

### Excursion to Saffron Walden, August 1st, 1895.

On August 1st an excursion to Saffron Walden was conducted by the Rev. Canon Davys, in accordance with arrangements made with G. Alan Lowndes, Esq., President of the Essex Society. A party including the two Hon. Secretaries, Rev. C. W. Harvey, Mr. F. Trevor Davys, Mr. R. L. Howard, and others, leaving St. Albans, 9.25 a.m., travelled *via* Tottenham, and by Great Eastern Railway to Audley End Station, arriving 12.24 p.m. Thence they proceeded to Audley End House, where they were welcomed by the Mayor of Saffron Walden, Mr. Edward Tayler and Mr. G. A. Beaumont, F.S.A., conductors of the Essex party. Lord Braybrooke received the

\* See Letter and Papers, Hen. VIII., sub. dato, and Pat., 23 Hen. VIII., p. 2, m. 24.

visitors, and most courteously conducted them over the principal apartments, pointing out the family portraits and works of art. The history of the Mansion was observed to be summarised in an inscription on a tablet in the great saloon:—"Henry VIII., A.D. 1539, granted the Monastery of Walden, on the site of which this House stands, to Lord Chancellor Audley. Elizabeth, A.D. 1597, by special writ, summoned to Parliament Thomas Lord Howard de Walden, in the next reign, created Earl of Suffolk; he built this House in 1616. After many reductions it descended to Sir John Griffin Griffin, K.B., confirmed Baron Howard de Walden in 1784. He, among other additions and alterations, refitted this Saloon, to commemorate the noble families, through whom, with gratitude, he holds these possessions."

After visiting the Museum, Picture Galleries, Libraries, and Chapel, the gratification and thanks of the party were expressed to Lord Braybrooke by Mr. Macandrell and Canon Davys. At two o'clock, lunch was taken at the Town Hall under the presidency of Mr. G. Alan Lowndes; after which a business meeting of the Essex Society took place.

At three o'clock, the Parish Church, a noble example of Tudor work, was visited, the Rev. W. E. Layton reading a paper on its history, and afterwards pointing out its features and monuments. The fan vaulting of the nave, the belfry tower, and lofty spire (a notable restoration by Thomas Rickman, the reviver of Gothic architecture), were much admired. The ruins of the Norman Castle were then inspected at the Bury, notes on its history being read by Mr. G. Maynard, who afterwards gave an account of the Local Museum, established in the building on Castle Hill, erected by the late Lord Braybrooke for an Agricultural Hall. After partaking of tea in the grounds and paying a hasty visit to the Museum, the party took leave of their Essex friends, and returned by train, leaving Saffron Walden at 5.13 p.m., reaching St. Albans at 8.13 p.m. The expedition proved extremely interesting and agreeable.

S. FLINT CLARKSON.

Cassiobury, 16th June, 1896.

---

Meeting held at the Town Hall, S. Albans, May 11th,  
1896, 8 o'clock p.m.

Present—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, M.A., in the chair; the Revs. Canon Davys, and H. Fowler, Hon. Secs., Messrs. S. Flint Clarkson, W. Page, F. Trevor Davys, W. R. L. Lowe, W. J. Hardy, F. Kinneir Tarte, F. W. Silvester, H. R. Wilton Hall, and other members and friends. The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed. The Rev. Canon Davys announced the unanimous election of Lord Aldenham, F.S.A., as President, in succession to the late Earl of Verulam; he read Lord Aldenham's letter of acceptance. The announcement was received with acclamation.

The following were elected Ordinary Members (after nomination by the Committee,) F. Wallen, Esq., of "Bricketts," Watford, proposed by Mr. Silvester, and seconded by Mr. Fowler; John Rider, Esq., Victoria Street, S. Albans, proposed by Mr. Page, and seconded by the Chairman.

The audited Balance Sheet for 1895 was read by the Chairman, and accepted.

The Chairman announced that the Transactions of 1893 and 1894 had been printed for circulation.

Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Committee for the proposed County Museum, gave information respecting the general objects of the Scheme, and the progress which had been made in arranging a Temporary Museum in rooms kindly lent by Mr. R. W. Ellis, Market Place, S. Albans. Mr. R. T. Andrews, of Hertford, expressed his interest in the County Museum Scheme, and promised his hearty support. Mr. F. Silvester moved the following resolution:—“That this Society desires to express satisfaction, that the first steps have been taken towards the foundation of a County Museum, and congratulates the Committee and the Secretaries on the progress already made.”

This was unanimously adopted.

Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., being called upon by the Chairman, delivered his Notes on “The Gateway of the Pemberton Almshouses,” illustrating the subject with detailed drawings, which he had prepared, specimens of the bricks, a diagram of the Brass of Roger Pemberton, the Founder, and a chart of the relationships of the chief members of the family. He remarked on the Architectural features of the interior of a house reputed to be the Pemberton Mansion. He also criticised the popular story referring to the terminal spike of the Almshouses Gateway. Mr. Fowler called attention to some documentary evidence, showing that Sir Francis Pemberton was practising as a conveyancing Barrister at S. Albans in 1673.

Mr. H. R. Wilton Hall then read a paper entitled, “Notes and Memoranda on some Hertfordshire Churches at the beginning of this century.” He also exhibited copies, made by himself, of diagrams and sketches produced by Mr. Pridmore, schoolmaster of Tewin, *c.* 1797, in illustration of his descriptions contained in six volumes, now in possession of the Hon. Baron Dimsdale.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the readers on the proposal of Mr. Toulmin, and seconded by Canon Davys, who offered some interesting comments. The meeting then became conversational. The drawings and other objects of interest were examined.

S. FLINT CLARKSON.

Cassiobury, 16th June, 1896.

---

---

Meeting held at Cassiobury during an Excursion,  
June 16th, 1896.

Present—Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., in the chair; the Revs. Canon Davys, and H. Fowler, Mr. F. Trevor Davys, and Mr. A. E. Ekins.

The minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed. Canon Davys stated that he had received letters from Lord Aldenham, Sir John Evans, and the Rev. R. Lee James, expressing their regret at being unable to attend.

On the motion of Mr. A. E. Ekins, seconded by Mr. Trevor Davys, the Officers of the Society were re-elected, also the retiring Members of the Committee.

On the proposal of Canon Davys, seconded by Mr. Clarkson, Mrs. G. Upton Robins, of Delaport, and Henry Phipps, Jun., Esq., of Knebworth House, were elected Ordinary Members of the Society.

July 6th, 1897.

W. J. LAWRENCE.

### Minutes—Excursion, June 16th, 1896.

An Archæological Excursion, planned by Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., in concert with the Hon. Secretaries, was conducted, Tuesday, 16th June.

In accordance with the programme, the party, numbering about 20, assembled at the Railway Station, Watford, at 9.30 a.m., where carriages were provided for the expedition. This commenced with a visit to the old Parish Church, S. Mary's. The Rev. Canon Davys, who was guide, first pointed out the features of the exterior. The new appearance of the walls, which are of flint, interspersed with fragments of clunch, is due to the Restoration carefully carried out by the Architect, Mr. J. T. Christopher, and completed in 1871, under the present respected Vicar, the Rev. R. Lee James. The South projection, or *quasi* Transept, has been rebuilt, and a new porch added on this side of the Church, built conformably with the original "Perpendicular" Porch on the North. The chief features of the "Perpendicular" Tower were noted. It exceeds in dimensions most of the Hertfordshire steeples. Its thick walls contain earlier work, for Mr. Cussans reports that worked stones of Norman and Early English character, were found built into the upper story. The massive angle-buttresses are partly hidden by the westward extension of the Aisles made at a late period. The corner turret once carried (as we are informed,) a Beacon Cresset.

On entering the interior, it was remarked that the spaciousness of the building was adapted to the requirements of a town of considerable traffic in former times, being on the great North road. It was in the jurisdiction of the Abbots of S. Albans, who, as Rectors, appropriated the great tithes. A portion of these was assigned in the time of Abbot John de Hertford, to the support of the Refectory. The Abbot appointed the Vicars, from whose modest emoluments an annual pension of 12 marks, was reserved to the Kitchener of the Convent. There is the record, that in the Incumbency of Vicar John Madery, the sacred building was desecrated by the spilling of blood, thro' the carelessness of two clerks, whereupon Abbot William Albon came with eight of his monks and performed the function of "Reconciling the Church," Thursday, 29th October, 1467.

The excellent present condition of the interior, with its handsome fittings, (notably the ornate font, the pulpit, the choir stalls, and the sculptured reredos,) was pointed out, also the fact that this is largely attributable to the exertions of the present Vicar. When the Antiquary, John Britton, visited the Church in the first quarter of the present century, he described it as "of mean aspect."

In a walk round the Church, the ancient Architectural features, carefully preserved in the "Restoration," were observed—the low

arcades of the long Nave (of six bays) having a general conformity of appearance, altho' belonging to different periods, the South side being Early English, with certain alterations, and the North wholly Perpendicular: as also the high Clerestory, with fair oak roof and Stone Angel corbels. Vestiges of the earlier structure were observed in the Chancel arch, and the double Piscina close to the eastern end of the South side of the Chancel, the walls of which are probably on the Early English lines. An Aumbry of Decorated character (restored) was seen in the South Transept, probably indicating a chapel or chantry there. On the South side of the Chancel were noticed the two Tudor Arches, opening into the Chapel of S. Catherine, dated about 1505, for "William Hayden (according to the inscription now concealed by the organ) with Johanna his mother (who died 1505) newly builded or finished this Isle or Chapel of S. Katherine." It was noted that the original Chapel on the North side, (probably the Lady Chapel) has been superseded by the existing spacious Elizabethan structure, (commonly called the Morison or Essex Chapel) erected in 1595, by Bridget, Countess of Bedford and her son, Sir Charles Morison. The Eastern Arch has been walled up, and the Western one altered into the Renaissance character, a Screen with a door being inserted in it. Some time was agreeably spent in the Chapel, in examining the notable historical monuments of the lords of the manor of Cassiobury, and Patrons of the Church, viz: the two central Altar Tombs, that towards the East with its recumbent alabaster effigies gorgeously painted, in memory of the Foundress, the Countess Bridget, and the Western, of her granddaughter, Lady Elizabeth Russell. These strongly resemble some monuments in the Russell Chapel at Chenies, and may have been executed by the same (unknown) sculptors.—On the South, against the blocked arch, the imposing architectural monument of Sir Charles Morison, commemorating also (by a medallion) his father, Sir Richard Morison, founder of the family, with portrait effigies, executed in the best manner of the Jacobean period (an: 1619) by Nicholas Stone; and against the opposite wall a similar classical erection of marble, commemorating Sir Charles Morison the younger, his lady and children, by the same "Tomb-maker and Carver," in 1628, (according to Horace Walpole). The connecting link between the Morison and Capel families is here represented by the kneeling figure of Elizabeth Morison, who married the famous Arthur Lord Capel. The Brasses placed to the memory of three faithful servants, by Dorothy Lady Morison were noted. Tablets to the memory of three members of the Capel family were noticed with interest, also other memorials, as far as the time permitted. The North wall of the Chapel has been placed in a line with that of the North Transept, thus obscuring this feature. The panelled oak roof of the North Transept is but little higher than that of the Aisle. In the South-western Vestry, opening into the Tower by a late Perpendicular Arch, some Architectural fragments of the earlier structures were pointed out, also an old oak Communion table, and a carved vestment-press, of foreign character, given by the Vicar.

After thanking the Rev. C. Hutchinson, the Lecturer of the Church, for his kind assistance, the party proceeded to pay a short visit to the modern Church of S. John the Evangelist, erected in the Early English style, from the designs of Mr. J. T. Christopher, and completed in 1894. Here the excellent work of the interior and fittings was examined with much appreciative interest.

The Excursionists were driven through Cassiobury Park to the Mansion. This, as is well known, was rebuilt about 1800, from the designs of James Wyatt, the elder, for George Capel Coningsby, 5th Earl of Essex. The effect of the exterior of the "Modern Gothic," edifice in its picturesque surroundings having been observed, the party, by the courteous permission of the Earl of Essex, entered at the West Cloister, and were conducted to the Great Cloister, situated on the South side of the Central open Court, and handsomely fitted up as a Reception Room. Here the Rev. H. Fowler read some historical notes. Attention was attracted to a very interesting object here, placed on an easel: the portrait of Henry IV. (a bust) painted on board, described by Horace Walpole as "an undoubted original," in his time located at Hampton Court, in Herefordshire, the old seat of the Coningsby family, which afterwards came by inheritance to the Earls of Essex. The Picture bears this inscription, "Henry the Fourth, King of England, who layed the first stone of this house, and left this picture in it when he gave it to Lentall, who sold it to Cornwall of Burford, who sold it to the Auncesters of Lord Coningesby in the reign of Henry the Sixth." There is a counterpart at Windsor Castle, also claiming to be an original.

After inspecting, in the East corridor, the Devereux relic—a warming-pan punctured with the family Badge, an "Agnus," the party proceeded to the principal apartments, on the ground floor, situated on the East and South sides of the mansion; passing through the Vestibule, in which are some interesting portraits of the Morison family, into the "Dramatic Library," where are displayed miniatures, bronzes, ivories, personal relics of Charles I. and other curiosities; thence to the Inner Library, where attention was directed to the oak carvings, by Grinling Gibbons, brought from the old house. Over the chimney piece was seen the noted historical painting by Cornelius Jansen, of which Horace Walpole remarks,—“It is a large piece, curious, but so inferior to Jansen’s general manner, that if his name were not to it, I should doubt of its being by his hand. It represents Arthur Lord Capel, who was beheaded, his lady (Elizabeth Morison) and children. Behind them is a view of the garden of Hadham, at that time the chief seat of the family.” Close to it, on the left, was seen the well-known Brass inscription, recording the history of the relic there deposited—Loyal Lord Capel’s heart. Here are also portraits of William Anne Hollis, 4th Earl of Essex, and his Countess Frances (Williams), by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In the Great Library (next visited) a long and lofty wainscotted chamber, lighted from the Eastern oriel, about 15 family portraits were seen above the book cases, which sustain some fine marble busts. Among the portraits examined, were—“George Capel, Lord Malden, and his sister, as children, in a landscape,” by Reynolds; the carving of the frame by Grinling Gibbons, is itself an exquisite picture. A three-quarter length of Arthur Capel, first Earl of Essex, the friend of Evelyn; by Sir Peter Lely. Lady Mary Bentinck, wife of Algernon, 2nd Earl of Essex. Lady Jane Hyde, the handsome first wife of William, 3rd Earl of Essex; her sister Catherine, “the beautiful” and eccentric Duchess of Queensbury, as a Shepherdess; by Jervas. In the principal Drawing Room, adjoining, were viewed some good landscape paintings, rich cabinets, and rare specimens of porcelaine, labelled. The “Cabinet Room” has a painted ceiling adopted from the old mansion, it is that which is described by Evelyn as decorated with allegorical figures by Verrio.

Here some exquisite inlaid cabinets were noted, also Kneller's portrait of "Elizabeth, Countess of Ranelagh, mother of Lady Coningsby." In the Dining Room were specially noticed among the portraits— "Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland, as Lord High Admiral," full length, attributed to Vandyck; Lady Elizabeth Percy, his sister, wife of Arthur Capel, the 1st Earl, by Lely; and Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, the poet, by Hudson; also a full length of George Capel Coningsby, 5th Earl, who built the present house. The Western bay of this room opens into a porch towards the gardens. In the Oak Dining Room, on the Eastern side of the building (perhaps a portion of the old house erected by Hugh May) is a remarkable portrait of Robert Devereux, Queen Elizabeth's unfortunate favorite, with the date 1599, (painter unknown). This and a half-length of Sir Joshua Reynolds, in heavy spectacles, painted by himself, attracted much attention. Other paintings and curiosities, also the handsome oak staircase, could only be glanced at in the limited time. A rather hurried visit was paid to the extensive Pleasure Grounds and Artistic Gardens so notable for their "rarity."

The party proceeded in their conveyances to a previously selected spot, outside the park, on the banks of the River Gade, where a picnic lunch was enjoyed under the trees. A business meeting was afterwards held.\* The next stage was Rickmansworth, which was reached about 1.30 p.m., after a pleasant drive over the high ground, commanding an extensive prospect of the valleys of the Gade and Colne. At the Church, the Rev. A. E. Northey welcomed the party, and kindly gave information respecting the former structure, exhibiting an engraving. Canon Davys, who conducted, read some notes on the Manor. This (it was stated) was conferred by Offa (as "Rykesmaresworth") upon S. Albans, c. 795, and continued with the Abbots till the Dissolution. Edward VI. granted it, in 1550, to Ridley, Bishop of London, together with the Patronage of the Church. It was resumed by the Crown, and granted by Charles I. to Hewet, who sold it to Sir Thomas Fotherley—(monuments of the latter family are in the Church). The Vicarage is now in the gift of the Bishop of the Diocese. The site of the old Manor house, "the Bury," adjoins the South side of the Church-yard, which is notable for its fine Yew trees. The features of the old Tower, which was spared, were noted, the lower portions appearing to be Decorated and Perpendicular, and the upper stage a very late addition—the date 1630, seen below, may relate to repairs. In 1826 the body of the old Church was pulled down, and a plain brick Church erected; this has happily been replaced by the present handsome structure erected, in 1890, in the "Perpendicular" style, from the designs of Sir Arthur Blomfield. The good effect of the Nave arcades, the Clerestory, the Roofing and the extended Chancel were observed. In the latter, the choice work of the Altar Reredos, the painting of the roof, the stained glass in the East Window, also the Carolan Monuments of the Carey family, and of the Fotherleys, and the Jacobean Brass of Thomas Day, preserved from the old Church, were examined with interest.

After thanking the Vicar, the party resumed their Archaeological journey and reached Chenies, about 3 p.m. The old name *Isenhampstead*, appears to mean the *Homestead of iron*; it was once the Homestead of Royalty. The natural beauty of the village (perhaps the most picturesque in Buckinghamshire) placed on the well-wooded

\* For particulars see above.

brow of a hill overlooking the valley of the Chess, having been observed, the party proceeded to the Church (of S. Michael) under the guidance of Mr. Flint Clarkson. After pointing out the features of the late Perpendicular structure and the older work of the Font, near which are some Brass Memorials of the Cheney family, also the remains of ancient stained glass in the East window, Mr. Clarkson gave a brief account of the Russell family, noting that Kingston Russell, between Dorchester and Bridport, was their ancient seat, where was born in 1485, John Russell, the Founder of the Noble House of Bedford. The incident of the Arch-Duke Philip's enforced landing at Weymouth, in 1506, which led to the introduction of John Russell to the Court of Henry VII. and the subsequent promotions of the able soldier and accomplished diplomatist, under three successive Sovereigns, was related. Notices of other distinguished Earls of Bedford were given. (The Earldom dates from 1550). Attention was directed to the interesting Mortuary Chapel of the Russells, built by the first Earl's widow, "Anne, Countess of Bedford," in 1556. "This Anne, was daughter and co-heir of Sir Guy Sapeote, Knt., nephew and heir of Dame Alice Cheyne, heiress of that family." The estate came to the Russells through the marriage of Anne Sapeote with John Russell, in 1515.

The visitors were then admitted, by the kind permission of the Duke of Bedford, to the Russell Chapel. It appears that the original Chapel, which was probably the Chantry of the Cheney family, formed a North Aisle to the Chancel. The extended Tudor Mausoleum comprises this and also the site of the North Aisle of the Nave of the Church. The handsome oak timbered roof, which rises to the same height as the Nave roof, was observed, also the trophy relics, banners, helmets, and weapons suspended on the walls. Two mutilated stone figures: a knight and lady, (believed to be of the Cheney family, and of the 14th century) "recumbent" on the floor against the North wall, were observed. A stone block has been substituted for the Knight's missing legs, with grotesque effect. Eight effigy-bearing monuments of the Russells, five of them being altar-tombs, were successively inspected. Notably the dignified tomb of the first Earl and his lady, (Anne Sapeote) occupying the place of honour next to the East window. This is of a light-tinted marble, the carved panels being enriched with armorial shields with blazon, the black marble basement bearing the inscriptions: the recumbent effigies, reputed to be portraits, sculptured out of a yellowish delicately-veined alabaster, are placed rather too high to be well seen, they have their faces abnormally turned to the West, and this applies to all the Russell effigies. The Earl appears of venerable aspect, long-locked, long-bearded, coronetted, in complete armour, and mantled with the insignia of "The Garter." His right eye, blinded in the wars, is represented as closed. The likeness is stated to be authenticated by the Holbein portraits preserved at Woburn Abbey. His lady has long hair depending to her shoulders, a low forehead, and large strong features. her state costume is skilfully worked out in alabaster without paint. It is curious that the unknown sculptor has given her name as "Elizabeth." (The bare hands of both figures are raised in prayer). The sculpture is stiff, but appears masterly of its kind. It was observed with pleasure that this, and all the Russell monuments have been preserved from mutilation, with the single exception of the "George" ornaments of "the Garter." On either side were seen the

altar-tombs of the son and granddaughter, viz: on the South, that of Francis the 2nd Earl, with his first wife, Margaret S. John. His second wife was the Countess Bridget, whose tomb had been seen at Watford, where are also the almshouses which he founded by her advice in 1580. The Architectural details are Jacobean, altho' he died in 1585. The recumbent portrait-effigies are crudely painted. The monument on the North, that of his daughter, Anne Countess of Warwick, the foundress of the almshouses, who died in 1604, has a pleasing effigy, the headdress being of the Mary Queen of Scots' type. The table tomb of Edward, 3rd Earl, who died in 1627, was noticed, also the sumptuous Jacobean monument of Francis, the 4th Earl, the philanthropic drainer of the Fens. This is erected against the South wall, or rather, walled-up arch. He is commemorated as Lord Francis Russell, of Thornhaugh, before his accession to the Earldom, with his wife, Catherine Brydges, Lady Chandos; both the recumbent effigies have rather youthful countenances, and are glaringly coloured. Their two children (daughters) kneel in the niches of a kind of reredos above. He died in 1641. The inscription affords the information, that the tomb was set up in his own lifetime (and clearly in the lifetime of his predecessor) to "keep him mindful of his own mortalitye"; also that he erected at the same time the monuments to his grandfather, the 2nd Earl of Bedford, and to the Countess of Warwick, the cost being provided by his mother Dame Elizabeth Russell. The tomb of the latter lady had been seen at Watford; she died in 1611, and this is probably about the date of these monuments. The next monument Westward, a table of dark marble resting on white marble pillars, to the memory of Lady Frances Bouchier (who died in 1612) granddaughter of the 2nd Earl, is specially interesting, because erected by a very heroic lady, Anne Clifford, Countess of Dorset, who was married in this Church, June 3rd, 1630, (according to the entry in the parish register) to Philip Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. She long survived him, was a staunch Royalist, and had the satisfaction of rebuilding her castles in the North, which had been battered down by the uncivil Parliament. At the West end of the Chapel was seen the imposing white marble memorial of William, the 5th Earl, who was created Duke of Bedford, in 1694, "to solace him, (as the patent sets forth,) an excellent father, for the loss of his noble son, (referring to the patriotic William Lord Russell, beheaded in 1683) and to celebrate his memory, &c."—The grouping of the sculpture appears to be intended to convey the idea of this family affliction. Beneath a somewhat ponderous classical alcove, are seated the Duke, mantled with the "Garter" robes, and his consort (Anne Carr) veiled and in mourning "weeds"; the medallion portrait of their son is elevated conspicuously between them; the Duke's attitude is that of complete composure, but the Duchess turns away her head as if to avoid a mournful spectacle. Medallions of their other children are grouped on either side. The Russell shield, bearing "arg., a lion ramp. gu., on a chief sa. 3 escallops of the field," seen in the Presbytery at S. Alban's Abbey, was put up in 1683 for this Duke; he died in 1700. It appears that the names of the artists who executed these interesting monuments, have not been preserved. The 4th Earl employed Inigo Jones for some Architectural works, the latter may have designed the Earl's monument. The memorial of the 2nd Duke (Wriothesley,) which is in white marble, and has two kneeling youthful figures (probably for himself and wife), with sacred symbols

and angels above, was seen on the left. (He died in 1711); the inscription states that it was designed by William Chambers. No memorials appear for the eight succeeding Dukes. A simple tablet was seen, to the memory of Lady Ribblesdale, first wife of the distinguished statesman, John Earl Russell, son of the sixth Duke, who was buried in the crypt below.

On leaving the Church, after thanking the Curate in charge, Mr. Burdekin, a visit was paid to the Mansion (the portion of it that remains), now converted into a farm house. It was noted by Mr. Clarkson, that the ancient Royal residence here with the Manor of Isenhampstead, was bestowed by Edward III., on his shield-bearer, Thomas Cheney, whose descendants held it till 1494, when it passed by the will of Agnes Lady Cheney to the Sapcotes, and from them by marriage to the Russells. Of the Early Mansion, Leland, writing about 1538, says—"The old House of the Cheynes is so translated by my Lord Russell, that hath this house in right of his wife, that little or nothing of it remaineth ontranslated: a great deal of the house is even newly set up, and made of bricks and timber." The remains of this Tudor building now seen, are ranged on the West and South sides of a quadrangular court, which was probably once completely enclosed by buildings. Here Francis, the second Earl, being at the time a Privy Councillor, underwent with a good grace, the honour of a "Progress" Visit from Queen Elizabeth, in 1570. When the Russells transferred their residence to Woburn Abbey, probably the interior fittings, chimney-pieces, &c., were removed thither. The exterior features, notably the ornate chimneys, were pointed out, as "pretty characteristic of the first half of the sixteenth century," and were compared with contemporary examples existing at Compton Wyngates, Hampton Court, Eton, Hengrave, and elsewhere. "Queen Elizabeth's Oak" escaped notice. It was found that the fine "Warwick Almshouses" had been removed.

The party resuming their carriages were conveyed by a devious route along lanes and field tracks across the Chess to their last stage, Sarratt. At the Parish Church ("of the Holy Cross") they were welcomed by the Rector, Mr. E. Riley, who proved a most interesting guide. It was gathered from his information, and from the notes on the Architectural subject read by Mr. F. Trevor Davys, that this small but attractive example of an Early Cruciform Church, stands close to the site of a Roman Cemetery. Roman bricks found in the walls, notably of the Tower, also indicating the proximity of Roman habitations. The old name Syret, under which the estate was granted in Saxon times to the Abbey of S. Alban, signifies "a lurking place," perhaps having reference to a resort of forest marauders, who may have sheltered themselves in the Roman ruins. Abbot Paul, it appears, made a grant of the manor to Robert the mason, the builder of the Norman Conventual Church. Just before his death, a surrender of the reversion was rather ungraciously extorted from him. The Abbots had the Rectorial tithes and patronage of the Church till the Dissolution. Pluralism was certainly prevalent in Monastic times, for in 1479 the Vicarage of "Sarett" was given by Abbot William Walyngforde to Thomas Hemyngforth, a priest belonging to the Order of Friars Hermits, who by a dispensation from Pope Pius II., was allowed to hold that of Shephall with it. He afterwards fell under very serious censure. A notable feature of the building, is the plain unbuttressed Western tower, with its *saddleback* roof, the gables facing North and

South, the upper stage appears to have been largely composed of Roman tiles. Some account of the Restoration work, carried out by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1865, was given. An Aisle of one bay, it appears, was added on each side of the Nave, next to the Transepts; the severe simplicity of form and character in the piers and pointed arches has been preserved. The new South porch, of open oak timber-work, is necessarily placed more Westward than the original one, of which it is a reproduction. Here part of the North wall fell, during the progress of the works, owing, as it proved, to the shallowness of the foundations. The Early English features of the interior were pointed out, among them the Purbeck shafts of the Font, the large bowl of which, (now discarded) is said to have been Norman, and a stone coffin slab carved with a calvary cross. The windows appeared to be of a later date. In the long Chancel, were observed the Easter Sepulchre recess, a Piscina and Sedilia, and above, the Jacobean effigy-monument of William Kyngesley, Esq., who acquired the Manor of Roos Hall, in Sarret, 25th Elizabeth, and was buried here 31st March, 1611. The inscription states that the monument was erected by his wife Katherine (Tottell). A memorial of their descendants, of the Williams family, was seen. It was observed that the small Jacobean pulpit has oak panels carved with the *linen pattern*, probably taken from a pre-Reformation Screen or bench-ends. It was discovered at the restoration, when the walls were cleansed, that the plainness of the interior had been relieved by painted foliage decoration, placed on a crimson ground. Over the Chancel arch, and in the South Transept, were revealed the remains of distemper paintings representing scriptural subjects; those visible in the Transept, of an early character, perhaps of the 13th century, were pointed out.

Near the Church, Eastward, were seen the Baldwin Almshouses, neatly re-built in 1821, by Ralph Day, Esq., of Sarratt Hall.

Mr. Riley kindly conducted the visitors, by a walk of half a mile, to his beautifully situated Rectory house. The view towards the woods of Chenies, from the sloping garden, proved most attractive. The substantial tea, which the hostess had hospitably provided, was much appreciated by the somewhat exhausted guests. Afterwards some specimens of local natural history and Geology were examined, also Roman antiquities: tiles, sepulchral pottery, a key, and other curiosities, dug up in the churchyard, also the Rector's careful tracings of the mural distemper paintings in the Church portraying "the Nativity" and other sacred subjects. After cordially thanking their kind entertainers, the members departed to return to Watford, which was reached before 7 o'clock, whence they were conveyed by railway to their several destinations. The long Archæological pilgrimage was much enjoyed.

---

**H. Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society.**

**BALANCE SHEET FOR 1895.**

<b>Receipts.</b>				<b>Expenditure.</b>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
January 1st, Balance from last year .....	20	10	8½	Meetings.....	0	8	0
Subscriptions.....	8	9	8	Excursion .....	0	4	6
				Printing.....	0	12	0
				Society of Antiquaries.....	1	3	8
				Stationery and Binding .....	0	5	4
				Book (and carriage) .....	0	6	1½
				Custodian of Library .....	1	0	0
				Postages and Parcels .....	0	19	6
					£	s.	d.
				Balance in Bank, Dec. 31st .....	23	9	9
				In hand of Secretary .....	0	11	6
					—	—	—
					24	1	3
					£29	0	4½
					£29	0	4½

*Examined and found correct,*

G. N. MARTEN.

8th May, 1896.



### In Memoriam.

---

#### THE LATE EARL OF VERULAM.

This volume of our Transactions would be very incomplete if it did not contain an expression of the deep sense of the loss our Society has sustained in the death of our late noble President, the Earl of Verulam. Lord Verulam was elected President of this Society in February, 1846, and through half-a-century of a long life took a most active interest in its work; he was on all possible occasions our Chairman, and to his wise guidance the success of this Society from its earliest years is largely due. Courteous, kind, and always interested in our work he was indeed an ideal President, and he continued to be so interested while strength remained to him. His Lordship offered the greatest facilities at all times for antiquarian researches on the site of the celebrated Roman City from which he derived his honoured title, while he lived to see the great Abbey Church, which he loved so well, brought to such a condition as fitted it to be the Cathedral of the County of which he was Lord-Lieutenant, and the Diocese to which he was so great a benefactor.

O.W.D.

