

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting took place July 26th, 1866, at Addington Manor, the seat of J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P. The members first met at Buckingham, and inspected the important work of restoration now being carried on in the Parish Church. The plans had been prepared by Mr. Gilbert Scott, the diocesan architect, some time previously, at the request of the late vicar, the Rev. H. Roundell. The old walls have been preserved, but pierced for larger windows, in the early decorated style. The windows have two lights, with no cusps at the head of the lights, but cusps introduced between the lights. The capitols of the buttresses are richly carved, representing the ivy, geranium, dockleaf, naturalistic columbine, cinquefoil, vine and grape, a more conventional columbine, maple, oak, shamrock, etc. An entirely new chancel is being erected, at the sole cost of the Duke of Buckingham. A

chancel aisle, to contain the organ and vestry, is being added by the munificence of Mr. Hubbard. A handsome vaulted roof of wood is to be supported by massive pillars. The altar will be a very large one, approached by seven steps. The painting which has hitherto been placed in the east end of the church (a copy from one of Raphael's works) will take the place of a reredos. In order to make room for it, it has been necessary to make the window shorter inside than outside. There will be choir stalls and seats for the clergy on each side. The interior of the church will undergo a thorough alteration. A small memorial window to the Rev. H. Roundell (by Clayton and Bell) will shortly be placed in the church by the curates who worked with him.

From Buckingham the party drove to Chetwode. An account of the Priory and Church of Chetwode has appeared in the "Records," vol. i. p. 206; and further particulars will appear in the next number.

The visitors then proceeded to Hillesden. The church was rebuilt in 1493, with the exception of the tower, which is probably about fifty years earlier. There are still to be observed on the east side of the tower the marks indicating the position of the roof of an earlier church. Mr. Parker stated that, had he judged from the appearance of the building only, he should have assigned a somewhat earlier date to the church—say about 1450. It is evident, from the strength of the buttresses, that it was at first intended to build a central tower, but, probably for want of funds, the design was abandoned, and fortunately the old tower had not been pulled down. This church is a very good example of the perpendicular style, and preserves the Gothic character more completely than most churches of the date of 1493. The four-centered arch window in the chancel aisle illustrates the transition from the Gothic to our square sash windows. The chancel had most likely a fan-tracery roof, supported by the curious row of angels still to be seen. The window at the east end of the south aisle was examined, but nothing was elicited as to its bearing on the life of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the church, beyond what has already been published in the "Records," and copied into the "History of Buckinghamshire." There is a chamber above the chancel aisle, with an exterior door opening towards the site of the old manor house. There are some openings in the wall of this chamber, now concealed by a monument, showing that this may have been designed as a watch-chamber, for watching the lights before the shrines of the saints. These watch-chambers are frequently found over porches, but more rarely, as in this instance, over the chancel aisles. They were generally used to contain the chest enclosing the parish documents. At Hillesden, it is said, the chest was broken open by a former incumbent, and the greater part of the documents destroyed.

From Hillesden the party proceeded towards Claydon House, stopping on the way to pay a hasty visit to Steeple Claydon Church, the spire of which was erected in 1862 by Mr. Calvert, Q.C., as a memorial to his father, the late Sir Harry Calvert. The guests were received with the greatest courtesy by Sir Harry and Lady Verney, and were conducted over the mansion by Sir Harry Verney himself. Though the mansion itself possesses no striking architectural features, the historic treasures preserved by the Verney family are of the deepest interest. Among these we may notice the ring of Sir Edmund Verney, standard bearer to Charles I., which contains a miniature of Charles I., and was taken from the finger of the owner after his death at Edge-hill. Another relic of perhaps greater interest is a series of pencil notes, taken from day to day by Sir Ralph Verney, M.P. for Aylesbury, of proceedings in Parliament at the time of the arrest of the five members.

From Claydon the visitors proceeded to Addington Manor, the residence of J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P., where they were most hospitably welcomed by the proprietor. The guests, after partaking of a sumptuous luncheon, assembled in the hall, where the proceedings of the Annual Meeting took place.

On the motion of Archdeacon BICKERSTETH, Mr. Hubbard was requested to take the chair.

The **SECRETARY** read a letter from the Duke of Buckingham, stating that his duties in London would prevent his joining the meeting. If, however, it should meet with the approval of the Society to arrange their meeting for another year in the neighbourhood either of Stowe or of Wootton, he should look forward with much pleasure to entertaining the members.

The **ARCHDEACON** said this letter had been considered by the Committee, who had resolved to recommend to the general meeting that the Duke of Buckingham's kind offer be accepted, and that Wootton would be a convenient centre for the next annual meeting. The Secretary was desired to write to the Duke of Buckingham accordingly.

The Report of the Committee was read as follows :—

“Your Committee have the satisfaction of congratulating the Society upon the success of its proceedings during the past year, and beg to thank the Rev. T. Evetts for his kind aid and assistance at the annual meeting held in the school-room at Monks Risborough.

“Your Committee regret the loss by death, since the last annual meeting, of three of the Vice-Presidents of the Society—viz., Admiral Smyth, John Lee, Esq., and Thomas Raymond Barker, Esq.; and beg to nominate for election to the three vacant offices, in accordance with the rules of the Society, the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli, M.P., F. D. Hibbert, Esq., and the Rev. J. J. Goodall.

“Your Committee have accepted with regret the resignation, tendered through illness, of the secretaryship by the Rev. W. T. Sankey, and beg to nominate for election the Rev. J. Wood.

“Your Committee conveyed through their Secretary the resolution, passed at the last annual meeting, of a vote of thanks to Mrs. Roundell, for the offer of a loan of books and articles of antiquarian interest, and have pleasure in reporting that they are now deposited in the Society's Museum.

“Your Committee have received the following presents—From John Lee, Esq., Anglo-Saxon remains, discovered on the Hartwell estate; from Captain H. Toynbee, objects of natural history; from Mrs. Kelke, rubbings of brasses, fossils, and a coat of arms in porcelain, found at Little Missenden; and from Herbert Paston Cooper, Esq., Romano-British urn, found on Haydon Hill—and trust that when relics of the past are discovered, though intrinsically of little value, they may be deposited in the County Museum in Aylesbury, thus giving them a permanent resting-place, and contributing very materially to the value of the collection as a whole.”

On the motion of the Rev. W. R. **FREMANTLE**, seconded by Sir H. **VERNEY**, the report was adopted.

The Right Honourable B. Disraeli, M.P., F. D. Hibbert, Esq., and the Rev. J. J. Goodall were elected vice-presidents, to fill up the three vacancies; the Rev. John Wood was elected one of the honorary secretaries, in the room of the Rev. W. T. Sankey; and the remaining officers and the Committee were re-appointed.

The Rev. A. **BAKER** read a letter from the Rev. F. G. Lee, apologizing for the non-fulfilment of a promise to send a paper on heraldry and genealogy, which he considered would be uninteresting to the meeting, but which he undertook to furnish for publication in the “Records.” Mr. Lee also sent for exhibition six curious documents connected with the family of Lee, one of which, a deed of the fifth year of Henry VIII., he considered to be conclusive as to the fact that the Lees of Quarrendon (of which his grandfather represented the younger branch) and the Lees of Hartwell, were originally one family, though bearing different arms.

Mr. F. P. **BARBAUD** next read an elaborate paper on “the character and beauties of medallion windows of the thirteenth century,” of which, he observed, there are fine examples in Canterbury and Lincoln Cathedrals, and in various places on the Continent. A modification of these, he believed, might advantageously be adopted in our parish churches. He considered the great variety of colour now in use to be a temptation to the artist to seek for

a pretty effect rather than breadth and simplicity. The over-crowding of figures in each subject must be carefully avoided. He observed that the names of very few of the artists of the thirteenth century have come down to us, but he believed that some of the painting attributed to foreign artists was really done by Kentish painters. In a painting representing the parable of the sower, the stony ground is represented exactly like chalk, showing the soil to which they were accustomed.

The ARCHDEACON expressed his regret that Mr. Barraud had not been able to join the visit to Hillesden and Chetwode, where some beautiful stained glass, of the school of Albert Durer, was to be seen. He entirely concurred in Mr. Barraud's remarks as to the advantage of not over-doing colour, but of introducing the bright colours sparingly on a light ground.

The Rev. W. R. FREMANTLE then read a paper, which will be printed in the "Records," on the lapsed parish of Hogshaw-cum-Fulbrook.

The ARCHDEACON remarked that there were other similar cases of lapsed parishes in the county—for example, *Creslow*, which had been absorbed by Whitchurch. He could specify endowments for a daily service at *Quarendon*, *Bierton*, *Stone* and *Buckland*, when they were all connected with Aylesbury. With regard to the derivation of *Hogshaw*, he believed that it was of religious origin, and that it meant "the Hill of the Holy Cross," Holy Cross, or Crux, being corrupted into Hogs, and "haw," or "hoe," meaning a hill,—“Holy Cross Hill.” Similarly, *Swanbourne*, formerly written Swinbourne, is derived from Swithinbourne, St. Swithin being the patron saint of the village; while the neighbouring parish of *Hogston* is derived, like *Hogshaw*, from Holy Cross, or "Holy Crux-ton."

The Rev. J. W. HAYWARD stated that some of the stones of the church at Hogshaw had found their way to Grandborough. One very curious piece of sculpture, representing our Lord with St. John and St. Mary, at present forms the outside of the chimney of a farm-house. With regard to the font, he found it used as a dog kennel, and he had caused it to be transferred to the more honourable position it now occupied.

The Rev. C. LOWNDES exhibited tracings from three frescoes discovered about fourteen years ago in Whaddon Church—one representing the murder of Thomas-à-Becket, another St. Edmund, and another a priest blessing the people.

Mr. WHITE then gave an architectural account of the work recently carried on at Fenny Stratford church—a work not of restoration, but of renovation and considerable addition. The old church was built by Browne Willis, at a time when architecture was at its lowest ebb. Instead of adding a chancel to the old nave, they had built an entirely new nave and chancel, leaving the old nave as an aisle to what might be called the new church. The introduction of the organ between the old nave and the new chancel had been of the greatest utility in carrying out the general plan of the work. The pulpit was placed on the south side. The chancel was fitted for a proper choral arrangement.

The Rev. A. BAKER laid on the table plans for the restoration of Mursley church, expressing his regret that Mr. Buckridge, the architect, was not present to explain them.

There was another paper to be read by Mr. E. J. Payne, on "The County Arms," but, owing to the lateness of the hour, the reading was postponed until another meeting.

Sir H. VERNEY, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Hubbard, remarked on the value of the Society as tending to communicate information on subjects most interesting and valuable to all. He regretted that some gentleman, as thoroughly acquainted with the subject of painted glass as Mr. Barraud, had not had the opportunity of carefully examining beforehand the window at Hillesden, so as to be able to offer the best explanation possible. Local history was not only the handmaid, but the foundation of general history, and he hoped these institutions would habitually collect all the facts they could, and the local traditions, which were often extremely valuable.

He considered that the archæologists of 200 years hence would feel under great obligations to the Vicar of Buckingham, to whom the excursionists this day were so much indebted, and, as even archæologists were not independent of creature comforts, he could not omit to add that they were greatly indebted to Mr. Hubbard for his hospitable entertainment.

The ARCHDEACON, in seconding the vote of thanks, observed that some interesting notices of the window at Hillesden were communicated to the "Records" some years since by Rev. J. Slatter, Vicar of Streatley. With regard to the particular object of his now rising, he was well aware that there was nothing that affected the social interests of what he might call Mr. Hubbard's adopted county, in which he was not always ready to afford valuable and efficient aid. He trusted that Mr. Hubbard might long preside, with his wonted amiable and Christian manner, over the interests of this neighbourhood.

Mr. HUBBARD having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the company dispersed, after spending a very pleasant day.

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