purpose it had been used; but the bell will probably be described in Mr. North's forthcoming volume on Local Campanology. The tower of Bottesford Church, among the foundation stones of which it was found, is considered by Sir Gilbert Scott to be five hundred years old.

By the REV. CANON POWNALL: An antique Norwegian silver ring, purchased at Drontheim, last summer. To the upper part of the ring were affixed five little loops of silver, and to each loop was attached a very small thin plate of silver, somewhat heart-shaped, which dangled freely when the wearer of the ring moved his hand. The "dangles" on this ring were perhaps modern, but such were the usual and characteristic additions to the ancient Norwegian ornaments of silver. Upon the ring itself was an embossed pattern which though somewhat worn, still showed two serpents intertwined, two arrows crosswise, and two conventional palm or fir trees on either side. It requires special knowledge to determine the date of this ornament.

By the REV. CANON POWNALL: Also, a Silver Coin of Offa, King of Mercia (756-96). Mr. Pownall remarked that the money of this Anglo-Saxon King is rare, even among Anglo-Saxon coins, and this particular piece may be regarded as unique, for the name of the moneyer, DEIMVND, which appears upon the reverse, has never before been published. On the obverse there is no "head" representing the king, but simply the words OFFA REX M (erciorum), in three lines. The coin may be considered to be a specimen of the mintage of the early part of his long reign; those which were struck later are conspicuous in the Anglo-Saxon series for a sort of rude beauty of type, which at once distinguishes them from others. Misled, as I believe, by several of the Chronicles, and history founded on them, numismatists hitherto have been tempted to account for this excellence, by supposing Offa, during a visit to Rome towards the close of his reign, to have engaged the services of Italian workmen for the productions of his mint. This alleged journey to Rome depends on a statement in "*The Flowers of History*," by Roger of Wendover; and an account of it also appears in the anonymous "*Lives of the two Offas*," which is printed at the end of Watts' edition of Matthew Paris. Special reasons have occurred to make me question the story, and these I have communicated to the Numismatic Society in a recent Paper. I suspect the monk of St. Albans was led into a mistake (all the more easily, perhaps, because it was one which served his purpose) by confusing together Offa, King of Mercia, with Offa, King of the East Saxons, who did go to Rome, and there died in the early part of the eighth century. (Bede, *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.) That these two kings were confounded together in another instance is capable of proof. The causes which occasioned the superiority of Offa's money to any other of the period of the Heptarchy must be

sought, I therefore have ventured to assert, in some other way than in this fabulous journey. With us Englishmen of the nineteenth century Offa's name and fame still live, independent of monkish fable. They live in the names *Offenham*, *Offchurch*; and notably in that well-known boundary line between England and Wales which the ordnance map delineates. Offa's dyke (Clawdh Offa) ran for a hundred miles over steep, across morass, from estuary of Dee to mouth of Wye, and marked out the Marches, while acting as a rampart against the Welsh. Important as the work was, it is, however, barely sufficient, as the remainder of a great king's work, to exhibit his greatness to us with all the consequence it deserves; for with sovereign power over twenty-three counties Offa fell short, but by a little, of becoming that which Egberht did become in the succeeding century—sole monarch of England. Just now, however, when a proposal has recently been made to Parliament to erect St. Albans into a Bishop's see, it may be thought that in the foundation of its magnificent Abbey (Offa's act of expiation for the great crime of his life), we find at the present moment the most sensible connecting link between his reign and that of Queen Victoria. This coin is a silver penny, intrinsically worth not more than a few pence now, but remarkable for being the earliest penny we can point to in the English coinage. It was found, during the autumn of last year, in the neighbourhood of Wellingborough, in the county of Northampton.

By Mr. Kelly: A bronze thumb-ring bearing an ancient T with a coronet over it, found amongst rubbish brought out of the hall of Leicester Castle, during the alterations of that building nearly half a century ago.

The Rev. J. Fisher read a short paper upon a coat of arms assumed by the Leicestershire Club. After condemning the practice of adopting arms, either by private individuals or any Society, without proper heraldic authority, a discussion arose as to the arms borne by the Mercian Kings, and Mr. Kelly read extracts from Planche's *Pursuivant of Arms*, and other books, showing that arms were not borne at that period.

A suggestion having been laid before the Society, that the old building known as Wigston's Hospital be converted into a branch of the Leicester Free Library, the meeting expressed an opinion in accordance with one of its avowed objects—the preservation of architectural remains in the town and county—that such a proceeding would afford great satisfaction to the Society, while being conducive to the interests of the Free Library. And the Society requested that this resolution be forwarded by the Corresponding Secretary to the Chairman of the Free Library Committee.
