

Archæological Excursion, 18th August, 1897.

An Archæological Excursion to Bedford, arranged by the Rev. Canon Davys, was conducted by the Hon. Secretaries on Wednesday, August 18th. About 35 members and friends, including Mr. G. Alan Lowndes, President of the Essex Society, with the party from Wheat-hampstead, met at the Harpenden Station at 9.51 a.m. Bedford was reached at 10.44. Carriages were waiting at the Railway Station, which conveyed the travellers to S. Mary's Church, situated in Potter's Ward, the primitive Mikesgate, on the south side of the Ouse. There they were received by the Rector, the Rev. G. H. Pratt, accompanied by the venerable local antiquary, Mr. George Hurst, whose copious information and fund of anecdote, were greatly appreciated. The vestiges of Norman work in the cruciform structure were pointed out, also Saxon features in the Central Tower, which Mr. Hurst surmised to have been originally a Watch-tower connected with the fortification of the South Burg, erected by Edward the Elder, c 919. The Decorated Chancel, restored under the present Rector, together with the good oak carving of screen and stalls; the late Perpendicular nave, the south aisle (stated to have been erected out of the materials of S. Peter's, Dunstable, in 1545), and the modern south aisle were viewed; also the fine Tudor altar-tomb of an ancestor of the Green family (in the North transept), and an Early English stone coffin, said to have been brought from S. Leonard's Hospital. The early Parish Register, dating from 1542, and a fine old copy of the Vulgate were exhibited by the Rector, who also pointed out the site of the destroyed church of S. Peter, Dunstable, in an open space to the westward. It appeared that these two churches were anciently in the patronage of the Priors of Dunstable. After thanking their kind guides, the party proceeded to the neighbouring Church of S. John the Baptist, formerly the Chapel of the Hospital, founded c. 1280, by Robert de Parys. It was observed that the Rectory adjoining retains features of the mediæval Master's House. The institution still exists as an Almshouse, of which the Rector is Master. The narrow aisleless nave of the little church, opening by an arch into the choir, speaks of its adaptation to the bedesmen. The lancet windows and other features may be a reproduction of original work, but all has a new appearance. The Chancel is Geometrical. A good canopied Recess on the South side appeared to be designed for an Easter Sepulchre. A peculiar feature is a narrow lancet arch (opening into the choir) on each side of the chancel arch. The good Perpendicular Western Tower appears to be a careful restoration. It was remarked that the old Parish Register, dating from 1557, contains entries of burial of three pensioned Nuns of Elstow, viz.:—Ann Preston, Elizabeth Fox, and Elizabeth Napier, the last dying in 1558. On reaching Elstow, the traditional remnant of the home of John Bunyan was viewed, also the exterior of the mediæval hostelry. The visitors, under the guidance of the Rev. Canon Davys, passing over "the Green" where the noted fairs were held, entered the church by the North doorway, above which, under a circular arch, are early sculptures representing Our Lord, in a vesica, and SS. Peter and Paul within niches. The Canon then read a paper on the history and architecture of the church. Afterwards in an inspection, the interesting features were pointed out in detail, viz.:—the plain Norman work of the Eastern bays (one arch having a shallow lozenge moulding), the richly foliated Early

English capitals of the two Western piers, the hood mouldings of the arches springing from a "Tau" ornament or incipient *buckle*, the remains of colour in the soffits of the arches, the lancet windows of the Clerestory (three being Norman and three Early English, on each side), the late Perpendicular windows in the East wall, adopted from some portion of the structure destroyed at the Dissolution of the Abbey, the sculptured brackets inserted here rather incongruously, and the Renaissance Monument of Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe over the altar, the one Decorated window in the South aisle, the doorway (now blocked) made for the use of the lord of the manor, whose pew adjoined, several well sculptured stone coffin covers, the notable memorial brass of Abbess Elizabeth Harvey (c. 1520), in admirable preservation; the Jacobean Pentagon pulpit (now disused); also the effective modern stained glass of the Bunyan Memorial windows. The Vestry, a vaulted octagon chamber (Early English), having a slender central shaft of Purbeck marble, was visited. This is reputed to have been the Chapter-house, but from its position near the West end, and the absence of the usual stone bench, it was suggested that it was probably the Locutory or Parlour, in which the Nuns conversed with their visitors. Here the Rev. A. J. Foster, Vicar of Wootton, contributed some interesting notes on the estates and customs of the Abbey, quoting from the Rev. S. R. Wigram's History of the Nunnery. It appeared that mention was made of the "Nuns' Cloister" in a document of Bishop Longland relating to laxity of discipline; also that Abbess Elizabeth Byfield surrendered the House in 1539, receiving a pension with twenty other members of the Sisterhood. The party inspected the ruins of the Jacobean House of the Hillesden family, built out of the remains of the Abbey; also the site of the destroyed Eastern limb of the Church. A picnic lunch was enjoyed on a shady bank, which seemed to slope down to the site of an ancient Fish-stew. Afterwards a business Meeting was held in the Vestry (for the minutes of which see below). The fine Early English work of the Western portal, with remains of a Galilee porch were viewed, also the detached Belfry tower, of good late Perpendicular work, the upper stage being post-Reformation. The excursionists on returning to Bedford proceeded to visit S. Paul's Church. This occupies a central position, surrounded by the principal public buildings, among which, Westward of the Church, was noticed the original School-house of Sir William Harper's foundation, altered in the Jacobean period, and now used as the Corporation Hall. Above the entrance was observed a marble statue of the founder—the maker of modern Bedford! The Church has a fine exterior, the attractive feature being the Central Tower and Spire of Decorated design, re-erected in 1868. In T. D. Parry's engraving, dated 1827, the original Tower is represented as standing over the East end of the aisle, dividing it from the South Chancel. The effect of the modern alterations (as it would appear), has been, to transform what was a double-bodied Church into a Cruciform structure having transepts of small projection. The visitors entered by the spacious South Porch (good late Perpendicular work, with a Parvise, enriched with statuettes of SS. Peter and Paul, in canopied niches). It was noticed that the inner doorway had deeply cut Early English mouldings (unrestored), and Purbeck shafts, caps and bases of the same character. The party was met by the Rev. G. F. Hills (on behalf of the Vicar), Mr. T. Bull, Churchwarden, Mr. George Hurst, and other friends. In the nave, the Rev. H. Fowler read a paper on the Early History of the Collegiate Church and

locality up to the date 1224. A perambulation was then made, in which Mr. G. Hurst and the Rev. J. A. Foster afforded guidance. The following points were brought under notice—The only visible features of the Early English structure (erected out of the materials of the Castle soon after 1224) are the West and South doorways. During the recent restorations (as pointed out by Mr. Hurst) the foundations of the South aisle were discovered to be very early work; (probably Norman), containing Roman materials. The existing walls (on this side), are believed to be on the lines of the Early English structure (and may contain Early English work), but with the exception of the doorways mentioned, none of the visible architectural features are earlier than the Decorated period. The South Arcade, with its tall clustered shafts and good caps and bases, is, according to Rickman, Early Decorated work. According to Parry's engraving, the windows of the South Chancel were of Geometrical character in 1827, also original Reticulated tracery (repaired) is to be seen in the North and South windows of the sanctuary. It may be inferred that the Church was mainly reconstructed or re-modelled early in the Decorated period, less than a century after its re-building. Injury from storms may possibly have been the cause. A remarkable feature is the imposing height of the arcade, which enabled the nave to obtain light from the upper (as well as the lower) tier of the South aisle (or Parochial nave) windows. The building of an additional North aisle in 1884, carried up to the same height as the nave, involved the loss of the clerestory windows, previously existing on this side of the nave. One result has been, that the carving of the oak roof, and corbels (figures of saints resting on embattled stone brackets having armorial shields), are but dimly discernible. The present arrangement, viz.: two naves and one aisle, of equal height and width, is probably unprecedented, but is not wanting in a certain grandeur of effect. In the Eastern portion of the building the handsome restoration work of the choir or chancel was seen, notably the sculptured terminals of the hood mouldings of the arches, and the angel corbels. The Decorated tracery of the windows of the sanctuary (which extends one bay Eastward of the South chancel)—the mutilated double piscina (Decorated) under the South window, the carved oak stalls (20 of which are old work), the large Perpendicular East window, the sculptured reredos and other decorative work of excellent design, were noted. The much worn marble slab (8ft. by 3ft. 4in.) having matrix for a brass, the supposed memorial of Simon de Beauchamp, now placed next to the East wall for better preservation, was examined, and it was ascertained that there is a slightly hollow margin, in which the inscription recorded by Leland may have been inserted. On the North wall was seen the memorial of Thomas Christie, owner of the great tithes, who gave them to the Vicarage some time before his death in 1697. The old Chapel and modern Vestry on the North side of the Choir were not explored; an upper chamber contains a Theological Library bequeathed to the town, c. 1700, and formerly kept in S. John's Church. The visitors descended by two steps into the South Chancel (the Lady Chapel) divided from the Choir by a good Decorated arcade and Perpendicular screen. There was seen the brass of Sir William Harper, removed from his altar tomb, and fixed on the North wall. The inscription dates his death, 27th February, 1573. On the North side of the altar is a richly canopied niche; and on the South side the medallioned memorial put up by the Trustees of the Harper Charity in 1768. In the North-

east corner is deposited, as an architectural treasure, the early Perpendicular stone pulpit, having panelled tracery with vestiges of colour and gilding; attached to it below are the remains of a canopy, the original position of which was probably above. The pulpit was in use in 1758, in which year (March 10th) John Wesley preached from it his famous sermon, "The Great Assize." Other historical monuments were pointed out. On leaving the church and thanking the conductors, it was noted that, early in the century, there was standing in the Churchyard (S.W. of the Church) an old building having massive buttresses, once known as the "Bedford Charity Boundary"; it was suggested by Mr. Fowler that this was the ancient "Charnel Chapel," in which masses were said for the departed.

The party were driven about half-a-mile North-westward to the site of the Franciscan Friary, situated in the Bromham Road, and approached by a lane retaining the name of Friars' Walk. Mr. Foster pointed out the ruins contained within a farm-enclosure retaining some portion of the ancient wall. A block of habitations, lying North and South, retain vestiges of Tudor work. The small house occupied by Mr. Stone may have been the Prior's lodging. The long buttressed building extending Northward from this has in its upper stage internally a series of recesses or aumbries, suggestive of a Library or Studies. The Frater may have been comprised in this block. Here, and in an adjoining ruined stable are mutilated remains of Gothic windows; all other architectural features are obliterated. The Cloister and outer Court probably occupied the space between these buildings and the wall against the street. It was noted that the Priory was quite a small one. The Foundress, Mabel de Patteshull, Lady of Blettesho, was buried in the Priory Church (c. 1350) and, according to Leland, had a memorial there, as had also John Lord Mowbray, (who died in 1361) and a few other benefactors. No traces of this Church are to be seen.

The last stage was a visit (by kind permission) to the beautiful grounds of Mr. L. C. Higgens, which comprise the main portion of the extensive site (about nine acres) of Bedford Castle. Here Mr. Fowler pointed out that, according to reliable information, Mr. Higgens' house stands about the position of the Great Tower, which defended the entrance to the inner Baily. Nothing remains but the Mount, reduced probably to about half its original height; it is about 200 feet in diameter at the base (including the ditch); on this rose the Norman Keep or Dungeon, the last retreat of Faulkes' garrison in the famous siege (1224); the position overlooks the river at the point where a group of small islands indicates the site of the ancient Ford. The party ascended by a winding path to the summit which forms a Bowling-green, 150 feet in diameter. A tracing of Mr. Hurst's plan of the site was exhibited. Time did not suffice for giving the Historical Notes which had been prepared by the Rev. H. Fowler. Some of the Members then followed the guidance of Mr. T. Bull, who, at Batts Ford Wharf, on the bank of the river, pointed to the traditional mudpool, in which (according to Matthew Paris) were submerged the chapel and tomb of King Offa. Necessary refreshments having been partaken of at the Station; the return journey was made by the 5.50 train. The weather favoured the expedition, which was greatly enjoyed.

H. FOWLER.

the present structure, and the question, what features it retains of the re-constructed Church of the Early English period. I will leave this in the hands of the Bedfordshire gentlemen, who have so kindly offered to give us the benefit of their investigations and local experience in this extremely interesting subject.

**General Meeting, held in the Vestry of Elstow Church, Beds,
on 18th August, 1897.**

Present—Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, in the chair; Rev. Canon Davys, and Rev. H. Fowler, Hon. Secretaries. Messrs. G. Mowat, R. L. Howard, F. Trevor Davys, H. R. Wilton Hall, A. E. Gibbs, and H. L. Waddington.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

On the proposal of Rev. Canon Davys, seconded by Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, the Rev. G. A. Lewis Brown, Vicar of Redbourn, was elected a member.

The local Secretary referred to a letter received from a Member of the Committee directing attention to the rules of the Society, which required the Annual Meeting to be held at St. Albans, on 22nd June.

The Rev. Canon Davys pointed out that this rule had been in abeyance for some years, as it had been found convenient to hold the Meeting during the excursions, and no objection had been raised. He proposed, however, that the Annual business of the election of officers be deferred to a future day, at St. Albans.

Mr. Fowler stated that Rule 17 had been discussed by the Committee about ten years ago (June 26th, 1886); its inconvenience was generally admitted, and its consideration was deferred to a General Meeting, but no resolution was passed. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to adjourn the Annual Meeting to St. Albans, the date to be arranged by the Senior Hon. Secretary.

Canon Davys alluded to the wish of some members to extend the Society's work, in the direction of additional meetings and excursions, he threw out the suggestion that a third Secretary might be appointed to assist in carrying out such extension.

The consideration of the subject was deferred.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

15th September, 1897.

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**Annual Meeting, held at the Town Hall, St. Albans, at
6 p.m., on 15th September, 1897.**

Present—Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, Vice-President, in the chair; the Hon. Secretaries (Canon Davys and Rev. H. Fowler), and many members.

The Chairman read a letter received from Lord Aldenham, regretting his inability to attend.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

On the proposal of Rev. H. Fowler, seconded by Mr. Silvester, Miss Lydekker, of Hall Place, was elected a member.

Mr. Fowler communicated a request from the Rev. G. Lewis Brown, that the attention of the Society be invited to the ancient Camp at Redbourn, his proposal being to make some excavations, with the permission of Lord Strathmore, and under the advice of Sir John Evans, when this may be obtained. The cost to be provided by private subscription.

The Rev. Canon Davys proposed in suitable terms the re-election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Society, with thanks for their services. This, being seconded by Mr. W. R. L. Lowe, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Mowat and Mr. Flint Clarkson volunteered to retire from the Committee, and offered themselves for re-election, and upon the proposal of Mr. R. L. Howard, seconded by Mr. Silvester, they were re-elected. Mr. Woollam proposed the re-election of the Hon. Secretaries, and that the thanks of the Meeting be voted to them; he referred to the zealous services rendered for many years by Canon Davys, and for a shorter period by Mr. Fowler. He also proposed that their labours should be lightened by the election of Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., as a third Secretary. Mr. Rokeby Price seconded, and Mr. Tarte supported the resolution, which was carried by acclamation. Canon Davys in making a suitable acknowledgment, referred in kind terms of his coadjutor (Mr. Fowler); he also made mention of the valuable assistance long rendered by Mr. Flint Clarkson, especially at the excursions; he recommended the appointment of a collector. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Page also spoke in acknowledgment.

On the proposal of Mr. Flint Clarkson, seconded by Mr. Kent, Mr. Toulmin was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. G. N. Marten was re-appointed Auditor.

At the suggestion of Canon Davys, the Chairman put the following resolution:—

“That the Meeting request the Committee to look through the existing rules of the Society, with a view to revision, if necessary; and to report their recommendations for consideration at the next General Meeting.” A rider was proposed by Mr. Woollam, and seconded by Mr. Hardy:—“That it be an instruction to the Committee to condense the Rules as far as possible.” These were unanimously accepted.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

8th October, 1897.

**General Meeting, held at the Town Hall, St. Albans,
at 6.30 p.m., on 8th October, 1897.**

Present—Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, in the chair; Rev. H. Fowler and Mr. Page, Hon. Secretaries; Messrs. Flint Clarkson, W. J. Hardy, F. Kinneir Tarte, R. T. Andrews, T. Askwith, Austin, Wix, Dr. Morison and others.

The minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected Members of the Society, viz.—Mr. V. H. W. Wingrave, M.D., proposed by the Rev. H. Fowler, and seconded by Dr. Morison; Mr. F. G. Kitton, proposed by Mr. Tarte, and seconded by Mr. Hardy; Rev. G. H. P. Glossop, M.A., Mr. John Hopkinson, F.L.S., Mr. Charles Johnson, M.A., Mr. Arthur Phillips, J.P., Mr. Henry Worssam, and Mr. Charles Wilton, proposed by Mr. Page, and seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The Chairman proposed, seriatim, the revised rules and regulations, recommended to the Society by the Committee, after some debate and an addition to the regulations for the Library, these were adopted and ordered to be printed for circulation. The following resolution was moved by the Chairman at the suggestion of Mr. Page, and accepted:—

“That the St. Albans and Herts Architectural and Archæological Society desires to express its appreciation of the means which Mr. Andrew McIlwraith is taking for the protection of the Roman remains in the Verulam Woods, and its thanks to the Earl of Verulam for consenting to such protection being carried out.”

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

W. J. LAWRENCE.

10th November, 1897.

**General Meeting, held at the Town Hall, St. Albans,
at 8 p.m. on 10th November, 1897.**

Present—Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance in the chair; Rev. H. Fowler and Mr. W. Page, Hon. Secs.; Messrs. Toulmin, Marten, Mr. and Mrs. Tarte, and many other Members and their friends.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following ladies and gentlemen were unanimously elected Members of the Society—The Earl of Verulam, proposed by Mr. W. J. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Toulmin; Lady Scott, Malabar House, St. Albans, proposed by Mr. W. R. L. Lowe; Mr. Edwin Legg and Miss Mabel Legg, proposed by Mr. W. Page; Miss R. White, proposed by Mr. Flint Clarkson; Mr. Eustace Lipscomb, M.D., proposed by Mr. G. Mowat; and Mr. J. E. Norman, M.A., L.L.D., proposed by Archdeacon Lawrance; Mr. W. S. Green, Chequer Street, proposed by Mr. W. J. Hardy.

Mr. Page announced that Viscount Dillon, Pres. S.A., Curator of the Armouries at the Tower of London, had kindly offered to show a party of the Society over the Armouries, on Friday, 19th inst., at 1 p.m. Members wishing to join the party were invited to send in their names.

Mr. Page read a report from Rev. C. V. Bicknell and himself on some recent excavations they had made at the West end of St. Michael's Church, in which they pointed out that they had found a Roman wall about 8ft. from the surface, and about 4ft. 6in. to 5ft. in thickness. The Northern side of this wall intersected the West wall of the tower, lately built by Lord Grimthorpe, about six inches from its North-west corner at an angle of about 55 degrees and passed, they were told by the foreman of the works, under the Church at the South-east corner of the new tower. To the North of this wall were found the remains of a Roman column. The drum nearest the tower could not be examined on account of the tower foundations, but the earth was cleared from around the second, which was lying on its side, with the lewis hole in the end farther from the Church. Unfortunately this drum fell to pieces on being brought to the surface. Its diameter was 2ft. 2in., and its height 2ft. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; the remains of it are now lying in the tower of the Church. Under this was the greater part of a third drum, and a little to the North-west was a fourth drum in an upright position, which is 2ft. 1in. in diameter, and 1ft. 8in. in height. Touching this again was a fifth drum, which could not be uncovered on account of burials. The drums are of sandstone, probably from the Barnack Quarries, Northamptonshire; they show indications of having been subject to the action of fire and small pieces of charcoal were found under and adhering to them.

Mr. Kitton proposed that a Sub-committee should be formed to report upon the condition of the walls of Verulamium. The matter was referred to the Secretaries with a view to their conferring with Mr. Kitton. Mr. F. W. Kiuneir Tarte read a paper on the carved oak pulpit in St. Michael's Church, which he illustrated with numerous beautifully executed drawings and rubbings, introducing notes from the Churchwardens Accounts relating to the pulpit, and giving reasons for assigning the work to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Mr. Page expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Tarte for the trouble he has taken in preparing his interesting paper and the many drawings. He pointed out the continuance of the use of the "Crowned Rose" as a badge by James I, and also stated that Mr. St. John Hope, Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, who had recently visited St. Michael's Church, was of opinion that the pulpit might be "Elizabethan." Mr. Toulmin quoted the opinion of Sir Gilbert Scott (as given in his report), that the work was not earlier than the reign of James I. Mr. Fowler suggested that the pulpit probably owed its existence to Sir Nicholas Bacon, who died in 1579. He gave reasons for supposing that in the old mansion of Gorhambury, erected by Sir Nicholas, there was a Chapel, and in the Chapel a pulpit from which the Lord Keeper's domestic chaplain preached, and that when, after the death of Anne, Lady Bacon, the Chapel was disused, the pulpit may have been removed to the Parish Church.

Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., showed drawings of English pulpits of the Renaissance period, calling special attention to noteworthy woodwork in screens and benches, and particularly to a pulpit at Croscombe Church, near Wells in Somersetshire. He pointed out the development, which took place from the box-form of late Elizabethan pulpits, with brackets, sunk patterns on bands and panels, but with few architectural features, to the later work with regular "Orders." At Croscombe, there are above the Ogee base, pedestals, pilasters at corners, and an entablature, all complete. That very fine pulpit was erected by Bishop Lake, of Wells, in 1616.

Mr. W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., read a paper, entitled—"Lady Cathcart and her Husbands," giving from documents an interesting and entertaining account of that lady's life and fortunes in connection with Tewin. The Chairman expressed to Mr. Hardy the gratification of the audience, and their thanks for his kind trouble.

Mr. G. N. Marten exhibited a coin (a half groat of Edward IV.) found at Marshall's Wick.

After a cordial vote of thanks accorded to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Marten, the Meeting became conversational.

A volume of topographical prints, kindly lent by Mr. T. Hunt, and a portfolio of drawings and engravings belonging to the Society were exhibited.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

25th February, 1898.

**General Meeting held at the Abbey Institute, St. Albans.
25th February, 1898.**

Present—Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, in the chair ; Rev. H. Fowler and Mr. W. Page, Hon. Secs. ; Messrs. Toulmin, W. J. Hardy, G. Mowat, Carey Morgan, F. Silvester, Wilton Hall, E. N. Wix, J. Hopkinson, F. G. Kitton, Dr. Morison, Revs. Canon Wigram and F. Willcox, Lady Scott, Mr. Andrew Oliver, Mr. Bickley, and many others.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The balance sheet for 1897 was presented by the treasurer, Mr. Toulmin. Mr. Fowler stated that the balance in hand (after deducting £10 devoted by the Committee to special objects) was about £30.

Mr. Page announced that the following books and pamphlets had been given to the Society, viz. : "A Chart of the Diocese of St. Albans, giving a list of the Bishops who had jurisdiction over the district now comprised in the Diocese of St. Albans" by Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance.

"An Illustrious Neighbour, Lord Bacon," by Rev. Canon Gee.

"Francis Bacon," an address, by Mr. John Hopkinson.

"Charles Darwin," an address, by the same author.

"Notes and Queries," from July to December, 1896, given by Mrs. Masters.

"Middlesex and Hertford Notes and Queries," Vol. I. II. III., by the publishers.

"Notes from The Herts County Records," from 1620, by Mr. C. E. Longmore, Clerk of the Peace for Co. Hertford.

Several Pamphlets relating to Hertfordshire, by Mr. W. Page.

The thanks of the Society were voted to the donors.

The following ladies and gentlemen were duly proposed and elected members of the Society, viz. : Rev. Canon Wigram, Mr. F. W. Dobbin, M.D., Mrs. Turle, Dr. Hellier, Mr. S. L. Harding, Rev. R. A. Squires, Mr. F. A. Blaydes, Mr. Charles Ashdown, F.G.S., Mr. A. Moseley, Miss Lee and Mr. J. H. Gunyon.

The following report on the condition of Gorhambury Block and St. German's Block by Messrs. Kitton and Page, made in accordance with the desire expressed at the last meeting, was read by Mr. Page : "We beg to report that we have examined the two pieces of the Roman wall of Verulamium as desired at the last meeting of this society. With regard to the portions of the wall known as Gorhambury Block, we find this is in a good state of preservation. It is protected by a thorn hedge, which, although somewhat hiding the wall, will, if kept trimmed, make an effective protection from destruction by boys and heedless persons. This piece of wall has a particular value, because for a part of its length the original face still remains to about a foot above the ground level. We cannot, however, make so favourable a report respecting the portion of the wall, known as St. German's Block. This is about 60 feet in length, and has an average height on the north side of about 7 feet, and on the south of 11 feet 6 inches. The middle of the wall from the ground level on the south side is in many parts very thin, being for some distance only from 3 inches to about a foot in thickness, while the top which considerably overhangs varies from 2 feet 6 inches to 4 feet in thickness. At two places at the ground level on the north side there are holes from 6 feet to 7 feet

in length which leave the wall at these places without support. The first thing we would suggest as being necessary for the preservation of this piece of wall is protection from the hands of thoughtless persons; the field in which it is situated is now used for football, and is consequently visited by many people. On the day on which we examined the wall we noticed fresh damage had very recently been committed, especially at a most dangerous point at the foot of the wall on the north side. We think it very desirable that the Earl of Verulam should be asked to permit a fence to be erected to protect the wall, and with regard to its preservation we would recommend that the portion over the two holes should be supported by two small pillars of brick set in cement in each hole, and if practicable, that the weaker portions in the upper part of the wall should be carefully strengthened. In conclusion, we should like to point out that this piece of the Roman wall is perhaps the most interesting of any that surrounds the City of Verulamium, being probably the highest portion now remaining, and having in it two curious holes about 2 inches in diameter, which, so far as we are aware, do not occur elsewhere. But beyond this, it marks the traditional site of the house in which St. Germain, Bishop of Auxerre, dwelt when he first visited this country in A.D. 429, at the invitation of the British bishops to combat the Pelagian heresy, when, it is stated, he carried off some of the relics of St. Alban, and upon which story the claim is set up that the head of the English Protomartyr is now in the Church of St. Mary Schnurgasse at Cologne. This isolated piece of wall owes its preservation probably to the fact of having formed either a part of St. Germain's Chapel or of its adjuncts, which chapel was first erected on the site of St. Germain's house by Ulpha, prior of St. Albans, about the middle of the 10th century, and was not finally destroyed till early in the 18th century."

At the proposal of Mr. Toulmin it was resolved that this be forwarded to the Earl of Verulam with a letter signed by the Chairman.

Mr. Page read a report on the proceedings of the Archæological Congress, which he attended as delegate. In reference to this report he advised (1) That the Society should put itself in communication with the Ordnance Survey Department with a view to recording on their maps any fresh information which might be obtained relating to the ancient earth works in the County. (2) That a photographic survey of the county might be taken in hand by volunteers (3) That a national portrait catalogue for the County might be commenced (4) And a County Bibliography be undertaken. After some discussion it was resolved that a Photographic Survey should be undertaken by the following Committee:—Messrs. Askwith, Lowe, Phipps, and Mr. Hugh Baker, acting as Hon. Sec., and one of the Hon. Secretaries, with power to add to their number. That the National Portrait Catalogue be taken in hand by a committee consisting of the Earl of Verulam, the Earl of Clarendon, Lady Scott, Mr. G. Marten, Mr. Hine, Mr. Kitton, the hon. secs. of the society, and Mr. W. J. Hardy, as Secretary, power being given to add to their number. That the County Bibliography be left in the hands of Messrs. Hopkinson and Page. The Chairman called upon Mr. Page to read a paper on "The Norman West Front of St. Alban's Abbey," in which he contended that Abbot John de Cella extended the Church three bays westward. His paper, which was illustrated by a ground plan and specimens of Norman and Early English mortar had, he stated, formed part of a

paper which he had read before the Society of Antiquaries, and which would be printed in the *Archæologia*. The Chairman in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Page for his paper, complimented him on the ability he had displayed in controverting their cherished traditions about the length of the Norman church. Discussion having been invited, Mr. Bickley in supporting the vote of thanks, offered some interesting remarks. By comparing the proportions of various Norman churches which he had examined in this country and on the continent, he inferred that the normal length of the nave was about four and-a-half or five times its width. He commented on the excessive extension of the naves of Ely, Peterborough, Norwich, and Winchester Cathedrals, which were exceptional instances and abnormal to a certain degree. He considered, however, that the length of the existing nave at St. Albans, being about 290 feet and nearly 7 times its width, was altogether abnormal for Norman work. He agreed with the views of Mr. Page, whose investigations appeared to reduce the length to a normal proportion. The Rev. H. Fowler remarked that Abbot Paul's work being much earlier than the existing examples of large Norman churches in this country, it was difficult to institute a comparison. The idea had long existed that it was this Abbott's ambition that his Church of the Protomartyr should exceed all others in its extension. The actual length of the Norman nave could not of course be determined by any *a priori* speculations, but could be tested by investigation of foundations. It is well known that the traditional opinion had been supported in modern times by the investigations of Messrs. Buckler, whose authority for the Norman character of some of the foundations of the West front, consisting of courses of Roman bricks with thick layers of mortar, had been accepted by other eminent architects and antiquaries. It was to be hoped that some of their architectural members would offer remarks on this point, it was a question for *Archæological Architects*. Mr. Fowler pointed out the possibility of obtaining some hints from the record of Abbot John de Cella's work, written by the chronicler Roger de Wendover and adopted by Matthew Paris, who, according to the best authorities, was not born till after 1297, the date of the commencement of the Early English work. This account, he said, is unfortunately indefinite and obscure. There is no mention of adjuncts to the newly designed West front, nor are any Architectural features specified except the "Medium Opus," perhaps the central porch which subsequently collapsed. The first operation was the pulling down of the Norman front. If the new front was to be placed some 70 feet to the westward, we should rather have expected that this demolition would have been deferred till the new work was considerably advanced, proceeding from west to east. When the materials had been collected (which appear to have included the drums of Roman columns brought from Verulamium) an excavation was made for inserting the foundations in new ground, and this is implied in the expression "*Confosso et projecto fundo*," noticed by Mr. Page, the ground was trenched and the earth thrown out, but there is no hint of old foundations being eradicated. The inference is that the Early English front was not built exactly on the site of the Norman front, but to the westward of it, although it might be at a very short distance from it, so far as the chronicler's description is concerned. No further light is thrown on the question by the history of John de Cella's failure, or the subsequent account of Abbot Trumington's success in bringing the work to

completion. We are much indebted to Mr. Page for so clearly placing before us the results of his careful investigations of this interesting matter.

Mr. Toulmin professed his unwillingness to accept Mr. Page's theory, because, however ably propounded, it was subversive of long cherished ideas about the unique length of their grand Norman church. It was a time honoured tradition that it was the aim of Abbot Paul de Caen to outvie, in building, his kinsman Lanfranc of Canterbury. If this was questioned he might appeal to the analogies of the long Norman naves of Durham, Norwich and Ely, also to the opinions of well known authorities. The Chairman stated that Sir Gilbert Scott had examined foundations beneath the Early English west front in 1856, and concurred in the opinion of the Bucklers as to their Norman character. This determined his views about the length of the Norman nave.

Mr. Page in reply said that with regard to what Archdeacon Lawrance mentioned about Sir Gilbert Scott, that when he (Mr. Page) read his paper before the Society of Antiquaries, Mr. Micklethwaite, F.S.A., now Architect to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, who was one of Sir Gilbert Scott's assistants during the restoration of the Abbey, stated that Sir Gilbert Scott's opinion as to the position of the Norman west front was based, he believed upon Messrs. Buckler's book, and the possibility of an extension of the church westward in Early English times had not been brought to his notice. Mr. Page said that the extension of the naves of English Monastic Churches, which was frequently to be noticed, was due, he fancied, to the more elaborate processions which in this climate had necessarily to be conducted under cover.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Page having been unanimously accorded, the meeting became conversational. By the kindness of Archdeacon Lawrance, Mr. Page exhibited some pieces of 15th century glass, recently found stowed away in the watching loft in the Abbey, one piece, the fragments of which Mr. Page had been able to put together, was of an Eagle, probably belonging to the latter part of the Abbacy of John Wheathampstead, also several quarries showing conventional flowers of the same period, and one of a Tudor Rose probably later. Mr. A. Bond shewed two pieces of glass.

4th April, 1898.

II. ROKEBY PRICE.

General Meeting held at the Town Hall, St. Albans, on Monday Evening, 4th April, 1898.

Present—Mr. H. Rokeby Price, in the chair; Messrs. Lowe, Clarkson, Hardy, Wilton, Kitton, Toulmin, Wilton Hall, Legg, W. Page, Hon. Sec., and many others.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Page read a letter from the Earl of Verulam to Archdeacon Lawrance consenting to the protection of the portion of the Roman wall known as St. Germain's Block.

Mr. Kitton proposed, and Mr. Clarkson seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Page, for preparing an index to the Transactions.

The following gentlemen were duly proposed and elected members of the Society:—Dr. T. P. Grosart Wells and Mr. Henry John Wolf. In the absence of Mr. W. Carey Morgan, Mr. Page read the first part of the paper on St. Peter's Church, St. Albans.

The Chairman, after the completion of the paper, said he was sure the Society would concur with him in regretting the absence through illness of Mr. Morgan, and that they were deeply indebted to him for the paper which he had prepared. Mr. Lowe suggested that the supposed portrait of Abbot Wheathampstead was by a Flemish artist, and the type of face was Flemish.

Mr. Clarkson made some remarks as to the anchoress, and suggested that the whole paper should be discussed when the second part of it was read. Mr. Page called attention to the number of anchoresses there were in the neighbourhood, and mentioned some additional paintings and figures in the church.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

22nd April, 1898.

The Annual Meeting was held at the Abbey Institute,
Spicer Street, St. Albans, on Friday, 22nd April, at
8.30 p.m.

Present—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence, in the chair; Rev. Canon Davys, Rev. H. Fowler, and Mr. W. Page, Hon. Secs.; Messrs. H. J. Toulmin, G. Marten, W. J. Hardy, Rev. G. H. P. Glossop, S. Flint Clarkson, John Hopkinson, and others.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following gentlemen were elected as the Officers and Committee of the Society for the ensuing year:—President—Lord Aldenham, F.S.A., etc.; Vice-Presidents—Viscount Cranborne, M.A., M.P., Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence, M.A., Rev. Canon Gee, D.D., Sir John Evans, K.C.B., etc. Hon. Secretaries—Rev. Canon O. W. Davys, M.A., Rev. H. Fowler, M.A., and Mr. W. Page, F.S.A. Hon. Treasurer—Mr. H. J. Toulmin, J.P., D.L. Auditor—Mr. G. N. Marten, J.P. Committee—Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. Lewis Evans, J.P., F.S.A., Mr. W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., Mr. F. G. Kitton, Mr. W. R. L. Lowe, Mr. W. Carey Morgan, Mr. G. Mowat, J.P., Mr. F. W. Kinneir Tarte, M.S.A.

The Treasurer presented the balance sheet which was passed.

The Rev. Canon Davys gave notice of an excursion to take place after the middle of July, to Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, and Waltham Abbey.

The chairman read a report and made a few observations about the work of the Society during the past year, stating that since the last Annual Meeting held in September, 1897, thirty new members had been elected, and two resignations received. It was pleasing to be able to report that there had been no loss of members to the Society by death during the past year. The Society numbered 121 members, there being ten honorary members, 81 ordinary members, and 30 life members. The life compositions had unfortunately been all spent, so that the Society had to depend upon the ordinary members, whose subscriptions only yielded an income of a little over £40 a year, but a very small sum to carry on the work of the Society efficiently. It was to be hoped therefore that the members would induce their friends who take an interest in architecture and archaeology, to join the Society.

Obituary Notice.

By the death of Dr. J. T. N. Lipscomb our society has lost one of its oldest and most revered members. Although unable, from failing health, during the latter years of his life, to attend the meetings of this society, he continued to take the keenest interest in all that related to the history of the City of St. Alban and especially to the archæology of the Abbey Church which he loved so well. As a nephew and pupil of the Rev. Dr. Nicholson, whose care of our great Abbey Church has preserved to us so much of its past glory, Dr. Lipscomb stood as a connecting link between the archæologists of the past and present generations. Those who knew him may recall the pleasure he took in discussing the discoveries made in his uncle's time and the many changes which have occurred in the Abbey since, with all of which he was so well acquainted, having acted for forty-three years as rector's warden. For very many years Dr. Lipscomb was a member of the committee of this society and in 1847 he contributed a paper upon Heraldry.

Dr. John Thomas Nicholson Lipscomb was born at Holywell Hill, St. Albans, on 26th July, 1819, and was the eldest son of Mr. John Thomas Lipscomb, who settled in St. Albans as a medical man in 1815. His mother was the daughter of Rev. John Payler Nicholson, rector of St. Alban's Abbey, and sister of Rev. Dr. Nicholson, the well-known rector of the Abbey before alluded to. He received his medical training at King's College and Guy's Hospital and took the degree of M.D. at St. Andrew's University in 1844. He commenced practice in St. Albans with his father in 1841 and since that date has filled the offices of mayor, alderman, and many other civic appointments. His kindly sympathy to all with whom he came in contact endeared him to everyone who knew him. The respect in which he was held was very markedly shown by the large and representative congregation of all classes and all denominations who met together at his funeral in September last.—W. P.

S. Albans and Herts Architectural and Archæological Society.

BALANCE SHEET, 1897.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank from 1896	19	10	6
Subscriptions	38	3	0
Cheque not presented (W. Page)	5	0	0

£62 13 6

G. N. MARTEN.

12th Feb., 1898.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Hon. Sec., Jan. 1st	1	12	8½
Meetings	2	3	0
Printer's Bills	5	12	5
Archæological Congress	2	3	6
Excursion	0	2	6
Stationery and Binding	0	14	5½
Research Fund to W. Page, Esq.	5	0	0
Postages and Parcels	1	14	7
Custodian of Library	1	0	0

Total £20 3 2

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, Dec. 31st	41	15	7
In hands of Hon. Sec.	0	14	9

Total Balance.... 42 10 4

£62 13 6

Examined and found correct,

HENRY J. TOULMIN, Hon. Treasurer.

Feb. 5th, 1898.

