

The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1891.

THE Annual Excursion of the Society took place on Tuesday, the 4th of August. The localities visited being in the Southern portion of the county, the railway station at Slough was fixed upon as the place of meeting. The first place visited was Upton Court.

This house stands within pleasant grounds close to the church, and was formerly a cell to the Augustinian Abbey of Merton, in Surrey, to which the Manor of Upton had been granted by Pagan Beauchamp, and it continued in their possession down to the time of the Dissolution. Another interesting link between this parish and Merton may be observed in the name of Merton Lodge, adjoining the church, and which was originally the Grange. The Canons of Merton were Rectors of Upton, and presented to the living till by an exchange it became the property of Eton College.

Upton Court was originally a much larger edifice than it is now, but about the beginning of the present century the east wing, running at right angles from the south end of the building, was pulled down. The remaining portion forms a very picturesque old house, and its roof, now above seven hundred years old, is much admired on account of its beauty. Some of the doors and windows are ancient, and there are traces still visible of the monastic fishponds in the grounds. Through the trees on the south side a good view of Windsor Castle may be obtained. The house is now the property of the Earl of Harewood.

The visitors made their way to the east front of the house which consists of a central porch and a gable at each end, with rooms running between and connecting them. Over the door there is a quaint inscription, as follows:—"Welcome ye cominge, 1383 [figure of a monk], 1434, speed ye parting gest." An old horse-shoe is nailed to the wood-work on each side of the monk to bring good luck to the house.

Standing near this entrance, Mr. Myres, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Society, gave a brief history and description of the building, and referred to the interesting features which the interior contained. The party, divided into three sections, and conducted respectively by Mr. Myres, Mr. Cocks, and Mr. Rutland, by the kind permission of Mrs. Burton, entered the house and were shown through the various apartments, in which the commingling of the modern and antique was everywhere noticeable. In the window of the dining-room are some squares of Dutch glass with inscriptions, and in one square an inscription in Latin, "In solo Deo salus." On one of the panes is the date 1667. In the drawing-room are two recesses divided by a very thick wall, which are supposed to have been cells for the monks. They are now fitted with modern fireplaces. Two of the apartments have very handsome ceilings, panelled in squares, and in one of them is a very large old-fashioned chimney, said to contain a secret room.

Leaving the Court, the members proceeded through the grounds to the church, where an outline of its history was given by Mr. Myres, who also pointed out many of its interesting features.

The church of St. Lawrence, Upton, is a very ancient edifice. In the north wall there are fragments of an early arch still visible, from which it is conjectured that the first church here was erected during the Saxon period. Mr. Myres concluded that the church was of different dates, from the fact that its component parts were not of the same dimensions, and he made the following further comments on the building.

The tower was only 12 ft. 5 in. wide, whereas the chancel was 15 ft. 7 in. and the nave 19 ft. 9 in. The primitive structure was altered and enlarged by Norman builders. The Norman church erected during the latter part of the eleventh century, was constructed of flint, interspersed with conglomerate, and consisted of a diminutive chancel, with a roof supported upon groined arches, a central tower surmounted with a conical roof, and a small nave much shorter than the present one. The chancel was not at that period open to the main body of the building as it appears now, the only communication between the two portions of the church being by a small rounded archway in the wall of the tower. This old arch was removed in 1850, and may be seen between the two pointed arches against the eastern wall of the south aisle. Much of the colouring of the walls and arches of the chancel remained perfect and was carefully restored in 1850 by Mr. Williment, so that it now once more exhibits its original appearance. On the south side is the old piscina, which is almost unique in its structure, there being but two or three others of the same shape now remaining in England. The Norman font still stands in the nave, and a Norman doorway with its early carving remains on the north side. In the churchyard is a venerable yew tree, so old that it may be coeval with the earliest portions of the church.

As time went on, alterations and additions were made to the sacred edifice. During the prevalence of the First Pointed architecture, somewhere about the middle of the thirteenth century, the nave was lengthened, and the present roof erected. At the same time two beautiful wooden pointed arches were placed one on each side of the chancel arch, as a kind of reredos to small side altars, which had stood there from earlier times. One of these arches has been preserved, and it is considered by some the greatest archaeological curiosity in the county. It is exquisitely carved with fine mouldings of Early English dog-tooth pattern; and work of so much richness, of such great antiquity, and so beautifully executed, is indeed very rarely to be found in a small country church. The walls of the nave were ornamented with carefully-executed frescoes illustrating sacred subjects, and at the restoration in 1850, one of them, representing the Adoration of the Magi, was discovered under the plaster. These mural paintings probably date from the time when the alterations in the Early English style were made.

Towards the end of the fourteenth century a beautifully carved rood-screen of oak was erected, portions of which still exist in the new Parish Church, where they have been utilized to form a frame for the Ten Commandments. About the same time the old Norman tower, dating from 1100, was raised nineteen feet in brickwork, probably for a peal of bells, and three windows in the same style were replaced by the Decorated windows in the sides of the nave and at the west end. Fragments of the richly painted glass with which these windows were glazed have been discovered. Much later a square-headed debased Perpendicular window was inserted above the north door.

But the Reformation came, the monasteries were dissolved, and this beautiful House of Prayer speedily went the way of so many others. Large unsightly pews occupied the floor of the church, ugly useless galleries were erected, one over the chancel arch and another at the west end, the frescoes and coloured arches were besmeared with whitewash

or covered up with plaster, and the storied panes of windows smashed to atoms, and the fragments buried. A large pulpit with a sounding board now became the most conspicuous object, the tower was the belfry, and the chancel was shut off from the rest of the building. Instead of the daily services that had been sung there for centuries, a cold dreary service was held only once a week, on alternate Sunday mornings and afternoons. And so the work of decay went on until, in the year 1835, the church might practically have been considered a ruin. The battlements of the tower were struck by lightning, and began to fall, and to such an extent was the building neglected that on the south side, where there was a porch similar to the one at Stoke Poges, the door used to be left open, so that cattle entered and took shelter within the church. To such a state of degradation had the inhabitants of the place sunk, that it was actually proposed to pull down the church and sell the stones for lime; and this sacrilegious act was only averted by the public spirit of Mr. Pocock, who then held farms at Upton and Willow Brook, and who gave £50 that it might be left standing. A new church was erected at Slough in 1837, one of the ugliest structures that ever the mind of man conceived or the hand of man ever made, and to furnish it Upton Church was despoiled of its bells and internal fittings; the beautiful rood-screen was destroyed, and the building left to the moles and the bats, except now and again when a funeral happened to take place there. Anyone desirous to know the full extent of ruin to which the abomination of desolation had reduced this once beautiful church can read it in Jesse's "Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies."

It is said that when things are at their worst they often begin to mend. Mr. Jesse published his book in 1846, and within four years afterwards the restoration of the church was commenced. Mr. B. Ferry was the architect, and when the work was completed the restored edifice was consecrated by Bishop Wilberforce, Dec. 2nd, 1851. The alterations effected were of an extensive character. The tower was lowered by the removal of the 19 feet of brickwork added in the fourteenth century, and a roof placed upon it similar in design to the original Norman superstructure. A new aisle was added by pulling down the south wall and re-erecting it further southward, and the present arcade between the aisle and nave was then inserted. The old piscina was replaced in its proper position in the chancel, and the ribs of the groined arches re-coloured. The east window, a late insertion, was taken out and the two Norman lights restored and filled with stained glass representing the figures of SS. Stephen and Lawrence. The ceiling in the nave was removed, and the Early English roof brought to view once more, and the Norman chancel arch with the two Gothic arches were taken down and placed in a similar position at the east end of the south aisle. The wooden arch was cleaned from its accumulation of whitewash, and can now be seen in its pristine beauty. The chancel and belfry were thrown open, and the huge galleries swept away.

In removing the south wall for the erection of the new aisle a beautiful piece of sculpture in tinted alabaster was discovered. It is a representation of the Holy Trinity, and probably at one time adorned the chancel. It is now placed within a niche near the organ. The mutilated symbol consists of the figure of an aged man seated, holding in his hand a crucifix, with a dove hovering between them. There is a very similar design on a brass in Wooburn Church, and another at Shirburn, in Oxfordshire. The total cost of the restoration and refitting of the church was above £4,000, raised by subscription.

The register commences Oct. 23, 1538, and is in a good state of preservation. Among the memorial brasses is a very good one of Edward Bulstrode, squire of the Body to Henry VII. and Henry VIII. In the

tower there is a long Latin inscription to the memory of Sir W. Herschel, the astronomer, who resided in the Windsor Road. In the churchyard under the north wall there is a broken flat tombstone to the memory of Sarah Bramstone, of Eron, who died in 1765, and "Dared to be just in the reign of George II.;" that is, she had the courage to remain firm in her loyalty to the House of Stuart. There is a modern brass in the chancel to Maria Dolores Stevenson, who died in 1864, and another on the west wall to Mr. W. G. Nixey, who died in 1870. There are several stained glass windows of recent insertion to members of local families.

Mr. Myres remarked that the church gained further interest from its being supposed to be the building to which Gray referred in his "Elegy;" but he would not press that point, as he knew there were one or two enthusiastic supporters of Stoke Poges Church present.

Mr. Russell gave an account of the brasses which now occupy places in two of the arches at the east end of the south aisle. A shrouded effigy kneeling in prayer, is in memory of Agnes Bulstrode, circa 1472. In 1860 this was apparently on the floor, and the slab showed matrices of her husband, William Bulstrode, also of nine sons and two daughters, with an inscription, now lost. A rubbing of this brass was taken in 1819, and is in the possession of the Archæological Institute. The inscription ran thus:—

"Orate pro animabus Willi' Bulstrode et Agnetis uxor ejus filie Willi' Norrrys de Bray, ac pro animabus Ric'i, Roberti, Isabelle, Johannis, Edmundi, Agnetis, Thome, Rogeri, Henrici, et Georgii libor (liberi?) p'dcor' Willi' Bulstrode et Agnetis que quidem Agnes mater obit XII die Aprilis Anno d'ni M^o CCCC^o 72^o et Anno Regni Regis Edwardi quarti XI^o et predictus Will'mus Bulstrode pater etatis 50 (?)."

The next brass is one to the memory of Edward Bulstrode, "Esquire for the body with Kings Henry VII. and VIII.," 1517, and his three wives, Mary, Ellen, and Margaret. There are figures of four sons, and of six sons and two daughters. The effigies of the first wife and the inscription are lost, and were so in 1860.

The third effigy is that of Edward Bulstrode, Esq., 1599, and his wife Cecily, a daughter of John Croke, Esq.; with five sons, Henry, Thomas, Edward, William, and —, and six daughters, whose names were Elizabeth, Margaret, Anne, Cecill, Magdalen, and Dorothy. The armour of the male effigy is particularly good, and so is the lady's dress. Haines says that the Hebrew inscription belongs to this. There appears some doubt as to the meaning of the Hebrew words, but they have been construed to mean, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

The remaining brass commemorates Maria, first wife of Henry Bulstrode, Esq., son and heir of Edward Bulstrode and Cecily Croke. She was the daughter of Thomas Read, of Barton, near Abingdon. She died in 1614, and had issue Thomas, Henry, Elizabeth, Maria, Edward, Cecilia, and Dorothy. The latter was also probably buried in the same place.

There is also a marble monument to the memory of Henry Bulstrode (eldest son and heir of Edward Bulstrode and Cecily Croke), and Bridget his second wife, relict of John Allen, citizen of London, daughter of Henry Evans, and Jane, daughter of John Wake, of Clevedon, in Somersetshire. She was married in 1615, and died in 1631. A space is left to record the date of the husband's death, but has never been filled in.

Some little time was then occupied in examining the various points of interest in the building to which reference has been made. Two

prints from the *Gentleman's Magazine* of December, 1846, and November, 1847, and two others showing different views of the church, both exterior and interior, were handed round by Mr. Myres, and closely inspected.

On leaving Upton the Members proceeded to Langley.

Langley was formerly included in Wraysbury, and its church was a chapel of ease to that parish, and until 1856 the Curacy was annexed to Wraysbury Vicarage.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a fourteenth century structure. It consists of a nave and chancel, with a north aisle extended the whole length of both, a south chapel and library, and a west tower at the end of the north aisle, in which are five bells and a clock.

The chancel and its aisle are in the Second Pointed style, and in the south wall are four sedilia, a priest's door, and a window with pointed segmental arches.

The peculiar features of the church were introduced in the seventeenth century, when the brick tower was built, and the plain Perpendicular chancel screen, surmounted with the Decalogue and royal arms, was erected. The latter bore the date 1625. The pulpit and altar rails are of the same period.

On the south side of the nave is a small aisle or chapel constructed by Sir John Kederminster, to whom the manor was granted by Charles I. in 1626. It is separated from the main body of the church by a screen of imitation stone, consisting of a double range of quadrupled slender columns, supporting a vaulted and groined roof. The screen was erected in 1792. The old south porch was converted by Sir John into a library, in which he placed 300 volumes, chiefly books treating upon divinity. The library is a curious room, and, like the chapel, is richly painted and ornamented with the coats of arms of the Kederminster family and its alliances. There are three fine monuments to the Kederminster, Gosling, and Harvey families, and tablets, and some small late brasses to other local families.

The Members assembled in the chancel, and Mr. Russell favoured them with a few remarks upon the church, as follows:—

“LANGLEY, BUCKS.

“The nave of this church was built about the year 1200, as is shown by the arch at the west end, which was originally one of four, dividing the nave from the aisle.

“The chancel is rather more than a century later, and was probably built in the reign of Edward I., the arms of that monarch still remaining in the east window of the aisle and also the arms of the de Clares; Gilbert de Clare having married a daughter of Edward I. As the manor passed to Edward I., by the death of Aveline de Montfitchet, it may have been granted by that monarch to his daughter. The letters ED also occur in several fragments of stained glass still existing in some of the aisle windows. There are several other fragments of stained glass, including a very good figure of a saint in the east window of the aisle, and also a later piece with a Jacobean coat-of-arms.

“It would appear as if perhaps the chancel was the first to be completed, the Decorated work here being much finer and better in design than in the aisle, and the chunch carving, though repaired in some places, wonderfully preserved. It will be noticed that whereas the east window of the chancel has columns on each side, that of the aisle has none. Again, the windows of the aisle are placed in recesses, inferior and certainly later than those of the chancel.

“The floor of the chancel was at one time much higher, as is shown by the masonry remaining at the bases of the pillars, and also by the sedilia.

“Outside, the windows have been ‘made good’ with plaster, which is causing the stone beneath to decay rapidly.

“There is a rather curious Perpendicular window in the south wall of the nave, now blocked up, behind which is the library. The tower was built by Sir John Kiderminster in 1649.

“The Kiderminster pew or chapel and vault were built also by Sir John in 1626, and the library, the books in which are of little interest, and almost entirely theological. The volume mentioned by Lipscomb as having a pedigree of the Leighs, with their arms and quarterings, has, I am afraid, disappeared. The paintings on the cupboard doors, and other panelling, are very interesting, and of considerable merit; they represent scenes in Windsor, Eton, and Langley Park. Unfortunately there is no tradition as to who was the artist. There is also a portrait of Sir John Kiderminster on one of the cupboard doors; that of his wife has been painted out.

“There are a number of monuments and achievements in the church to the families of Kiderminster, Hubert, Swabey, and others. Some of the shields of arms are very fine. In the pew there are several to the Bateson Harveys. The conspicuous monument in the chancel commemorates—Edmund Kidderminster, Esq., ‘Unius sex cleric. Almae Curiae Cancellar,’ and his wife, Anna, daughter of John Leigh, of Addington, he obit 1607, she, 1618. Also John Kidderminster, Esq., who died 1558, and his wife, Elizabeth, who died 1590. There are also several brasses to the memory of (1) Eliz. dau. of Roger Giffard, 1434; (2) John Boteler and wife, Matilda, c. 1440; (3) John Bowsare, 1570; (4) Juliana, wife of Edw. Higgins, 1603; (5) John Bowsare, gent., 1608.

“There are two sets of almshouses to the north and south of the churchyard, built by Sir John Kiderminster and Sir Henry Seymour.”

MANORIAL HISTORY.

“At the time of Doomsday this manor was included with Wyrardisbury. It passed into the hands of the Crown by the minority of Ralph Plaiz, cousin and heir of Avelme Montfitchet; and was retained till 1447, when it was granted to Eton College; but it reverted to the Crown, and in 1492 was granted by Henry VII. to Elizabeth, Queen Consort.

“Henry VIII. granted it to Katherine, Princess of Wales. Again, in 1523, Henry VIII. granted it to Henry Norris, Esq., for a knight’s fee.

“The same king granted it, in 1540, to Sir Anthony Drury. In 1564 it was granted to John, Duke of Northumberland. In 1626 it was granted by patent to Sir John Kiderminster, whose daughter and heiress carried it by marriage to Sir John Parsons, of Boveney. Sir John was created a baronet in 1661, and after his decease his property was sold to Edward Seymour, Esq., in 1669. His son, Henry Seymour, succeeded him, having been created a baronet at the age of seven, during his father’s lifetime, but dying unmarried in 1714, his estates passed to his cousin, Sir Edw. Seymour, Bart., whose son, Sir Edward, sold it to Lord Masham, in the same year, from whom it was purchased, in 1755, by the Duke of Marlborough. An act of Parliament was passed in 1755 for rebuilding the house at Langley Park. In 1788, the manor and park were purchased by Sir Robert Bateson Harvey, Bart., the grandfather of the present owner.”

After some time had been spent in inspecting the various objects of

interest in the church, the Members re-entered the vehicles, and were driven to the residence of the Bishop of Reading, who hospitably entertained them to luncheon.

After luncheon the Annual Meeting was held, at which the Bishop of Reading presided.

It was proposed by Mr. Cocks, seconded by the Rev. T. Cockram, and resolved *nem. con.*, that the Secretaries and Treasurer for the past year be re-elected.

Mr. Myres proposed the re-election of the present Committee, who had been doing good work during the past year as far as they had been called upon, and he thought it would be well to continue their services.

Mr. Russell seconded this, and on the resolution being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cocks said that Mr. Williams had forwarded him a copy of the Treasurer's Report, which he then read as follows:—*Receipts*: Balance in hand, £8 12s. 11d.; subscriptions, £54 13s.; donations, £8 3s.; sundries, £2 19s.; total, £74 7s. 11d. *Payments*: Printing "Records," £30; Mr. Gibbs, for printing, £10 16s. 9d.; stationery, 11s.; care of room, £4 9s. 8d.; rent, £6; special train for last excursion in the north of the county, £2; sundry payments, £9 3s.; total, £63 0s. 5d.; balance, £11 7s. 6d.; which was nearly £3 better than last year. The Treasurer reported a large number of Members in arrear with their subscriptions.

Mr. Myres complained of the state of the room containing the museum, and thought that some improvement might be effected in that direction.

Mr. Cocks thought the museum ought to be of great use to the Society. It was impossible for it to be kept in proper order, except by someone who was resident in the place where the museum was situated. He had visited it in conjunction with Mr. Myres, and found it in a sad state throughout. There were cases of stuffed birds, but owing to the rain coming in and spoiling them, the poor things had lost every feather, and his friend had been busy getting rid of their carcasses. There were specimens of minerals and fossils, but they were either not ticketed or the tickets were so dirty they could not be read, and he had had to get a bucket of water from the woman to wash the pre-historic pottery.

Mr. Cocks proposed that a grant of £10 be made to the Junior Secretary, to be at his own disposal, out of which he should pay the caretaker, but that the grant should not be liable to insurance or rent.

Mr. Rutland seconded the proposition, and hoped the funds would be sufficient to cover the expense.

The Rev. T. Cockram asked what had been done towards paying off the debt, as he understood that was the object of raising the subscription?

Mr. Myres, in reply, said that the effect of the increased subscription was only just beginning to make itself felt. In reference to the annual excursion being later than usual on that occasion, he explained that they were unable to hold it at the usual time, and it was suggested to postpone it till September, so they compromised it by having one excursion for the south of the county, and another in the north for those who could not come that day.

The Chairman put the proposition to the Meeting, and declared it carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Myres next gave the Secretary's report, which, he said, would be very brief. The "RECORDS" had been issued, and were by that time in everyone's hands. He read a portion of a letter from Mr. Parker, in which he urged the younger Members to endeavour to take up some literary work on behalf of the Society. It had been suggested that it

would be a useful undertaking to draw up a complete account of the church plate in the county. He (Mr. Myres) had sent a circular to all the Vicars and Rectors in Bucks; but out of some 230 less than 100 sent in a report. He hoped his application would yet receive a more general response, and that the clergy in describing the plate would not forget to mention the hall marks. Mr. Cocks, they would be pleased to hear, had his "History of the Church Bells of Buckinghamshire" ready for the press, and he hoped it would appear before their next Annual Meeting. Mr. Cocks and he had attended as their delegates at the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries held last month, at which they had voted for a resolution in favour of one guinea a year being paid by all Societies in connection with it. Mr. Myres concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Bishop of Reading and Mrs. Randall for their kind hospitality that day, and to the Bishop for presiding at that Meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Cocks, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said he was sorry he was not able to visit Upton and Langley with them; but he had been out for two or three days, and on his return found, as usual, a mass of correspondence to be attended to, and he had been busy writing letters all the morning. He was very pleased to welcome the Members there, and only wished they had brought better weather with them.

The Second Excursion of the Society took place on the 5th September, and in the Northern portion of the county.

The Members assembled at Buckingham, and from thence drove first to Lillingstone Dayrell Church. The Rev. R. Dayrell, the Rector, gave them a cordial welcome, and read a paper, of which the following are extracts:—

"I welcome you to my church, which is a very interesting one on account of its antiquity. You will, I am sure, not regret the visit you have now paid to it. On your last visit to this northern part of the county, which took place on August 11, 1884, you had intended to visit this church, but were unable to do so from want of time, and the greater attractions of Stowe House.

"I will now relate to you the information I have been able to gather about this church, and I confine myself entirely to details about it, though there are other interesting matters relating to the history of the parish which can be traced back before the Norman Conquest. The church is dedicated to S. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, patron of pawn-brokers and schoolboys, whose day in the calendar is December 6th. It is not known at what precise date the church was built, or whether there was one here in Saxon times. Some have contended that there was one at that early period, but this seems uncertain. However, as there appears to have been a Rector appointed here about the year 1198, it is reasonable to suppose that a church had been built here by that time, if one had not existed before. This church bears marks of an early date, probably of the eleventh century. It probably retains the same shape and proportions in which it was originally built, but it would be impossible to specify all the alterations it has undergone after the lapse of so many centuries. It is recorded by Browne Willis in 1735 (and it is interesting to recall as far as one is able the appearance of a church in the days of our forefathers) to consist of a body, or, rather, a nave, south aisle, and chancel, which are tiled; at the west end is a tower coped and covered with lead, flat at top, in which hang three modern bells. Here was, as appears by the walling up of the arches between the pillars, a north aisle corresponding with the south aisle, which was taken down to repair the church. At the time of the demolition the lead was taken off the south aisle, the upper windows stopped

up, and the roof raised over them and tiled, to the great deformity of the church, which was regular before. But we may gather the appearance of an ancient church from further records. Imagine, for instance, the appearance of this church. It would be something like this, and there is very little imagination in the description. The appearance of the interior of a church before the Reformation may be tolerably guessed at by the description of its several parts handed down to us. A rood loft, or narrow gallery, stretched across the body of the church at the entrance of the chancel, on which a rood or crucifix was placed accompanied by a statue of the Virgin Mary, and the beloved disciple St. John. The chancel was divided from the body of the church by gates. The altar, which was a stone slab marked with five crosses, one at each corner and one in the centre (and the ancient one of this church may be seen let into the floor beneath the Communion Table revealing the position where it stood, and is inscribed to a former Rector), stood on four short pillars at the east end of the church; on it was placed a crucifix, and similar figures, as on the rood loft, lighted up with tapers. At a low desk in the middle aisle the Litany desk stood, where the prayers for the dead were said. The pulpit and font probably occupied their present places, and the remainder of the floor was covered with long open seats indiscriminately used by the parishioners. At this time the chancel, and probably the whole church, was paved with what are called Roman bricks or tiles. Some of these were found underneath the pavement when the church was last restored, and they may be seen inserted into the modern tile flooring of the chancel. It is well that some of these are thus preserved, for had they been cast aside as worthless a most valuable relic of the ancient church flooring would be lost. Though these are called Roman bricks, they are in reality the ancient ecclesiastical tiling made specially for church purposes, as the designs will show. These designs embody Christian emblems and mottoes; if the church was connected with a monastic institution some engraving would show the Abbot's head, and if the flooring was provided at the expense of a private individual, the arms of the donor would be engraved on some of them. The dates of these tiles are of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. Those that are uncoloured and embossed are supposed to be of the early part of the twelfth century, or about the time of Stephen's reign. Some of these may be seen inserted in the pavement within the communion rails, and similar ones are to be found in St. Alban's Abbey. These embossed tiles are very rare, and the most ancient in existence. Those that are engraved and coloured are much more common, and examples of these are seen in the pavement of this chancel; other examples are to be met with in Tewkesbury Abbey and Gloucester Cathedral. They are undoubtedly the remains of the original flooring of the church when first built. Several of the neighbouring churches seem to have been similarly paved. Examples of these tiles, in excellent preservation, may be seen in the churches of Maids-Moreton, Wappenham, and at Lillingstone Lovell, which is now undergoing repair; the composition of these tiles may be examined, and the art of making them was no doubt at first taught by the Romans, and it is thought that at one time a pottery existed where Mr. Roberts' kitchen garden at Tile House now stands. We know that many Roman stations were at no great distance from here—Stony Stratford and Towcester, for example.

“Of the particular alterations which have taken place from time to time in this church, both in the building itself and its furniture, there is no record till the year 1804, though it must have undergone many in the preceding centuries. In 1804, and after, several are noted as having taken place in a few years; for in that year the body of the church was repaired and ceiled, and the belfry enclosed, no doubt at the expense

of the parish, whereas the communion rails were put up at the expense of the then Rector, John Langham Dayrell. Five years after, in 1809, the chancel was ceiled by Richard Dayrell, the then patron. In 1811, a silver waiter, as an alms dish, and a small silver gilt cup were given at Easter to this church by the same Richard Dayrell. In 1813 a gallery was erected at the west end at the joint expense of Richard Dayrell and the parish. We can tell from these details what the church was like before the last restoration. We have a similar instance in the sacred fane in the next parish, Lillingstone Lovell, before the restoration was begun. Looking towards the east end we see the window half blocked up with a plain unornamented board, on which are printed in plain black letters on a white ground the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; beneath is an ancient oak communion table, round which is this inscription, 'Samuel Walstall, in Artibus Magister. Ecclesiae dedet, Anno Domine, 1633.'

"On the north side of the table is a raised tomb, with a black marble slab on top, with cedar sides (the slab has since been lowered to the ground and the cedar wood taken away). On the opposite, the south side, there was nothing of importance to notice, the niche in which is the piscina and credence table being blocked up; the floor tiling were squares with plain embossed devices, much broken and dilapidated, enclosed with massive oak rails; the walls and ceilings whitewashed, and in many places green with damp. In the chancel are two pews opposite each other, the squire's and the Rector's; the centre of the open space is taken up with a raised tomb with the figures of a man and woman on the top; at its foot is a small brass of a headless ecclesiastic inscribed to Richard Blakesley, and let into the stone pavement. On the north side of the chancel, close to the communion rails is a plain stone slab, coffin shaped, slightly raised under an arch, supposed to be the tomb of the founder, whoever he might have been. It is supposed to have been used as an Easter sepulchre, and a similar one is to be seen in a church at Northwold, in Cambridgeshire. On the south side is a continuous sedilia under arches, broken at one end by a raised altar tomb, with a dark marble slab on the top, having a brass upon it of a man and woman, inscribed to Paul Dayrell and Margaret, his wife, and the chancel is divided from the body of the church by a low arch of very early Norman architecture, if not of Saxon date. The rest of the church consists of a nave and south aisle, divided by pillars: whereas the pillars on the north side are walled up. It has a low ceiling, whitewashed, as are also the walls, upon which no doubt are painted in plain black letters on a stone ground enclosed in lozenge-shaped rings, texts of Scripture, whilst on the north side are hung up some old hatchments; and the nave is adorned with oak pulpit and sounding-board above, reading-desk, and clerk's desk, known familiarly by the name of a 'three-decker.' The parishioners' pews are of oak, square or oblong shaped, and the floor is paved with large square Purbeck paving stones, very irregular and broken, whilst at the west end is a gallery in which is a barrel-organ, and a hatchment of the Royal Arms, in a conspicuous position. The tower arch would be closed in, and a door leading into the belfry, in which hang three bells.

"Now, before this time, it is stated, 'The church is a plain building of stone, and appears to be very ancient, from the aisles being paved with Roman or Saxon bricks; part of the church has also been paved with the same materials, some of which are entire; but the ravages of time are, alas! so conspicuous as to require a new pavement.' The church porch is no doubt of great antiquity, supposed to be Anglo-Norman, if not Saxon. [It is not really earlier than 13th century.]

"There was only one pane of painted glass, representing the Virgin

Mary, in a window to the left of the pulpit, under which formerly there used to be a side altar. This, no doubt, was brought from Luffield Abbey, when it was demolished, for the chapel was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This pane of glass was taken by the workmen at the restoration.

"The church was last restored in 1868, when a north aisle with vestry and organ chamber were added. The church was entirely re-roofed with tiles. The walls were cleaned and fresh plastered; a glazed tiled floor laid down within the communion rails; a tiled flooring in the chancel, and the rest of the church paved with the old stone paving, a new communion rail on iron standards, a new communion table of foreign oak, also a pulpit, reading desk, and lectern of oak, a font of stone, and pitch-pine benches were placed throughout the church. The restoration was undertaken by A. J. Roberts, Esq.

"The pews were formerly made of oak, and this wood was, after the restoration, used to panel round the Royal Latin School at Buckingham.

"The old communion table, which for about twelve years stood in the vestry, was presented to Foscott church, near Buckingham, at its restoration in 1887.

"Of other records of the church, there is only need to mention the registers. In an old terrier, undated, but evidently of the year 1820, it is stated, 'We have three parish registers. No. 1 commences A.D. 1584; many parts of which are mutilated and imperfect. It, however, records the circumstance of the font being broken by soldiers 7th of October, A.D. 1644,' perhaps in the civil wars of Charles I. It was, however, repaired during the week, and a baptism took place the following Sunday, the broken font being used on the occasion. In 1826 the font is stated to be of wood, and probably was the one in existence until replaced by a stone one in 1868. From an old Exchequer document we gather that Paul Dayrell, the elder, received from the Commissioners of King Edward VI., on the 5th day of May, in the seventh year of this reign, A.D. 1553, a 'chalice of silver with the paten, a surplice, and linen clothes, to be kept safely for the use of the communion, and two great bells.'

"In a terrier dated 1785 is given this record of church furniture: 'There belong to the church three bells, a font of stone, a coffer with three locks, a decent surplice, a book of Homilies, a Common Prayer-book, and a Bible of the last translation; a pulpit cloth and cushion of crimson velvet, a linen cloth and napkin, a silver cup and paten weighing about 14 oz. There are likewise a bier and hearse cloth.'

"In an earlier terrier dated 1745 the same articles of furniture are mentioned, but these words are added, 'A linen cloth and a napkin for the communion table.'

"In a terrier dated 1812 there are mentioned these additions to the communion plate besides those before named: 'One smaller silver-gilt cup and silver waiter.' There is an inscription on the silver waiter notifying that it was the gift of Richard Dayrell, Esq., A.D. 1811; and as the silver-gilt cup is now mentioned for the first time, it is only reasonable to suppose that it was also the gift of Richard Dayrell.

"A full description of the communion plate has been lately supplied to Mr. Myres, of Swanbourne, so no more need be said on this point.

"Other points of interest are the bells. Two great bells are spoken of in the exchequer account. Whether these are the first bells received in this church, or whether there were any earlier ones, it would be impossible to say; and when these bells were re-cast or renewed there is no record; certain it is that none of the bells at present in existence are of such ancient date, nor can it be stated when the third bell was added. We know that in 1735 there were in the tower 'three modern bells.' The date of the three bells now in the tower are respectively 1674, 1726,

and 1868. This last bell was evidently re-cast at the time of the last restoration of the church. The inscriptions on the bells are of little importance; they record who made them, and the date; they are, however, thus stated;

Large bell. 'Richard C. Handter,* MADE ME, 1674. D.N.

Centre bell. 'Edward Hall made me, 1726.

Little bell. 'CAST BY JOHN WARNER AND SONS, LONDON, 1868.'

Of books, the only remarkable one is a book of Homilies, in black letter in old English characters. A pulpit cloth, embroidered with the Dayrell arms in coloured silks and gold and silver thread with the motto 'Doe well,' and a scroll, in which are these words, 'Donum Majister Thom. Dayrelli Armiger, 1659,' and having a thick fringe at bottom of silver lace tarnished by time. The pulpit cloth was hung in the chancel in 1873, below two helmets on the north wall, it not fitting the new pulpit which was placed in the church at the last restoration. The crimson velvet cushion which was placed on the pulpit, and was undoubtedly of the same date, was eventually destroyed, as it was a receptacle for moths, to the great destruction of the other furniture of the church.

"The only parts of the church which have not been spoken of are the Hagioscope, in the wall on the north side of the church under the low arch leading into the chancel, close to the reading desk, and the Aumbry or small cupboard, in the side wall of the south aisle, alongside of where formerly a side altar stood dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

"The piscina is, with the credence above it, built into a niche in the south wall of the chancel within the communion rails.

"The most noticeable architectural features of the church are undoubtedly: The porch, most beautifully modelled and proportioned, having a stone slab roof to it, of which there are few examples in England. On a stone at the east angle of the south aisle, on the outside of the building about 4 ft. from the ground, is carved two sun-dials, called Saxon sun-dials, supposed to be builders' marks. On the same side of the church is a beautiful specimen of a Norman window of the early twelfth century.

"The two arches, east and west, inside the church, are Anglo-Norman of different dates."

Subsequently the members inspected the church. Attention was drawn to the Dayrell monuments. On the south side of the chancel there is a raised altar-tomb, covered with a large slab of grey marble, in which are effigies in brass of Paul and Margaret Dayrell, as mentioned in Mr. Dayrell's paper. The date of this tomb is 1481; the man is in plate armour, and the female has a very large and wide head-dress. There is an engraving of it in Lipscomb, Vol. III., p. 36. Recumbent statues of Paul Dayrell and his wife, 1571, lie on an altar-tomb in the middle of the chancel. The male figure is in plate armour, and the lady is vested in a close-fitting habit, richly laced and embroidered, her cap closely surrounding her face. On the south side of the tomb, cut in high relief in white marble, are figures of ten children kneeling with their parents. Below the statues there is a poetic inscription. On the north side of the sanctuary there is another raised altar-tomb, on the marble covering of which are two compartments with an escutcheon of arms in an oval. This encloses the remains of Mrs. F. Wilkes, daughter of Peter Dayrell, who died in 1674. There are several other memorials of the Dayrell family, including one to Richard Dayrell, who died in 1800, and was, according to Lysons, the thirty-first male heir of the family. In the tower is an inscribed tablet recording that the advowson had, in 1767, been in the Dayrell family for upwards of 550 years. On

* He means Richard Chandler.

the north side of the chancel is a low arch in the wall with a sepulchral slab beneath it without ornaments or inscription. The living is a Rectory valued in the Liber Regis at £7 9s. 7d., and is in the patronage of the Lord of the Manor.

On leaving Lillingstone Dayrell, the members drove to Lillingstone Lovell Church, which is undergoing restoration, the architect being Mr. Stevens, of Hans Place, London. They were met by the Rev. H. McNeil Minton-Senhouse, the Rector; and Mr. Myres entered into a brief history and description of the building, in which there are several ancient details of exceptional interest. He explained that the parish of Lillingstone Lovell is not found in the histories of Buckinghamshire, even so late as Lipscomb, because until 1844 it was a detached part of Oxfordshire, and is so accounted in the Domesday Survey. There are two manors, or rather moieties of the manor, of 2½ hides each, but probably unequal in the amount of woodland attached to each. One was held of the king by Benzelinus, the other by Richard Ingania and others of the king's servants. In 1279 Margaret de Anesi held one of these manors, and the place was called Lillingstone Dansey, at least until 1512. William Lovell, however, received a grant of free warren in "Lillingston Damsye" in 1347; John, tenth Lord Lovell, held it in 1431; and in 1512 it is quoted as Lyllingstone Dauncy, *alias Lyllingstone Lovell*. The manor meanwhile belonged successively to Thomas de Ferrariis in 1354, whose name is commemorated in "Ferris Wood;" to the celebrated Alicia Perrers, who lost it in 1377 on the death of the old king, Edward III.; and to the notorious Sir Richard Emson, who was executed in 1510 for his extortions in the service of Henry VII. In 1516 the manor was granted by the king to Thomas Parre, Knight of the Bath, and Matilda his wife, the parents of Queen Catherine Parr; and in 1546 re-granted to Sir Nicholas Wentworth. The further history of this conspicuous family and of the Wentworth-Cresswells of the eighteenth century will be best found in Mr. Rutton's elaborate paper in the RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, VI. 3. The parish church, which is now undergoing a very necessary restoration, consists of a chancel, nave with aisles, tower, and south porch: a vestry has been added outside the north door of the nave. The lower part of the tower and the fine south door represent the oldest church here, and are of good Transition work; and the Early English chancel arch indicates a restoration in the thirteenth century. Early in the fourteenth century, however, a new chancel was built, extending to the present road, with windows on both sides; a priest's door on the south; and a low-side window, made by breaking through the wall under the sill of one light of the south-west window.

At the same time the nave was rebuilt with octagonal columns not springing from the east wall, but leaving a blank wall on each side for about half a bay's space; by which means the east ends of the aisles were available as separate manorial chapels, with very beautiful sedilia and piscinae under relieving arches to receive the wall thrust. The rood door is on the south side, and on the north is a corresponding rood window, a very unusual feature, which suggests that the loft, which has quite disappeared, may have been of the elaborate kind more common in the eastern counties. A small squint, with boarded roof, has been lately discovered leading into the chancel from each of these two aisle chapels. There are fragments of original glass in the east window of the north chapel. This aisle, however, is not continued westward at its full width; but no reason can yet be given for this. The top of the tower was rebuilt about the same time as the nave, and has a gable roof, which is quite uncommon in the Midlands, and of uncertain date. The south porch, with its curious sun-dial, was added in 1639. The whole

church was restored in 1777 by the Wentworth-Cresswells, who then held the manor; the chancel was cut short, and a large and handsome singing gallery of foreign oak, like the rest of the church furniture, was set up at the west end. This is still standing, and till this year contained a barrel organ, given by the late Rector in 1833. The list of Rectors begins in 1230 with the name of Ernald de Berkeley, and continues unbroken to the present day. The last Rector, Rev. William Lloyd, was presented by Lord Eldon as Lord Chancellor in 1826, and held the living sixty-two years. He died in 1888 at the venerable age of 89, leaving a large collection of valuable material for a history of the parish, which have been very kindly lent by Miss Lloyd for use in the present compilation.

The next place visited was Leckhamstead, and after luncheon, the adjourned annual meeting took place at the Rectory, the Rev. J. Wood presiding. The usual preliminary business was transacted, the minutes of the annual meeting held at Langley, on Aug. 4th, being read and confirmed.

Mr. Myres referred to the proposal of Sir Harry Verney that a County Museum should be established. In one sense they had a County Museum. They were a County Society, and their Museum was the only one which claimed in any way to represent the County; but as they knew very well, the building was in a very bad state. Sir Harry Verney had liberally offered a valuable collection of objects in the event of a County Museum being established. He had been in communication with Sir Harry, and although he was unable to see him personally, he wrote to the effect that the Society would be willing to join in the establishment of a Museum which was properly guaranteed, and for the maintenance of which adequate provision was made. It was, of course, useless for the Society to give their collections over to such an institution without ample provision was made to keep it up.

The Rev. T. Cockram said that it seemed to him there was now a good opportunity for taking some steps with the view of establishing a County Museum in connection with the technical education grant. He was speaking to a county councillor the other day, and strongly urged him to apply for some of the money for his own village, and he assured him (the speaker) that the County Council would be prepared to welcome any application with regard to technical education from any part of the county. He should imagine that nothing could appeal more strongly to the County Council than the proposed museum, which might be made to assist technical education. It seemed to him that if as a body they made a strong application to the County Council for a yearly grant towards a County Museum, they would at once entertain it.

The Chairman thought that at the present moment they had an excellent opportunity of bringing the scheme forward, seeing that the County Council had a sum of money at their command, and that Sir Harry Verney had kindly offered a collection of objects which, combined with the objects they already possessed as an Archæological Society, would make a good nucleus to start with.

On the motion of the Rev. W. M. Myres, seconded by Mr. Harrison, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this Meeting of the Bucks Archæological and Architectural Society expresses its appreciation of the valuable suggestion of the Right Hon. Sir Harry Verney as to the establishment of a County Museum, and requests its chairman, the Rev. J. Wood, Rural Dean of Buckingham, to convey its thanks to Sir Harry."

At the instance of the Chairman, votes of thanks were passed to those who had prepared papers and received the Members on the occasion.

The Members shortly afterwards repaired to the parish church, where the Rector, the Rev. H. C. Tompkins, read the following paper:—

The name Leckhamstead is derived from the word *lec*, a lake or marsh, and *ham-stead*. The parish is bounded on the north by Whittlebury Forest, on the east by Wicken and Thornton, on the south by Maids-Moreton and Thornborough, and on the west by Akeley and Lillingstone Dayrell. Its extent is about three miles from north to south, and one and a-half from east to west. Its area is about 2,800 acres, of which 733 are meadow, 1,467 pasture, 400 arable, and 130 wood. In Domesday Book there are three manors in Leckhamstead, besides two subordinate estates:—(1) held of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, by Gilbert Maminot—formerly by Earl Leuvin; (2) held of Walter Giffard, by Hugh (probably surnamed de Chastillon); (3) held by Geoffrey de Mandeville. (2) and (3) had been held before the Conquest by Suartin, the man of Algar, the standard-bearer. On the death of the second Walter Giffard, Hugh de Chastillon became tenant in chief of his land in Leckhamstead to Henry I. Meanwhile Odo's land, (1), was forfeited, and re-granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville, the Maminot family retaining possession. And, finally, by the marriage of Beatrice de Say to Willham, heir of the Maminots, and his enfeoffment to Hugh de Chastillon, the three great manors came into the hands of the latter in the time of Richard I., when Hugh de Chastillon gave lands and a messuage to Luffield Priory at a quit rent of five shillings a year. The Chastillons remained lords of Leckhamstead until the reign of Richard II., when, in 1398, their estates passed either by purchase or affinity to the Guereons. Soon after 1467 Joan Guernon carried the estate by marriage to the Tilneys; and her grandson, apparently, who died in 1520, left an heiress, Joan, the wife of Richard Greenway, of Dinton, whose son Anthony married the daughter of Joan's second husband, Michael Harcourt, who was Member for Buckingham in 1584, and died in 1594 (this daughter was the child of his former wife). Anthony succeeded to the estate on his mother's death in 1600, died in 1619, and is buried in the chancel of Leckhamstead Church. His son Anthony, who was joint patron with his uncle, the second Michael Harcourt, conveyed the estate to Edmund Pye and his son, who also held Bradenham Manor. His heiress married the third Lord Lovelace, whose daughter inherited the estate. Then the manor went to the Cleveland branch of the Wentworths by marriage; and Lady Ann Wentworth married Sir Henry Johnson, who died, with issue, in 1719. She pulled down the old Manor House, and dying in 1745, left the estate to Martha, sister to Lord Lovelace, who married Lord Henry Beauclerk. At her death the Manor descended to the Rev. Henry Beauclerk, whose son, the owner of the estate, and incumbent, was succeeded by John Beauclerk, of Whittlebury.

Another manor, Leckhamstead Parva, or Lymes End, passed by fine from Hugh Mortimer, 1413, to the Tyrrells of Thornton. They built Toy Mansion in this parish in 1603, which cost £3,000. Its name is still preserved in Toy Ground. In 1730 it passed to the Pollards by purchase.

Another subordinate manor, of "Heyburn Fields," was the property of the Greens till 1500, and passed from them to the Wentworths of Lillingstone Lovell, by whom it was bequeathed to Martha, wife, above-mentioned, of Lord Henry Beauclerk.

The parish of Leckhamstead was enclosed in 1630. The Rectory in 1291 was valued at twenty-four marks, and in 1534 at £15 3s. 4d. Among the Rectors were (1) John Antre, or Dantre, presented in 1375 by Sir Hugh Chastillon, by some identified with John Wicliffe. But

according to the registers, John Wicliffe, presented in 1371, died December 31, 1384; "etiam Rec. de Lutterworth," "He taught against mass, &c., tenets of ye Papists, bred at Oxon, and drew many persons of note after him." Probably, therefore, as John Wicliffe never resided here, because he was also Rector of Lutterworth and Ludgershall at the same time, Dantre was his curate-in-charge. (2) In 1432 was presented Adam Molens, LL.D., *etiam Dominus huiusce manerii*. He was Bishop of Chichester in 1445, and murdered at Portsmouth in 1449. (3) Oct. 25, 1432. Thomas Send, resigned and instituted three times. (4) Nov. 14, 1472. Thomas Brigge, presented by Edmund Reade, Kt., and Thomas Walden. *Generoso astimato commissario fidei Guernonis (Angliæ Feoffee)*.

The church is dedicated to the Assumption of the B.V.M. The dimensions of the nave are 70 feet by 24 feet, of the chancel 30 feet by 17 feet, and of the aisle 70 feet by 12 feet. The earliest church of which traces remain was built in the twelfth century, and consisted of the present nave, with a chancel eastward. But very shortly afterwards, and perhaps even before the church was finished, a north aisle or manor chapel was added, communicating with the nave by a remarkable arcade cut through the wall. Two fragments of the original painting of this church have been preserved, on the piers of this arcade. One of them represents a cross with the words—

+	AVE	the other has	HIC SEDET
	MARIA;		ISABELLA,

marking the position of this lady's seat. Similar notices have been found elsewhere. This manor aisle was very probably screened off formerly from the nave by a parclose, like that mentioned in the Paston Letters, 1451. "On the Sondag before Sent Edmond, after evyn songe, Agnes Ball com to me to my closett and bad me good evyn, an Clement Spycer with her. And all that time Waryn Herman lenyd over the parklos and lystynd what we seyde."

The effigy of a knight, which lies under the western arch of the aisle, probably represents one of the Chastillons who held the manor and built this church, but it has no inscription.

The mouldings of the arcade are remarkable, and especially the grotesque heads upon the keystones; each one more and more turned eastwards, as it is further from the chancel. The present rood-door replaces an earlier one, of which the sill remains; there are three steps in the thickness of the wall, and the rest were of wood, descending into the aisle, as at Lillingstone Lovell.

The doors of the Norman church are very good; that on the north, like the aisle arches, has a head on the keystone, and one of its mouldings recalls the ornament on the font at Maids-Moreton. The south door is more elaborate, with grotesque capitals above patterned columns, one of which has a head worked on the shaft below the capital; in the tympanum is a relief representing two dragons struggling over a human soul. The porch over this door was built to commemorate a visit of William Laud, then Bishop of London, in 1628.

To the Norman church already described a tower was added in the succeeding century, and two windows were replaced in the south side of the nave; these were restored entirely in 1871. A new chancel was built in the thirteenth century with an original north door, now communicating with the modern vestry. The piscina is original, and the low rude arch near it was probably intended to cover sedilia. In the fourteenth century the tower was restored, and the new windows were inserted in the aisle.

The font is octagonal, of decorated workmanship, and contains in its panels—(1), the Madonna crowned, and child under a canopy; (2), St. Catharine, though she has St. Margaret's emblems also; (3), a vine attacked by a boar, symbolising persecution, for "the wild boar of the wood doth root it up;" (4), a bishop in the act of benediction; (5), a vine with our blessed Lord's face; (6), the Crucifixion, with two mourning figures; (7), a very curious pattern of leaves and beaded bands, which seems to contain two periods of work; and (8), four small roses or ornamental studs. [See *Gentleman's Magazine*, Dec., 1816, Pl. II.]

The tiles in the chancel are copied from one found at the restoration, with the inscription *Laus Deo*; others bear the emblematic fish, and the dove.

There is a peal of three bells dated 1662 and 1664; and a saint's bell, which is cracked.

A brass to a member of the Tilney family (1503) lies in the aisle. In the chancel there is fixed to the north wall "a very extraordinary stone," as Browne Willis says, "and this miserably inscribed on it—'Heare lieth Sir Anthony Greenowaye Knight. Jan. 26, 1619. He being lord of the manor in 1600.'"

Lipscomb says, "On north side, affixed to the door, is a bust of wood, with features rudely sculptured; a long, ill-favoured visage, with a short beard." Might it not be a figure of John Wicliffe? No trace of it now. Lipscomb further says, "At the east end of aisle is a pew, in the middle of which is the old communion table, removed out of chancel during Protectorate of Cromwell, and ever since remaining in its present situation, being used by inhabitants at their vestries!" The noticeable feature about it is that it is all pegged together, having no nails or screws. Lipscomb says there was a window in the east end of aisle of two cinque-foil-headed lights, having a quatrefoil in the spandrils or subarchitrave with indented mouldings.

A clock, formerly belonging to this church, was sold to the parish of Wicken before Browne Willis's time.

The church plate consists of—(1), a chalice of 1569, parcel gilt, of the usual Grindal pattern; (2), a silver paten of 1789; (3), a flagon of 1793, from the same silversmith; and (4), a very beautiful silver alms dish, nearly hemispherical, with two embossed handles, and an oak-leaf pattern on the bowl. There is a rare maker's mark, but no hall-mark, so the vessel is probably of foreign workmanship.

On their return journey the Members concluded the excursion by stopping for a short time at Maids-Moreton, being received by the Rector, the Rev. B. W. Johnstone.

The interesting little parish of Maids-Moreton, which has a population of about 440, was originally a moor, from which the name is derived, the prefix "maiden" immortalising the memories of two unmarried sisters of the Peyvre family, who built the church dedicated to St. Edmund, King and Martyr, murdered in Essex by the Danes. The family of De Morton held the manor under the Abbey of Osney, and after its dissolution in 1541 Henry VIII. granted the manor to Christ Church College, Oxford. 'Squire Churchill in 1802 purchased the lease of the manor, which descended to the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos. The church of St. Edmund has interesting architectural attractions. It is an excellent example of the Perpendicular style, founded about the year 1450, and claims the singular distinction of having been wholly rebuilt from the foundations, and completed in its entirety, without any portion of the former structure having been incorporated with it. The church is on a very simple plan, comprising a

west tower, nave, with north and south porches, and a chancel with a sacristy on the south side. The tower, lofty, embattled, and in three stages, with a staircase turret at the north-east angle, is a fine specimen of fifteenth century work. On either side of the nave are three lofty windows, and two on each side of the chancel; while the principal entrance to the church is by the north porch, over the doorway of which are painted the arms of the founder, viz., three *fleur-de-lys* on a chevron sable, with an inscription recording the pious act of the maiden ladies and with the royal arms painted below. The date of the inscription is probably 1637, when the north door was inserted within the outer arch of the north porch. A stone on the floor of the nave also formerly contained the brasses of the ladies who built the church; the impressions of two female forms still remaining, and a shield above each, charged with the *fleur-de-lys* on a chevron, affording proof that by this stone the ladies were commemorated. The font is the only relic of the former church; it stands in the centre of the nave, and has a large circular bowl resting on a massive octagonal stem and base. The present Rector was appointed in 1877, and undertook the work of restoration, which was commenced in 1882. On the south, in the angle of the nave and chancel, a new vestry has been added to the old, to which it is connected by an open arch, and lighted with new windows. None of the old features of the church have been disturbed by the addition. The whole of the chancel and nave have also been re-cleaned and coloured. The church, it may be added, was re-opened in October, 1887.

A small party of Members of the Bucks Archæological and Architectural Society joined the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, by special invitation, in an excursion to Winchester, on Tuesday, June 14th, 1892.

Arriving in the city about eleven o'clock, they at once made for the County Hall, where the President of the Oxford Society, James Parker, Esq., Hon. M.A., gave some valuable information relative to the history of the old Castle and of the Hall, which was supplemented by further details furnished by the attendant. The party, having viewed the West Gate, proceeded to the Cathedral, where, after viewing the exterior, they were received by the Very Rev. the Dean, who accompanied them over the building, gave a most instructive account of the general history of the structure, and pointed out its many interesting features. The party, having thanked the Dean for his kindness, proceeded to the George Hotel, where luncheon was served. The visitors next passed down to the College, where they were received at the entrance by the Bursar (Mr. T. F. Kirby), who kindly conducted them over the old buildings. The Head Master (the Rev. Dr. Fearon) subsequently met them in School Court, and took the party over the newer parts of the College. Proceeding down Meads, the visitors at length arrived at St. Cross, where they partook of the "dole of bread and ale," and were afterwards shown over the Hospital by the Rev. W. Andrewes, in the absence of his father, the Master. By six o'clock the party had returned to the city, and on reaching Wolvesey Palace the Dean again met them and pointed out the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman remains. Subsequently they proceeded to the Deanery, where the Dean very kindly entertained them at tea, and, a vote of thanks having been passed to him for his hospitality on the motion of the President, the visitors made for the railway station to catch the 7.57 up train.

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