Parish Church. But there is a flaw in everything, and, as we look Eastwards, we cannot help regretting the want of elevation in the East window, as well as the absence of a stately reredos. No doubt in ancient days these defects were non-existent, and the long vista of the Church then, with its mediæval glass, its rood screen, and its stalls, must have been most imposing.

The nave was erected in 1310, by John de Mowbray, and formed part of what was then an Early English Church. We can trace the line of the pitched roof on the tower. The Royal Arms suspended on the tower wall at the East end of the nave were placed there in the time of Charles II. The only window in the Church which calls for special notice is one at the Western end of the South aisle. It is composed of fragments of old glass, and was put together in memory of the Rev. Dr. Ford. The effigy in a recess of the South aisle wall presents a problem which has never been satisfactorily solved. The shield has the Mowbray arms, but it is no guide, as the painting is recent. The inscription states—'This is the Lord Hamon Belers, brother to the Lord Mowbray.' Mr. Wing, in his work, has argued the evidence for and against with considerable skill. Much might be said to prove that the person represented was Roger de Mowbray, who died in 1298, and was buried at Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. On the whole, the argument seems to lie in favour of the individual named upon the tomb. It is pretty certain that the effigy occupied a different position in the Church originally, but at some period or other it was removed to the recess in which it now lies. The helmet above the figure was discovered in the time of Dr. Ford, when the chancel floor was lowered. The hole was produced by the pick of the labourer who found it.

We now pass into the South transept, built by Roger de Mowbray in 1290. This portion of the Church is remarkable for the traces of the two altars which once stood in the Eastern aisle, and also for its three ancient monuments. First we notice a beautiful altar tomb of alabaster, in memory of a lady. From the
dress we should ascribe it to the time of Richard II. It is supposed
to commemorate the memory of one of the de Bruges or Burges,
one people of note, and owners of property in Melton. The figure
is beautifully sculptured, and the mutilated portions have been
skillfully repaired. Secondly, we examine a large tomb of Purbeck
marble. One end is built into the wall, from which we argue that
it covers the remains of a founder. Originally it possessed brasses
of a knight in full plate armour, and of two ladies. There is no
doubt that this monument is in memory of the illustrious Sir John
Digby, of Eye Kettleby Hall, and his two wives. Burton mentions
their interment in Melton Church, and in his time the inscriptions
were in existence. The epitaph was:—

‘Of your devotion and charitie,
Say a Paterinoster and an Ave;
That God to His grace and light,
Receive the soul 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. The last
benefaction made by Sir John Digby, was the erection of the vestry
in 1532. His death took place in the following year. The mural
arch is characteristic of this period. Thirdly, on the floor, near
the Digby monument, we notice an incised slab containing the
figure of a male and female, with their children at the base. 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 Sysonby, descended from the ancient family of the Pates,
of Kettlebee. He is set forth as an eminent Royalist, who
sacrificed himself in the cause. The epitaph is in the laudatory
style of the period. Its date is about 1660. The arms of Pate
are on the wall at the feet of the figures. Before we leave this
aisle, we notice very briefly the monument in memory of St. John
Bennett, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Welby, and other members
of his family. The central figure represents the gentleman just
named, and the other two angelic attendants. But the burdiness
of form with which the artist has invested all the figures, reminds
us more of the corporeal than the spiritual, more of the earthly
than the heavenly.

In passing from the South transept to the North transept, we
notice the massive pillars of the central tower. The capital of the
South West column is the only one which contains any floriated
carving. Before the late Dr. Colles commenced the work of
restoration, this tower was in a highly dangerous condition. The
old foundations had given way, and the entire collapse of the tower
seemed imminent. Under the direction of Sir G. Scott it was
thoroughly underpinned, and masses of concrete and stone were introduced. The tower is now in a very sound state. In the East aisle of the North transept we again find evidence of the existence of two altars. We also notice an ancient brass. It is a memorial of the Gonzone family, one of whom was Vicar during the days of Queens Mary and Elizabeth. The following are the words:—'The bodies of Cristopher Gonzone, borne in Lancashire, and Elizabeth his wife, borne in thys towne, lyeth buryed here under thys stone, and departed in thys towne with God’s mercy out of thys world, sens the yere of our Lord God 1498; wych same Cristopher and Elizabeth were father and mother unto William Gonzone, of London, esquyre for the bodye unto King Henry the VIII., and unto Bartolomew Gonzone, prist, now Vicar of this Parish, and unto Agnes Gunnelllesworth, of Sunningbourne, whych iii children be now lyvyng, and diverse other thayye chyldern departed to God, all borne in this towne of Melton. Towards whose souls yt may please Almighty God to gyve His Mercy with pitye. Dated ye xx day of Augt., 1543.'

In the days of the Early English Church, the transepts had no side aisles. The small arch above the organist’s seat is supposed to have opened into a chantry, probably in memory of the founder of the Church. This chapel was pulled down when the aisle was built, and a small Early English piscina, which, doubtless, belonged to the chantry, was built into the wall as an ordinary piece of stone. In the chancel, there is nothing of very great interest, with the exception of a handsome piscina in the sacristy. Before the restoration, the roof was about twelve feet lower than the present one, and the East window was of a debased character. The present roof, as well as the stonework of the large window, were designed by Sir G. Scott. All the fittings and furniture of the chancel, as well as the floor, have been introduced within the last three years. During the restoration of the Church, various discoveries were made, including vestiges of the miserere stalls, a large lavatory, a few pieces of 14th century encaustic tiles, remains of altar brackets for tapers or images, and a few fragments of the rood screen.

In Nichols’ Leicestershire, we are also told that, two hundred years ago, there was still in the Church an old organ case. That Melton was a Church of great importance is clear, but that it was ever collegiate is a point we cannot prove, though there is some evidence to favour the view. There are still improvements which might be made, and which will doubtless come in time. But, as we regard Melton Church to-day, we feel a debt of deep gratitude to those who rescued this beautiful relic of the past from the ruin and squalor which threatened its existence. At a time when Church restoration was more of a novelty than it is at present, and in the face of considerable opposition, the late Rev. Dr. Colles, Vicar of Melton, undertook the gigantic task. With a persever-
ance beyond all praise, and with an energy which knew no difficulties he carried out the restoration of the entire building, and has bequeathed to us a noble legacy of zeal and skill. His name will always be held in grateful remembrance by every admirer of Melton Church, and the sanctuary he loved, and for which he worked, will ever be his most appropriate monument. The inhabitants of Melton should consider themselves highly privileged in possessing such a Church, and I trust they will ever do what they can to preserve and beautify the glorious fabric, which is at once their greatest ornament and most priceless treasure.”


Thursday, June 8th.

The party left Melton Mowbray at 9.15 a.m., in carriages, and visited Thorpe Arnold, Freeby, Garthorpe, Coston, Sproston, Stonesby, and Waltham, where luncheon was partaken of. After luncheon, the journey was resumed, and Goadby Marwood, Croxton Kerrial, and Knipton were visited. Belvoir Castle was also included in the programme, but through lack of time this had to be given up. Grantham was reached about seven o'clock, and some of the party visited its Parish Church. The Excursion was greatly enjoyed by those who took part in it, and the weather was most favourable throughout.

[For much of the above account of the Annual Summer Meeting, we are indebted to “The Grantham Journal,” of June 10th, 1893.]


J. W. WARTNABY, Esq., in the chair.

A VotE of thanks was passed to the Société d’Archeologie de Bruxelles for Part 3 of their Transactions.

It was Resolved that £2 2s. be paid to the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, as the Leicestershire contribution towards the expenses of the Joint Summer Excursion.

The Rev. Arthur Medland Rendell was appointed on the Excursion Sub-Committee, in the place of the late Thomas Holyland, deceased.

The Rev. Charles Page Eden, of Knighton Vicarage, Leicester, was elected a Member of the Society.
The Rev. C. Henton Wood, presented to the Society a map of Rushen Castle, Isle of Man, 1892, and exhibited a Manx penny, 1839.

Col. Bellairs exhibited some Caistor and Samian ware, the former found in Highcross Street, and the latter on the site of the new Constitutional Club, Pocklington's Walk, Leicester.

The Chairman exhibited a £5 and a £2 piece of Queen Victoria, 1893.


The Rev. C. Henton Wood, in the chair.

The thanks of the Society were directed to be sent to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society for part 48 of the Journal, and to the Surrey Archaeological Society for part 2 of Vol. XI. of the Collections.

Letters of thanks were received from the British Museum and from the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology for part 5 of Vol. VII. of the Transactions of this Society.

Mr. Stephen Wand, Springfield House, Stoneygate, Leicester, and Mr. A. P. Moore, 1, New Street, Leicester, were duly elected Members of the Society.

Mr. W. J. Freer exhibited two Medals, of which the following is a description:—

1. A Medal of some inferior metal silvered over, size of a half-penny, milled rim. Obverse: Imperial French eagle on a scroll with laurel wreath round neck. On the scroll: "Barrosa, March 5, 1811." Round the inscription: "The French Imperial Eagle." Reverse: the following inscription: "Taken at Barrosa by the British Troops Commanded by Gen. Greyham." This Medal was evidently struck in Spain and given to the troops engaged.

The eagle referred to was taken by Sergeant McKinnon, of the 87th Regiment, and was the first eagle taken from the French in the Peninsular War. The Sergeant had his commission given him, and the eagle was presented to Lord Liverpool by Captain Hope, of the 87th. There is no colour remaining on the Standard, but it was unlike the other eagles in having a wreath round its neck.

A legend says that Napoleon, when he presented this particular eagle to the 8th, observed that it was impossible this Standard should ever be taken by any foe from so fine a body of men, who
had on so many occasions exhibited proofs of the most determined valour, for which reason he desired that the eagle might be riveted to the staff contrary to the usual custom of being fixed to the staff with a screw. This interesting Medal was given to me by Mr. S. Knight.

2. A silver medal slightly larger than a five shilling piece, finely struck and in bold relief. On the obverse is the bust of Pope Innocent XII., in Tiara and Cope, with the inscription: "Innocent XII. Pont Max (Hameranus F\(^1\)). Reverse: The Pope in full Pontifical robes before the door of a Roman Temple, pickaxe in hand and bricks falling from the half blocked up portal. He is followed by a crowd of bishops in mitres, and opposite is a crowd on their knees with hands uplifted. Above, cherubs carrying thunder-bolts with the following inscription on a scroll: "Domus Dei et Porta coeli;" at the foot the date 1700.

As Innocent died in 1700 this interesting medal was no doubt struck by his successor, Clement XI., to commemorate the event, and his own election as Pope.

Mr. W. J. Freer exhibited, on behalf of the Leicestershire County Council, some British and Roman Pottery, of which Colonel Bellairs kindly gave the following account:—

The Urn of the Roman period exhibited, was discovered on making the excavations for the Drill Hall, at the Magazine, in the Newark. It was found about 7 feet below the surface, and was, when found, full of bones and fine earth, a few bones still remaining. It is no doubt a Cinerary Urn. Its dimensions are 9 inches high, 10 inches at its greatest diameter, 8 inches across the mouth, and 4½ inches the bore. It was found upright, covered with a tile which was broken by the pick, part has been lost, but enough remains to show it was a Roman flanged roof tile. The shape of the Urn is very elegant. Near it was found the small piece of Samian of the finest glaze which has been apparently part of a small cup, it is ornamented with a leaf or tendril pattern on the rim; this piece was evidently broken at the time of its discovery but it is the only piece saved.

The other pieces of Pottery were found in excavating for the erection of some new warming apparatus under the floor of the Norman hall, at the Castle, at or about 8 or 9 feet below the surface. The piece of coarse pottery roughly ornamented with lines and a wavy pattern looks like British and sun baked, near it were found the bones of a horse which seemed to form part of an entire skeleton, but only part of it was dug out, a great part still remaining. There were also found at the same time, but it is not certain whether at the same spot, some human bones and a swine's jawbone, and also a piece of stag's horn, which as will be seen has been
Roman Urn of Pottery, containing bones and ashes, found in the Pitwals.

Fragment of tile covering the Urn.

Piece of stag's horn.

Fragment of British Pottery.

Small piece of Samian Ware.

Roman Black Pottery.

G. C. Bellairs. del.
sawn at one end or cut with a knife. There was also found during the excavations, some small fragments of Roman Samian, ornamented with a raised pattern of foliage or feather design. A piece of black Pottery with an elegant pattern marked on it is probably of Caistor ware, but these pieces are too fragmentary to make out what shape the vessel was of which they formed part, but there is no doubt of their being Roman.

The part of the Castle where these things were found would be on the West side of the Roman wall of Ratae, and not far from the angle formed by the meeting of the South and West walls, and from the excavations made for the new sewage across the Castle Yard where several pieces of Roman brick and pottery were found.

Col. Bellairs has made a lithographic drawing of the principal pieces for publication in the Transactions, which is given herewith.

THE REV. E. H. BATES then read a Paper entitled:

NOTES ON A RECENTLY RECOVERED REGISTER OF CLAYBROOKE,

for which a vote of thanks was given him.


THE REV. C. HENTON WOOD in the chair.

The following books were presented to the Society, and added to the Library:—Annales De la Société D'Archéologie de Bruxelles; Tome Septième, Livraison 4; Records of Buckinghamshire, Vol. VII., No. 2; Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, No. XXXIV., (No. 1 of Vol. VIII.)

A letter was read from Mr. W. J. Freer, Hon. Sec., apologizing for his unavoidable absence.

The following were duly elected Members of the Society:—H. J. Betterton, Esq., Woodville, Burton-on-Trent; The Rev. Horace William Orford, M.A., St. Mary's Vicarage, Leicester; The Rev. Canon Sanders, LL.D., St. Martin's Vicarage, Leicester; The Rev. William Perowne Holmes, M.A., St. Peter's Vicarage, Leicester; C. J. Bowles, Esq., Phoenix House, Loughborough Road, Belgrave, Leicester; Miss T. Fewkes, Great Glen, Leicester.
The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By Mr. A. T. Draper:—"A Map of all the lands belonging to John Johnson, lying in the Lordship of South Croxton, in the County of Leicester, surveyed Anno Dom. 1730, by Thos. Crane," on vellum. The title "Esq." after Johnson had been carefully obliterated. The land appears for the most part to have been open without fences, except brooks, and was laid out in strips belonging to various farms all mixed up together. The Tenants' names were Richard and Philip Linthwaite, and —— Cooper. While the general outline of the map appears fairly correct, it has not the accuracy of detail of a modern Survey when compared with the recent Ordnance Survey of the farms.

By Mr. Thomas Harrold:—The following coins:—Silver denarius of the Emperor Trajan. Five small brass coins (Third) of various Emperors. Also a piece of old stained glass, representing on a yellow diaper back-ground a figure of the Saviour, with a plain nimbus, holding a long crozier in the left hand, clothed in a tunic and mantle (or cope) fastened across the breast with a rich clasp. The drapery was very artistic and looked like 16th century work. Also another piece of stained glass representing a figure appearing before several male and female figures, the females wearing head-dresses of the 15th century, one of the male figures being something like the usual representations of St. Peter. The piece was rather rudely drawn and the principal figure had the two fingers of the right hand as in benediction, though not raised. It was conjectured that it was intended to represent Christ appearing to some of His Disciples after His Resurrection.

Also two pieces of modern painted glass, one with the initials R. S. J. (Richard Spooner Jacques), 1792, and another with a coat of arms of Mr. Jacques, painted thereon in colours.

By Mr. S. Knight:—A set of silver coins, dated 1723, being coined out of the silver sent to the mint by the South Sea Company. Obverse:—The King's bust represented to the right, the hair long (laureate), the shoulders invested with armour with slight drapery. The legend contains all King's English titles, "Georgius D. G. M. Br. Fr. et Hib. rex" with "F. D." (Fidei Defensor), for the first time inserted, though it had been a title enjoyed by the English Sovereigns ever since it had been conferred by the Pope on King Henry VIII. Reverse: The Arms are contained in four shields placed crosswise, with the cross and garter in the centre. The upper shield bears England and Scotland impaled. The bottom one Ireland, France to the right and Hanover to the left, The legend consists of the King's German titles in abbreviations: "Brun. et L. Dux. J. A. et El." The spaces between the shields have "S. S. and C," (South Sea Company) alternately.
BY COLONEL BELLAIRS:—Several fragments of Roman Pottery were found in Highcross Street, near the Wyggeston Schools, during some excavations there by Dr. Arthur Crossley. There were no potters' marks, some had been ornamented, one representing a head in a medallion well executed. Among them was a remarkable piece of very thin Pottery made of red clay, but glazed with a metallic lustre something like black-lead polish. It is believed that this is a piece of very scarce Roman Pottery, of which Mr. Throsby in his History of Leicester tells of some having been found in his day, and which he describes as: "A small piece of thin black Pottery delicately veined" and glazed, and which he calls a little beauty. The piece exhibited seems to have been marked in relief by a sort of trellis pattern with bosses at the intersections, and seems to have been very carefully modelled. Under the glazed surface it is a bright red,—this piece is undoubtedly Roman.

Colonel Bellairs also read a short Paper on the Discovery of one of the main sewers of Roman Leicester, three years ago, for which a vote of thanks was given him.