

Excursions of the Society.

The first Excursion of the Society for the Summer Session took place on Wednesday, June 13th, when a visit was paid to several Historical Buildings in the City of London. On arriving in London the party first inspected S. Bartholomew's Priory Church, Smithfield, founded by Rahere, Minstrel of King Henry I., 1122, and almost contemporaneous with Reading Abbey. The Nave has been destroyed, but the Transepts and Choir are preserved as the Parish Church, and have been carefully restored by Aston Webb, Esq., Architect, in whose absence the Rev. J. M. Guilding gave a graphic and interesting description of the Priory and its neighbourhood. The party then visited the Charter House, originally a Carthusian Monastery, founded by Sir Walter Manny, 1371. After the Dissolution it became the town house of the Dukes of Norfolk, and in 1611 was purchased by Sir Thos. Sutton, who founded a Hospital there for 80 pensioners, also a celebrated Grammar School. Fuller speaks of this great foundation as "the masterpiece of Protestant English Charity." Here were educated Dr. Isaac Barrow, Addison, John Wesley, Lord Ellenborough, Havelock, and Thackeray. The School is now removed to Godalming, and the new Merchant Taylors' School has been erected on the Charter House ground. The building was described by the Rev. Canon Elwyn, Master of the Charter House, whose most fascinating account of its historical associations will long be remembered by all who had the pleasure of hearing it. The next historical building visited by the party was Christ's Hospital, "the noblest Institution in the world," as Bp. Middleton calls it, founded by King Edward VI., 1552. It occupies the site of a Franciscan Monastery, or Greyfriars. The Cloisters and some part of the Ancient Monastery are included in the present building, which have been enlarged or re-built since the great fire by Wren, Shaw, and other architects. The Mathematical School, nominally founded by King Charles II. in 1672, proceeded from an endowment left by Richard Aldworth, founder of Reading Blue Coat School; and the town of Reading is still further associated with the Hospital by the exhibitions founded by John West in 1720. The Great Hall, opened in 1829, forms (next to Westminster Hall) the noblest room in the Metropolis. Its dimensions are 187 ft. long, 51 ft. wide, 46 ft. high. Among its eminent scholars were Camden, Bishop Stillingfleet, Thos. Middleton, first Bishop of Calcutta, Richardson the novelist, Charles Lamb, and Coleridge. This may

be the last visit of our Society to this famous School, which has contributed so much to the educational progress of England, and which, alas ! is now doomed to removal. One of the officers of the Hospital, Mr. Lempriere, welcomed the Society and pointed out the chief objects of interest. In the Counting House the old books, plate and documents were exhibited. After luncheon the party visited the Guildhall, which was originally built in 1411, and after being much injured by the great fire of 1666 was restored by Dance in 1789. Charles Welch, Esq., F.S.A., the City Librarian, kindly exhibited some of the choice books and rare MSS. in the Guildhall collection, and described the most interesting portions of the building. A visit was also paid to the Museum. The last building visited by the party was Merchant Taylors' Hall. The Merchant Taylors are one of the 12 principal City Companies, incorporated by Charter 1327. Our great townsman, Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's College, Oxford, was formerly Master of this Company, and a benefactor of its renowned School. The Master and Wardens most courteously invited the Society to partake of afternoon tea in the Hall, and Mr. Nash, the Clerk of the Company, welcomed the members of the party and gave an interesting account of the history of the Company. The Society's excursion to London will not be the least memorable of its many visits to places of historical interest.

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The second Excursion of the Society will take place on Wednesday, July. 25th, and the destination will be Oxford. A full programme has been arranged, and we hope that the Members of the Society will spend a pleasant and profitable day in the Cathedral city of our Diocese.

EAST GARSTON.—Hurley is said in Domesday to have been held by Esgar, prior to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who held it at the time the survey itself was taken : and Hurley, too, was on this account called Esgareston. Madox prints (in 1702, *Formulare Anglicanum*, No. ccccxxv.) a Charter by which one William of London grants Tithe of Esgareston to God and to the Church and Friars of S. Mary of Hurley. In the text of the Charter itself, as transcribed by Madox, the spelling is Esgareston ; but in Madox's own note, at the foot of the Charter as printed by him, he says that on the polled deed from which he took his transcript at S. Peter's, Westminster, there is an endorsement some time later of course than the execution of the Charter itself, which however is not dated, as follows : "Carta Wellelmi de Lond de decimis de *Estgrastone*." We can thus see how easily *Esgareston* dissolves itself in lapse of yeass to *Eastgarston*. — F. T. WETHERED.