



## Excursion of Society.

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BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—VISIT TO ABINGDON.—One of the objects of this Society is to visit occasionally the chief towns in the county, to invite the inhabitants to a public meeting, and to increase their interest and knowledge in the history of the place in which they live. This year the Society visited Abingdon, the ancient capital of the county, whither a goodly number of the members journeyed on August 2nd, and had a most enjoyable excursion. The Abbey Buildings were first visited, and these were described by Mr. H. Redfern, the architect who carefully restored them a few years ago under the direction of the Corporation. The buildings consist of a 13th century structure, which is believed to be the Prior's house. The lower room is the fine vaulted apartment known as the Crypt, and above it there are two chambers, one of which contains the remains of a hooded fireplace, generally considered almost unique. Attached to this Prior's house is a long 14th century building of two stories, and the remains of the woodwork indicate that it was originally divided into a series of small apartments, with two larger rooms, each communicating with a long open passage. The building is generally supposed to have been the Hospitium, or guest house, but it is more probable that it was the infirmary of the monks. The Churches of S. Nicholas and S. Helen were described by Mr. Keyser, and the Almshouses and Christ's Hospital Hall by Mr. F. Morland. At the public meeting the Corporation Plate was described by Alderman Harris, and a lecture on the history of the town by Mr. Ditchfield, which we hope to publish in a future number. In the afternoon the Churches of Drayton and Sutton Courtney, and the ancient Manor House with its Norman doorway were visited. A very hearty welcome was given to the Society, and much kindness shown by many Abingdon gentlemen, to whom the President expressed, on behalf of the Society, his grateful thanks.