

### Excursion, June 5th, 1893.

On June 5th an Excursion was conducted to the south-east of the County, as arranged by the Secretaries with Mr. S. Flint Clarkson.

About twenty members and friends leaving S. Albans at 8.58 a.m., reached Hadley Wood Station at 9.40, where conveyances were taken. A halt was made on the north of the Common, where Mr. Clarkson gave some historical notes on the Royal Forest of Enfield Chase, a remnant of which was viewed. At Monken Hadley Church, dedicated to S. James, and anciently associated with a hermitage belonging to the Monks of Walden, the Rev. F. G. Cass welcomed the party, and assisted at the inspection, which was conducted by Mr. Flint Clarkson. The latter gave an account of its history, architectural peculiarities, and careful restoration effected under the late Mr. G. E. Street in 1848; he also pointed out the monuments, hagioscopes, font, rebus of the Godeyere family, the inscription on the tower, the beacon cresset, and other details, giving some account of noteworthy persons connected with the parish.

On leaving the Church, the Almshouses, founded by Sir Roger Wilbraham in 1616, were pointed out and commented on.

On reaching the Obelisk, erected in 1740 to commemorate the Battle of Barnet, an account of the battle was given by Mr. Clarkson, with special reference to the views expressed by Sir James Ramsey and the late Rev. F. C. Cass, the noted local antiquary. The party then drove, by permission, through Wrotham Park, where the residence of the Earl of Strafford, erected in 1754, was observed, and some notes on the Byng family were read by Mr. Clarkson. The small Church of

South Mimms, dedicated to S. Giles, was reached about 12.15. Here Mr. F. Trevor Davys read a paper embodying the valuable information on the antiquities of the parish given by the late Mr. F. C. Cass in 1877, when the restoration of the Church was effected. He described the architecture, ancient features brought to light by Mr. G. E. Street, the Chantry Chapel, and monuments of the Frowyke family, the piscina, font, and other objects of interest. The old parish registers and account books were shown by the Vicar, Mr. Wood. The drive was continued along the old pack-horse lane leading into the beautiful woods of Mymms Park. North Mymms Place was reached about 1.30 p.m. By kind permission of the owner, W. H. Burns, Esq., a picnic lunch was here partaken of in the terraced gardens. The fine Elizabethan mansion, erected by Sir Ralph Coningsby, c. 1600 (about ten years previously to Hatfield House) was visited. The Rev. G. S. Batty gave information about the successive owners, pointing out the gabelled wing added by Lord Greville in 1860. The decorative features of the interior were then inspected, notably a carved oak chimney-piece ensigned with the arms of the Osbornes, Dukes of Leeds, the wainscotting in various woods, and some gorgeous ceilings. The party, having been augmented in number to about 40, assembled in the Church (S. Mary's) under the guidance of Mr. F. Kinneir Tarte, who gave notes on the structure and its history, afterwards pointing out in a perambulation interesting features, notably the memorials of the Coningsby family in the Chapel of S. Katherine, an incised Elizabethan effigy, and the memorial brasses. The Church plate and old Registers were shown by the Vicar. By kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Batty, tea was partaken of in the Vicarage garden. The drive was resumed across Colney Heath to Tyttenhanger House, where, about 5 o'clock, the visitors were courteously received by Commander Van Koughnet, R.N. In the drawing-room a paper was read by Mr. Fowler on the history of the manor and the Abbot's mansion, the predecessor of the present structure (erected in the time of the Commonwealth), giving an account of Sir Thomas Pope (the founder of Trinity College, Oxford), and other distinguished owners of the estate. Captain Van Koughnet then conducted the party over the house, pointing out the carved oak staircase, the chapel, mediæval wainscotting, the family portraits, and other art treasures. After tendering their thanks, the party returned to their destinations, much gratified by the day's proceeding. S. Albans was reached about 7 o'clock.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE, Chairman.

May 9, 1894.

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### Excursion to Ely, 1893.

An Excursion to Ely, arranged by the Rev. Canon Davys, was conducted Thursday, August 31. Tourist tickets having been obtained, the start from S. Albans was made at 10.55 a.m. Some friends joined at Cambridge, where lunch was taken. About 40 members mustered at Ely about 2 o'clock before the entrance to the Cathedral precinct. Here they were met by Canon Davys, who conducted a perambulation of the monastic buildings. The "Perpendicular" Gatehouse ("Porta Elyensis"), attributed to Priors Buckton and Walpol, was first described. After passing through the portal to the College Green, the Canon gave an outline of the history of the Abbey from its foundation by Queen Etheldreda, in 673, to the establishment of the See, under Bishop Hervey, in 1109, when the Norman Church, begun by Abbot Simeon, was in progress. The general arrangement of the Monastery was pointed out. Some buildings belonging to the quarter of Hospitality, ranging along the west wall of the precinct, the late Norman undercroft of a "hostry" (now the dining-hall of the Grammar School), the earlier Norman vault of the "Fair Hall," a fine fourteenth century chimney-piece in the upper story, also the exterior of a "Guesten Hall" (now the Deanery), having Early English features, were viewed by the courtesy of Canon Professor Kirkpatrick. The party, ascending by a turret stair, assembled in Prior Crauden's Chapel. This rich example of "Decorated" work, ascribed to Alan de Walsingham, was compared by the Canon to that existing in the Chapel of Ely Place, London. By passing round to the east of the Chapel and the Prior's Lodging, the site of the great Cloister was reached, the remains of the western ally being observed in the wall of the Deanery garden. The

party then passed eastward to examine the Monastic Infirmary and its Chapel, now incorporated in Prebendal houses, which occupy the aisles. These exquisite examples of latest Norman, or Transitional work, excited much admiration. In the Infirmary's House, now occupied by Archdeacon Emery, a fine Norman doorway was pointed out. On returning towards the Cloister, a good view was obtained of the southern aspect of the Cathedral from the Lantern to the western tower.

In a perambulation conducted from this point round the eastern limb of the Church, the façade of the Presbytery (skilfully restored to verticality by Mr. Essex in 1758) and other fine external features were brought under notice. Near the Ancient North Gate of the Precinct, opposite the Lady Chapel, the Sacristy and Almonry, now adapted as residences, were observed, also the "Steeple Tower." In passing the North Transept, Sir Christopher Wren's doorway and window were pointed out, also the site of Holy Cross Church, which adjoined the remaining fragment of the North-Western Wing.

On entering the Galilee porch, the interior of the Minster was inspected, the leading features being described in a walking lecture. Pauses were made in the great Tower, S. Catherine's Chapel, and the Prior's doorway. When the party were seated under the Lantern, its famous story was given; the unique features of the Octagon and other superb "Decorated" works of Alan de Walsingham were described, also the skilful restorations executed chiefly under Sir Gilbert Scott. Attention was directed to the tasteful decoration in carving and colour applied here and in other parts of the interior, notably the ceiling of the nave, executed by Mr. T. Gambier Parry. Walsingham's spacious and richly sculptured Lady Chapel (now the Church of the Holy Trinity) was visited. In the eastern arm of the Church the charming "Decorated" work of the three western bays, containing the modern Choir, also the grand "Early English" Presbytery, erected by Bishop Northwold, were pointed out. The party passing behind the elegant modern Reredos (the work of Sir Gilbert Scott), inspected the elaborate "Perpendicular" Chantry Chapels of Bishops Alcock and West. Other architectural and monumental features were examined as far as time permitted, Bishop Macrorie, the Canon in residence, most courteously assisting.

At four o'clock all attended Evensong, which was most beautifully rendered by the Cathedral Choir. Afterwards Canon Davys led the way to the Palace, where all were hospitably entertained by the Bishop and Lady Alwyne Compton, tea being taken in the garden under a magnificent plane tree. The Bishop kindly shewed all the chief apartments, notably the "Long Gallery," erected by Bishop Goodrich, *t.* Edward VI. The chimney pieces, antique fittings, pictures, and curiosities, including the noted "Tabula Eliensis," were inspected with much interest. After recording their thanks the party left Ely by the 6.35 p.m. train. The interesting expedition was greatly enjoyed, and cordial acknowledgments were offered to Canon Davys for his exertions in arranging and conducting it.

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**Meeting held in the Town Hall, S. Albans,  
May 29th, 1894.**

Present—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, in the chair, the Rev. H. Fowler, Messrs. H. J. Toulmin, W. Page, S. Flint Clarkson, Andrew Oliver, W. H. Hardy, F. Silvester, and other members and friends.

The Local Secretary expressed the regret of Canon Davys at being unable to attend; also the regret of the Committee that Mr. R. T. Andrews was prevented from reading a paper he had promised on the remains of an ancient Church discovered by him at Hertford.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, also of the Excursion of June 5, 1893, were read and approved.

The following gentlemen were elected Ordinary Members:—A. MacDonald Brown, Esq., Tring, proposed by Sir John Evans; W. Morgan, Esq., High Croft, S. Albans, proposed by W. R. L. Lowe, Esq.; Rev. C. Wigan Harvey, Throcking Rectory, and Arthur E. Ekins, Esq., S. Albans, proposed by Rev. H. Fowler.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., read the paper he had prepared on "The History of the Monastery of S. Mary de Prés."

Mr. Toulmin, as occupier of the residence associated with the memory of the Nunnery, expressed his interest in the subject of the paper, and his appreciation of the clearness and copiousness of the information which Mr. Page's research had brought to light.

Mr. Fowler called attention to the fact that lay persons were sometimes buried in the Church of the Nuns of the Prés, quoting from the Abstracts of Wills contained in "The Herts Genealogist" (edited by Mr. W. Brigg, B.A.), the instance of Johonna Lowthorp, widow, A.D. 1418.

Mr. Andrew Oliver, A.R.I.B.A., gave an address on "The Brasses and Monumental Slabs, containing casements, existing in the Abbey Church, S. Albans." His notes were illustrated by a large number of admirable rubbings executed by himself.

The matrices had not been previously dealt with. Some of the designs were pointed out as unique. Remarks were offered by Mr. Wilton Hall, Mr. Clarkson, and Mr. Fowler.

On the motion of the Chairman cordial votes of thanks were given to the readers. The meeting then became conversational.

Some ancient pottery and other objects found in the sewage-works excavations at S. Albans, and obligingly lent by Mr. W. J. Dickson, were pointed out by Mr. Page. Among these were the spout of a 13th century ewer, of latten; the flat handle of a 15th century knife, of latten, with a man's face at the end; a small bronze figure of Venus, of Roman date; a bronze lid of a small vessel, probably Roman.

HENRY J. TOULMIN, Chairman.

October 19th, 1894.

### Excursion to the Langleys and Aldenham, June 1st, 1894.

An Archæological Excursion to the two Langleys and Aldenham, arranged by the Rev. Canon Davys, was conducted on June 1st.

A party, numbering about forty, starting in conveyances from the Town Hall, S. Albans, arrived at Abbots Langley about 1.30 p.m.

The parish church of S. Lawrence was visited under the guidance of Mr. Kinneir Tarte, who gave a paper commenting on the Norman arcade of the nave, the Transitional work in the Tower arch, the carefully restored South Chapel (the Lady Chapel), and the Perpendicular Chancel. He referred to the interesting accounts of the Church written by former Vicars, viz., Dr. Gee (in 1853) and Mr. F. H. Hodgson (in 1893). In the inspection which followed, the bold carving of the capitals, the skew arch, the 15th century roofs, the font, the

rich "Decorated" window tracery of the South Chapel, and other interesting features were discussed. The Vicar, the Rev. A. H. Parnell, assisted, and exhibited the old registers.

The party proceeded by Gallows Hill Lane, across the river Gade, to Langley Hill in Kings Langley. In the garden of Mr. Hughes, by kind permission, a group of ruins built up out of portions of Purbeck piers, bases and caps, brought here from the Priory field about sixty years ago, were pointed out by the Rev. H. Fowler. On the west side of the road some flint foundations were noticed on the traditional site of the King's House, or Palace. At the ancient building, commonly called "King John's Bakehouse," Mr. Henry Betts, the occupier of the Priory fields, kindly gave information about the excavations made by his father, the late Mr. John Betts, in 1831, when the architectural fragments, which had been viewed in Mr. Hughes' garden, were brought to light, together with the foundations of the Priory Church. Mr. Fowler read notes on the ancient Palace and Priory, referring to the valuable paper of Sir John Evans, and pointing out the site of the church by means of Mr. Betts' plan of the excavations.

On reaching the parish church (All Saints') Mr. Flint Clarkson guided the party, and gave notes on the architecture, commenting particularly on the characteristic features of the tower, the nave arcades, the Aumbry recesses in the chancel, the ancient floor-tiles, a *palimpsest brass*, and the Jacobean pulpit, also exhibiting photographs of other towers and pulpits for comparison. He drew attention to the curious notice (dated 1683) hanging in the vestry, having reference to "touching for the King's evil," giving historical remarks on the custom.

The beautiful tomb of Edmund de Langley was then inspected in the new chapel. In giving some account of its history, Mr. Fowler expressed the general regret at the unavoidable absence of Sir John Evans, whose guidance they greatly missed.

The excursionists then were driven through Watford, skirting "The Grove" and Cassiobury Park, to Aldenham, reaching the village about 5.30 p.m. Here they were hospitably entertained at the Vicarage by the Rev. Kenneth F. Gibbs. In the beautiful churchyard the "Hutchinson tomb," curiously shattered by the rampant growth of sycamore trees, was visited, and opportunely commented on by the Vicar, who pointed out the fine tower of the church (of S. John the Baptist) with its beacon turret and spirelet, the general aspect being "Perpendicular."

The party were conducted through the south porch (of open timber-work, restored) into the church, the admirable condition of which is greatly due to the restoration superintended by Sir Arthur Blomfield in 1882. In the chancel, Mr. K. Gibbs, who for many years has been conversant with the structure, and since 1884 has been its careful custodian, gave an address on the chief points of interest in the interior. It appears that there are no visible remains of the presumed Saxon church. The oldest existing feature, a round-headed lancet window at the west end of the south aisle, may be Norman work. The traces of an Early English reconstruction are two pointed lancets in the basement story of the tower—a circular light over the Norman window—two lancets, widely splayed, in the south aisle of the chancel—a piscina and aumbry there, the piscina in the sanctuary, also the three bays of the south arcade of the choir (or chancel) (*transitional*), with the priest's doorway and window above. The other parts of the

church present features of a later character. The absence of symmetry in arrangement (due to successive alterations and enlargements) is very observable, but the effect is not displeasing. The axis of the choir is several feet to the north of the axis of the nave. The chancel arch is some four feet south of the central line. The north arcade (late Perpendicular) is curiously anomalous. Its western arch is arranged so as to die high up into the wall above the opening into the N. aisle, to avoid an obstruction here, the widening of the choir at a later date being, apparently, the cause of these anomalies; the sanctuary was also widened northwards at the same time. The two arcades of the nave have a general correspondence, but are not precisely alike; the details of the southern one are Decorated, of the northern, Perpendicular; the piers of the latter are somewhat higher than those of the former. The fine tower arch is thrust out of the centre by the turret staircase, which appears to be a Perpendicular addition to the early tower. Speaking generally, the work on the north side of the church is of later date than that on the south, notably the window tracery. The north aisle is wider than the south, and appears to be a later addition. One of the finest features is the massive oak roof of the nave, which has been dated, conjecturally, about 1480, the clerestory being presumably of the same age. The carved corbels seem to represent the heavenly choir with instruments of music, but there is not sufficient light in the church for making out these details. The doorway of the rood-loft and an Early English recess in the chancel were brought to light by the recent restoration, when the oak screen in the south aisle, over which was the access to the rood-loft, was reinstated in its original condition, portions of it having been recovered from the stores of the village carpenter. In the choir is suspended the helmet of Henry Cary, first Viscount Falkland, who died in 1633. A brass tablet, placed in a recess beneath by the present Lord Falkland, commemorates other members of the Cary family, formerly lords of the manor and patrons of the church; their remains are interred in a vault beneath. The most beautiful object in the church is the "Crowmer monument" in the south chapel, dated by the costumes of the effigies about 1400. The mantled lady under the eastern canopy is presumed to be the wife of a Crowmer, on the evidence of the dexter shield, charged with "a chevron engrailed, between 3 crows" (the tinctures, however, are obliterated). The small quartered shield above shows her to be an heiress. Mr. Cussans has pointed out that Sir William Crowmer, Lord Mayor of London in 1413 and in 1423, was the son of John Crowmer, of Aldenham. The mantled lady may have been the wife of this John Crowmer. These persons are likely to have been benefactors, and perhaps did some of the Perpendicular work in the church. The details of the monument (the shape of the shields, &c.) appear to be somewhat later than those of the tomb of Edmund de Langley. Blore's drawing, engraved in Clutterbuck, is very noteworthy. The church is rich in brasses of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; some earlier ones described by Weever have disappeared. Mr. Cussans states that these were removed about a century ago to adorn the fictitious ruins at "Aldenham Abbey." Their return would be much appreciated. The oldest memorial remaining is said to be a tapering slab, having the indent of a floriated cross, and an incised legend in Lombardic capitals, now illegible, found under the pews of the nave in 1840, probably the memorial of an early Rector. We learn that the Abbots of Westminster were the patrons, till Henry VIII. granted the patronage, with the manor, to Ralph

Stepney, Esq., of Prendergast, co. Pembroke, who died in 1544; his altar tomb, surmounted by a brass, formerly stood before the sedilia in the sanctuary. His descendants made over their rights to the Cary family in 1588.

In a perambulation of the church many monuments of later date were pointed out by the Vicar; also the early Purbeck font, the remarkably fine and massive oak chest, and the good stained glass in memorial windows, notably one in the north aisle, "a Crucifixion," by Kemp, approaching to mediæval excellence. The reredos, a choice work in Venetian mosaic, one of the numerous gifts of the patron, Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs,\* the marble sedilia, the good modern screens, and other oak fittings of the church, were examined with much interest. After tendering their warm thanks to Mr. Kenneth Gibbs, the visitors took their leave and returned to their destinations. The expedition proved very successful and enjoyable.

## S. Albaus Architectural and Archæological Society.

### BALANCE SHEET FOR 1893.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Balance in Bank from last year .....	11	0	6			Due to Secretary, January 1st .....	8	9	½
Annual Subscriptions.....	26	5	0			Meetings and Excursions.....	18	0	
						Printing.....	12	12	2
						Illustrations .....	8	17	5
						Stationery and Binding .....	4	10	
						Society of Antiquaries .....	1	0	0
						Custodian of Library .....	1	0	0
						Postages and Parcels .....	1	18	0
							26	19	2½
						Balance in Bank Dec. 31st ....	13	2	6
						Less due to Secretary .....	2	16	2½
							10	6	3½
							£37	5	6

*Examined and found correct,*  
G. N. MARTEN.

21st April, 1894.

HENRY J. TOULMIN,  
CHAIRMAN.

October 19th, 1894.

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**BALANCE SHEET FOR 1894.**

<i>Receipts.</i>			
	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank from last year .....	13	2	6
Annual Subscriptions .....	16	16	0
	£29 18 6		

<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Secretary, Jan. 1st .....	2	16	2½
Meetings .....	12	0	
Excursion .....	3	6	
Printing .....	2	4	3
Society of Antiquaries .....	1	0	0
Index of Archæological Papers .....	1	8	
Stationery and Binding .....	5	10	
Custodian of Library .....	1	0	0
Postages and Parcels .....	1	4	4
	9 7 9½		
Balance in Bank, Dec. 31st ....	16	1	9
In hands of Secretary .....	4	8	11½
	20 10 8½		
	£29 18 6		

*Examined and found correct,*

G. N. MARTEN.

18th May, 1895.