



## Proceedings of Societies.

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BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—EXCURSION TO GUILDFORD AND LOSELEY PARK.—The last summer excursion of the Berks Archæological Society took place on Tuesday, October 6th. Although the season was late for expeditions the weather was most favourable, and the beautiful Surrey lanes and villages never looked fairer.

Guildford was reached soon after eleven o'clock, when the Berkshire Antiquaries were met by Mr. Ralph Nevill, F.S.A., a member of the Council of the Surrey Archæological Society and Hon. Secretary of the Congress of Archæological Societies, who kindly acted as cicerone of the party, conducting them to the various objects of interests in the town and giving graphic descriptions of the principal buildings.

The first visit was paid to the Museum of the Surrey Archæological Society, an interesting building near the gate of the Castle, bearing the initials J.C. and the date 1699; the initials stand for John Carter, brother of Francis Carter, to whom the Castle was granted by James I. The house contained a beautiful chalk mantelpiece, Miss Jekyll's collections of cottage and farmhouse furniture, implements and utensils, seals of Surrey towns and abbeys, a fine collection of flint implements, tiles from Chertsey Abbey, &c. A recently discovered piece of coloured plaster from the Lion Inn bears the verse inscribed in old English characters :—

“ If daily thou wilt rule thyself amongst both hie and lowe,  
Do not thou credit all thou hearest, nor speake all that thou knowe.”

The next place visited was

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A curious building with a lofty chancel and sloping nave. The tower is of Saxon or early Norman work, having curiously splayed windows, which were probably there before the Norman arches were built. On the windows were paintings of Abraham offering up Isaac, and Jonah and the whale, but these were unfortunately plastered over by workmen during the restoration of the church. The chancel has early English vaulting, and had a square end with two apsidal chapels. The nave has chalk arcades, Early English windows, and some curiously carved corbels. The north chapel, dedicated to St. John, is Early English, and has some very early and interesting paintings on the vaulting of the apse.

### THE CASTLE.

Mr. Malden, F.S.A., Editor of the Victoria History of Surrey, met the party at the Castle and explained its principal features. The gateway was the original main entrance, and had a heavy portcullis which was raised or lowered by warders from a room above it, now destroyed. He compared the Castle with that of Arundel, both having a large outer court of about six acres, and several

other features in common. It was the favourite abode of the early Kings of England from Henry II. to Henry III. King John stayed there 19 times. Mr. Malden next pointed out the principal royal apartments, and the great hall which was much beautified by Henry III., who engaged William of Florence to paint divers subjects, including that of Dives and Lazarus. In Richard II.'s time the apartments were ruinous, and still more in the reign of James I., who granted the Castle to Francis Carter. This owner endeavoured to adopt the keep as his residence, an operation which he must have found extremely difficult. This keep stands upon a mound 50 feet high. There was built in the time of William the Conqueror a great circular shell keep, similar to those at Farnham and Arundel, and subsequently a square keep was added to it. There are several inter-mural chambers in the keep, the most interesting being the oratory of Henry I., first mentioned in 1173, when Henry II. issued orders for its restoration. It contains some curious early carvings, amongst which was deciphered one of the Crucifixion. The Castle never was called upon to endure a siege. It was taken possession of by the Barons in 1215, but was afterwards restored to the Earl of Pembroke, the royal constable.

The party was then conducted by devious ways to Abbot's Hospital, founded by Archbishop Abbot in 1619. It is a noble building of mellowed brick with fine carved oak doors, graceful chimneys with their curious "crow-rests," noble staircases, interesting portraits, and rare books, amongst which is a Vinegar Bible. Here the Duke of Monmouth was confined on his way to London after the Battle of Sedgemoor. The chapel, with its fine Flemish windows showing the story of Jacob and Esau and oak carvings and alms-box dated 1619, is especially attractive.

The next stopping place was the old house, No. 25, High Street, built in 1683, with its plaster ceilings resembling Inigo Jones's work, and probably done by his workmen, and its beautifully designed window-fasteners, than which there is no better series in England. The staircase somewhat resembles that at Farnham Castle. The house is now a shop, but it was formerly the Town Clerk's residence, and was for many years used as the lodgings of the Judges of Assize.

Luncheon was served at the Angel Hotel, an old coaching inn which retains many relics of antiquity, including an ancient crypt. At the close of the meal the President proposed the health of the King, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Nevill for his kindness in conducting the Society. After luncheon the company took up their carriages and drove to

#### LOSELEY PARK.

A noble Elizabethan mansion, the former seat of the More family, and now occupied by General Palmer, an American gentleman who fought in the American Civil War, who has led an active and useful life, but now lies paralysed in the house—the result of a riding accident. An inventory made in the reign of Edward III. shows that a house was then in existence, and tells of a large garden with fruit trees. Christopher More, who came of a Derbyshire family, acquired the property in 1515. He was Sheriff of Surrey, and purchased many abbey lands in the time of Henry VIII. His son, Sir William More, pulled down the old house and built the present house, which was finished in 1568. Waverley Abbey, the Friary at Guildford, and other piles supplied the material. Sir George More was treasurer of the Prince of Wales, the son of James I., who visited here. He was the father-in-law of the famous Dr. Donne, Dean of St. Paul's. The house fell into decay, and was restored by the owner, Mr. Moly-

neux, who devoted his life to it. He erected the present screen in the noble hall, which has some painted panels that came from Nonsuch Palace, and is adorned with royal and family paintings, old furniture, arms and armour, &c. In the library the mantelpiece was part of a chest which Queen Elizabeth left behind after her visit to Loseley. It bears her initial E.R., and the date 1570. One of the bedrooms is haunted, and a gruesome story is told of Lady More, who in 1614 was the wife of Sir Robert More, and starved to death a daughter in order that a boy might succeed to the estate, and the story goes on to say that in revenge the husband starved her in the same way. The panelled chimney piece that came from an old wing of the house now destroyed, Queen Elizabeth's bed, and the tapestry were all admired. Over the entrance door appears the motto : "*Invidia claudor, pateo sed semper amico.*"

#### COMPTON CHURCH.

Mr. Thackeray Turner, Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, met the party at Compton, and described the church, which is remarkable for its double sanctuary, its Norman woodwork, anchor-hold, and other objects of architectural interest, too many to describe at length. Leaving Compton, the excursionists drove to Piccards Rough, the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Powell, who had kindly invited them to tea, and whose hospitality was much appreciated. After tea and a saunter through the beautiful gardens and grounds, the party drove back to Guildford, and took the 6.3 p.m. train for Reading.

Cordial thanks were given to Mr. Ralph Nevill and to the organisers of the excursion, and the members of this Society will have many pleasant recollections of the charms of Surrey.

On December 3rd, by the kind invitation of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Eppstein, the Society held its first meeting of the winter session at Reading School, when a lecture was given by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield on the history of the School, showing that it was not founded, as it is generally supposed, by Henry VII. in 1485, but that it was in existence at least 400 years earlier. There was a large attendance of members of the Society, parents of the boys and of the "gentlemen of Reading School," by which title the scholars were known in the days of Dr. Valpy.

The following lectures have been promised :—"Pre-historic trade routes in Britain," by Mr. Harold Peake, on January 21st; "A Tour in Syria," by Mr. Arthur W. Sutton; "Notes Literary, Artistic and Historical, of a tour in Spain," by Mr. Philip H. Newman, F.S.A., F.R.S.L.; "Some Berkshire Churches," by the President, and "The Towers and Spires of Mediæval Rome," by Mr. J. Tavenor-Perry.

**THE RELIQUARY** (Bemrose & Sons).—This quarterly under the able editorship of Dr. Cox continues to be invaluable to all antiquaries. The notices of new books, and the items and comments on archæological subjects form an important feature of each number, and the articles are always worth reading. The current number contains an article by the Editor on the Church of Branscombe; Cowdray by Mr. Clinch; St. Peter ad Murum by Mr. Laver; and other interesting contributions.

**THE ANTIQUARY** (Elliot Stock).—The Editor has drawn up an attractive programme for 1909. His notes on the month are always interesting, and no matter of antiquarian importance ever seems to be omitted. Amongst the writers whose aid he has secured are Mr. R. H. Forster, W. G. Collingwood, C. Dawson, C. W. Dymond, J. Tavenor-Perry, Evelyn White, and other well known names.