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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Proceedings at the Meeting at Toddington, June 7th, 1900

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING,

AT TODDINGTON, HAYLES ABBEY, STANTON, AND STANWAY,

Thursday, June 7th, 1900.

At the Spring Meeting of the Society excursions were made to Toddington, Hayles Abbey, Stanton, and Stanway. Members travelled either to Cheltenham or to Ashchurch, and thence in breaks to the rendezvous at Toddington. The somewhat threatening aspect of the sky, which gave early promise of frequent showers, did not prevent a satisfactory attendance of members from all parts of the county. Amongst those present were Mr. GARDNER S. BAZLEY (President), Mr. F. F. Fox (President-elect), Sir BROOK KAY (President of the Council), Mr. G. M. CURRIE (Treasurer), the Rev. W. BAZELEY (General Secretary), the Rev. W. T. ALSTON, the Rev. W. B. ATHERTON, Mr. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY, Mrs. BADDELEY, Mr. J. BAKER, Mr. A. E. BARNESLEY, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. BAXTER, Mrs. and Miss A. BAZELEY, Miss BERKELEY, Miss BROWN, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. BRUTON, Mr. H. W. BRUTON, Mrs. ROBERT CHILD, Mr. G. H. D. and Miss M. CHILTON, Dr. and Mrs. O. CLARK, Mr. A. COCKSHOT, Miss CRAWFURD, Mr. F. J. CULLIS, Mrs. CURRIE, the Rev. W. H. S. DAVIES, Mr. R. DIMSDALE, Mr. R. W. DUGDALE, Colonel DUKE, Mr. F. DYER EDWARDS, Mrs. E. and Miss L. FLOWER, Miss FORSTER, Mr. and

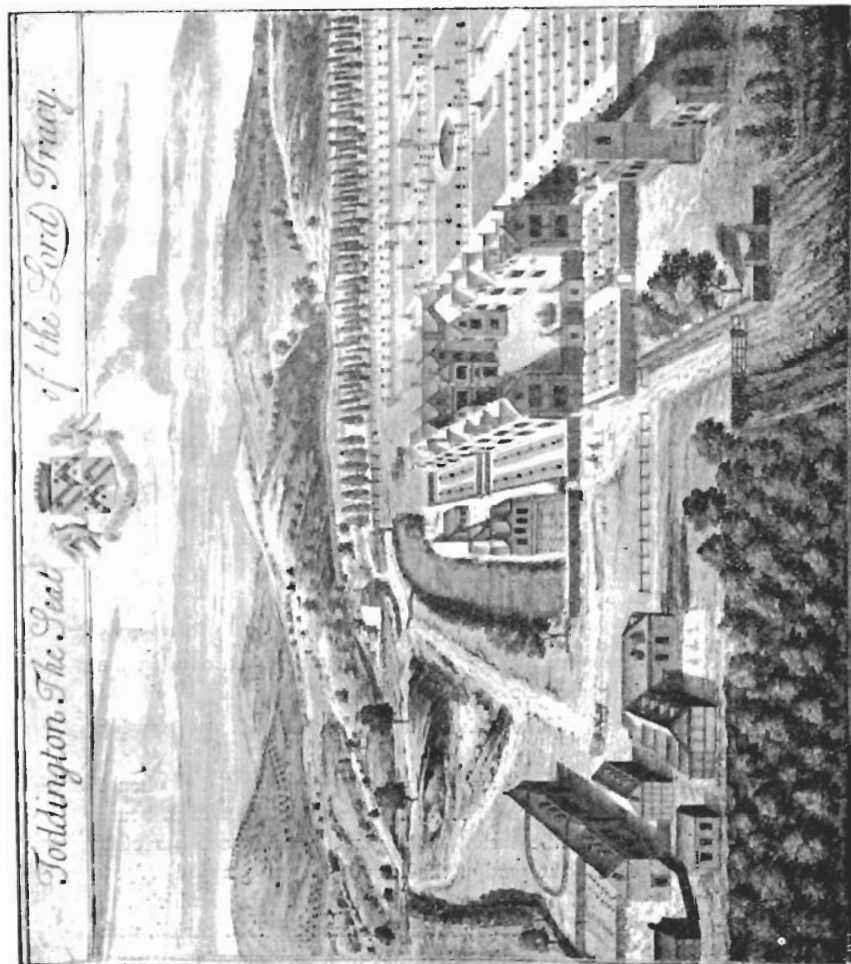
Mrs. R. G. FOSTER, Mr. F. F. FOX, Mr. C. E. GAEL, Miss M. M. GODFREY, Mrs. GOLDING, the Rev. J. M. HALL, Miss HALSEY, Mr. E. HARFORD, Mr. A. A. HUNTER, Mrs. JEBB, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. JENNINGS, Miss JOHNSTONE, Surgeon-General and Mrs. LANDALE, Mr. A. LE BLANC, Mr. E. C. LITTLE, Mr. E. P. LITTLE, Major-General JOHN MACDONALD, Mr. WILLIAM and Miss M. A. MARGETSON, Mr. J. A. MATTHEWS, Mr. A. C. and Miss MAY, the Rev. T. M. MIDDLEMORE-WHITHARD, Mrs. MILES, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. MORRIS, Miss MORTIMER, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. H. NEWTON, Mrs. OMAN, Mrs. L. and Miss PERCIVAL, Mr. V. R. PERKINS, the Rev. W. A. PIPPET, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. D. L. PITCAIRN, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. PLAYNE, Mr. JOHN E. PRITCHARD, Mr. HENRY PROTHERO, Surgeon-General RINGER, Miss ROSS, the Rev. T. W. and Miss SALE, Mrs. and Miss SALWEY, Mr. and Mrs. C. SCEARS, Canon SCOBEL, Mr. and Mrs. HERBERT SESSIONS, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. SEWELL, Mr. T. W. SHORE, Mr. H. S. K. SKIPTON, Miss SLOCOCK, Mr. A. E. and Miss M. P. SMITH, Mr. T. S. SMITH, Mrs. STABLES, Mr. C. H. STANTON, the Rev. W. D. STANTON, Mr. WALTER J. STANTON, Mr. S. H. SWAYNE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. TARR, the Rev. C. S. TAYLOR, Mr. J. TIBBITS, Mr. G. TROWER, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. TUCKETT, Mr. R. L. G. VASSALL, Miss WEDGWOOD, Miss WELCH, Mr. F. WERE, Mrs. WHITFIELD, Mr. O. J. WILLIAMS, and Mr. E. N. WITCHELL.

The historical and architectural notes on the places visited, which had been prepared by the General Secretary, the Rev. W. BAZELEY, of Gloucester, proved a helpful guide to the visitors.

At Toddington the company first inspected the ruins of the old house which was built at the close of the 17th century by the fourth Viscount Tracy, and which up to a time within the memory of persons still living has stood intact near the western end of the present Church. The Rev. W. BAZELEY described the features of the relics and

what was known of the circumstances of the erection of the house.

Toddington is in the hundred of Kiftgate. The brook, Isbourne, flows through it from Winchcombe on its way to join the Avon at Evesham. For eight hundred and fifty years Toddington has belonged to the Tracys and their progenitors, the De Sudeleys; and for most of that period the Tracys have made it their home. Ralph, Earl of Herefordshire, son of Drogo, Count of the Vexin and Amiens, and of his wife Goda, daughter



From Atkins' Gloucestershire.

of King Ethelred and sister of the Confessor, held Sudeley and Toddington just before the Norman Conquest. Harold, son of Ralph, held it in 1066, From the marriage of his son, John de Sudeley, with Grace de Traci. sprang the two families of Sudeley and Tracy, the latter of which held Toddington from the time of Henry II. Their surname is derived from a village in Normandy, not far from Caen. A Tracy of Toddington is said to have been one of the murderers of Thomas à Becket, and another was himself an unconscious martyr, being dug up after his burial and burnt as a heretic because of a clause in his will which was objected to by Thomas Parker, Chancellor of the diocese, in the time of Henry VIII. For this absurd act of bigotry Parker was dismissed and fined £400.

The Tracys, like most of their contemporaries, took part in the dissolution of the monasteries and shared the spoil. They obtained the manor of Hayles in the time of Charles I., and dwelt for more than half a century in the Abbots' Lodging to the west of the cloisters of Hayles Abbey. John, third Viscount Tracy, died there in 1686. The next viscount built for himself a charming house at Toddington, the ruins only of which remain, though it has been intact within the memory of some living. A view of this house and the little church adjoining, as they appeared to Kip at the beginning of the eighteenth century, had been reproduced for the programme from Atkyns. In the great hall was a mantelpiece bearing the Hoby arms with six quarterings, the first being *argent, a fesse between three hobbies, proper, belled and jessed or*. This was brought from the old house at Hayles, as well as stained glass bearing (1) *or, an eagle displayed with two heads sable*, and round it "**Ricard' Plantagenet semper augustus, noster fundator,**" for Richard, as King of the Romans; (2) *gules, fretty argent*, for Huddleston, impaling *argent, a lion rampant, with double tail, sable*, for Stapleton, or, possibly, Barrington; (3) *argent, a lion rampant gules, within a bordure sable, bezantée*, for Richard as Earl of Cornwall, which was in the east window of the late church. These three are figured by Lysons, pl. 94. Besides these were *quarterly, France and England ensigned with the initials H. and K.*, and *France and England with a label of three points, on either side E.P.* The last two are preserved in the cloisters of the new house; the others have still to be found.

Mr. H. A. Prothero, of Cheltenham, kindly contributed the following notes on the old house:—

"To the west of the church are fragments of the beautiful old house unfortunately destroyed or allowed to go to ruin after the present house was 'erected in the Gothic taste.' What still remains consists of a Gateway which led into the yard of the house, with one-storeyed lodges, one on either side, and of one corner of the main building, of which two storeys are standing. The gateway is a fine example of the period, with refined decoration in low relief, the frieze having a very rich vine pattern.

The oak doors still remain, of fine design, with round-headed panels worked with 'egg and dart' ornament.

"Lying near the gateway are fragments of moulded and carved stone, differing in date by many centuries, though time and weather are reducing



DOORWAY OF OLD TODDINGTON HOUSE.

Photo by Oscar Clark, M.B.

them all to venerable decay. There seem to be five sets of them: (1) Coffins, with parts of lids; from the old church; or perhaps from Hayles. (2) One or two pieces from the old church tower (the only part of the 'old' church which was old). (3) Tracery of mural windows, 14th century in style, but perhaps copied insertions in one of the rebuildings of the church. (4) Corbels, masks, mouldings, demons, etc., off the old house. (5) Quite modern ribs, tracery, mouldings, etc., designed by Street for the new church and cast aside."

By the kind permission of the Rev. J. M. Hall, Rector of Harescombe, we are enabled to give Sir Stephen Glynn's notes on the church, lately destroyed, made by him on September 14th, 1859:—

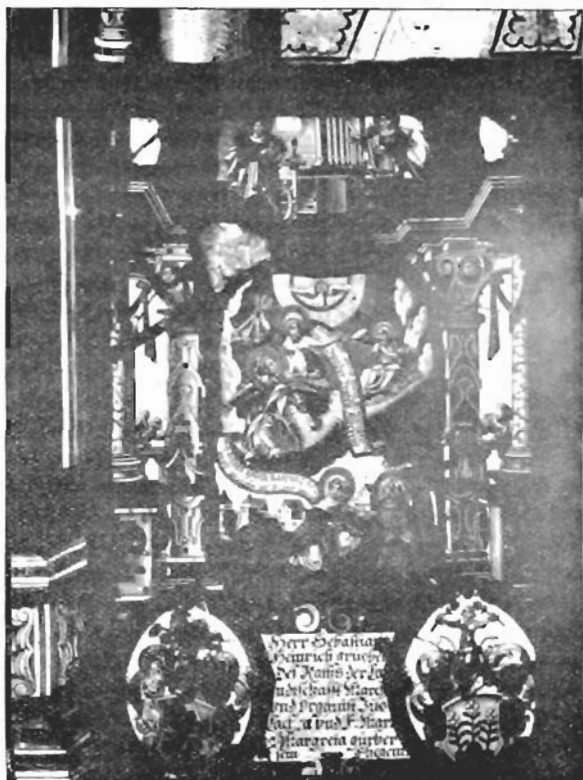
"The Church of S. Leonard, Toddington, has a nave with chancel and two aisles, and a tower on the south side of the nave: the whole of debased style except the tower, which is Decorated. The chancel was rebuilt 1635 by Sir J. Tracy: the nave in 1723 by Lord Tracy. The nave is in no style at all, but has been recently embellished by the insertion of some modern painted windows. The chancel has some windows which may be called Perpendicular—apparently recent insertions—and has on the north a sepulchral chapel closed. In the east window are some pieces of ancient stained glass. Probably the chancel has been improved in recent days, as its general style is better than that of the nave. The interior is dark, both from the stained glass and from the groves of trees which border on the churchyard. There is an organ of some size. The tower is plain, embattled and without buttresses, divided by one string. The belfry windows of two lights, late Decorated: there is also a two-light window in the lower part. The tower arch of the nave is pointed, springing from octagonal shafts. In the tower is a panelled stone against the wall, as if for a stoup—doubtful whether *in situ*. There are six bells. On the west side of the churchyard is the ancient Elizabethan mansion of the Tracys—now supplanted by the stately Gothic Hall." S. G.

The old church of Toddington contained some glass, with an inscription attached to it saying it was brought from Hayles Abbey and inserted in the church windows by Henry, 8th Viscount Tracy, in 1789. Of this there remain in safe custody nine figures of apostles, each with the sentence of the Apostles' Creed attributed to him, also two 15th century angels and two Renaissance cupids. These last may have been in old Toddington House. Atkyns says that in his time, 1712, there was an effigy of Sir John Tracy, who died in 1591, and another of Margaret, wife of Sir Thomas Throckmorton, of Tortworth, within a handsome monument supported by pillars. She died in 1577. These effigies, it is thought, sleep in the family vault, together with their human originals. The advowson of Toddington was granted in the time of Edward III. to the monks of Hayles. Sir Stephen Glynn speaks of St. Leonard as the patron saint, but Atkyns says the church is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury: which would be a very proper *amende* on the part of the Tracys for the part they took in his "martyrdom."

The following notes had been kindly prepared by Mr. St. Clair Baddeley on the Glass at Toddington House:—

"The Glass at Toddington is of three kinds—Swiss, German, and English: and, properly speaking, the English should never have been inserted among the others. It may, however, be easily distinguished as

consisting of large circular medallions displaying the arms and motto (Garter) of England: sometimes, with the addition of the crowned letters H. and K. for Henry VIII. and Katharine Parr (?), and sometimes with the label of the Prince of Wales, Edward VI. These are said to have been brought from Sudeley Castle to Hayles, and thence to Toddington. The Swiss Glass, which forms, of its class, one of the most important collections



STAINED GLASS AT TODDINGTON HOUSE.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

in Europe, belongs to the period of the thirteen Cantons (1481-1798), during the chief part of which Switzerland was still formally dependent upon the Empire: hence the frequent appearance of the Imperial Insignia. It has been largely manufactured at Basle, Zurich, Berne, and Lucerne, and comes from churches, cloisters, and, in still greater quantity, from

private houses and municipal buildings. It was purchased by Charles, 2nd Lord Sudeley, at the cost of two francs a load, while travelling in Switzerland. Its present value cannot be less than £5,000.

"It was a custom in the Swiss Confederation for both towns and individuals to commemorate events and alliances by presents of stained glass. There will not pass unnoticed a significant prominence given to the murder of Wolfenschiess, of Rossberg, the Imperial Seneschal, in his bath at a cottage, the liberties of which he had grossly invaded (Cf. Schiller, *Wilhelm Tell*, Act 1. Sc. 1). The general design of these beautiful panels comprises portraits of the owner and his lady, their respective coats of arms, their favourite legends, figures of Justice and Prudence, some verses occasionally, and finally their names, titles, and the date. The accompanying scenes occasionally depict the craftsmen of some guild—carriers, bakers, etc.—at work (to which the owner of the panel has belonged), and, sometimes, a hunting scene, or a siege, or a tournament. At others occurs a scene from the Old or the New Testament, the Magi, or the Resurrection, or the favourite story of S. Martin and the Beggar, S. Sebastian, S. George and the Dragon, S. Anthony's temptation, or S. Benedict and the poisoned wine-cup, or the stories of the Martyrdom of S. Maurice, S. Leodegar, and S. Gall.

"Exquisite as the colouring and composition of these family panels often are, they are naturally surpassed in richness of effect by magnificent composite medallions such as the following:—East Cloister, Window 1: Imperial Arms, with shields of 31 towns, 1611, and Arms of Berne, with eighteen shields, 1601. Window 4: Arms of Berne, with twenty-one shields. North Cloister, Window 3: Two examples, with twenty-seven shields apiece. West Cloister, Window 2: Two examples of Imperial Arms, with Lion supporters, encircled by twenty-eight and nineteen shields respectively.

"In addition to these may be specially noticed in north cloister, window 3, a large panel with the Crucifixion and figures of 'Ave Regina Misericordiæ' and St. John. Also, window 11, a Bishop kneeling at prayer, landscape background; and the next panel, a Bishop mitred, vested, and standing. West cloister, window 4, St. Martin and the Beggar, with deep blue diaper background. East cloister, window 1 (central panel), an Elector (?) kneeling, 'Collegii Luzern,' 1532, Arms of Swabia (?). Window 2, a Bishop enthroned, with crozier and staff; beneath, a shield with three fleur-de-lis, or. Window 3, a mitred Abbot, lake-scene in background, and arms. The principal places named are Glarus, Appenzell, Schaffhausen, Basle, Solothurn, Fribourg, Zug, Zurich, Berne, S. Gall, Luzern.¹

¹ St. Gall had a Prince Abbot; Disentis and Einsiedeln were likewise practically Ecclesiastical Principalities.

"On the grand staircase is a not-unrestored German (Cologne School) window, representing the Last Judgment with S. Michael.

"Near the south door, on to the terrace, is an isolated window full of rich pieces of various dates, and headed by the 'Adoration' (1670), and 'The Mock-Coronation of Jesus' (1614). It also contains a panel belonging to Phillip Albrecht von Berndorff, Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, Altschäusen, 1620."

Under a somewhat threatening sky and a slight shower of rain, which soon gave way for a time to pleasant sunshine, the company then drove on to the interesting little Church of Hayles. Only a brief visit was paid,



HAYLES CHURCH.

Photo by W. T. Alston, B.A.

however, by most of the party to this quaint, tiny relic of early architecture, as the claims of luncheon were deemed more pressing. And, indeed, there was hardly room inside it for more than half the visitors at once.

The Church of Hayles consists of nave and chancel, both small. We learn from the *Landbooc* of Winchcombe Abbey that during the wars of King Stephen's reign, Ralph de Worcester, who appears to have been a Judge of the Exchequer later on,¹ took possession of Hayles, fortified a castle, built a church, which Simon, Bishop of Worcester, consecrated, and compelled the monks of Winchcombe to concede parochial rights. The meadow adjoining the church contains the earthworks of Ralph's castle, and part of the Norman church itself remains. The shafts and

¹ Itinerary of Henry II., p. 258.

caps of the chancel arch and the two pilasters which support the south wall of the chancel are a hundred years older than the oldest part of Hayles Abbey. How much more remains we cannot tell, for the thick coat of plaster on the walls, outside and inside, conceals the history that they might otherwise reveal. The monks of the abbey became possessed of the church in 1248; and it would appear that in the following century they inserted Decorated windows and a priest's doorway in the walls of the chancel, raising the roof with half-timber work. In the 15th century they inserted a Perpendicular east window and altered the Norman chancel arch to its present form. Rudge, who, by the way, asserts that the church in his time (1803) had a nave only, tells us that the church was built by William Hoby, lord of the manor, who died, at the age of 103, in 1603. This may be true as far as the nave is concerned, though the screen which remains is apparently of 15th century work. In order to insert this screen, the builders of that time, as was usual, ruthlessly cut away the chancel arch. There is a campanile for two bells at the west end, and the remains of a sanctus bell-turret over the chancel arch. The font is very plain, consisting of an octagonal bowl with octagonal shaft, broached into a square at the base. On the north side of the chancel has been lately discovered part of a stone slab with a Lombardic inscription (*Hic jacet Willelmus et Johanna uxoris eius Parentes trium saluatorum et aliorum filiorum*). In the *Landbooc* we find Roger Bedul acting as Juror at Winchcomb in 1368, and William Bedul in 1378.

There are two coffin lids in the floor of the chancel and a number of 14th century tiles bearing: (1) X.U.S. under a canopy; (2) a gyrony of eight within a bordure bezantée; (3) a double piscis vesica interlaced, with a fleur-de-lys in the centre; (4) the sacred symbol of a fish; (5) set of four with a lion rampant; (6) a lion rampant within a circular border; (7) a border tile of castles and fleur-de-lys, temp. Edward II.; (8) a swan, etc., etc. We have found similar tiles in the abbey church.

Until a few years ago the altar stood table-wise, in the middle of the chancel, with seats for the communicants on every side of it; a Puritan arrangement similar to that which formerly existed at Leonard Stanley and Deerhurst. From an archæological point of view, we could wish it had remained so.

After lunch a visit was paid to the Cistercian Abbey of Hayles, of which the Rev. W. Bazeley and Mr. St. Clair Baddeley gave descriptions.

The Cistercian Abbey of Hayles was founded in 1246 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and dedicated on November 5th, 1251, in the presence of Henry III., Queen Eleanor, and a vast assembly of ecclesiastics and knights. In 1271 fire consumed the church, and it was rebuilt at the expense of Earl Richard, then King of the Romans. We have evidence that by the middle of the 15th century the whole of the monastic buildings

were in a sad state of disrepair, and that successive Popes called on the faithful to contribute to their restoration. With the money that thus flowed into their coffers the monks were enabled to rebuild their cloisters and re-floor their Chapter House with beautiful tiles. In 1539 the abbey was surrendered, together with all its possessions, to Henry VIII.'s commissioners, by Stephen Sagar, the last abbot, and his monks. The church, chapter house, dormer, infirmary, and frater were deemed superfluous and ordered to be destroyed; but the abbots' lodgings, the kitchen, larder, and pantries were preserved to serve as a residence in turn for the Hodgkines, Hobbys, and Tracys. This residence, figured by Atkyns, Buck, and Lysons, has disappeared; but some seventeen arches still remain, forming part of the cloisters. In 1899 the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society obtained permission from the present owners, the Economic Life Assurance Society, and the tenants, the Toddington Orchard Company, to excavate the site of the Abbey, and during the autumn of that year their workmen, under the direction of Mr. St. Clair Baddeley and the General Secretary, cleared the cloister walks, the sacristy, and the chapter house, took measurements of the Abbey church, and repaired several of the arches which were ready to fall.

In the chapter house, which was completely cleared to the level of



BOSS FROM VAULT OF
CHAPTER HOUSE.

Photo by R. W. Dugdale.

the original floor, were found six 13th century bosses, many fragments of 16th century tiles, the vaulting-stones of the roof, stone seats, marble shafts, and broken capitals. In the west cloister walk were discovered six 16th century heraldic bosses, with the arms of Huddleston, Henry, Lord Percy, Sir William Compton, and Evesham Abbey. Of these and other interesting finds, a description will be given later on. The owners have very generously expended £60 in repairing the barn as a museum, and this Society proposes to supply the fittings. Here will be deposited not only the objects found during the excavations, but also any other relics of the Abbey which may be lent or given by their owners. With the help

of the beautiful collection of Hayles tiles at Southam de la Bere, it has been possible during the last winter to make sketches of many single tiles and of four sets of sixteen tiles, bearing the arms or rebuses of Henry VII.,

Richard Earl of Cornwall, and Abbots Anthony Melton and Thomas Stafford. The sketches will be placed, with the original fragments, in the museum.

It was unfortunate that lack of time compelled the omission of the proposed visit to Didbrook, as there are objects of interest there which would have well repaid inspection. The Manor formed part of the original grant by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, to the Cistercian monks of Hayles, for the endowment of that abbey. Soon after the Dissolution it was granted to the Tracys of Toddington. In this parish is the hamlet of Coscombe, where the abbots of Hayles had a residence. The last abbot, Stephen Sagar, *alias* Whalley, on his surrender of the abbey in 1539, was granted the use of Coscombe for his life, and a pension of £100 a year. The house appears to have been twice rebuilt since his time: as a private residence by Judge Tracy at the beginning of the 18th century, and again as a farm-house in the 19th. There was an ancient chapel attached to the house where abbots of Hayles are said to have been buried, but it has been long desecrated and ruined.

Wormington Grange, in the parish of Didbrook, also belonged to Hayles.

The Church of St. George, Didbrook, was rebuilt by William Whitchurch, Abbot of Hayles and sometime Vicar of Didbrook. Fosbrooke, quoting Tanner's *Notitia*, says that the church was profaned June 18th, 1472 (? 1471), by the murder of some Lancastrian fugitives from the Battle of Tewkesbury, and was re consecrated. Others say that this pollution led to its being rebuilt. The present appearance of the church confirms the latter statement, for it is wholly late Perpendicular. The register of Bishop Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, 1444—1476, will probably throw light on the matter. The tower is constructed within the nave, at the west end, and its north-east and south sides rest on arches with graceful piers and capitals. Segmental arches are carried from the north and south walls of the nave, and abut on the sides of the tower, serving the double purpose of doorways and buttresses. The tower is of three stages, with battlements, pinnacles, and vigorous gargoyles. The whole arrangement is stately and very unusual. The main buttresses are set diagonally, and there is a newell staircase in the south-west angle leading to the belfry. The chancel arch is modern, of wood. The east window contains fragments of ancient glass: two angels and part of an inscription. Bigland says that in his time (1786) there "were these arms and inscriptions: (1) *Argent, a lion rampant gules, within a bordure bezantée.* (2) *Or, a spread eagle, sable.* Abbey of Hayles. **Orate pro a'i'a Wyll Wytchyrche, qvi hoc templum fundavit cum cancello."** He also says that in the window of the belfry were the effigies of the tutelar saint, St. George,

and Pope Silvester. The juxta-position of these two saints may be accounted for by a similarity in their legends. Just as St. George of Cappadocia was enabled, by invoking the Name of Christ, to overcome a dragon, and deliver a king's daughter from a terrible death, so Pope Silvester, in the time of Constantine the Great, in the Forum of Rome, is



WHITCHURCH GLASS. DIDBROOK.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

said to have exorcised a dragon, and delivered its inhabitants, who were falling victims to the monster at the rate of three hundred a day!

In a canopied niche on the north side of the Nave is a sarcophagus with a slab on which is carved a floriated cross of almost Romanesque character, a missal and a chalice. This is said to be the tomb of Abbot Whitchurch. Perhaps it was removed long ago from the wall of the chancel on the north side of the altar, the place of the founder's tomb. The lectern is made from some ancient carved woodwork, perhaps part of

a 15th century pulpit, which has been superseded by one of Jacobæan date. In the churchyard, lying in the grass and overgrown with moss, is a very small coffin-lid, charged with a cross and human head under a gabled canopy. It would be well if a place in the church were found for this



TOMB IN DIDBROOK CHURCHYARD.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

interesting memento of someone long since forgotten, for it probably came from thence or from Hayles Abbey. It will rapidly perish if left where it is. There is a picturesque, half-timbered house to the east of the church, an excellent subject for photographic study.

A short drive brought the visitors to Stanton, where they were welcomed in the parish church by the rector, the Rev. M. B. H. Burland.

The manors of Stanton and Snowhill, containing three hides of land, were formerly situated in the ancient hundred of Greatstanes, but are now in the hundred of Kiftsgate. They were given to the abbey of Winchcombe by Kenulph, king of the Mercians, and, together with the advowson and tithes of the church of Stanton and the chapelry of Snowhill,¹ appear to have remained in the possession of that monastery until the Dissolution. In the Harleian Valor they are said to be worth £17 11s. 4d. a year.

¹ The chapel of Snowhill was entirely rebuilt in 1864.

The two manors were granted by Henry VIII. in dowry to his last wife, Queen Katherine Parr. On her death, Edward VI. is said to have granted them to John, Earl of Warwick. King Philip and Queen Mary granted "their house in Stanton," together with the advowson of Stanton and



OLD COTTAGE, DIDBROOK.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

Snowhill, to John Elliot, and he alienated them to Thomas Dolman. The Dolmans parcelled out the manor and sold various holdings to William Jackson *alias* Boothe, Nicholas Izod, Thomas Warren, Nicholas Kirkman, and Humphry Wright respectively. These or their descendants were the builders of several Elizabethan and Jacobæan houses at Stanton.¹ The Jacksons had been tenants under the Abbey of Hayles of land at Stanton

¹ One has the date 1618 and A.B. (? Alice Booth, daughter of Thomas Warren).
Another has $\frac{B.}{I.M.}$

called Hayles' Acre. They do not appear to have had a grant of arms, but to have lived for many generations at Stanton as wealthy yeomen until their lands passed away by marriage and purchase to the Izods and Wynniatts.

The Izods were of Toddington, and pedigrees of their family are given in the Heralds' Visitations of 1623 and 1682-3. The following members of the family seem to have held land in Stanton in succession from father to son: Nicholas who died in 1557, Henry who died in 1597, Henry who died in 1632, Francis who paid £10 to avoid being made a knight at the coronation of Charles I. and died 1653, and John, who, with his wife Elizabeth, is said to have left his possession by will to Wenman Wynniatt, lord of the manor of Dymock. The Wynniatts still hold Stanton Court a delightful sixteenth century mansion, the present residence of Mrs. Wedgewood.



WARREN HOUSE, STANTON.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

Henry, the brother of Francis Izod, was Patron and Rector of Stanton from 1623 to 1650, and he built the fine rectory house, figured in Lysons' *Antiquities*. It was destroyed some eighty years ago. The fate of the mantelpiece mentioned by Rudge, bearing the arms of the family—*argent, three leopards' faces 3, 2 and 1 vert*—is unknown.

The Warren family, who appear to have been a branch of the Warrens of Newton, Suffolk, were settled at Snowhill soon after the Dissolution. A pedigree of the family is given in the Visitation of 1623. Thomas, son of Richard, and grandson of Thomas Warren of Snowhill, built for himself a fine Elizabethan house at Stanton, as appears from the initials T. W. and the date 1577 over the doorway. In a part of this house, now occupied by Mrs. Richardson, is a beautiful ceiling of plaster adorned with the arms of the Warrens: *Ermine, a fesse chequy or and azure, between three talbots passant sable*, and with Tudor roses, fleur-de-lys, &c., &c. The beams have a beautiful pattern on the soffit. In the church is a monument, with the above arms, to John Warren, who died in 1728, aged 66. He was grandson of Thomas Warren, who married Eleanor, one of the daughters of Giles Broadway, the builder of Postlip Hall, and great-grandson of Richard Warren, who married Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Astley, and died 1625.

The Rev. Henry Kirkman, descended from Nicholas, one of the purchasers of the manor in the reign of Elizabeth, married Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Henry Izod, and succeeded him, though not immediately, as Patron and Rector of Stanton. He died in 1705, and was followed as Rector in succession by his son Lionel, and by his grandson, Robert Kirkman. The last of these, I am told, was John Wesley's first pupil at Oxford. That great 18th century missionary is said to have visited Stanton, to have become engaged to one of Robert Kirkman's sisters, and to have preached his first sermon in the parish church. Wesley was ordained by Dr. John Potter, Bishop of Oxford, in the autumn of 1725, but he was not elected Fellow of Lincoln College till the following year. The story needs confirmation. The arms of Kirkman, as they appear on the family monument in the chancel of the church, are: *Ermine, three lions rampant gules, within a bordure engrailed sable*.

The Kirkmans exchanged the advowson of Stanton with the Wynniatts for Salford in Oxfordshire, and so passed away from the village. Thomas Wynniatt was Rector for fifty years, and died in 1810, aged 81. On his monument are the arms of Wenman: *Sable, on a fesse argent, between three anchors or, as many lions' heads erased gules*; whereas Rudge says the arms of Wynniatt are: *Sable, on a fesse argent, between three anchors or, a dragon ucles*. Reginald Wynniatt, who died in 1860, is said on his tomb in the churchyard to have been Rector for many years.

The Rev. W. Bazeley described the Church of St. Michael, Stanton, which now consists of a nave with south porch, north and south aisles and north and south transeptal chapels, chancel and western tower. The history of the church architecturally appears to be as follows. In the 12th century the monks of Winchcombe built a Romanesque church on the site of an earlier Saxon edifice. This Norman church had a nave with



STANTON CHURCH FROM THE SOUTH.

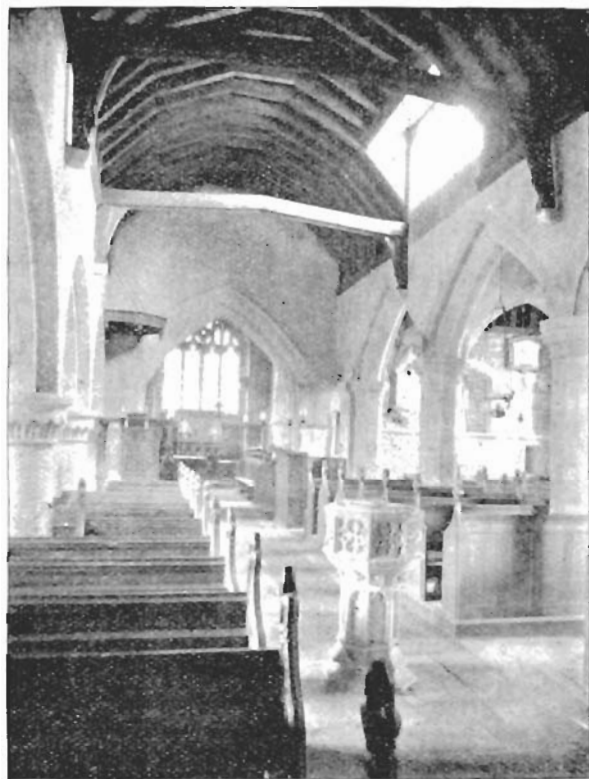
Photo by Oscar Clark.

one aisle, on the north, and a chancel. There are no traces of a Norman south aisle. Late in the 13th century the chancel was rebuilt and two transeptal chapels were added to the nave. In the 15th century very important additions and changes were made. The nave was extended westward some ten feet, a south aisle with porch and parvise or priest's chamber was built, and a tower was added at the west end.

In order to make room for a fine rood-loft, the eastern respond of the new south aisle was constructed of great depth. The Norman arch opposite, leading into the north chapel, was well-nigh destroyed, and a narrower pointed arch and a deep respond were substituted for it. Grooves for the chancel screen under the rood-loft still remain.

The north aisle was taken down, probably with the intention of

rebuilding it in the same style as the south aisle, but the work stopped for some reason and the arcade was walled up. Perpendicular windows with good 15th century glass were inserted in the east wall of the chancel, and in the south wall of the south chapel.



STANTON CHURCH.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

In 1896 Miss Elizabeth Mills died, aged 93, and left by her will a considerable sum of money for the restoration of the church and the insertion of new windows with painted glass. The work was done under the superintendence of the late Sir Arthur Blomfield, whose recent death we deeply deplore. The north aisle was rebuilt, and the arcade was restored as it was in the 12th century. The respond of the eastern-most arch was found in the east wall. With this exception the eastern arch is entirely new—a copy of the one next to it. The roof of the nave was

carefully restored and two windows, with excellent glass and stonework similar to the window at the west end, were inserted in the south aisle.

Above the capitals of the south arcade, on its north side, are flat masks, and on its south side roses, seeded and leaved. In the



PANEL OF MAURICE WRAYBURY.

Photo by Oscar Clark.

Perpendicular window of the south chapel appear the names of Thomas, Margarie, and Alice Inwey—probably the donors. The county histories, followed by Murray's Handbook, speak of a panel in the roof of the south aisle bearing a dove and the name of Maurice de Teuxsbury, who built the aisle.

The roof has been restored, but the panel fortunately remains, and, thanks to the generous care of Mrs. Wedgwood, has been repaired and inserted in the south wall. I believe it is a copy of the seal of Mauricius Wraybury, Loyer, and that the bird is a raven. Wraysbury is in Buckinghamshire. We may be able to find out who this pious 15th century lawyer was, and why he is commemorated at Stanton. A

hagioscope connects the south chapel with the chancel. There are aumbreys in the north and south chapels, and piscinæ in the chancel and south chapel. There is some interesting glass of about the date 1480 in the east window of the chancel: the white rose and sun in splendour, badges of Edward IV., and two figures of apostles, perhaps St. John and St. Paul, beneath tabernacled canopies in which are angels looking out of windows. Below the apostles are *a bend sinister and azure, a saltire or, charged with a cross pattée of the field*. The latter are the arms of Winchcombe—a precious memento of the connection of Stanton church and parish with that abbey for eight centuries.

There are two rudely carved brackets for the statues of saints, one on each side of the east window. Parts of the ancient screen and of a 15th century pulpit are preserved at the west end of the north aisle. The present pulpit, with its handsome sounding board, appears to be of ancient Jacobæan date. Some Jacobæan panelling remains, and there are a few patches of ancient wall-painting. Part of the holy-water stoup remains in the porch. There are a few 15th century tiles at the west end of the south aisle bearing: (1) the shield of *Edward the Confessor*; (2) *four pallets*; (3) the arms of *Despencer*; and others with foliage.

There is a 15th century font.

In the village street are the base and shaft of a characteristic 15th century cross. The niched head, on which perhaps was carved the Crucifixion, the Holy Mother and Child, and the figure of S. Michael as patron saint, was taken down in the 17th century, and a sundial and globe substituted for it. The cross at the summit is probably a later addition. The head may still, as was the case at Ashleworth, survive the wreck of ages in some garden rockery.

There are few villages more charmingly situated than Stanton, or more full of archæological interest.

On the return journey a call was made at Stanway House, where, by the kindness of Lord and Lady Elcho, tea had been provided for the members.

The parish of Stanway lies in the hundred of Tewkesbury. It is said to have been given to Tewkesbury Abbey by Odo and Dodo, in 715. In 1066 there was a monastic cell here, which, as time went on, was converted into an abbots' country seat. It was rebuilt and enlarged by Abbot Richard Cheltenham in the reign of Henry VII., and Leland speaks of it at the close of the succeeding reign as "a fayre mannour place." At the Dissolution the manor was granted to the Tracys of Toddington.

The present residence, known as Stanway House, was built in the reign of James I. by Sir Paul Tracy, son of Richard Tracy and his wife, Barbara Lucy of Charlecote. Sir Paul died in 1620, and the estate passed in succession to his son, Sir Richard, who died in 1628, and his grandsons,

Sir Humphry and Sir John Tracy, who died in 1651 and 1677 respectively. The last of these left the manor by will to Ferdinando, younger son of John, third Viscount Tracy, who married Katherine, daughter of Sir Anthony Keck. He was followed in succession by John Tracy, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Atkyns; Robert Tracy, who married Anna Maria, daughter of Sir Roger Hudson, and died s.p. 1767; his



GATEHOUSE, STANWAY HOUSE.

Photo by W. T. Alston.

brother, Anthony Tracy, who married Susan, daughter of the Duke of Hamilton; his daughter, Henrietta Charlotte, wife of Edward, Viscount of Hereford; her sister, Susan Tracy, wife of Francis, Lord Elcho; and Francis, sixth Earl of Wemyss. It is now the property of Francis, Earl of Wemyss and March, and is the residence of his eldest son, Lord Elcho. I have given these facts as a guide to the interesting collection of Tracy and Keck portraits at Stanley House.

Robert Dover, founder of the Cotteswold games on Dover's Hill, in Weston-sub-Edge, is said to have lived and died at Stanway. His death took place in 1652, and he was buried in the Tracy vault.

The Church of St. Peter, Stanway, consists of a chancel, nave without aisles, and western tower. The tower is of two stages with battlements,

pinnacles, and gargoyles. The lower part seems to be Early English, and the upper part Perpendicular. The nave and chancel were originally Norman, and still retain much of their original walling. Rudge speaks of a Saxon pillar in the church in his time (1803), but says that the church has been "completely modernized." Thus we have the clue to a late 18th century *restoration*, which went far towards obliterating its ancient history.

"The Saxon pillar" was evidently the Norman respond which once helped to support the roof of the chancel, and fortunately still remains. The Norman corbel-table also survived the ruin of ages, having pellet-moulding under the eaves of the nave, and grotesque heads, etc., etc., under the eaves of the chancel. The north side of a church always seems to be less affected by the weather than the south. It is for this reason that the carving on the south side has been cruelly scraped and cleaned, while that on the north is fairly uninjured. A large quantity of Norman carved work, including a portion of the Norman semi-circular chancel arch, or a copy of it, has been carefully preserved at the north-west corner of the churchyard. One little piece of the Norman arch remains in the east wall of the nave on the south of the present arch.



COURTYARD, STANWAY HOUSE.

Photo by W. T. Alston.

We should judge from the two dripstones in the east wall of the tower that there had been, in succession, a flat Norman roof, an Early English pointed roof, and a square-headed Perpendicular roof, with clerestory; and that, lastly, the roof has been restored to its 13th century slope.

There are traces of a Norman window and square aumbry on the north side of the chancel. There is a fresco on the north side of the chancel arch, with a rose, crown, and C.P., of the date of James I. or Charles I. Great care has evidently been taken in the recent restoration, but the church had been terribly mutilated previously.

Mr. Prothero kindly contributed the following notes on Stanway House:—

"The House is remarkable for the very fine grouping of its buildings. The court, 110 feet long by 55 feet wide, has the gate-house to the south.



INNER GATEWAY, STANWAY HOUSE.

Photo by W. T. Alston.

The House itself occupies the whole of the east side, a wall with entrance to the yard the north, and another wall the west, towards the churchyard, which is entered through a gateway of fine design.

"The Gate-house, about 40 feet by 20 feet, is on an unusually stately scale, having on the outer side a very large gateway flanked by bays of three storeys. On the inner side the main opening has on each side of it a small door with a pediment. Each of the six very tall gables is, like the churchyard gate, surmounted by a scallop-shell.¹ The Gate-house is commonly attributed to Inigo Jones, though there appears to be no evidence on the subject.

"The charm of the house is due to dignity, fine outline, and good proportion, rather than to detail (in which it is somewhat lacking). The chief feature is the Hall, with its remarkably large bay window divided by mullions and transoms into sixty divisions. The south (or garden) front is less interesting, having been altered, and a straight parapet of coarse design is in great contrast to the admirable line of gables towards the court.

"Of the 17th century fittings and woodwork very little remains. The bay window is filled with yellowish glass of pleasant colour, and there is a fine shovel board some fifteen feet long.

"The great 'formal garden' shewn by Atkyns, and the cascade which, Rudder says, could be seen 'from the vale below at a distance of several miles,' have passed away: but the turf and timber quite satisfy the eye."

With regard to the Gate-house, Mr. H. C. Moffatt, of Goodrich Court, wrote thus to the General Secretary:—"I have looked up Mr. Loftie's notice of Inigo Jones (in his work on Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren), and can find no mention of his having had anything to do with the Stanway Gate-house. The *Dictionary of National Biography* has a very long article on him, which is also very complete, and gives a list of all his known or *attributed* works, and Stanway does not come in for any mention. Inigo's drawings were left to his pupil Webb, and are now for the most part at Worcester College, Oxford, Library, or at Chatsworth.

Gotch, in his *Architecture of the Renaissance* in England, remarks of the Gate-house: "It is said to have been done by Inigo Jones, and the character of the work bears out the supposition; for, although thoroughly Jacobæan in its general appearance, much of the detail looks somewhat later, particularly the elliptical windows on the inner front of the Gate-house."

The members of the Society were greatly indebted to Dr. Oscar Clark, Mr. R. W. Dugdale, and the Rev. W. T. Alston for the beautiful

¹ The arms of Tracy are *Or, two bendlets azure, in the dexter chief an escallop gules.*

photographs from which the illustrations in the programme had been reproduced; and to the Honorary General Secretary, the Rev. W. Bazeley, for the care and trouble which he had taken in compiling the interesting programme, in which the various points of interest met with in the excursion were most accurately described.

The company left Stanway on the return journey about half-past five, having enjoyed a most pleasant day.
