

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

26 OCTOBER, 1891 TO 25 MAY, 1892,

WITH

**Communications**

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXIV.

BEING No. 1 OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

(SECOND VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)

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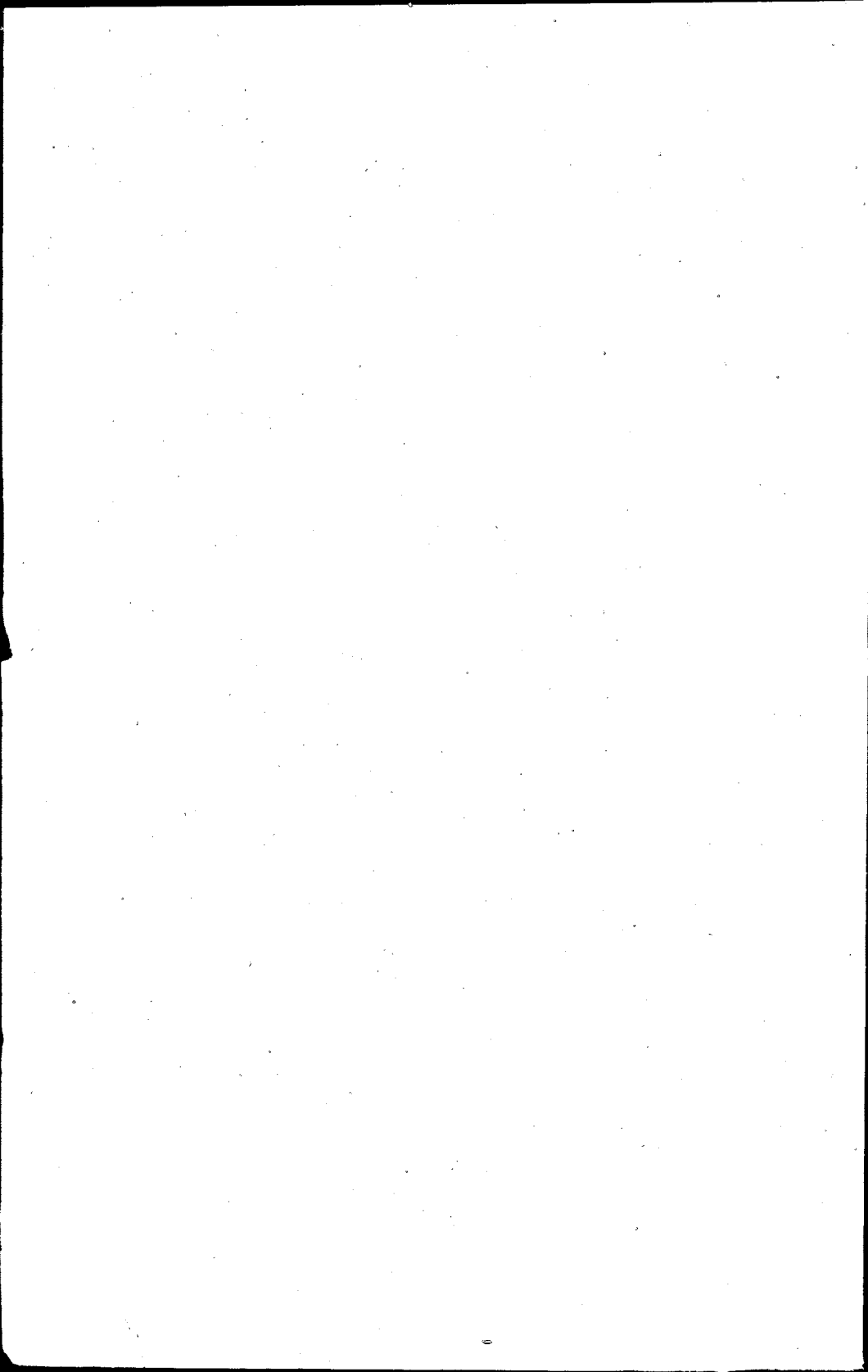
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dwellings and cliff-dwellings there was a larger proportion of pottery ornamented with some pointed instrument, whereas the modern pottery was more commonly painted, both inside and out. Unfortunately we have not yet in our Museum any collection of North-American objects of this class for comparative study. All the kinds of pottery we procured from the caves and cliffs are still made and used, and we saw no reason, from the consideration of any of the objects, to refer the date of occupation of these artificial caves or cliff-dwellings to any remote antiquity, or to any race different from that still occupying that part of North America.

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MONDAY, *November 30th*, 1891.

Professor E. C. CLARK, LL.D., President, in the chair.

Mr FAWCETT made the following communication :

NOTES ON WORK NOW IN PROGRESS AT ELSWORTH  
CHURCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The church is a very fine one, and well worth a visit. In many respects it reminds one of Bottisham, which, being more accessible from Cambridge, is probably better known. Balsham also is another church of similar character. The plan consists of a west tower, rather low, and much modernized at the top ; a nave, with north and south aisles, and south porch ; a small clerestory, with circular windows, cusped to form quatrefoils ; and a very long chancel.

All the stone work and tracery is of very good design, and the most interesting feature in the chancel is the set of fine stalls, which compare with those of Balsham for beauty.

When I was called on to advise, it was chiefly with regard to the north aisle, which was showing very decided signs of coming down altogether. The north wall was hanging over in a very ominous way, and the huge brick buttresses, which had

been erected to support it, seemed to be sinking into the clay foundation even more rapidly than the wall itself. There could be but little doubt that it was better to take it down and rebuild it, than to let it fall, for by this course the stone work of the windows, &c., was preserved. It must be admitted that two windows had only wooden divisions in place of stone tracery, but there was sufficient indication to make it tolerably certain what the old work had been, and this I followed.

The roofs of both north and south aisles had evidently been erected very early in this century. There were one or two remains of older rafters which had been worked in, but the greater part was quite rough-cut timber of rather large scantling, and it was fairly sound. If funds had been plentiful I should hardly have thought these roofs worthy of being retained, but as only a limited sum was forthcoming I thought it advisable not to destroy what was decidedly strong enough to stand. There were some traces of old stencilling on one or two rafters, consisting of simple greyish white quatrefoils on a dark ground, and the white tone was emphasized by the insertion of a pure white spot in the centre. I adopted this design, and thus brought some character into the roofs.

The nave roof presented a different difficulty, for it was of more recent date, and a much more finished roof than those on the aisles. It had not the slightest pretence to have any Gothic or ecclesiastical design, but was strong and well planed up, and was painted a very ordinary stone colour. This roof has now been made of the same tone as the aisles and relieved with some stencil-work.

The chancel roof may be said to be in character somewhat between that of the nave and those of the aisles; it is very flat-pitched like them, and the timbers are decidedly rough. I thought that a similar treatment to that of the other roofs would be the best form of decoration to apply.

Thus far I do not think that there can be much difference of opinion as to the treatment, but a serious difficulty has arisen on which there might be many opinions, and as the question of treatment is not absolutely settled, I shall be glad

to hear of any views which my hearers may advance. At the east end of the church are the remains of a very fine east window, and it is the desire of several parishioners and other friends of the late Rev. E. Cheere that this window should be opened out, and the tracery restored as a memorial to him.

When the window was built up, a screen or reredos was placed against the east wall, extending in height to the springing of the tracery of the window. This screen is of Renaissance character, and, though there is some fair design in it, a great part is merely veneered work, and the veneer is mostly loose, and part of it is wanting.

To leave the screen where it is and as it is seems impracticable, as it would be simple ruin to any good effect that the window would have. It had been suggested by the bishop that the centre might stand alone drawn away a little from the wall. It would of course be of just the same height as at present, but the sides of the window would show quite down to the sill, and thus the proportion of the window would be felt if not fully seen, and the effect, if the work was worthy of the position, would be decidedly striking. In my judgment it is in this "if" that the difficulty lies. A screen or piece of panelling which has some dignity as a whole seems to lose the greater part of it when the two wings are cut off, especially as the pediment in the centre, which would be retained, is the weakest part of the whole design. I have advised that the work should be retained in some other part of the church, until a home can be found for it where it could be kept together in its entirety.

I am doubtful whether the diagram which I now exhibit can convey sufficient information to render anyone willing to give a decided opinion upon the question; but if the meeting will adjourn at some near date to the church I shall be glad to be of the party, and I am sure that the rector and his friends will welcome you. There are many objects of interest in the church which I have not touched on in these brief remarks, as my object was to bring this question forward rather than to attempt to give an architectural description of the church, which would be very dull unless accompanied by a set of

explanatory drawings, and even then the interest would be small compared with that of seeing the building itself.

Mr J. E. FOSTER made the following communication :

#### ON TWO BOOKS PRINTED BY JOHN SIBERCH.

The number of copies of the books printed by Siberch at Cambridge is so small that it is advisable that a note of the present custody of all those known should be made.

I therefore call attention to copies of two which are in the Library of All Souls' College, Oxford, one of which has been noticed only in an imperfect manner, while the other seems to have escaped attention altogether.

The former is a copy of Galen's tract *De Temperamentis*, printed on vellum, to which a special interest attaches. There is, as is well known, another copy in the Bodleian Library printed on vellum. The leaves in the last quire of this copy have been wrongly imposed, and consequently the text is not continuous, and the proper last page is followed by two pages which should precede it. This is not the case with the copy in All Souls' Library, the imposition of which is correct. In other respects it does not differ from the paper copies, and the first letter on the title-page is misprinted "C" as in them. This copy is noted in Mr Bradshaw's bibliographical notes on the Siberch books attached to the reprint of Henry Bullock's *Oratio*<sup>1</sup>, but without any note of its being on vellum.

The second book in All Souls' Library is a copy of Archbishop Baldwin's *Sermo de Altaris Sacramento*. There appears to be nothing specially to note about this. This copy is not mentioned in Mr Bradshaw's bibliographical notes.

Baron A. VON HÜGEL gave a very interesting exhibition of objects recently presented to the Museum of General and Local

<sup>1</sup> Doctissimi Viri Henrici Bulloci...Oratio habita Cantabrigiæ... Reproduced in exact facsimile from the copy in the Bodleian Library. With a Bibliographical Introduction by the late Henry Bradshaw, M.A. 4to. Camb. 1886.

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