

## ANNUAL EXCURSION OF THE SOCIETY.

(From the *Aylesbury News* of July 19, 1856.)

The Annual Excursion of the members of the Society, took place on Tuesday and Wednesday last. The locality selected was Eton; and although it was impossible to visit all the objects of interest in the neighbourhood, enough was seen to excite a wish that a larger number of members had been present to partake of the enjoyment. Unfortunately the day fixed for the meeting was also that chosen by the Royal Agricultural Society for their annual gathering; in addition to which the difficulty of reaching Eton from the centre of the county, where most of the members reside, no doubt deterred many who would otherwise have been present. Among those who

joined the excursion were C. G. Du Pre, Esq., M.P., and T. T. Bernard, Esq., Vice-Presidents of the Society; the Rev. Hibbert Wanklyn and Boughey Burgess, Esq., Secretaries; the Rev. W. J. Burgess, of Latimers; Rev. W. Johnson and Rev. W. Marriott, Assistant-Masters of Eton; Rev. J. Robertson, Curate of Upton.

Salthill, the appointed place of meeting, is celebrated as once the site of the famous Eton Montem, now numbered with the things that are past. Near Slough is the house where Herschell resided when he discovered the Georgium Sidus; at Stoke Poges, three miles distant, the poet Gray lived and wrote, and his residence, West End House, is still further memorable as having been in the possession of the Penn family, if not of the great Quaker himself. Of the many objects of antiquarian interest at Windsor it is needless to speak, for neither these nor any of those mentioned were among those visited by the Society. Eton College, of course, stood first on the list, in addition to which Iver and Upton Churches were selected in furtherance of one main object of the Society's endeavours — the exciting an interest in the work of restoring and beautifying the Parish Churches which have fallen into decay.

On arriving at Eton College the visitors were permitted to take a general survey of the magnificent pile of buildings. It is unnecessary to enter into a detailed description of a place so well known, but we may mention a curious statement made during the visit. It is evident from the strength of the buttresses which support the chapel that it was originally intended to bear a stone roof; and the architecture of the upper portion of the chapel, differing as it does from the lower — the different quality of the stone, which is a fine foreign stone in the lower part, and a blueish stone from the neighbourhood in the upper — all show that the erection must have been completed at a different period from the other portion. Such in fact was the case; for it is said that Edward VI. sent a peremptory order to the Fellows to complete the building forthwith under pain of losing their charter, and the utmost speed was used in obeying the mandate. The brick story over the cloisters was added at the time when the obligation to celibacy ceased to be binding on the Fellows.

The visitors attended service in the College Chapel, after which the Rev. W. Marriott obligingly pointed out the various objects of special interest. Among these is the Mortuary Chapel of the Founder, William Lupton, whose name is expressed by the singular device of placing the first three letters (LOT) on a barrel or ton. A mural brass, by Waller, bears the inscription, "*miserere mei secundum magnam misericordiam tuam,*" on a scroll. The monument to Sir Thomas Murray (*Moravius*), to the right of the Communion table, has a full-length skeleton underneath the bust of the deceased in full dress — a striking contrast, which can hardly fail to excite attention. In the entrance to the Chapel is the monument of Dr. Allestree, who is said to have become Provost of Eton by a singular kind of merit. Tradition relates that the "Merry Monarch," having challenged one of his courtiers to find an uglier man than himself, the latter, after long search, presented Allestree to his Majesty, who, feeling bound to do something for him, conferred on him the vacant office. Before leaving the Chapel, it should be mentioned that one of the old bells, long used as a "passing-bell," being recently unhung, the following curious inscription was found on it, supposed to be addressed to the passing soul — "*Gaude, viagnus honos erit tibi, quod post ipsum scandas in coeli palatia* "

After leaving the Chapel, the visitors were received in the most courteous manner by the Provost, Dr. Hawtrey, and the Rev. G. J. Dupuis and Rev. G. Green, Fellows of the College, by whom they were conducted to the Library, and the various objects of interest preserved in the archives were exhibited. Among these was the original charter granted to the College by King Henry VI., in the 20th year of his reign, and the will of that Monarch, referring to the completion of the edifice. There is also a grant of arms to the College, from the same Monarch, two years later, from which it appears that the present arms of the College differ in some particulars from those to which it was originally entitled. Another curiosity is a charter from King Henry VIII., granting permission to keep swans in the river, and to impress their mark or "nick" upon the bills of the bird, a right which it has recently been attempted to revive, but we believe without success. The memory of the last

named Monarch is preserved in the College not very reverentially, in the couplet "Henricus Octavius, took away more than he gave us" — referring to an exchange of lands which took place in his reign. The *rotuli* or rolls containing the annual accounts of the College, from the earliest period, were also exhibited. Among the curious books in the library are a MS. Homer, said to date from the ninth century; a beautiful vellum copy of the Niebelungen Lied, printed for the present King of Prussia, and presented by him to the College; a volume of letters from Venice, by Sir H. Wootton, once Provost of the College, when Ambassador to that Republic; and a curious illustrated work, once in the possession of the late Lord Palmerston, in which the genealogy of the principal German Royal families is traced back to Noah! There is also a unique collection of portraits, made by Grainger, not certainly intended for the edification of youth, for among the celebrities it contains are Jonathan Wild and "Mr. John Sheppard." In the visitor's book are the autographs of the Queen, accompanied by the late Duke of Wellington, Louis Philippe, and many others. Another object of considerable interest was the collection of portraits of some of the scholars, presented to the Head Master on leaving Eton. Among these were the present Lord Derby, Lord Clarendon, Viscount Curzon, Lord Clive, &c. &c. The private library of the Provost was also thrown open, in the most obliging manner, to the visitors. It is right to add that the extreme courtesy of all the authorities added not a little to the interest of the visit, and it is a matter of congratulation that two gentlemen connected with the College, the Rev. W. B. Marriott and W. Johnson, Esq., as also C. P. Barrett, Esq., of Eton, were proposed and elected members of the Society at the Meeting on Tuesday.

The programme for Wednesday's Excursion included a visit to Iver Church; but it appeared that there were not a sufficient number of members enthusiastic enough to face the unfavourable weather, and the plan was therefore abandoned.

[Upton Church was, however, visited, the Society being represented by the two Secretaries, the Rev. J. Robertson, Curate of Upton, and Mr. F. M. White. They were

kindly received by the Rev. T. H. Tooke, who pointed out the various beauties of the Church. These we do not here allude to, as we have been favoured with a Paper on the subject by the Rev. J. Robertson.—  
ED. R. B.]—

### QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

(From the *Bucks Herald* of November 1, 1856.)

A Quarterly Meeting of the Society took place in the National School-room, Aylesbury, on Wednesday last, at one o'clock. Amongst those present we noticed the Ven. the Archdeacon, T. T. Bernard, Esq., R. Rose, Esq., the Rev. J. W. Wharton, the Rev. H. Wanklyn, the Rev. W. H. Kelke, the Rev. W. J. Burgess, the Rev. F. N. Alexander ; Mr. T. Dell, Treasurer; Mr. J. K. Fowler, and Mr. Thomas Field.

The Committee met, when T. T. Bernard, Esq., was requested to take the chair.

A discussion took place with respect to a site for the proposed County Museum; and it was resolved to allow the matter to rest for a short period.

Several bills were presented and allowed by the Meeting.

It was resolved that, for the future, all subscriptions be paid either to the Treasurer or Secretary direct, instead of through an agent. The Secretary was directed to apply for all arrears of subscription, and to state that the same must be paid at once, or the names of those in arrear would be printed on the back of the wrapper of the next number of the "Records," as before notified.

It was proposed by the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth, seconded by Mr. J. K. Fowler, and carried, "That only the sum of 4s. 6d. per annum be expended out of the funds arising from the composition of one guinea for five years subscription."

Proposed by the Ven. Archdeacon Bickersteth and seconded by the Rev. W. J. Burgess, "That a vote of thanks be conveyed to the Provost and Fellows of Eton College for the kind and courteous manner in which the Society was received by them in July last."

Proposed by Mr. J. K. Fowler and seconded by the Rev. H. Wanklyn, "That only 200 numbers of the "Records of Bucks" be printed for the future, in lieu of 250." All the back numbers of the Society's publication may be had on application to the local Secretary, the Rev. H. Wanklyn, by any subscriber, at half price, viz., 1s. per number.

Archdeacon Bickersteth presented "The London Tradesmen's Tokens" from Admiral Smyth, at the same time expressing the gallant Admiral's regret that he was unable to attend the Meeting.

The business of the Committee now closed, and the General Meeting was opened. The Rev. Wharton B. Marriott, William Johnson, Esq., of Eton College, C. P. Barrett, Esq., of Eton, proposed by the Rev. W. J. Burgess, seconded by the Rev. H. Wanklyn, were unanimously elected; as also the Rev. J. Ingram, of Clitheroe, proposed by the Rev. W. H. Kelke, seconded by T. Dell, Esq.

The Secretary was desired to convey the thanks of the Society to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland for his handsome present of the volume of the "Northumbrian Roman Coins;" also to Admiral Smyth for his present of the volume of "The London Tradesmen's Tokens."

Mr. Field presented to the Society, on behalf of Mr. May, a photographic view of Chesham Church, concluding the first series of "The Churches of Buckinghamshire," which would probably be the last attempt, as Mr. May had not received sufficient encouragement to induce him to persevere.

The Rev. J. C. Wharton then read a very interesting paper, being an "Extract from an ancient Book or Memoranda and Institutions of Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln," who was called upon to preside over that diocese in 1280. The document, which is now preserved in the registry of the Bishop of Lincoln, recited that Robert de Thame, priest, having been presented by the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln to a vicarage in the chapels of Burton (Bierton), Querendon (Quarrendon), Bokeland (Buckland), and Stoke (Stoke Mandeville), nigh Aylesbury, an inquisition was made by Master Richard de St. Tredeswynde, prebendary, into the value of the alterages of such Chapels, when, Robert de Thame having renounced

the presentation, Adam de Berington was presented to the vicarage. It was found that the yearly value of the alterages of the respective Chapels was — Burton, fifteen marks; Querendon, eight marks; Buckland, six marks; and Stoke, seven marks, consisting of oblations of wool, lambs, milk, flax, pigs, &c.; and as regarded the Chapel of Burton of "Puttecome," chaplains for the several Chapels were to be provided, and the vicar of Bierton was to have a priest resident with him at the vicarage. The Chapter was to provide books and for the repairs of the ornaments of the Chapels, if the vicar had not sufficient means.

A question arose as to the meaning of the word "Puttecome," but no light was thrown on it.

Mr. Wharton stated that the present vicarage-house of Bierton stood on the same spot as indicated in the Paper read, and that Mr. Street, the architect, had declared that the foundations were stone for stone, the same as when it was erected. The date of the document was 1294.

The Archdeacon said, that at the last Meeting the Association had considered whether something could not be done to preserve Quarrendon Chapel from desecration.

Mr. Wharton remarked that, acting on the suggestion then thrown out, he had notices posted, and he thought they had been attended with good effect. The work of desecration seemed to have been stopped. He well knew that the arms and legs of the monuments had been used for propping up pigstyes.

The Archdeacon said the great object was to protect Quarrendon Chapel as an historical ecclesiastical relic.

A Paper, contributed by the Rev. John Robertson, of Slough, "On Upton Old Church," was then read by Mr. J. K. Fowler, and the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Robertson for his interesting contribution.

The Rev. W. J. Burgess then read a Paper "On the Parish Church of Chetwode," which will appear in the "Records."

Mr. Thomas Field exhibited a Monumental Brass, to be let into the stone covering the grave of the late John Camden Neild, in North Marston Church. It will be recollected that the deceased left his large property to the Queen, and her Majesty has, in memory of the testator, restored the Chancel of the Church, and placed therein a

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

memorial glass window. The Monumental Brass, executed by her Majesty's commands by Mr. Field, bears the following inscription:— "Beneath this tablet are deposited the remains of John Camden Neild, Esq., who died on the 30th of August, 1852, aged 72."

The meeting then separated.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

Amersham was represented in Parliament by the poet Waller, and the patriot Algernon Sydney.

Ankerwyke was the seat of the statesman Sir Thomas Smith; under whose roof John Taylor, the deprived Bishop of Lincoln, died in 1553. Near the house is a yew tree, which, at six feet from the ground, measures thirty feet five inches in girth.

Aylesbury, during the interregnum, was represented in Parliament by the two regicides, Scot and Mayne; and, in the reign of George III., by the notorious John Wilkes.

Bletchley was the rectory, and Burnham the vicarage, of William Cole, the well-known Cambridge antiquary.

Brightwell Court was the seat of Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery, the inventor of the astronomical machine named after his title, and the antagonist of Bentley, who, it was said, had rather have been *roasted* than *Boyled*.

At Buckingham, March 15, 1725, 138 houses, more than one-third of the town, and property to the amount of £40,000, was destroyed by fire.

Bulstrode was built in 1686, for his own residence, by the inhuman Lord Chancellor Jefferies.

Burnham, Desborough, and Stoke are the three Chiltern Hundreds.

Ditton was the seat of Sir Ralph Winwood, author of "Memorials," and Secretary to James I.

Drayton Beauchamp was the rectory of "the judicious" Hooker, author of "Ecclesiastical Polity."

At Edlesborough, in 1675, was buried Michael Fenn, aged 124; and in the church-yard is a monument for Thomas Edwards, author of "Canons of Criticism," who resided at Turrick, in this parish, and died there 1757, aged 58.



At Eton, Bishops Fleetwood and Pearson, the learned John Hales, Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Chancellor Camden, and Cole the Cambridge Antiquary, were foundation scholars. Oughtred the mathematician, Boyle the philosopher, Waller the poet, Pitt Earl of Chatham, Horace Walpole Earl of Orford, Gray the poet, Bryant the mythologist, Abp. Cornwallis, Charles James Fox, Pratt the first Earl Camden, Nicholas Hardinge, Clerk of the House of Commons, and his son George, the eminent Welsh Judge, were educated here. The procession of the scholars "ad montem" to collect money for salt, whence the place has acquired the name of Salt-hill, appears to have been coeval with the foundation of the College, and most probably was the same as the ancient customary procession of the Bairn or Boy-bishop. — In the Chapel were entombed John Longland, Bp. of Lincoln, confessor to Henry VIII. Sir Henry Savile, scholar, Sir Henry Wotton, statesman and poet, and its Provost, Francis Rous, Speaker of Cromwell's Little Parliament. In the cemetery belonging to the Chapel lie the remains of the ever memorable "John Hales."

Farnham Royal was the burial-place of Dr. Chandler, Bp. of Durham, and of the mythologist Jacob Bryant, who resided at Cippenham (where he was frequently visited by their Majesties, the King often coming alone and staying several hours with him), and died there in 1804, aged 89.

Fawley Court was the seat of Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, author of "Memorials," who died in 1675, and was buried in Fawley Church.

In Fenny Stratford Church is the monument of the antiquary Browne Willis, who died in 1760, aged 78.

Gregories was the seat of the statesman and orator Edmund Burke, who, by his masterly exposition of French principles in all the fullness of their deformity and terrors of their operation, "stood between the dead and the living," and "stayed the plague!"

Grendon was the rectory of Samuel Clarke, author of "Biblical Annotations and Concordance," who was ejected by the Act of Uniformity, and died at Wycombe in 1701.

Hall Barns was the seat of the poet Waller.

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