

made :—R. W. Jeffery, B.A., 10, St. Giles ; D. Trimmer, Ch. Ch. ; W. Parker, Ch. Ch. ; J. H. S. Ferryman, St. John's ; G. A. D. Beckingsale, Pembroke College ; H. L. Henderson, Ch. Ch. ; C. F. M. West, Ch. Ch. ; J. R. Kenyon, Ch. Ch. ; J. W. Ellis Guy, Ch. Ch. ; M. L. Smyth, Ch. Ch. ; H. B. Whitfield, Merton College ; D. L. Savory, St. John's College ; H. B. Cooper, M.A., Keble College ; Rev. C. R. Davey Biggs, D.D., 68, Woodstock Road ; G. Baskerville, B.A., Keble College ; Miss E. C. Lodge, Lady Margaret Hall ; C. de la Hey, St. John's College ; Prof. D. S. Margoliouth, M.A., 88, Woodstock Road ; Miss M. H. Linton, 37, St. Margaret's Road ; P. L. E. Walker, Merton College. The usual elections to offices were made as under : President, J. L. Myres, M.A., F.S.A., Ch. Ch. Auditors, R. T. Günther, M.A., Magdalen College ; A. W. Kirkaldy, M.A., Wadham College. Committee (to hold office till 1904) : E. W. Allfrey, M.A., Trinity College ; Rev. W. M. Merry, M.A., Lincoln College ; O. J. R. Howarth, B.A., Ch. Ch. The Secretaries' Annual Report was read. The President gave an address on the past and future work of the Society. This was followed by a short paper by Mr. R. T. Günther (illustrated by diagrams and views) on some recent architectural discoveries at Magdalen College.

History of Faringdon.

By P. H. Ditchfield.

(Continued from Vol. 7, page 82.)

COLONEL EDWARD UNTON, the next heir, commanded a force for the defence of the country at the time of the Spanish Armada. He was slain fighting in Portugal with Sir John Norris and Sir F. Drake. And now we come to the last and most distinguished scion of the race, Sir Henry Unton, who was educated at Oriel College, Oxford. In 1586 he was present at the Siege of Zulphen, where his kinsman, Sir Philip Sydny, was slain, and was knighted by the Earl of Leicester. In 1591 he was appointed Ambassador to France, which he found an expensive post, and complains to the Lord Treasurer Burghley that he has only £500 left of the £2,500 he brought with him, and finds the cost of keeping his horses a burdensome business. He sent a spirited challenge to

the young Duke Henri de Guise in gallant resentment of some disparagement cast on the honour of his queen, and declared "that in speaking basely of her he had most wickedly and shamefully lied."

On one occasion he said "Nor could I have you to think any inequality of person between us, I being issued from as great a race and noble home everyway as yourself." His health failed him and he died in Paris, his body being conveyed to England and buried here, where a noble monument was raised which suffered severely in the trouble of the Civil War, and was rebuilt in 1658. Having no children, the Unton family became extinct in the male line, and the Manor passed to the daughter of his sister Anne, wife of Valentine Knightley. James I. and his Queen visited Faringdon and Wadley. The old family of the Purefoys afterwards resided at Wadley. The Manor of Faringdon was purchased from the Executors of Sir Henry Unton and Sir James Wentworth and others in 1622 by Sir Robert Pye, in whose family it continued for 166 years. Henry James Pye built the present Faringdon House. He was Poet Laureate and M.P. Poet laureates are not *always* a success (not even modern ones), and Pye's poems are all forgotten, except perhaps his verses on "Faringdon Hill," which still have a local reputation. This Pye sold the Manor to Mr. Hallett, and the Bennett family now hold it. Faringdon played an important part in the Civil War, and can boast of being one of the few places which successfully resisted the attack of the Parliamentary Army when led by the genius and valour of Cromwell in person. Clarendon tells us that King Charles came here soon after the second battle of Newbury with some hope of surprising Abingdon in his way (Oct. 27th, 1644). Faringdon House was a royal garrison, of which Sir Marmaduke Rawdon was appointed governor. He died in 1646, and his tomb is in the church. Radcot Bridge, of which we have heard before, was fortified for the King as an outwork to the town, but was surrendered after 15 days' siege in May, 1646. In 1645 the Governor of the Garrison was a brave and loyal officer, Roger Burgess by name, and to him belongs the distinction of inflicting a repulse on the conqueror of Marston Moor and Naseby. Cromwell attacked the town with 600 men taken from the garrison at Abingdon. In the following year an equally unsuccessful attack was made under the command of Sir Robert Pye, who held a commission in the Parliamentary Army, and singularly enough he was the proprietor of the house and manor at the time. Such was the fortune of war; happily it is not the fate

of everyone to be obliged to batter down his own house, and not even then to gain an entrance, as his attack failed. Sir George Lister was then governor to the garrison. The town suffered enormously during these military operations. The spire which once adorned the church steeple was beaten down by the artillery of the assailants, and much damage was done to the interior of the sacred building. Very many houses were destroyed by fire, and the whole place suffered enormously. Faringdon was one of the last places which held out for the royal cause. Not until the King's cause was hopeless, and not until the King commanded the brave garrison to yield, was the surrender made. This was in June, 1646, when Oxford, Donnington Castle and other brave garrisons in Berks and Bucks yielded to the inevitable, pursuant to the articles for the surrender of Oxford, in which Faringdon was included. The townsmen of Faringdon, seeing the deplorable condition of their beloved town, the ruined houses and desolated streets petitioned Parliament to grant them money to rebuild their waste places, and a goodly sum they demanded, showing that the damage must have been great. Whether they ever recovered the sum which they asked, I have not been able to discover. The descent of the Manor seems to have been as follows.

In Saxon times it was a Royal Manor, the third town of Wessex, and boasted of its King's Palace. It continued in the possession of the Crown, until King John granted it to the Abbey of Beaulieu. At the Reformation it reverted to the Crown, and in 1547 was granted to Lord Seymour. On his attainder in 1554 it was granted by Queen Mary to Sir F. Englefield, who released all his rights to John Yates. In 1554 John Yates sold it to Toby Pleydall, Esq. In 1589-90 John Pleydall sold it for £3,000 to Sir Henry Unton. In 1622 on the death of Sir Henry Unton, Sir Robert Pye bought it from his Executors. In 1788 Henry James Pye, Poet Laureate, sold it to William Hallett, from whom it passed to the Bennetts. The building of the bridge over the Thames at Abingdon in the time of Henry V. considerably increased the importance of the town of Faringdon, as through it began to flow the traffic from the West, the wains of the clothiers and wool merchants of Cirencester and Gloucester. With Abingdon it now shares its eventual rest. In the old coaching days Faringdon was a busy place, and the Crown Hotel and the Bull were kept fully alive when the coaches kept rolling in and all was bustle and excitement, and great folks from Oxford and London stayed the night at the inns, and the cheery notes of the post-horn startled the echoes of the old streets.