

IX.

LITTLE MORETON AND POOLEY HALLS.

The last volume of the *Transactions* of the *North Staffordshire Field Club* included an account of two places recently visited by our Society. The writer is Mr. T. H. Beckett, who, it will be remembered, described Pooley Hall for us on the occasion of our visit in 1922. Of Little Moreton it is not necessary to do more than refer our readers to Mr. Beckett's excellent description. "One is tempted," as he says "to linger further over the fascinations of this wondrous mansion, but the limitations of time and space do not permit." In the case of Pooley Hall he uses the description which he read to us on the occasion of our visit. The house has attractions for Derbyshire Antiquaries in that it was built by Sir Thomas Cokain in or about the year 1506. The Cokains had long been settled here, and it was whilst on a visit to his father at Pooley that Thomas Cokain whose exquisite effigy lies in Youlgrave Church came to his untimely end. Mr. Beckett calls particular attention to the wonderful little chapel on the south side of the main buildings. Once more to quote the writer's words, "Harking back to the Architectural History of this mansion it may be taken for granted that it has been built on the site and probably more or less on the foundations of an older structure. In several places are visible just above the ground foundations formed of large stones and in some cases these extend up to the level of the weathered base-course. Whatever the beauties of this former edifice may be, no one can fail to admire the picturesque beauty of the present Pooley Hall, and this sentiment is shared by the archæologists of Derbyshire as demonstrated by their visit on the occasion referred to."