

The place-name Alport occurs three times in Derbyshire; near Youlgrave, in Hope Woodlands and Alport Height in the civil parish of Ashleyhay near Wirksworth. Those who wish to visit Alport Stone and are ignorant of its situation will find it on the 1 inch O.S. map, popular edition, 53. The name is derived from *alde* and *port*, O.E. *ald*, 'old'; *port*, 'harbour, port, town.' Its exact significance is not easily recognized in these instances.

F. MARPLES.

#### S. MARY'S BRIDGE CHAPEL.

The members of the Society will probably now like to have a few notes on the progress of the repairs which are being carried out at the S. Mary's Bridge Chapel which are, so far as the structural work is concerned, approaching completion.

The whole of the old walls have been carefully grouted and pointed and such parts as were actually fallen away have been made up with tiles in cement. It has also proved possible to repair the tracery of the east window in a similar manner although much of the old stonework was of a very friable nature. No new stone has been used except in rebuilding the upper part of the south wall and its windows. Those who knew the building will remember that this wall had been rebuilt with bricks of very poor quality at the time when the place was converted into a carpenter's shop. It will perhaps be a matter of interest that the stone for these windows was obtained from the lately demolished bridge in Derwent Street. It has fortunately proved possible to preserve the old timber framed gable on the east wall which had up to now been hidden by lath and plaster. A large proportion of the old roof timbers has also been saved, including the beautifully carved beam which is illustrated in Cox's *Churches of Derbyshire*, though, as might be expected, a good deal of it was too far decayed to be allowed to remain. The roof

has been stripped and the old tiles relaid, but about half of them were unfit for use, and have been replaced by others. It has been very fortunate that, through the generosity of one of our members, Mr. S. T. Nash, a large quantity of old roofing tiles were supplied to make up the deficiency, as it would have been very difficult to obtain any modern tiles that would have harmonised with the old roof. New floors have been laid, as near to the old floor levels as could be determined, and the old gallery, probably a relic of the time when the Presbyterian congregation had the use of the building, has been repaired and provided with a new staircase.

During the progress of the work many discoveries of great interest have been made. It is now possible to determine with some degree of accuracy the form of the first small Chapel and of the cut-water of the bridge from which it was corbelled out. When a portion of the south-west corner of the building (within the present house) had to be taken down, many carved stones were found in it which show that the 14th century Chapel must have been of a rather ornate character. Chaces found in the east wall seem to show us something of the form of the original Altar. In the north wall has been found a small opening or squint, through which apparently travellers crossing the bridge could obtain a glance at the pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament which would hang above the Altar. But perhaps the most surprising find has been that of the remains of a most substantially built spiral staircase in the south-west corner leading down to the river level, or rather to considerably below the present level of the water. All these discoveries are being carefully noted and will, it is hoped, be fully described and illustrated in a subsequent volume of our *Journal*. I fancy that most people thought that the crumbling east window was the only feature of interest remaining and I think that none of us dared to hope that so much would be revealed. Our members will

certainly not forget the obligation which we owe to Mr. Eric S. Haslam and his sisters, through whose good will and generosity the work is being done; nor should we omit to express our appreciation of the unfailing interest and care with which the builders, Messrs. Joseph Parker & Son, and their foreman, Mr. Frank Hopkins, have carried it out.

P. H. CURREY.

#### THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE.

A quarterly magazine under this title is to be published by the Derbyshire Rural Community Council under the editorship of Dr. L. du Garde Peach, M.A., who is well-known to readers of *Punch*, and to wireless listeners. The subjects will embrace matters of interest connected with Derbyshire, and no doubt the editor would welcome short papers on archaeology, antiquarian and historical subjects. Copies of the magazine may be had from Mr. L. Ramsbottom, secretary, Derbyshire Rural Community Council, Queen Street, Derby, at a cost of twopence each number.

THE DERBYSHIRE HOLDENS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS,  
by Wilfred H. Holden. Pub. by Apex Printing  
Service, 25, Little Saint Andrew St., London, W.C.2.  
1930. 3 guineas.

At the time of writing this is not issued, but it will be a handsome volume, crown quarto, antique paper and limited to 100 copies.

The work is illustrated by portraits, views, fac-similes of ancient deeds, arms, chart pedigrees, etc.; and in addition to the interesting story of the family of Holden, and its various branches, it contains valuable notices of allied families, lists of lords of manors, notes on the manors of Aston, and histories of the manors and estates of Darley Abbey (Derbyshire), Lackford (Suffolk), Haw-