

THE CHAIRMAN then exhibited some coins of King Stephen's time, namely: 1. Penny of Stephen engraved in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1862, showing a cross, extending across the coin, and thereby effacing Stephen. 2. Penny of Stephen, one of the Nottingham find, January, 1880, showing a shorter cross not extending beyond the portion of the field in which lies the head of the King; more clearly displaying the intention of the person who tampered with the die. 3. Penny of Stephen. Nottingham find. 4. Broken penny of Stephen. Nottingham find. 5. Fragments from the find, showing the state in which the coins were found. 6. Dollar of Charles IV. of Spain, countermarked. He read a Paper in connection with them, entitled, "A Numismatic Incident in the Reign of King Stephen—1135-1154," which is printed in the volume of the Associated Societies for the year 1881.

The REV. W. G. DIMOCK FLETCHER, M.A., of Oxford, contributed the following

NOTES ON LEICESTERSHIRE MSS. IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE AND OUR NATIONAL LIBRARIES.

LEICESTERSHIRE as a County has been very fortunate in its historians. We have Burton, one of the very earliest, and certainly a most careful writer, to whom we are especially indebted for his accurate description of all the arms and monuments remaining in the churches in 1622. And then we have Throsby, with his interesting gossiping volumes. But above all Nichols, the fullest of all County Historians, whose eight folio volumes will always be held by Topographers and Antiquaries in the highest estimation. And if his History does contain a great many accounts of thunderstorms and fires, of no general interest, and which therefore might have been safely omitted, still it is so full of useful information that one can charitably overlook all its faults.

Our modern writers, Potter and Curtis and Reeve and Hill and Thompson and North and Kelly, who have each contributed their quota towards elucidating the History and Antiquities of Leicestershire, I need not mention; their names are an household word in this County.

What all our local antiquaries should aim at, is to bring out a new and revised edition of Nichols, with the genealogies, and all the historical and topographical portions of the work, corrected and brought down to the present time. We want that doing for Leicestershire which the careful editors of Hutchins and Ormerod have been doing for Dorsetshire and Cheshire. The scarcity and costliness of Nichols is well known. The work needs to be re-edited and reissued under the auspices of this Society.

Good, however, as Nichols' History is, it is nevertheless very imperfect and incomplete. Because numbers of documents are not to be found in it, which ought to have been printed; and during the past fifty years much additional information has come to light, illustrative of the history of our County. Mr. Nichols did not make enough use of the Public Records; indeed in his day they were scarcely accessible; now there is no difficulty in searching, the documents are carefully arranged, and there are excellent indexes to aid the student. Before Nichols' History can be reprinted, these documents must very carefully be searched; and they will be found to yield stores of precious information that has never yet seen the light.

Upwards of twenty-five years ago an attempt was made to reissue Nichols' History, under the editorship of the late Mr. T. R. Potter; but, for reasons which I need not here name, the attempt fell through.

It is not generally known, or else it is forgotten, that in 1869 the Rev. J. H. Hill (to whom Leicestershire is indebted for his excellent "Gartree Hundred") proposed to reprint Nichols' West Goscote, at the extremely moderate subscription price of five guineas. This is the scarcest of all the eight volumes, being worth far more than the other seven put together; and a copy could not probably be purchased for £80. Strangely enough, Mr. Hill's laudable attempt fell through, owing to lack of support. It does seem remarkable that out of the whole County of Leicester only forty subscribers could be found to a reprint of the excessively rare "West Goscote!" Mr. Hill has still the MSS., quite ready for the press; and I believe he would reprint the volume if sufficient subscribers came forward. Could not this Society make an effort to obtain a sufficient number of subscribers to enable him to reprint this volume? Surely a little effort would bring many persons, especially those resident in the Hundred of Goscote, who would be willing to subscribe to a new issue of that valuable volume! Shall we not try and take the matter up?

It has been suggested to me that it might be useful to point out, for the benefit of persons interested in Leicestershire Topography and Genealogies, some of the documents relating to the County deposited in the Public Record Office and the great National Libraries of England. And as I have made myself in some measure acquainted with the Leicestershire MSS. contained in them, I venture to give some hints which may facilitate the labours of those students who are thinking of searching. But I trust you will pardon any imperfection in my lists of MSS., as I can do little more than glance at some of the many sources of local information.

And first as to the *Public Record Office*. The stores of documents relating to Leicestershire are so countless, that it will be

best just to enumerate a few of the principal sources from which information most likely to be useful to the Topographer and Genealogist can be obtained. No modern County Historian could venture to write a County History without making long searches at the Public Record Office. Indeed one County History—Plantagenet Harrison's *History of Yorkshire*—has lately been published, which is written *entirely* from information derived from this office; and the pedigrees in this volume extend back many generations earlier than those in any similar book; the Manorial History, too, is unusually complete.

The Charter Rolls, Patent Rolls, and Close Rolls, are mines of wealth to the topographer. They each commence with the reign of King John; and contain grants of manors, lands, offices, honours, markets, free-warrens, fairs, &c., &c. Nichols has partially used these in his History, but still there are vast numbers of Leicestershire Grants unrecorded by him to be found there. The Commissioners printed lists of some of the earlier Rolls; but these lists are often inaccurate and incomplete. A good Calendar of the Close Rolls, arranged in years under Counties, is now being made. There is no perfect Calendar to the Patent Rolls, but in what are known as Palmer's Indexes there are good *Indices Locorum*.

The *Placita*, or Plea Rolls, are of immense value, yet are very little known, and are almost wholly unindexed. Indeed the History of Yorkshire, above referred to, is almost wholly compiled from these Rolls. They contain the pleadings in our several courts, and the judgments thereon, and relate to nearly every estate in the kingdom.

The proceedings in the Court of *Chancery* consist of Bills and Answers, &c., Depositions by Commission, and Decrees; and commence as early as the reign of Richard II. There are printed Calendars to the proceedings during the reign of Elizabeth only. The proceedings in the Court of *Exchequer* commence in the reign of Edward I. A Calendar to some of these proceedings will be found in Martin's Index, published in 1819. Indices to the Special Commissions, and the Depositions by Commission, from the reign of Elizabeth, have been printed in the annual Reports of the Deputy Keeper, and are still in progress. They have already been brought to the end of the reign of George I. Amongst the Special Commissions I find there are 109 matters relating to Leicestershire, and amongst the Depositions by Commission 220. I have a list of these. In many of the Bill and Answer Books the County is given, as well as the names of the Plaintiff and Defendant, so that it is not difficult to single out the Leicestershire suits.

The *Pedes Finium* are complete from the reign of Henry II. There are excellent Indexes, arranged in years under Counties, which enable the Topographer at once to select the Leicestershire Fines and Recoveries. They give the name of the freeholder levy-

ing the fine, his wife, and the situation and quantity of his estate.

The Inquisitiones Post Mortem commence with the reign of Henry III., and are extremely important to Topographers, as they tell us the names of every tenant in capite, of what lands he died seized, by what rents or services the same were held, who was his heir and of what age the heir then was. There are three sets of these Inquisitions, viz., the Exchequer, Chancery, and Court of Wards and Liveries. A list of the Exchequer Inquisitions was printed in the Deputy-Keeper's Tenth Report for 1849. A Calendar of the Chancery Inquisitions from Henry III. to Richard III. has been published, but is very incomplete. There is, however, a good MS. Index in nine volumes; and also a good MS. Index in two volumes of the Court of Wards and Liveries Inquisitions, in alphabetical order, with the Counties prefixed, thus:—

“Leic. ffarneham Tho. 65. m. & h. term. 19 Jac. I.”

The *Lay Subsidy* Rolls are extremely valuable, as they contain the names of all the King's Tenants in capite, arranged under villages, with the amounts they paid to aid him in his wars, &c. They extend from Edward III. to Charles II., and contain the names of all the most important persons in every town and village. The earliest Leicestershire Roll is in 1 Edw. III., and is in a splendid state of preservation. It has this heading, “Rotuli ‘Hugonis de Prestewold et Rogeri de Belegrove taxat’ vicesime in ‘cōm. leyc. domino Regi E. tertio post conquestum anno regni ‘sui primo concessse.’” Under Loughborough, no less than twenty-seven persons are named, with the amount each paid. The latest Leicestershire Roll is the Hearth Tax of 25 Car. II., and contains the name of every householder in Leicestershire, with the number of fire-hearths in his house. Under Loughborough, 229 persons are named, under Knight-thorpe ten, under Maplewell two, under Cotes ten, and so on. Between these two there are several hundred Rolls, more or less perfect, relating to our County.

There are also lists of Leicestershire *Church Goods*, temp. Edward VI., but these do not relate to the whole of the county. The *Royalist Composition Papers*, too, deserve notice.

Of course there are vast numbers of other Leicestershire documents in the P. R. O., e.g. the Domesday Book, and numerous Charters and Inrolments, Inquisitiones, Rotuli, and Placita, &c., &c., but those few I have named seem to me to be most useful to the topographer and genealogist.

Amongst Mr. Palmer's Calendars, there are several which relate especially to Leicestershire. Cal. 127 contains Grants, &c., in com. Leicester from Hen. VIII. to Jac. I.; Cal. 123 has a list of 24 grants of Fee Farm Rents from Hen. VIII. to Cha. I.; Cal.

113 contains Inquisitions post mortem in com. Leic. from Hen. VII. to Cha. I. Agarde's Indexes in the Exchequer also contain references to valuable Leicestershire documents.

Many valuable lists of documents have been published in the Deputy-Keeper's Annual Reports; and of these, I would especially name the Exchequer Depositions by Commission, in the 1877 to 1881 Reports; the Awards of Inclosure Commissioners, enrolled in the Chancery, Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Duchy of Lancaster, commencing 1756, and containing no less than 93 Leicestershire Awards and nine Plans, in the 1865 and 1866 Reports.

I may add that there is no fee charged at the Public Record Office for searching for documents, and one may make copies of, or extracts from, any Records at pleasure.

Next to the Public Record Office, the *British Museum* contains the largest number of Leicestershire documents. Many of these MSS. are copies of Placita, Rotuli, Inquisitiones, &c., in the P. R. O., and for a list of them I would refer you to Sims's invaluable "Manual for the Genealogist, &c." I can only here mention those MSS. which especially relate to the county. These are as follows:—

Domesday Book. Harl. 6016, fo. 89.
 Cartularies. Burton Lazar's Hospital. Cott. Nero C. xii.
 Gerondon. Lansd. 415.
 Leicester, "Charite." Cott. Vitell. F. xvii.
 Woodford, of Ashby Folville. Cott. Claudius
 A. xiii.

Aids in Com. Leic. granted Edw. III. 1347. Harl. 6700.
 Knights Fees in com. Leic. Cott. Tiberius D. xx. fo. 89b;
 Harl. 6700.

Placita de Itinere in com. Leic. 5, 6, 11, and 12, Hen. III.
 Add. 12,269.

"Names of Popish Recusants convict, and Papists who have registered their estates, &c.," about 30 names. Add. 15,629, fo. 29, 30.

Spirytual Receipts com. Leic.; and Abstracts of Crown Grants, Edw. I. to Edw. III. Harl. 6700.

Sequestrators in England, 1642 to 1652. Add. 5478, &c.

Leicestershire gentlemen who compounded for their estates, *temp.* Car. I. Harl. 2043, fo. 38b.

Returns to Parliament in all Counties, 1702 and 1710. Add. 15,661.

Names of Knights in Counties. Lansd. 855; Harl. 5803.

Names of Lords of every Manor, 1316-1559. Harl. 6281.

- Heraldic Collections.** Visitation 1563. Add. 17,065; Harl. 810.
 Visitation 1619. Harl. 6125, 6188, 1481, 1187, 1189, 1180, 1195.
 Pedigrees of Leicester Families. Harl. 6590.
 Pedigrees and Arms, by Nich. Charles. Harl. 1118.
 Pedigree of Smith of Queniborough to 1764. Add. 14,844d.

- Burton's Leicestershire, additions by Vernon. Add. 10,126.
 Lyson's Collections for Leicestershire. Add. 9458.
 Powell's " " Add. 17,462.
 Upcott's " " Add. 15,922.
 Devon's " " Add. 24,801.

[This valuable volume contains excellent lists of Leic. MSS. in the Harl., Lansd., Cott., and Add. Collections; also the following documents:—Translation of Foundation Deed of Ashby School, 10th Aug. 1567; Lease of the Manor of Kirkby Mallory from Convent of S. Mary de Pratis to Thomas Dylke, 26 Hen. VIII.; Inquis. ad quod Dam. Wigston's Hospital, 11 Hen. VIII.; Ordinatio Vicarie de Overton; Endowment of the Vicarage of Rothley, &c., &c.]

- Abstracts of Crown Grants of Lands in com. Leic. Add. 6059.
 List of persons of note in Counties. Cott. Titus B.I. p. 124.
 Lists of Justices of Peace. Harl. 474, 7512. An. 1579, B.M. Roy. MS. 18. D. iii. An. 1582, Land. MS. 35. An. 1587, Land. MS. 53.
 Extracts from the Registers of Diocese of Lincoln. Harl. 6950-6954.
 Taxatio Parochiarum Lincoln. Cott. Vesp. D. xxviii.
 Hunter's Collections for Leicestershire. Add. 24, 461 and 24, 465.

[These valuable volumes contain information relating to Newbold-Verdon, Great Thornton, Statherne, Halstead, Bradgate, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Kirkby Belers (abstract of an interesting Chronicle in Hale's MS. lxxiii, from 1197 to 1534) Market Harborough, Bredon, Loseby, Cossington, Bradley, Reresby, Sixtonby, Melton Mowbray; the Earldom; Wilson's Deeds; and the families of Phillipps of Garendon, Lord Wharton, Faunt, Nele, Bellers, &c., &c., &c.]

- Hunter's Museum Pocket Books, amongst the Add. MSS.
 Hunter's Abstracts of Escheat Rolls, &c. Edw. III. to Hen. VIII. Add. MSS. 24, 506 and 24, 507.

[Relate to the families of Hastings, Holand, Chaworth, Ferrars, Grey de Wilton, Manny, Tyletot, Basset, Belers, Furnival, Roos, Scrope, Zouch, Latimer, Maundevyll, Seynteler, Earl of Somerset, de Montford, Vere, Vilers, Berkley, Stafford, Swillington, Greystock, Merbury, Beaumont, Bonvil, Dakyn, Harington, Malory, Blount, Lucy, Nevill, Pole, Roskyn, Norres, Ormond, Hardwik, Parr, Willoughby, Brukby, Kyrton, Marquis of Dorset, Bigod, Babington, Chicheley, Burton, Dockray, Cromwell, Stansfeld, Strelley, Earl of Huntingdon, &c., &c.]

Randle Holme's Leic. Church Notes. Harl. 2129.

[Relate to Kirby Bellers, Thurleston, Melton Mowbray, Gadesby, Loughborough, Leicester (S. Margaret's, S. Mary's and S. Nicholas), Blaby, Brookesby, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Loseby, Barrow, Bottesford, Muston, Thorpe Arnold, Wymondham, Prestwold, Gouldby, Goodby Morwood, Skevington, Stanton Wivile, Knaptoft, Tilton, Sibston, Lutterworth, Bitswell, Catthorpe, Stony Stanton, Launde Abbey, Stookstone, Barwell, Elmesthorpe, Misterton, Snareston, Pakington, Coston, Swepston, Drayton, Hinckley, Pigleton, Frolesworth, Church Langton, Gumley, Castle Donnington, and Medbourne.]

Notes to Willis's Abbeys, &c. Add. 5827.

Parish Registers of Somerby, 1601 to 1715. Add. 24, 802.

Papers relating to the Hastings Family. Harl. 3881, 4774, 4849.

Staveley's MS. History and Antiquities of Leicester. Add. 15,917.

Wm. Burton's History of Lindley, co. Leicester. Add. 6046.

The *Cottonian* MSS. in the British Museum contain the following which relate to Leicestershire:—

Aug: II. 135. Inspeximus of King Edward I. of several charters by which King Henry III. granted the honor of Leicester, &c. to his son Edmund, 1285.

Vesp. D. X. 131. Charters of Henry II. &c. *re* the honor of Leicester.

Vitell: F. 17. Repertorium chartarum Abbatiae de Leic: per Wm. Charite.

Nero. D. X. 143. Matriculus dñi Ep. Linc. de omnibus ecclesiis in Archd: Leic: 1220. Peter's pence and pensions.

Nero. D. X. 157b. Taxation of spiritualities and temporalities of the Abbot and Convent of Leicester, by Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln, 1292.

The *Lansdowne* MSS. in the British Museum contain these Leicestershire ones :—

47. 21. Dier's Certificate of Rent answered for heriots in co. Leicester &c. 1586.
 90. 23. Letter from Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury concerning the tumultuous proceedings in Leicestershire &c.; the mob throwing open Inclosures, &c. 1607.
 109. 67.. Manors in Leicestershire belonging to the Marquis of Dorset.
 447. 1. Foundation Charter of Leycester Abbey.
 855. 3. Leicestershire Knights. 15th cent.
 963. 58. Dates of foundation of Abbeys in Leicestershire, &c.

Of the *Harleian* MSS. in the British Museum, there are at least sixty-five which relate to Leicestershire. They are too numerous to be detailed here. Excellent Indexes have been printed; and a reference to these, *sub voce* "Leicester," will show what they comprise. It is sufficient to note here that they relate to the Town and County; Abbey, Convents, Forest and Frith, Churches; Survey of Crown Lands, Earls, Lists of Gentlemen, Grants, Knights' Fees, Sheriffs, Heralds' Visitations, Pedigrees, Arms and Heraldic Collections relative to Leicestershire families.

In addition to the above MSS., there are also some Leicester-shire Charters in the British Museum. I think the above list contains most of the important MSS. in our great National Library relating to Leicestershire.

The *Bodleian Library* at Oxford is very rich in MSS. relating to Leicestershire. It contains the collections of Ashmole, Rawlinson, Dodesworth, Gough, Carte, Wood, &c., &c.

The *Charters*, of which a capital Calendar has lately been printed, relate to the following places :—Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Packington, Framland Hundred, Alton Grange, Burton Lazars, Burton Overy, Enderby, Foxton, Queniborough, Hinckley, Leicester, Leicester Abbey-de-la-Pre, Mowesley, Packington, Sadyngton, Sternesworth, Stoughton, Billesdon, Great and Little Stretton, Wythcote, Berneton, Bringhurst, Osulveston Priory, Slawston, &c.

The *Carte* MSS. comprise five volumes, styled the "Huntingdon Collection," which Carte obtained from Sir John Davys, whose daughter Lucy married the Earl of Huntingdon. They are numbered 76, 77, 78, 205, and 228, and contain much valuable Leicestershire information.

Carte MS. 77 contains a "Survey of the Churches, their value and Incumbents, in Leicestershire;" Order of the Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Leicester and the mayor for Ship-money 12 August 1635 (fo. 193); Notes of Deeds from the Corporation of Leicester to the Earl of Huntingdon (fo. 277);

Letter of the Mayor of Bristol to the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Lieut. of Leicester and Rutland, about the Levy of Men for Ireland out of those Counties, 4 March 1601 (fo. 278); names of gentlemen in Leicestershire who contributed to the Palatine, 1622 (fo. 279); Services rendered by Sir John Skipwith to the Stuarts (fo. 280).

Carte MS. 78 contains (inter alia) the Freeholders' Book for co. Leicester, 1630 (fo. 1); Letters from the Mayor and Corporation of Leicester; Instructions for executing Commission for Knight-hood, with list of names, and fines to be paid for refusing same (fos. 18, 21, &c.); names of those returned by the under-sheriff at Ashby 30 Sept. 1630 (fo. 19); Record of Privilege of Great Bowden from toll and charge (fo. 20); names of persons with above £40. a year land in co. Leic., and are not knights, 1631 (fo. 22, 24); Penalties laid at the Swanymote Court for the Forest of Leicester, 1600 (fo. 23); names of persons in co. Leic. who pleaded that they had not £40. per ann. at the King's Coronation (fo. 26); Inquisition for Leicester Forest, 1623 (fo. 27); Instructions for Survey of the Kings' Parks, 1626 (fo. 31); divers papers relating to Leicester Forest; Order of K. James I. to Justices of Leic. about Alehouses (fo. 31); List of Patents to John and Edw. Lord Hastings and Henry Earl of Huntingdon (fos. 35, 36); numerous documents relating to the Hastings family (fos. 35-250); Deeds relating to Loughborough, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Belton, Whatton, Leicester, Kirby, Braunstone, Enderby, Evington, Hinkley, Glenn, Burton Overy, Billesdon, Stoughton, Gracedieu, Gopshall, Thinkstone, Shankton, Knapton, Blackfordby, Oadby, Castle Donington, &c.; Feoffment of Manor of Stony Stanton from Robert Moton to his son Reynolds, 14 Hen. VI. (fo. 72). A most valuable Leicestershire MS.

Carte 1769. 0000. fo. 2. Grant of Priory of Hinkley to the Abbey of Mountgrace.

Carte 1769. *EEEE*. fo. 248. Endowment of the Vicarage of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

There is at present no good printed Catalogue of the *Carte* MSS.

The *Ashmolean* MSS. contain some good Leic. documents; but as there is an excellent printed Catalogue, I will only mention two or three of the more important MSS.

Ashm. 798. Contains John Vincent's drawings of the Arms and Seals of the Town of Leicester (with the names of the Mayor and other officers), and of thirty-one Coats of Arms of the Gentry, taken at the Visitation of Leic. in 1619, (fo. 1-6.); Pedigree of Barret of Wimeswold (fo. 7.); Pedigree of Smalley of Belton (fo. 8.), Harcourt (fo. 9, 10), Eyre (fo. 15).

Ashm. 834. Grant of Crest to Andrew Nouell of Dalby, 1582. (fo. 39 b).

Ashm. 844. Leicestershire Tenants in Domesday Book (fo. 18);

Pedigrees of Basset and Roos (fo. 108), Earls of Leicester (fos. 46, 94), Chester and Despencer; Confirmations of Arms to Bayn-
brigge of Lockington (fos. 237, 238 b.), and Chamber of Gaddesby
(fo. 207).

Ashm. 848. Leic. Charters from Duchy of Lancaster (fo. 62 b).

Ashm. 858. Grants of Arms to Nowell of Dalby, and Kendall
(fos. 40 and 109).

Ashm. 866. Collections for a Feudal History of England,
Leic. (fos. 199-201).

Ashm. 1137. Inscription at Leicester concerning John and
Mary Erick.

I would here mention that there are numerous documents
relating to the *Hastings* family of co. Leicester, which will be
found indexed in the printed catalogues to the Ashmole, Rawlin-
son, Tanner, and Dodsworth MSS., under the word "Hastings."
They are too numerous to specify here.

Amongst the *Gough* MSS., there are but very few which relate
to Leicestershire. They are as follows:—

Gough MS. 1. Statutes, &c., for governing Mr. Hill's Charity
School at Thurcaston.

Gough MS. 2. Shackerstone Parish Register, 1558 to 1630.
Of this a transcript has been given in the Society's Transactions.

Gough Nichols MS. 5. *Gough's* Tour in Leicestershire.

A little book, entitled "Proper tables and easie rules, &c.,"
1576, contains MS. notes by William Davy, Schoolmaster in
Leicester about 1675, including a list of Mayors from 1203 to
1700, and numerous local events, &c. The reference is "Leic.
Gough's Adds. 8vo. 16." There are also some extracts from
Gascoigne's Additions to *Burton* amongst the *Gough* Books.
(*Gough*. Leic. 1.)

There are numerous Leicestershire Drawings and Engravings
in Vol. xv. and Vol. D. of *Gough's* Prints and Drawings. There
is a good printed Catalogue of the original *Gough* Books and
MSS., but not to the Additions.

The *Wood* MSS. have no Leicestershire ones. But in *Wood*
MS., F. 7, (8469) are Pedigrees of *Bainbrigge* and *Gulson*; and
in *Wood* MS. C. 11, (8551) are some *Loughborough* Church
Notes. The extracts from the Matriculation Registers, and
Books of Admission to Degrees, of course contain many Leicester-
shire names. *Wood* MS. 8495, has a List of Gentry in England.
There is a rough printed Catalogue, but none sufficiently detailed.

The *Tanner* MSS. have these relating to Leicestershire:—

Letters from the Justices of co. Leic. 1621-2. 73, fo. 46; and
243, fo. 28b.

Certificate of Survey of the goods in every church and chapel in West Goscote, 1552. 343, fo. 7n.

Returns of trained bands in Leic. 121, fo. 74.

Letters concerning the Civil War. 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, and 89.

Delinquents. 59 and 61.

"Capitulum generale canonicorum regularium ord. S. Aug. ibi [*i.e.* Leicester] celebratum," 1431. 196, fo. 166.

Hastings Pedigrees, &c. 257, fo. 24b, &c. There is a good printed Catalogue.

The *Rawlinson* MSS. contain several Leicestershire ones:—

Wm. Burton's Collections for Leic. (Transcript). B. 350.

Notes out of Burton's History. B. 275, fo. 63; and 278, fo. 269.

Account of Burton and his family. C. 146. fo. 359.

List of Knights in the County, and their Arms, temp. Edw. II. B. 350. fo. 40.

Letters from the Commissioners for the County, 1655, A. 32, fo. 867; and 33 fo. 523.

Address to Richard Cromwell on his succession to the Protectorate, signed by the inhabitants of the County. A. 61. fos. 164-186.

Arms of Leic. families, B. 103 fo. 246; B. 278. fo. 259.

Ditto from Burton. B. 278. fo. 269.

Particulars of lands lately belonging to the Abbey of S. Mary de Pratis, 1609 to 1612, B. 253.

Genealogical extracts from a MS. formerly belonging to the Abbey. B. 103.

Descents of the Saxon Earls of Leicester. B. 77 and 278.

Descents of the Norman Earls. B. 103, 133, 142, and 313.

Leicestershire Pedigrees, passim in B. 73-84. (*Wilkinson's* Collections.)

Terrier of Manor of Queniborough, 1714. B. 348.

Hastings Pedigrees, &c., in B. 66, 76, 88, 103, 142, 144, 313, 314, 319, 470.

Collections relating to the County of Leicester during the Civil Wars, by Nicholas Strelley of West Langton. Misc. 116.

[A list of the contents of this valuable Leic: MS. is printed in *Nichols' Leicestershire* IV. 1046-7.]

The Catalogues to the *Rawlinson* MSS. are partly printed.

The Collections of *John Leland*, the Author of the "Itinerary," are in the Bodleian Library. *Leland* MS. 1 (5102) contains papers relating to Bredon, fo. 40; Eccl. Canon. de Leic. fo. 34; New College or Hospital at Leicester, fo. 42; Landa in Leic. fo. 68; Osulveston, fo. 69; Monastery de Pratis at Leicester, fo. 70. *Leland* MS. 3. (5104) contains collections for the County. MS. vol. 1 of the *Itinerary* (5107), at fos. 15-25, relates to Leicestershire.

Marshal MS. 73 (5305.) consists of Notes from the MS. of the Greek Test. at the Town Hall, Leicester. (Codex Leicestriensis.)

Laud MS. 72. (1335) "Charite" Rentale, S. Mary de Pratis.

Dugdale MS. 1.A.1. (6491) has Domesday Book and Collections for Leic: *Dugdale* MS. 12. F. 2. (6502) contains Transcripts from the Registers of the Abbey of Leicester. *Dugdale* MS. 220 (6512) contains list of gentry in England.

The *Dodesworth* MSS. in the Bodleian Library are the most valuable for Topographical and Genealogical information; and many of them relate partially to Leicestershire. An Index of names and places has been printed to the first seven volumes only. I believe that other volumes are now being catalogued. I mention a few of the Leic. MSS.

Dodesworth MS. 25. (4167) at fo. 100, Carta fundat. Abbatiae de Pratis in Leic.

Dod. 76. (5018) fo. 1. Deed of the Priors of Leicester, Belvoir, and Bredon, redressing the grievances of the Nuns of Stamford.

Dod. 47 (4189), 79 (5030), and 112 (5053). Knight's Fees.

Dod. 59, &c. (5001, &c.) Inquisitiones post mortem, John to Edw. III.

Dod. 94-97 (5037). Placita, temp. King John.

Dod. 107 (5048). Collections relating to the Archdeaconry of Leic.

Dod. 33 (4175). Placita de banco in com. Leic. 4 Edw. I.

Dod. 35 (4177), at fo. 86. Names and arms of Leic. Knights, &c.

Dod. 47 (4189). Liber Rub. Scaccarii. Introitus ad Scutagia (fo. 59); Tenentes de rege in capite, Leic. (fo. 132); Inquisitiones de honoribus eschætis, 13 Ric. John, &c. Leic. (fo. 148).

Dod. 88 (5029), fo. 19. Inscriptions in Leic. churches.

Dod. 89 (5030). Tenants in capite and Knight's fees, Leic. 12 Hen. II. (fo. 19).

Dod. 114 (5055) Carta facta Edmundo filio Regis de Honore de Leic. an. 53 Hen. III. (fo. 54).

Dod. 115, fo. 234 (5056). Inquisitio de Man: Barrow-on-Soar, 49 Edw. III.

Dod. 123, fo. 81 (5064). Escheats in co. Leic: temp. Edw. I.

Dod. 145, fo. 61 (5086). Notes from Burton's Leicestershire.

Dod. 2, has grant to Leic. Abbey de Pratis (fo. 56b), and Hastings descents (ffos. 84-86.)

Dod. 4, relates to the foundation of Osolveston Abbey (fos. 95b, 96.)

There are many other MSS. relating to Leicestershire, amongst the *Dodesworth* MSS. The above list is by no means complete.

Kenelm Digby MS. 212, (1813.) is "Tractatus de Computo Hebraorum aptata ad Calendarium per Monachum Leic."

Bodley MS. B. 3. (2004), fo. 177b. "Nota de urbe Leicester combusta an. 1173, præcepto Regis Henrici, &c."

There is no general catalogue of the MSS. in the Bodleian Library, but brief descriptions of many of the MSS. may be found in Bernard's "Catalogi Librorum Manuscriptorum" publ^d. in 1697. There are good catalogues of the Gough, Malone, Douce, Tanner, and Ashmole MSS. The Dodesworth, Carte, Wood, Rawlinson, and other MSS., still require to be catalogued, as this has not at present been fully done; but the Dodesworth and Carte Catalogues are in progress.

In the *Oxford College Libraries* are a few Leic: MSS., which are described in Mr. Coxe's "Catalogue of the MSS. in the Oxford Colleges and Halls." *Corpus Coll. MS. 154*, "Statuta in Capitulo Generali Monachorum Leic: A.D. 1276." *Exeter Coll. MS. 152*, Notes of Assizes at Leicester, 11 and 12 Jac. I. *Queen's Coll. MS. 89*, Visitation of Leicester, 1619; 103, Pedigrees of the Earls of Leicester; 131, Pedigrees of Leic: families from the visitations, and notices of the Shirley family. *New College MS. 330* is Visitation of Leicester 1619.

Of the Leicestershire MSS. in the *Public Library at Cambridge* I know nothing; excepting that I believe it contains a chartulary of Osulveston, a "Rentale," Dd. iii. 87. *Caius Coll. MS. 519* is a Visitation of Leicester in 1619.

The *College of Arms* is rich in Leicestershire Visitations:

Visitation of Leicestershire 1563, G. 11; H. 12; and see F. 7.

Visitation of Leicestershire 1619, G. 8; Vincent's Leicester. No. 127.

Visitation of Leicestershire 1683, K.

Leicestershire Church Notes, Vincent MS. 197.

Arms of Gentry in Counties, Philpot MS. 18 W.

Lincoln's Inn Library has a small folio volume, *temp. Car. I.*, containing references to Public Records relating to co. Leicester, as to Inquisitions post mortem and ad quod damnum, from 1 Edw I. to 3 Rich. III., collected by W. Swynford of Leicestershire. The reference to the MS. is *Hale MS. lxxiv.* (lxxix.)

In the Library of the *Incorporated Law Society*, in Chancery Lane, is a MS. volume of Charters relating to the town of Leicester.

There are some good Leicestershire MSS. in *Sir Thomas Phillipps's* splendid library at Thirlstane House, Cheltenham:—

46. Visitation of Leicestershire, 1619.

59. Visitation of Leicestershire, 1619. 19th cent.

3575. Palmer's Collections for Leicestershire, folio.

3576. Collections for Leicester, &c., folio.
 3582. Carte's Collections for Leicestershire.
 4828. Collections from the Close Rolls, Patents, &c., co. Leic. 6 John to 17 Edw. IV. fol. 16th cent.
 4497. Leicestershire Pedigrees from Burton, in Tables, fol.
 4498. Leicestershire Pedigrees, by Beckwith, fol.
 4499. Leicestershire Visitation 1619, copied by Beckwith 1773, fol.
 4840. Index to Conveyances of the Earl of Essex' lands in co Leic., &c.
 9730. De Sacr. Eucharistiæ-Tractatus Roberti de Leycestriæ. 14th cent.
 11176. Leicestershire Visitation 1619. 18th cent. Do. Arms. Camden's Grants from 1603 to 1615. Dugdale's Sketches of Arms.
 No. 119. Ex. Bibl. Thorpe. Flower's Leicestershire Visitation, fol.
 13168. Disclaimers at Visitation of Leicestershire, 1682.
 16645. Fox-hunting Poems. Melton Hunt, 1830, &c.
 17619. Hunter's Collections for Leicestershire, 4to.
 22974. Vincent and Lennard's Vis. of Leicestershire 1619; and additions to 1652. 17th cent.

Amongst the MSS. at *Lambeth* are these relating to Leicestershire :—

- 585, fo. 215. Succession of Abbots of Leicester to 1496, ex Registro Leic.
 589, fo. 221. History and Collections concerning the Abbots of Leicester.
 643, fo. 52. Bull of Pope Gregory to the Priors of Croyland and Leicester, to decide the case of the Monks of Sempringham.
 701, Vol. 8, M, fo. 153. Letter from Edmund Brudenell about an outrageous robbery in Leicestershire, 11 May, 157—.
 952, fo. 27. Table of Fees of the Archdeaconry of Leicester, 20 November, 1627.

For the Ecclesiastical History of any Leicestershire parish, the *Episcopal Registers at Lincoln* must be searched. These commence as early as the episcopate of Hugo de Wells (1209 to 1235), and are kept in the Old Palace at Lincoln. They consist of two series, (1) Institutions, and (2) Miscellaneous. The Institutions give the Rectors and Vicars, with the dates of their institutions, and the names of their respective patrons. The Miscellaneous Registers contain Commissions, Visitations of Churches and Religious Houses, Presentations to Livings, Sequestrations, Foundations and Endowments of Chantries, Certificates of Commission for Consecration of Churches and Chapels, Enrolments of Wills, Ordinations of Vicarages, Taxations, Licenses for Non-residence, Inquisitions, &c., &c.

In short, nearly every act, relating to any benefice or clerk, will be found entered on these Registers. The earliest Registers are in Rolls, and are kept in a box. The later ones are in a number of folio volumes, extending from the fourteenth century to the present time. A thorough search through all these Registers must be made, down to the time when Leicestershire was separated from Lincoln diocese (1837), before a complete history of any church or its ministers could be written. This search would undoubtedly be a work of considerable labour, for the acts recorded in the Registers of this large Diocese are simply placed in precise chronological order, without any regard to Archdeacons, &c., and there are no Indexes. Still the trouble involved in the search will be amply repaid by the interesting facts which would certainly be brought to light. Some extracts from these Lincoln Episcopal Registers are given in Harl. MSS. 6950—6954; but they do not appear to be fully given. Mr. Nichols has printed the Leicestershire entries from these Harl. MSS. in his *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica*, Vol. vii., 561—592.

To come nearer home, the *Leicester Free Library* has a MS. entitled "History and Antiquities of Leicester," apparently compiled in 1751, with a list of the Mayors continued in a later hand. Inside the cover is written, "W. Bentley, 1763." This MS. is probably a copy of Staveley's History of Leicester.

The "*Calendar of State Papers*," *Domestic Series*, which is being published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, contains a vast amount of information from the Public Records relating to Leicestershire. The volumes already published comprise the years 1509 to 1530, 1547 to 1640, 1649 to 1654, and 1660 to 1667. Other volumes are in preparation. The *Home Office Series* also contains several Leicestershire documents. There is a good Index at the end of every volume.

I know nothing of the Leicestershire documents in the Office of the *Clerk of the Peace at Leicester*; or of those belonging to the *Town of Leicester*. As to the latter, see *The Eighth Report of the Historical MSS. Commissioners*, which contains an account of the Charters, MSS., Hall Books, &c., belonging to the *Corporation of Leicester*, by Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson, who was assisted in his researches by Mr. Kelly. Mr. Jeaffreson speaks very highly of the value of the Corporation records, and of the way in which they have been preserved. His account of the documents comprises no less than thirty-eight pages of the Report, and contains copies of the most important documents, and an epitome of most of the others.

For the convenience of Antiquaries, I may state that the *Wills* at the Leicester Probate Court commence in the fifteenth century, and there are good Indexes. The first volume extends to the year 1562. There are two Peculiars in the County, Groby and Rothley.

The earliest wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, preserved at Somerset House, are of the year 1383. There is no difficulty in obtaining a Literary Search Ticket, which will enable one to search the Wills at Somerset House, down to the year 1760, free of charge. At Leicester, the fee is one shilling each will, and no extracts may be made.

In Bernard's Catalogue of MSS. mentioned above, reference is made to two Leicester MSS. in private hands, one numbered 6947 being in the possession of Sir Edward Norwich of Brampton, Northamptonshire, and relating to the Archdeaconry of Leicester; the other numbered 5285, containing "Geneal. Comit. Leic.," being Vol. 47 of the MSS. of Henry Viscount Longueville. Whether these are still extant, or no, I do not know.

The labours of the "*Historical MSS. Commission*" have brought to light a great many Leicestershire documents hitherto entirely unknown. They have already published seven Reports. From Vol. i. we learn that, amongst the muniments of His Grace the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, there are Registers of Belvoir Priory and Croxton Abbey, a Cartulary of Belvoir, Croxton Rentals, Inventories at Belvoir, Croxton, &c., and some thousands of deeds relating to numerous towns and villages at Leicester (Vol. i., pp. 11, 12).

At Baginton Hall, Warwick, the seat of W. Bromley Davenport, Esq., is a volume of Pedigrees of Warwickshire and Leicestershire families, from Sir George Naylor's library (Vol. ii., 79).

In Vols. ii. and iii. are enumerated the MSS. of the Nevilles, of Holt, in the possession of F. Peake, Esq.; and amongst these are twenty ancient grants to the Monastery of Bradeley, and numerous deeds of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, most valuable for Leicester topography (Vols. ii. 93, and iii. 278).

At Alnwick Castle, the seat of the Duke of Northumberland, is a curious letter from the Mayor and Aldermen of Leicester to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, dated 1661, as to the election of a Burgess (iii. 90).

At the Marquis of Salisbury's seat, Hatfield House, are several letters to Cecil from Leicester Justices and gentlemen relative to this County (iii. 152, 159, 164; vi. 264b).

There is a copy of the Visitation of Leicestershire in 1619, at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire, the seat of Sir Charles Isham, Bart. (iii. 253).

At Eshton Hall, York, the residence of Matthew Wilson, Esq., is a volume (xxiv.) containing Abstracts of Pedigrees of Leicester families (iii. 298).

At Newnham Paddox (Earl of Denbigh), Knowle Park, Kent (Earl de la Warr), Trentham (Duke of Sutherland), and Claydon (Sir Harry Verney, Bart.), are numerous letters relating to Leicestershire during the Civil War (Vols. iv., v., and vii).

Evelyn P. Shirley, Esq., of Ettington Hall, has some valuable Leic. genealogical MSS., including three Leic. Visitations; two of 1564, and one of 1619. His MS. 131 contains "Arms and names of Knights esquires and gentlemen in co. Leicester in 1564" by Cook. MS. 220, Arms of a Visitation of co. Leicester, 1619. There is a Charter by Queen Mary granting the Rectory of Olvescroft co. Leic. to the Univ. of Oxford (v. 362, 367, 369).

At Emmanuel Coll., Cambridge, are particulars relating to Leic. Fellows of that College, including Rd. Farmer, Rd. Dawes, &c., (iv. 417, 8).

Rev. E. Field, of Lancing College, has a quantity of seventeenth century letters, which came into his possession from the Barker family of Lyndon, Rutland. Many of these relate to Burton of Stokerston, and other Leic. families (Vol. v.).

Amongst the MSS. of Sir R. Graham, Bart., is a letter, which speaks of a Royal visit to Leicester paid by the Duke of York in 1665 (Vol. vi. 340a).

T. S. Raffles, Esq., of Liverpool, has several letters from the Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of co. Leicester, concerning the dearth of corn in that county, 1630 and 1631; also a letter from the Lords of the Council to the Justices of Leicestershire, as to reparation of St. Paul's Cathedral; and a memorandum of a meeting of Leic. Kts. and gentlemen on 26 Aug. 1637 (Vol. vi.).

Amongst the House of Lords papers are Petitions against disafforesting the Forest of Leicester, 1628; Petition of Wm. Rowse as to the new Hospital at Leicester, 1640; Petition of Elizabeth Smith as to Sir Wm. Herrick and Beaumanor 1640; Petition of Inhabitants of the County, complaining of John Hannan of Nellson, 1626; documents relating to the common gaol at Leicester; the Archdeaconry (Vol. iv.). Papers from the Committee of Sequestrations, Commissioners for settling the Militia; Petitions from the sequestered Clergy, 1660 (Vol. vii.). Many documents *temp.* Civil War (Vols iv. to vii.).

At Westminster Abbey is an account of John Mall, receiver of Sir Walter Deverse, in co. Leicester, 11 and 12 Rich. II. (iv. 176.)

There is a capital Index at the end of each of the seven volumes already published by the Hist. MSS. Commissioners.

My task is now done; and I have endeavoured to give some insight into the numerous Leicestershire MSS. in our great national Libraries. If the list given above of the principal MSS. will facilitate the researches of some of our Leicestershire Antiquaries, Topographers, and I trust future Historians, and will lighten their labour, this paper will not have been written in vain.

There is still much to be done in the way of elucidating the History of our County. We want a book on the "Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of Leicestershire," similar to what

was done thirty years ago under the sanction of the Archæological Institute for Berks, Oxford, and other counties. Then, again, a "Bibliotheca" for Leicestershire is much needed, a work which will contain a list of all Leicestershire Books and Tracts, and of all the books written by natives of, or residents in, Leicestershire. And a book on "The Worthies of Leicestershire" would be useful. But above all we ought to aim at having a new edition of Nichols's magnificent History, revised and continued down to the present day. Let each member of this Society do his part towards elucidating the History and Antiquities of this famous County of Leicester.

THE SUMMER GENERAL MEETING

was held at Oxford on Thursday and Friday, the 23rd and 24th of June, 1881.

The Programme of proceedings was prepared by Mr. James Parker, F.S.A., and the Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher. Under the guidance of those gentlemen, the members were most courteously received at the different Colleges, Libraries, Museums, and Institutions, and so had opportunities—aided by an excellent plan of the city—of seeing the most attractive features in the place.

July 25th, 1881.

CAPTAIN WHITBY in the chair.

MISS SUSAN L. R. JOHNSON, of Leicester, was elected a member of the Society.

MR. NORTH, F.S.A., contributed the second and concluding portion of

THE RUDING DIARY,

which has already been printed, pp. 306-319.

September 26th, 1881.

THE REV. CANON POWNALL, F.S.A., in the chair.

Special votes of thanks were passed to the Rev. W. G. Dimock Fletcher for preparing the Programme and for carrying out the local arrangements for the late meeting at Oxford; to Mr. James