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Proceedings at the Annual Summer Meeting at Tewkesbury

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING AT TEWKESBURY,

July 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1902.

THE Summer Meeting proved to be one of the most pleasant and instructive gatherings ever held under the auspices of the Society. Practically a new generation of archæologists has taken the place of that which composed the Society when it last visited Tewkesbury, in 1885, which fact rendered a visit to the neighbourhood of even greater interest than might otherwise have been the case. The members testified to the fact that much of the pleasure and success of their visit was due to the excellent arrangements made by the local committee and the hospitality so kindly extended them. Mr. Cecil C. Moore has been an untiring local secretary, and he has been supported by a strong committee, with Rev. O. P. Wardell-Yerburgh (Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey) as its chairman, composed as follows:—Revs. Canon Bazeley, Canon Coventry, W. Davies, E. R. Dowdeswell, R. Duke, Canon Gell (Ripple), W. W. Hoyland (Twynning), D. G. Lysons (Deerhurst), W. Townson, C. Walters (Forthampton), Col. Selwyn-Payne, Col. Drysdale, Mrs. Malleison, Miss Malleison, Mrs. Mercier, Messrs. A. Baker, W. G. Bannister, G. C. Bayliss, A. W. Boyce, F. J. Brown, C. R. Covey, W. Darbyshire, W. J. Gardner, F. W. Godfrey, F. W. Godfrey, jun., H. Godfrey, W. H. Hayward, H. King, F. W. Moore, N. G. Moore, T. W. Moore, W. North, J. E. Priestley, G. S. Railton, G. Rice, W. Ridler, G. Watson, and W. H. Watts.

Amongst the work suggested for and undertaken by the local committee was the collection of a museum of local antiquities, this department being placed in the capable and energetic hands of Mr. F. W. Godfrey, jun., Mr. B. C. Gray, and Mr. W. Ridler, whilst Mr. G. H. Yarnall ably assisted. It has long been the dream of more than one gentleman interested in the antiquities of Tewkesbury that a town's museum should be organised, as such an institution would not only be a source of interesting instruction to the inhabitants of the town, but a great attraction to visitors. That there is abundant room for such an institution was

shown by the great interest manifested in the small collection of antiquities displayed during the visit of the Society.

The following is a list of the objects included in the collection:—

Lent by Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell: Illuminated MS.; XV. Century Latin Bible (1511); XIV. Century bronze crucifix; *Tewkesbury Twattle* (a collection of ballads printed and published at Tewkesbury).

Lent by Rev. O. P. Wardell-Yerburgh: Fragment of wood from coffin of J. Coats, Abbot of Tewkesbury; hair from head of Lady Warwick (died 1439), whose coffin was opened in 1875; churchwardens' books and feoffee book, dating from first year of Elizabeth.

Lent by Mr. A. Baker: Collection of loose prints of Tewkesbury Abbey; old deeds relating to the Borough of Tewkesbury; reprint of *Domesday Book for Worcestershire*; copy of the *Weekly Worcester Journal*, August, 1737; print of north-west view of Abbey, 1837; King James Bible, 1611.

Lent by Mr. E. Moore: Sermon by J. Gere, Vicar of Tewkesbury, 1641; books, containing manuscripts relating to Tewkesbury; plates, etc.; "Indictment against W. Barnard for having sworn one profane curse"; receipts; ringers' fees for victories obtained in the Peninsular and Waterloo Campaigns.

Lent by Mr. F. W. Godfrey: Plaster casts of 11 great central bosses from the nave, 18 side bosses from nave, angels playing upon various instruments, and one foliated boss of St. Edmund the Martyr being shot by Danes, taken from Tewkesbury Abbey; cannon balls found in vicinity of Tewkesbury; Countess of Warwick's hair; copy of rubbing from Countess Warwick's gravestone; fragment of winding-sheet from tomb of Abbot Cheltenham (died 1509); Parker's engraving of Kneeling Knight in Trinity Chapel (1798); books of plates, etc.; copy of *Jordon's Intelligencer*, 1643.

Lent by Mr. W. G. Bannister: Photos. from *Isham's Register*.

Lent by Mr. W. H. Watts: Mould for plaster ceiling, "Mermaid," early 18th century; old locks, keys, and hinges from Tewkesbury houses; king and queen gingerbread moulds.

Lent by Mr. H. W. Brown: A fine urn of very early date, dug up at Abbey Lawn, 1873; deed giving Freedom of the City of Gloucester to Viscount Nelson of the Nile (July 30th, 1802),

Lent by Mr. W. Ridler: Horseshoe from battlefield.

Lent by Mr. W. J. Gardner: Early copies of *Gloucester Journal*, published by Raikes, father of Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday Schools, and his illustrious son.

Lent by Mr. G. C. Gardner: Shackles and gyves used in Old Bell Tower, then a prison; also ancient constable's baton.

Lent by Mr. Moody: Pestle and mortar, inscribed 1606, with inscription: "BEAT TH GOOD SPICES WEL."

Lent by Mr. C. Boroughs: Double Prayer Book (1620).

Lent by Mr. Coates: Some excellent models of Tewkesbury Abbey, Despenser Tomb, and Bell Hotel.

Lent by Mr. B. C. Gray: Coins, Roman and of later date, found in local excavations; vase, dug up in Trinity Walk; remains of Roman glass vessel, found 4 ft. under surface of Gloucester Road; keys and seal, found in Mill Pit, &c.

Lent by Mr. C. Hayward: Roman vase, found in Tolzey Lane, Tewkesbury.

The members of the Society, upon arriving in the town, were officially received in the Assembly Rooms by the Mayor and Corporation, the Mayor (Mr. T. W. Moore), attired in his chain and scarlet robe of office, being attended by the mace-bearers and the members and officials of the Corporation, robed. There were present: Aldermen A. Baker, J. G. Coleman, Councillors L. Jones, W. Jackson, W. T. Boughton, W. J. Gardner, G. P. Howell, G. M. Rice, H. Godfrey, H. King, and C. C. Moore, with the Town Clerk (Mr. H. A. Badham), Borough Surveyor (Mr. W. Ridler), Borough Treasurer (Mr. G. Watson), Rate Collector (Mr. A. Roberts).

The MAYOR said it was his pleasure on behalf of the Corporation and inhabitants to cordially welcome the members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society to the royal and ancient borough of Tewkesbury. They were very much pleased that the Society should have selected Tewkesbury for their annual summer meeting, and felt sure they would not regret their choice, as the ancient borough and its neighbourhood was so full of historic associations and antiquarian interest that it should be a very pleasant object of study to the members of the Society—a Society which had performed, and is still performing, a duty so interesting and so important to the students of archæology in the county. As they were all aware there was an ancient Abbey, the beauty and stateliness of which, with its massive grandeur of Norman work, he ventured to say could not be surpassed in any part of his Majesty's dominions. They were, all of them, justly proud of their old Abbey, which was purchased by the Corporation of the borough from King Henry VIII. about the year 1540, thereby preserving one of the most magnificent buildings and historic monuments in the kingdom. The town also possessed several very quaint old timber houses, the result of ancient building enterprise, preserved in their ancient loveliness and unspoiled by modern vandalism, including many interesting examples of English domestic architecture of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and others of earlier date—notably the two 13th century houses near the Cross, with fine old traceried windows, and the adjoining house known now as the Berkeley Arms Inn. They had an old stone bridge over the river Avon, with one central and two side arches, known as King John's Bridge. The

original structure, supposed to have been built by King John, and known by his name, was gone, but the present structure is of great antiquity. Just outside the town, and within the borough boundary is Queen Margaret's Camp, and the memorable meadow where the decisive battle of Tewkesbury was fought on May 4th, 1471, which terminated the sanguinary War of the White and Red Roses, and in which fell the flower of the Lancastrian party. At the corner of St. Mary's Lane, in Church Street, stands a small house, in the basement of which is to be seen to the present day what they believed to be a relic of Saxon architecture. It had been thought that this was the only relic extant of what was probably the Crypt of St. Mary's Church, which would have been at least 200 years older than the Abbey, and it would be most interesting to them to know the opinion of some of the eminent archæologists present on the subject. The old Baptist Meeting House, also in Church Street, was built about 1650, and he understood that some of the Cromwellian chairs and stools are still existing there. The old Tewkesbury Academy, in High Street, was probably built about the time of Queen Elizabeth. Archbishop Secker, Bishop Butler, the famous author of the *Analogy of Religion*, and other eminent divines, were educated there. This house contains a very finely-carved old mantelpiece, with the Royal Arms of the Jacobean period, and figures on either side. Adjoining the Victoria Pleasure Grounds is an old wall with six heavy buttresses, which it was believed formed a portion of the monastic buildings. It might also have been the boundary to the town, as alongside it, he believed, ran the old Roman Road. There were other parts of the ancient borough wall, composed of red sandstone, in the lane towards the top of High Street. The members would also, during the visit, have the opportunity of seeing the interesting old Saxon Priory Church in the village of Deerhurst, which had a great history, and also many other places of historical and antiquarian interest in this neighbourhood. In fact, he would venture to say that the old borough of Tewkesbury and its neighbourhood afforded to the antiquary and historian more abundant material for illustration and disquisition than almost any other place in the kingdom. He trusted that in years to come they would be able to look back with much interest and pleasure to their visit there. He should also, in the name of the borough, like to congratulate the President-elect (the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell) on the honour conferred upon him. They felt that he was a worthy representative of one of the oldest and best known families in the neighbourhood, which had been closely connected with the borough for centuries past, and he should like to assure him that the people of Tewkesbury were very proud to have been associated with the old family of Dowdeswell. The Mayor then vacated the chair, which was taken until the arrival of the Earl of Gainsborough (the retiring president) by Sir Brook Kay (President of the Council).

Sir BROOK KAY thanked the Mayor and Corporation most heartily for the very kind reception they had given to the Society. He felt sure the members of the Society would all feel great pleasure in meeting in their ancient borough, which afforded so many objects of interest. He believed there were very few among them who remembered the last meeting of the Society in the borough many years ago, and he was afraid there were not many left who remembered the great pleasure they had in assembling there on that occasion. He again thanked the Mayor for the kind reception he had given the Society.

The MAYOR said he was very much obliged to Sir Brook Kay for the kind words he had uttered. It had been a great pleasure to them to welcome the Society to their ancient borough, and they sincerely hoped that the visit would prove in every way a success.

A meeting of the Society followed, when

The Rev. Canon BAZELEY read the report of the Council:

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR 1901-2.

THE Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society present the following Report for the year ending July 8th, 1902.

There are at present 412 annual members, 86 life members and 3 honorary members on the Society's list, giving a total strength of 501 members, as against 470 in 1901 and 409 in 1900.

It has been suggested that the number of members should be limited to 500. The Council would be glad to know the opinion of the Society before taking the proposal into their consideration.

The income of the Society for the year ending December 31st, 1901, including a balance of £426 9s. 9d. on January 1st, 1901, was £751 8s. 5d., and the expenditure for the same period was £497 2s. 7d., leaving a balance on December 31st, 1901, of £254 5s. 10d. From this balance must be deducted the cost of volume xxiv. of the Society's Transactions, the first part of which is in the members' hands and the second part is in print and well nigh ready for issue. Besides the balance of £254 5s. 10d., there is also a deposit of £221 14s. 4d. at the Society's Bankers, and the capital sum of £632 3s. 8d. invested in Consols.

The Society held its Annual Summer Meeting last year at Chipping Campden, under the presidency of Earl Gainsborough, on Tuesday, August 20th. The members assembled at Evesham, and examined the two parish churches of St. Leonard and All Saints', the bell-tower, and the scanty remains of the once great Benedictine Abbey of Evesham, under the guidance of Mr. H. A. Prothero, of Cheltenham. From Evesham the members drove to the church of Wickhamford, which contains a fine series of effigies in memory of the Sandys family, and a

gravestone which is especially interesting to Americans as bearing the surname and arms of Washington. These arms are supposed to be the origin of the stars and stripes on the flag of the United States. In the afternoon the business meeting of the Society was held at Campden, under the presidency of Mr. F. F. Fox, who introduced the new President, the Earl of Gainsborough, and he gave an interesting address on the history of Campden and its connection with the clothing trade. After the meeting the members were received at the parish church by the Vicar, the Rev. T. Carrington, and subsequently at Old Campden House by Lord and Lady Gainsborough. In the evening a conversazione was held in the Town Hall, and the Society had the pleasure of receiving many of the inhabitants of Campden who had shown special interest in the work of the Society. Papers by Mr. Guy Dawber, Mr. F. B. Osborne, and Mr. Kennedy Skipton were listened to with much pleasure.

On Wednesday, August 21st, the members visited Ebrington, Hidcote House, Quinton, Long Marston, and Mickleton, and were hospitably entertained by Commander and Mrs. Carrow in the house where Charles II. took refuge in his journey from Boscobel to Abbot's Leigh.

On Thursday, August 22nd, after a short meeting, at which votes of thanks were given to the Local Secretary, Mr. Dease, and to all who had aided him in arranging so successfully the visit of the Society to Campden and its neighbourhood. The party then drove to Broadway and Buckland, and were courteously entertained at Middle Hill by Mr. and Mrs. Flower.

The early Summer Meeting was held on May 26th of this year at Yatton, Wrington, and Banwell, and the members were hospitably received by the Rev. C. S. Taylor at Banwell. The arrangements for the meeting were excellent, and the Society is greatly indebted to the Rev. C. S. Taylor and Mr. John E. Pritchard, who made and carried them out.

A full account of the Campden Meeting will be found in volume xxiv. of the Society's Transactions, and the Somerset Excursion will be described in volume xxv.

The Library has been opened for the use of members on Tuesday afternoons during the past year, and the Society is indebted to the Honorary Librarians, Canon Bazeley and Mr. F. J. Cullis, for their attendance. The Society has acquired a few valuable books and MSS. by donation and purchase, and the Council would express its gratitude to Sir Brook Kay, the Executors of the late Mr. A. H. Paull, and other kind donors.

A suggestion has been made by the Gloucester Local Committee that the Library of the Society shall contain a loan collection of lantern slides to illustrate lectures on objects of archæological interest in Bristol and Gloucestershire. This suggestion meets with the warm approval of the Council, and a preliminary grant has been voted for the purchase of slides.

and of boxes and a cabinet to hold them. A large number of valuable negatives from which lantern slides might be made are in the hands of members and their friends, and it is hoped that offers of slides or the loan of such negatives will be made through the Librarians. It is proposed that Committees shall be formed in various centres, and that evening meetings shall be held at which the slides shall be exhibited and described. Committees have been formed at Gloucester and Tewkesbury. Lists of slides, given or bought, will appear from time to time in the Society's Transactions, and a catalogue arranged under places and subjects will be kept in the Society's Library.

Members wishing to borrow a box of slides will be asked to pay the carriage and a small additional fee to meet expenses.

Some excellent slides of Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Hayles, &c., have been presented by Mr. R. Dugdale, Mr. H. Medland, the General Secretary, and others have been promised by Mr. Embrey, Mr. Ormerod, Mr. F. W. Godfrey, jun., Mr. Bannister, Mr. Gardner, and others.

The illustrated list of effigies has made fair progress during the past year, and the reports from several Rural Deaneries are being prepared for issue in the Society's Transactions by Mrs. Bagnall Oakeley. It is proposed later on to issue the complete list as a substantive work, and Mrs. Oakeley is very anxious that any necessary corrections or additions may be suggested to her by members and others interested in the work.

The Council deplors the death of one of its members, Mr. H. G. Madan, who acted as Honorary Joint Librarian with the General Secretary. A memoir of Mr. Madan appears in the 24th volume of the Society's Transactions. Sir G. W. Edwards, Mr. H. D. Skrine, Mr. E. R. Salwey, and others have also been taken from us by death. The late Mr. John Bellows was not a member of this Society in his later years; but he was always ready to render any service, and the Council would take this opportunity of expressing their sense of his loss as a distinguished antiquary and their appreciation of his philanthropy.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the courtesy of the Archaeological Institute, Mr. North, the Executors of Mr. Nott and Mr. W. J. Crawford for the loan of blocks for the Tewkesbury programme, and the kindness of Mr. W. Moline and Mr. F. J. Hirst in taking some excellent photographs of Yatton, Wrington, and Banwell for reproduction in the programme of that Meeting.

The Council has held five Meetings during the past year, and desires to acknowledge the kindness of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Bristol for the use of the old Council Chamber, and to the Mayor and Corporation of Tewkesbury for the use of the Town Hall

The Council desire to nominate the President of Council, the Vice-presidents of the Society, the General Treasurer, the General Secretary,

and the Local Secretaries for re-election. They also nominate for election as Vice-president Mr. F. F. Tuckett, and as Local Secretary for Campden the Rev. C. O. Bartlett.

The following members of Council retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election:—Messieurs St. Clair Baddeley, A. E. Hudd, A. T. Martin, Christopher Bowly, H. W. Bruton, E. S. Hartland, Rev. W. Symonds, and Dr. Oscar Clark.

On the proposition of Sir BROOK KAY, seconded by Mr. PROTHERO, the report was adopted.

Canon BAZELEY also introduced the question of the limitation of the membership to 500, and after some discussion it was decided to make no limitation.

Canon BAZELEY expressed high appreciation of the labours of Mr. J. E. Pritchard, of Bristol, who had increased the membership of the Society considerably during the last two years. The Society was now in a better position than it had been for twenty years, and better than nine-tenths of the county societies, and very much better than the national societies.

The Earl of GAINSBOROUGH (the retiring President) now arriving, took the chair, and referred to the great pleasure it had been to him to be associated with the Society, as he had been for a year as their President.

Mr. G. B. WITTS proposed that the thanks of the Society be given to the Earl of Gainsborough for his able leadership during the past year. They were very grateful to him for the interest he had taken in the Society and they would also long remember his hospitality, and that of Lady Gainsborough, upon their visit to Campden last year.

Mr. LEIGH seconded, and the resolution was heartily agreed to.

The Earl of GAINSBOROUGH, in returning thanks, paid a high tribute to the interest and beauty of the Cotswold district, and again expressed the great pleasure his connection with the Society had given him.

Colonel NOEL proposed the re-election of the Councillors mentioned in the Report as retiring by rotation.

Mr. DANCEY seconded, and it was agreed to.

The retiring PRESIDENT then vacated the chair and introduced the President-elect, the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell, remarking that he had known many of his family for a good many years. It therefore afforded him great pleasure to introduce him as President of the Society for the forthcoming year; for he knew that in his hands the Presidentship of the Society was very safely and securely placed, and that his knowledge of the local history would be of great interest and value to them.

The PRESIDENT-ELECT, who was warmly received, said he must offer them his heartfelt thanks for the great honour which he felt they had done him in placing him at the head of their Society. He accepted the offer of

the Society with the very greatest diffidence, for he felt he was unworthy to preside over a Society which contained some of the foremost archaeologists in England, whilst he was only an amateur. At first he absolutely refused, but the Secretary so kindly and persistently insisted upon it that at last he yielded. He presumed that probably the real reason which influenced the Council in suggesting his name and electing him, was what the Mayor had so kindly alluded to, that he was the sole remaining representative of a family which had lived close to Tewkesbury for nearly 350 years, and not only had they lived there, but they had felt a delight in being closely and intimately connected, socially and politically, with the ancient borough. His forefathers for all these generations had been members of the Corporation and M.P.'s for the borough, and the family of Dowdeswell and the borough of Tewkesbury had always maintained the closest and most intimate connections, and had always been interested in each other's welfare. He felt himself an unworthy representative of the family, but as he was they had placed him in that honourable post, and he could only assure them he would do his best.

The members then adjourned for lunch to the Swan Hotel.

After lunch the members immediately proceeded to the Abbey as being the object of chief archaeological interest in the town.

There are traces of Roman occupation at Tewkesbury, but we have no proof that a Roman town existed on its site.

The Chronicle of Tewkesbury Abbey tells us that the town received its name from Theoc, one of the early Northumbrian missionaries, who built an anchorite's cell near the confluence of the Avon and the Severn, and strove to win the souls of the heathen Hwiccas for his Master, Christ.

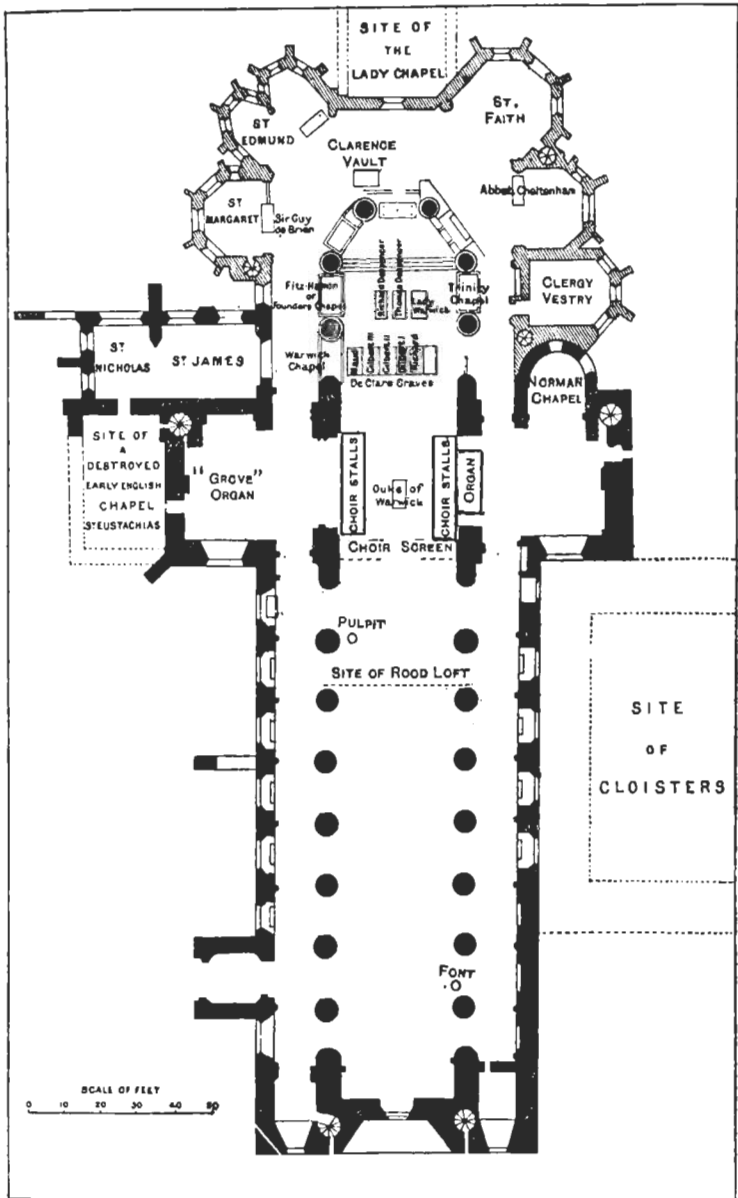
In the days of the Mercian king, Ethelbald, a monastery is said to have been founded here after the pattern of St. Hilda's at Whitby, and Osric's at Gloucester; but of its history for the next three hundred years we know nothing. At the beginning of the 11th century it was subject to the Benedictine Monastery of Cranbourn, in Dorset. We should probably be quite safe in regarding Theoc and Oddo and Doddo as mythical personages, at least so far as their connection with Tewkesbury is concerned. But a myth has commonly a very distinct element of truth, and one cannot look at the Tewkesbury entry in *Domesday* without being struck by its resemblance to a partly secularised ecclesiastical estate. In the first place there is the church itself, still holding twenty-four and a half hides of land, but privileged to pay for only twenty; an estate including nearly six thousand acres of land, and worth in King Edward's time £24 10s. This is clearly something very much more than a mere manorial church. Then there is a great compact estate, valued at 161 hides; forming a Hundred by itself, though it had not been an estate of Royal demesne; very highly privileged with regard to payment of gheld; with its Radchenists, free men

who ploughed and harrowed at the Lord's court, just as their fellow Radchenists in the Ecclesiastical Hundred of Deerhurst ploughed and harrowed, mowed and reaped at the Lord's need. The estate which most resembles Tewkesbury is that of Berkeley; and Berkeley Minster we know was not secularised till the time of Earl Godwin. Then it was secularised completely. Tewkesbury seems to have fared rather as Pershore and Deerhurst fared; a portion was left to the Church, and a portion, in this case a much larger portion, was secularised. When this happened we cannot exactly tell. Tewkesbury, so far as we know, did not become Benedictine under St. Oswald; most likely it remained like Berkeley a house of secular canons, and probably like Berkeley it paid the penalty for its aloofness by partial suppression. If it be said that there is no direct evidence for the existence of a great minster at Tewkesbury, the answer is that if two ancient Charters had perished, and two remarks had been omitted from the ancient Register of Bishops of Worcester, and one entry had not been made in *Domesday*, there would be no direct documentary evidence for the existence of Berkeley Minster. It is by no means beyond the range of possibility that such ancient evidence may yet be found for the existence of a great Old English Minster at Tewkesbury. On the death of Queen Matilda, in 1083, the Manor of Tewkesbury, which William I. had taken from Britric and granted to his Queen, reverted to the Crown, and on the accession of William Rufus, that sovereign granted it to Robert Fitz-Hamon. A few years later, on the suggestion of Gerald, Abbot of Cranbourn, Fitz-Hamon began to build a new church similar in style to that which was rising at Gloucester under the direction of Abbot Serlo. Fitz-Hamon died in 1107, and Gerald in 1110, whilst the church was still unfinished. It was not until 1123 that its consecration took place.

A chronological list of the abbots and patrons of the Abbey will be found useful in examining the sacred building and its contents.

ABBOTS OF TEWKESBURY. From <i>Blunt's History</i> .	LORDS OF THE MANOR OF TEWKESBURY.	APPROXIMATE DATE OF BUILDINGS.
Giraldus, 1102-1109.	Rob. Fitzhamon, 1087-1107.	Norman Church begun, 1090.
Robert I., 1109-1124. Benedict, 1124-1137.	Robert, Earl of Glou., 1107-1147.	Choir consecrated, 1123. Tower and Nave built, 1123-1150.
Roger, 1137-1161. Fromundus, 1162-1178. Robert II., 1182-1186.	Will., 2nd Earl, 1147-1183.	Important rebuilding after Great Fire of 1178.
Alan, 1187-1202.	John, aft. King, 3rd Earl, 1189-1209.	
Walter, 1202-1213.	Geoffrey Mandeville, 4th E., 1209-1216.	
Hugh, 1214-1215.		

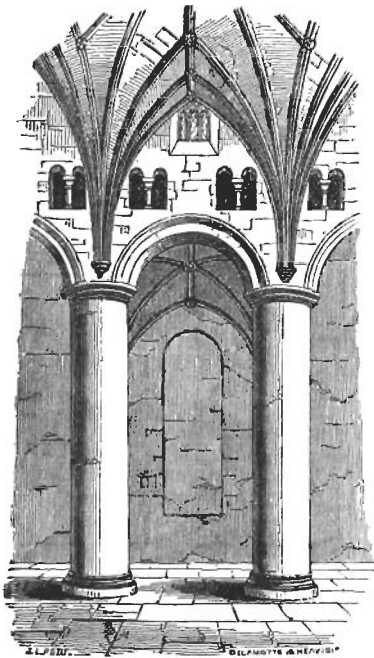
ABBOTS OF TEWKESBURY. From <i>Blunt's History</i> .	LORDS OF THE MANOR OF TEWKESBURY.	APPROXIMATE DATE OF BUILDINGS.
Peter, 1216-1231.	Almeric Devereux, 5th E., 1216-1221.	
	Gilbert de Clare, 6th E., 1221-1240. Isabel de Clare, Countess, 1221-1240.	Chapel of St. Nicholas, 1230-40, built by Prior Sipton.
Rob. Forthington, 1232-1253. Thos. de Stokes, 1254-1275.	Richard de Clare, 8th E., 1240-1262.	Chapel of Eustatius, 1246, built by Prior H. de Banbury, destroyed.
Rich. de Norton, 1279-1282. Thos. Kempsey, 1282-1328.	Gilbert de Clare, 9th E., 1262-1295. Gilbert de Clare, 10th E., 1295-1314.	
	Maud de Burg, Countess, 1314-1315. Hugh Despencer, 12th E., 1315-1326.	Chapel of St. James, 1300-1310. Choirs, Aisles, & Transepts transformed, 1321-1335.
John Cotes, 1347.	Hugh Despencer, 1326-1349.	Windows of Choir, 1335. Effigy of W. de la Zouch, 1335 (now at Forthampton).
Thos. de Legh, 1347-1361. Thos. Chesterton, 1361-1389. Thos. Parker, 1389-1421.	Guy de Brian, married to Elizabeth, Lady Despencer, 1349-1359. Edward, 6th Baron Despencer, 1359-1375. Thomas, 7th Lord Despencer, 1375-1400.	Tower and Nave vaulted, 1349-1359. Tomb of Hugh and Eliza- beth Despencer, 1360. Tomb of Ed. Despencer, 1375.
	Richard, 8th Lord Despencer, 1400-1414. Isabel Despencer, married (1) Rich. Beauchamp, E. of Aber- gavenny, and (2) Rich., 5th E. of Warwick, 1415-1440.	Tomb of Guy de Brain, 1390. Tomb of Fitz Hamon, 1397. Cloisters rebuilt, 1400-1410.
Wil. Bristow, died 1442.		
Joh. Abington, [1443].	Henry, Duke of Warwick, 1440-1446.	Chapel of Isabel, C. of Warwick, 1438.
Joh. de Salis, [1468].	Anne Beauchamp, married Rich. Neville, 6th E. of Warwick, 1446-1471. George, Duke of Clarence, 1471-1477.	
Joh. Strensham, died 1481.	Edward, E. of Warwick, 1477-1488.	
Rich. Cheltenham, 1481-1509.	Henry VII.	Guesten House, 1520.
Hen. Beoly, 1509.		
Joh. Walker, -1531.	Henry VIII.	
John Wakeman, 1531-1539.		



GROUND PLAN OF TEWKESBURY ABBEY.

Of the great Abbey of Tewkesbury there remain the Abbey Church, nearly intact, and the Gate House.* The cloisters themselves have been ruthlessly swept away, but the N. side and a part of the E. side having been built into the church the design is happily spared. All else is gone, and that the church itself is not a torso—a choirless nave like Malmesbury, or a naveless choir like Abbey Dore—is due to the generous public spirit of the townsmen, who in the day of its downfall bought those parts of it which were not already theirs by right.

The church comes down to us far less changed in form and features than is usual with our great churches. In plan it is essentially what it was when it was consecrated in 1123, having taken, as it would seem, nearly forty years



to build. The long nave, short apsidal choir, transepts, and central tower remain substantially as at first. One of the original chapels is gone, later ones have been built, and two of them again have disappeared; but in the main the church is the church of Fitz-Hamon's foundation, whereof a monk named Alfred was master of works. The plan is curiously like that of Westminster Abbey—both belonging to that type of Romanesque church which, starting from the Roman basilica, came to us from the great builders in Normandy of the 10th and 11th centuries. In one respect it has a purely local character. Nowhere else do we find such a range of simple cylindrical pillars in the nave, except at Gloucester.

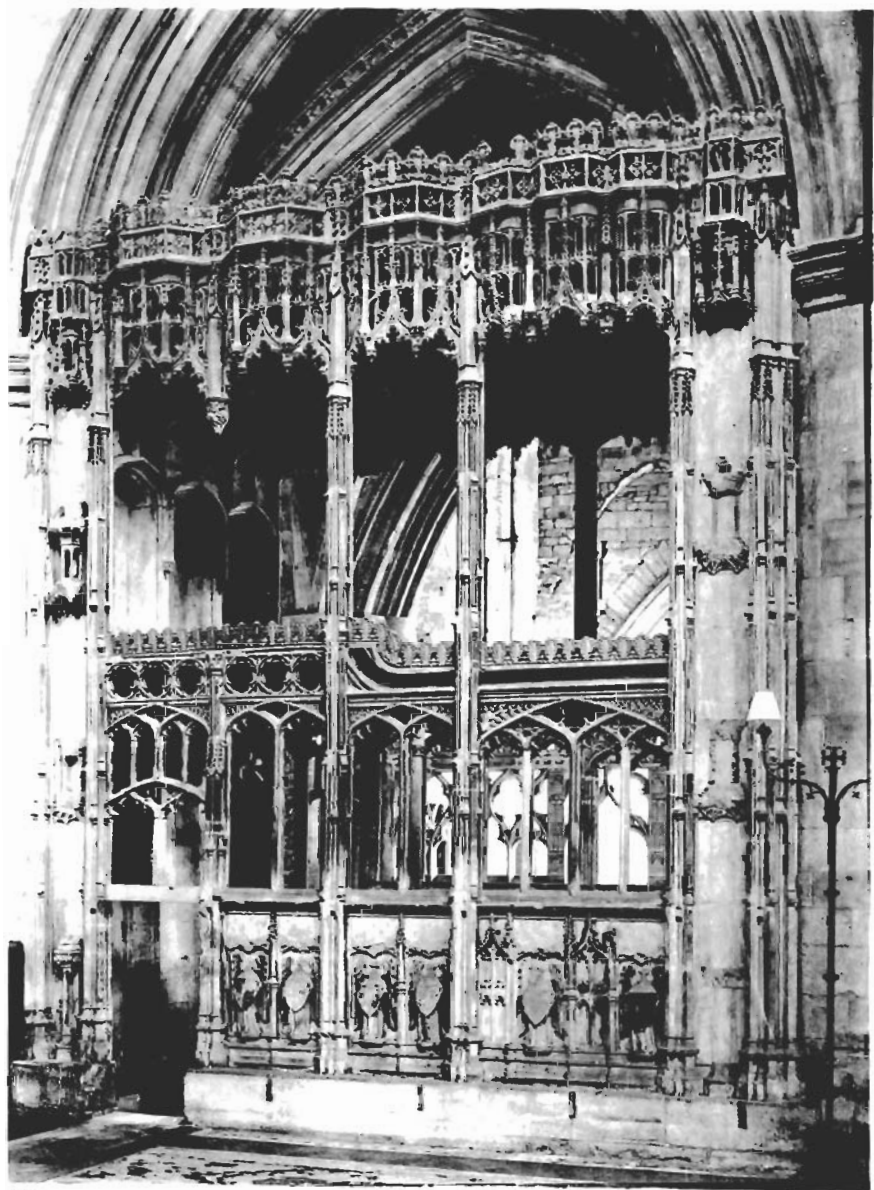
The dimensions are these:—

Extreme length, 300 feet (as the church now stands devoid of any lady chapel at all).

Width of nave and aisles outside, 80 feet.

Length of transepts outside, 135 feet.

* The present residence of the Vicar, which was probably the Guesten House, seems to be described in the report of the Commissioners of Henry VIII. as "the lodging, called the New Warke, leading from the Gate to the late Abbot's Lodging."

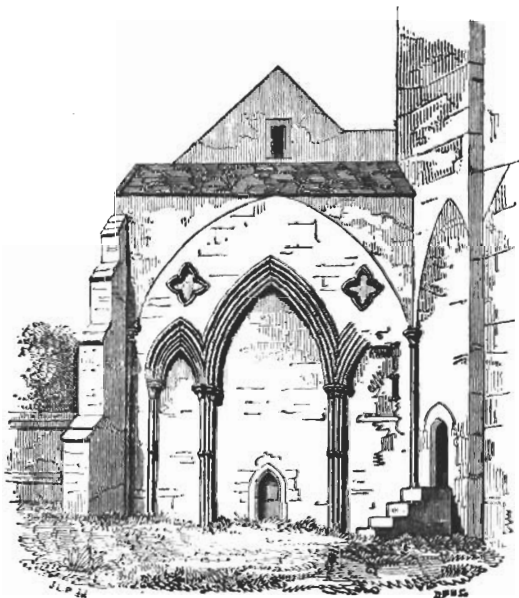


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TEWKESBURY.
BEAUCHAMP CHANTRY.

Tower, 132 feet high and 46 feet square.

To get an idea of the church as it was when it was first finished, one must reduce it to great simplicity. *Outside*, it must have been more stately than it is now, with a high-pitched roof, plain round-headed windows throughout, a much plainer apse, and within the great arch at the W. end we may suppose a double tier of simple windows over a round-headed door. On the tower was a wooden spire, which fell down on Easter Day, March 26th, 1559. Lastly, there was a bell tower to the N.E., built before 1224 and destroyed in 1817. *Inside*, the whole effect must have been very different. There were no rich groining and traceried windows; but the nave was loftier, with an open-timbered roof (or *perhaps* flat ceiling), and the tower open to form a lantern; chancel very severe, with fittings of the simplest character.



The changes by which it became what we see it took place gradually in the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries. (In the 12th the monastery buildings had to be remodelled after the Great Fire of 1178, from which the church escaped with some scorching, but needed no important rebuilding.) In 1237 the Chapel of St. Nicholas was built by Abbot Sipton; perhaps consecrated two years later (1239). In 1246 the Chapel of S. Eustatius was built by Prior Henry de Banbury; possibly as the nave of a parochial lady chapel. It seems soon to have become dilapidated, and was removed in the following century.



The greatest changes were in the 14th century. The church was groined with the magnificent vault which now covers it; the choir was practically rebuilt on the original pillars, with its polygonal apse and pierced parapet, and the crown of chapels round it was completed. The Decorated windows were filled somewhat later with their present glass.

That there was a lady chapel at the E. end is certain: at first probably a pentagonal 13th century chapel like the others. This was removed to make way for a greater building, said to have been 100 feet long, as to which very little can at present be ascertained.

The only later additions were some of the gorgeous tombs and chantry chapels; the great rood-loft, all trace of which has disappeared; the sedilia, and no doubt altars with their fittings; also the stalls, which still remain.

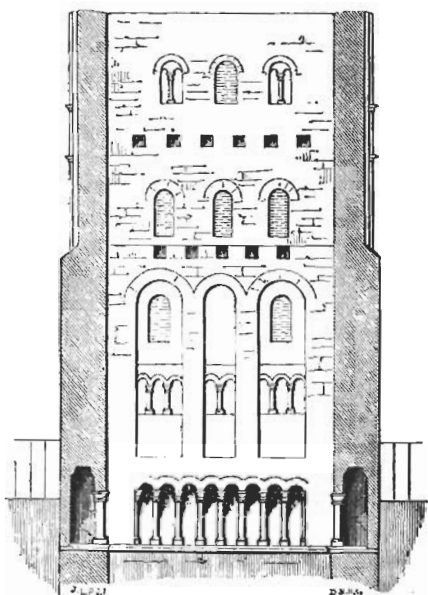
A longer description would be out of place here, but it may be worth while to summarize

in the fewest words the points of the building:—

OUTSIDE.

West Front.—Very noble arch, 65 feet high by 34 feet wide, in seven orders; pinnacles original, with modern spirelets; gable gone; Norman work within arch gone, and replaced by Perpendicular work; west window, 1686, replacing one blown in in 1661.

North Side.—Almost entirely as originally built, except that the Norman windows have given place to larger 14th century ones in aisle and clerestory. The present low-pitched roof replaces the high-pitched one unhappily removed in 1720.

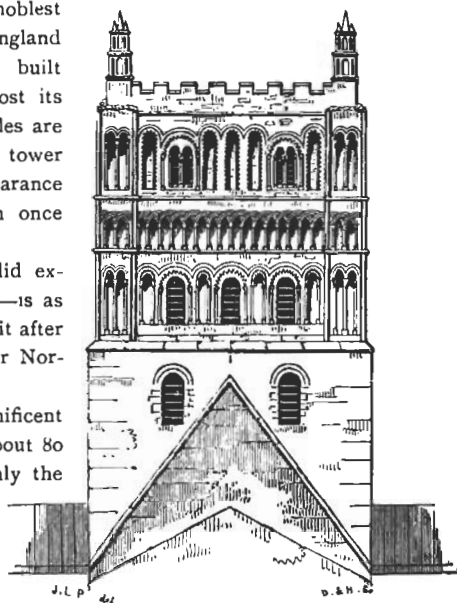


North Transept.—The 13th century fragment attached to it is the remains of Prior Henry de Banbury's Chapel (1246), and beyond it the 13th century Chapel of S. Nicholas, and the 14th century Chapel of S. James.

The Tower—perhaps the noblest Norman tower remaining in England—stands just as originally built (1140?), except that it has lost its wooden spire, and the pinnacles are of the 17th century. The tower suffers much from the disappearance of the four high roofs which once abutted on it.

The Choir—a most splendid example of the "chevet" form—is as the 14th century builders left it after their adaptation of the simpler Norman apse.

South Side.—Of the magnificent Perpendicular cloister, once about 80 feet square, there remain only the fragments of tracery attached to the south wall of the church: the rest seems not only to have been destroyed, but dug up.

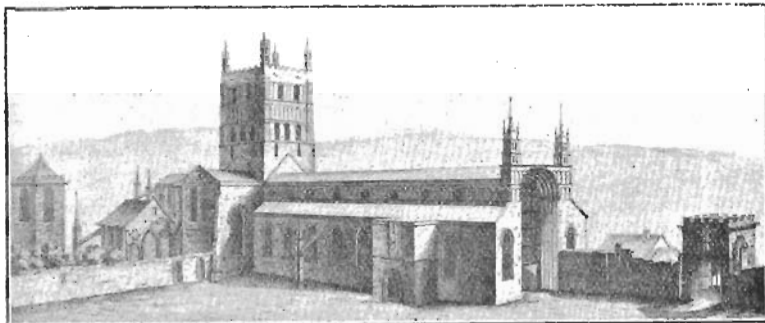


INSIDE.

The most important features are:—

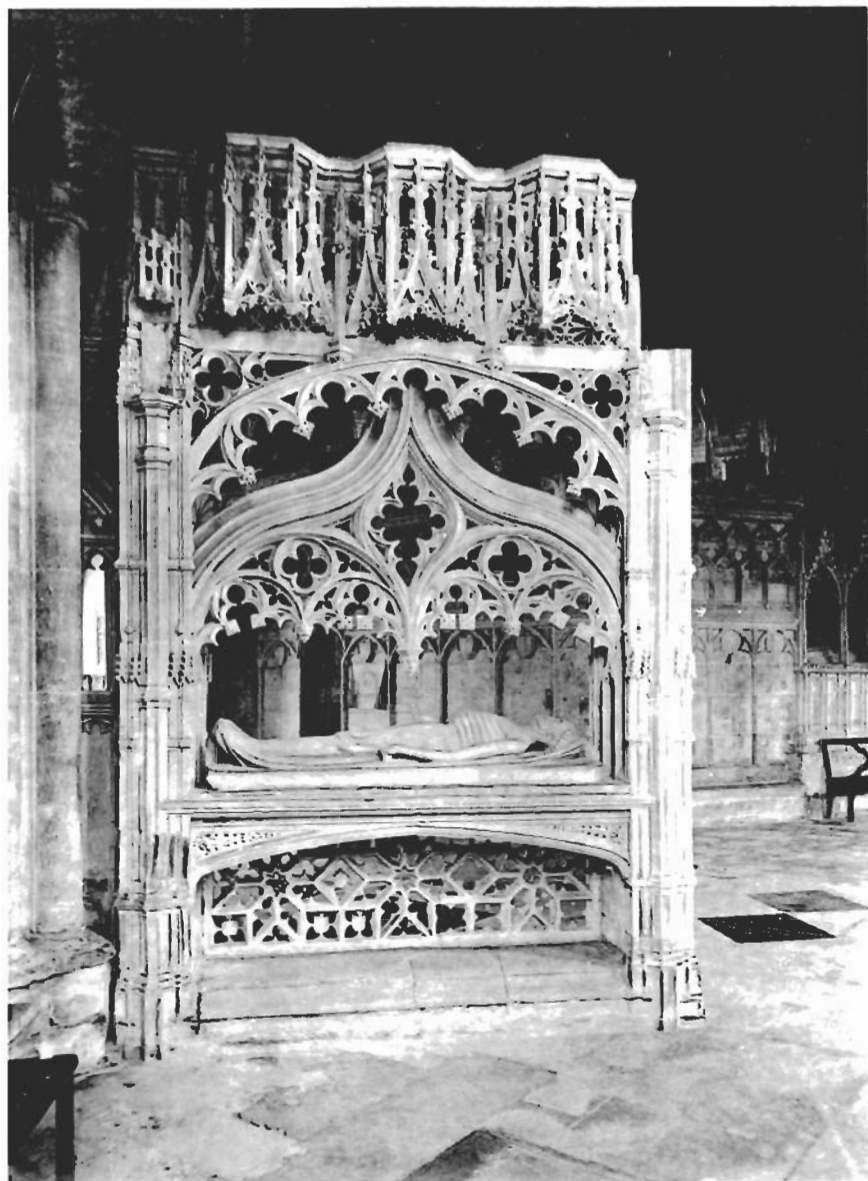
- (1) The immense, simple, cylindrical pillars, 30 ft. high and 6 ft. 3 in. in diameter. (1084-1123.)
- (2) The very elaborate groined roof, each bay being divided into no less than 36 panels by moulded ribs. The bosses illustrate the Bible, the Life of our Lord occupying the central ones, executed in strong and simple carving, intended for colour.
- (3) The choir, with its very beautiful apse (a comparatively uncommon shape in England) and rich ancient glass.
- (4) The ring of chapels which surround the choir aisle, with their fine vaulting and remains of carving and painted decoration.
- (5) The tombs on either side of the ambulatory, and the three chantry chapels described elsewhere.
- (6) The apsidal chapel to the north transept: the only chapel left as it was in the original building; the corresponding one in the north transept having been removed to make way for the Chapel of S. James.

(7) Some remains of ancient fittings: for example, the long high altar (rescued from the porch), a wooden turret on the north side of the choir for the sanctus bell, and the stalls.



TEWKESBURY IN 1732.

The effigies in Tewkesbury Abbey have been well described by Mr. Albert Hartshorne in the 4th volume of our Transactions, and in the 47th volume of the *Archæological Journal*. A very brief notice of them must therefore suffice. The effigy at the east end of the north aisle of the nave deserves special study. It was for a long time attributed to Lord Wenlock, who was slain in the Battle of Tewkesbury, A.D. 1471. But the Wenlocks bore a chevron between three moors' heads, and this knight bears on his surcote and shield a chevron between three leopards' heads langued, and his armour is more than a hundred years earlier than 1471, so it cannot be he. The head of the knight rests on a tilting helm crested with a lion. He wears a pointed bascinet with a narrow jewelled band, and a camail of banded mail is attached to it by cords which pass through staples and end in knots on either side. The quilted and studded cuisses covering the thighs should be noticed, and also the socks which show the form of the toes. The tinctures of the chevron and the leopards' heads are gone, and it is difficult among so many competitors for this heraldic bearing to say who the knight was. Mr. Hartshorne fixes the date of the effigy as between 1345 and 1350, although the canopy of the tomb, from which the popular supposition referred to has arisen, is of later date. He fixes his date 1345-50 on account of the linen material displayed outside the armour on the shield arm, which he says is unique, and also the banded cuisses of chasment (the reverse of brigandine). The figure is also represented with a jupon bearing his coat of arms—a chevron between three leopards' heads langued. Mr. Baddeley's researches have also thrown further light upon this interesting feature of the church, which fully



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TEWKESBURY.

CENOTAPH ATTRIBUTED TO ABBOT WAKEMAN.

substantiates Mr. Hartshorne's contention. The arms referred to above are, he says, presumably those of Sir John de Burley, of Burley, Herefordshire, a partisan of the Despencers against Queen Isabella, who died 1346, and brother of Walter de Burley, a celebrated theologian of his time, and a commentator on Aristotle, who became tutor to the Black Prince. Sir John de Burley, K.G., was grandfather to Sir Richard Burley, K.G., who married a granddaughter to Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester; he was also grandfather to the Sir John Burley who was the diplomatic colleague with Chaucer the poet in 1376 on a mission to the Court of France *pro secretis negotiis domini regis*.

In the north ambulatory of the choir are the effigies of Hugh Despencer and his wife, Elizabeth Montacute. This was not the younger Hugh Despencer who was so cruelly murdered at Hereford in 1326; he was buried in the tomb behind the sedilia. It is his son, who was a boy of thirteen when his father died. He died in 1340, and his widow, who became the wife of Guy de Brian, died in 1359. The effigy of Guy lies opposite, between the ambulatory and St. Margaret's Chapel. He bore the King's standard at Cressy and was Admiral of Edward's fleet. He lived to the age of 90, and died in 1390.

The figure kneeling on the top of the Trinity Chapel, looking towards the high altar, represents Edward Despencer, nephew of Hugh and Elizabeth. He died in 1375. His effigy is exceedingly valuable for study, for it is carefully painted to represent every detail of front and back armour. In the chapel below are the portraits of Edward and his wife, Elizabeth de Burghersh, in fresco.

The cadaver, or corpse, at the N.E. corner of the ambulatory has been attributed to John Wakeman, the last Abbot of Tewkesbury and the first Bishop of Gloucester; but it would seem that it is a hundred years older. We saw a similar figure at Westbury-on-Trym last year.

The ground plan of the Abbey, kindly lent by Mr. North, from Blunt's *History of Tewkesbury*, gives the position of many of the other tombs, and of the De Clare, Despencer, and Warwick graves. The inscriptions given in a *short paper* by Archdeacon Robeson and published by Mr. North, were designed by the eminent local antiquary, the late Mr. Niblett.

The bosses forming the keystones of the stone vaulting ribs are of great interest. A list is given in Mr. North's *Notes on Old Tewkesbury*.

Commencing from the west end, the bosses on the central rib of the nave represent: (1) The Nativity, (2) Adoration of the Shepherds, (3) Journey of the Wise Men, (4) Adoration of the Wise Men, (5) Christ found in the Temple, (6) Entry into Jerusalem, (7) Last Supper, (8) Betrayal, (9) Scourging, (10) Crucifixion, (11) Resurrection, (12) Ascension, (13) Pentecost, (14) Coronation of the Virgin, (15) Our Lord in Majesty.

On the north and south sides are angels with musical instruments, emblems of the Passion, &c. On the tower vaulting are the arms of Despencer and Brian impaling Montacute, giving us the date of about 1355. In the choir are two bosses representing the temptation and expulsion of Adam and Eve, and in St. Edmund's Chapel (see ground plan) passages from the history of St. Edmund, king and martyr.

Many of the encaustic tiles are of great interest, but there are not many *in situ*.

A short paper on the subject by the Rev. A. S. Porter will be found in the 48th volume of the *Archaeological Journal*, at page 83. He had the advantage of examining the fine collection of tracings of tiles, made by order of the late Mr. T. Collins and now in the possession of his nephew, Mr. F. W. Godfrey, junr. It was owing to Mr. Collins' care that many tiles were preserved at the time of the restoration, which would otherwise have been lost.

In the Founder's Chapel is the lion rampant of Robert Fitz-Hamon impaling the cross ragulé of Tewkesbury Abbey. The date is 1397. In the chapel erected by Isabella, Countess of Warwick, for the repose of the soul of her first husband, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Abergavenny and Worcester, there is a design of 16 tiles bearing his arms, *a fess between four crosses crosslet with a crescent for difference*. The date is 1438. Many tiles were found in the vault of the unfortunate George, Duke of Clarence, and his wife, Isabel Neville. She died in 1476, and he was murdered in 1477. Their date would be about 1485, as one bears R. crowned for Richard III. with the *rose en soleil*, the badge of the House of York. We also find the arms of De Clare, Despencer, De Warrenne, De Bohun, Corbet, Someville, Beauchamp of Powick, Beauchamp of Holt, Crofts, Burghersh, Cobham, &c.

These and many others will be pointed out at the Meeting.

Some of the tiles are identically the same with tiles found at Hayles Abbey.

The style of the windows, both in leading and painting, their excessive canopy work, and the chain and plate armour on the military figures represented, clearly point the date of their insertion; but the figure of Lord de la Zouche—died 1335—married to Eleanor (de Clare), widow of Hugh le Despencer the younger (who was hanged in 1326), and that of Hugh le Despencer, her son (who died 1349), and the presence of "ailettes," or leathern winglets, in the armour, combine to narrow down the limits of date, and determine it at latest to the fifth decade of the 14th century. It is probable they were the pious gift of Eleanor, Lady de la Zouche (d. 1337), and Hugh le Despencer, her son. It is, however, possible that portions of the great east window are of earlier date. The De Monchensi, Lords of Painswick (and of other manors in this and half-

a-dozen counties beside), are represented by a shield bearing *Barry of 12. Arg. and az*; although their heiress, Dionisia (*m.* Hugh de Vere), died in 1313. But the same argument, if pushed from the heraldic side only, would make us attribute the glass containing the arms of Gilbert De Clare (1) in the clerestory to the 13th century, although it is certain they should be dated 1335-50.

The east window consists of five lights, which divide into four horizontal sections, the uppermost of which displays the design of a central wheel having twelve (emblematic) spokes, the subsidiary traceries of which exhibit cruciform quatrefoils, recalling the cross *or* in the Abbey Arms.

The leading motive of the window is, appropriately, the Adoration of the Virgin, as patroness of the monastery. She is represented as enthroned in the centre of the wheel, and having the infant Saviour on her knee. Above, is seen Christ enthroned; while in the segments of the wheel around are represented angels playing various instruments of music.

The second section of this window has suffered considerably by breakage and re-arrangement, as well as by restoration (1829). Its five lights exhibited: Christ enthroned (with stigmata showing) in the act of benediction; St. John the Evangelist; the Virgin; and perhaps St. John the Baptist; and another.

The third section has been utilised for illustrating the "Last Judgment"; while the lowest displays: (1) the arms of the Abbey *Gu. a cross engr. or, within a bordure arg.* without the bordure; (2 and 3) are wild patchwork; (4) *Barry of 12. Arg. and az*: for De Monchensi; (5) *Nebuly, arg. and Gules, over all a bend az*: for Hugh le Despencer.

The succeeding 5-light and 4-light clerestory windows, N. and S., betoken different degrees of preservation. Upon them have been depicted kings and prophets of the Old Testament standing in glowing ruby or emerald niches, with elaborate Decorated canopies above them. Perspective has now begun in glass by the medium of architectural drawing. No. 2, south side, has been disfigured (1829), with the arms of Rochester, St. David's, Bangor, Carlisle, and Bath and Wells; while No. 3 may be held up as a negative lesson in Restoration.

The military figures, which correspond to those on the north side, are—

1. Gilbert (II.) de Clare (1295).
2. William, Lord de la Zouche (1335).
3. Gilbert (III.) de Clare. Killed at Bannockburn.
4. Hugh le Despencer, the younger (1326).

The figures opposite, likewise standing in diapered niches, and habited in chain and plate armour, carry a spear in left hand, and grasp their sword-hilts with the right. All wear "ailettes." They represent, as their arms show—

1. Robert Fitz-Roy, Earl of Glo'ster (*n.* son of Henry I.).

2. Gilbert (I). de Clare, Earl of Glo'ster (1230).
3. Hugh le Despencer, III. (?) (1349).
4. Robert Fitz-Hamon, the founder (1107).

Tewkesbury is very rich in old timbered houses, which in some cases have fine Georgian plaster ceilings.

Their restoration is entirely due to the taste and influence of the late Mr. T. Collins.

Holme Castle, the stately residence of the early lords of Tewkesbury, has disappeared so thoroughly that no one can be sure where it stood. Leland, in his description of Tewkesbury, says "The other arme (of the Avon) cummeth downe by the Side of the Towne and the Abbay, leving it on the Este, and so passing harde ther by Holme Castelle goith into Severne. Ther is a little Broke caullid Suliet (Swilgate) cumming downe from Clive, and enterith into Avon at Holme Castelle by the lifte Ripe of it. Ther was at the South West Ende of the Abbay a Castel caullid Holme. The Tyme of the Building of it is oncerteyne. It is certeyne that the Clares Erles of Glocester, and especially the Redde Erle, lay much at Holme. There hath beene yn tyme of mynd sum Partes of the Castel standing. Now sum Ruines of the Botoms of Waulles appere. Now it is caullid Holme Hylle."

The Castle seems to have been destroyed by the enemies of Hugh Despencer, in the time of Edward II., and the materials used later on for the "fair Maner Place" of which Leland speaks as the residence of "Lord Edward Spensar," in Tewkesbury Park. On the site of this "Maner Place" now stands Southwick Park, the present home of Bishop Perowne. No mention is made of Holme Castle in the accounts of the Battle of Tewkesbury. It is however mentioned in Shakespeare's *Henry VI.*, 3rd Part, Act 5, Scene 6. The late Mr. Spurrier, who read a paper at the Meeting of our Society at Tewkesbury in 1885, believed the castle to have stood in a low meadow between "Perry Hill" and "The Vineyards." Certainly there is a piece of ground there 150 yards square, surrounded on all sides by a moat which was filled by the Swilgate. The late Mr. Moore, on the other hand, following the opinion of Bennett, believed the castle to have stood on the high ground facing the South side of the Abbey, called the Vineyards.

The Abbey was examined under the guidance of Mr. H. A. Prothero, to whom we are indebted for much of the foregoing description, while Mr. St. Clair Baddeley described the coloured glass, and Mr. Albert Hartshorne gave an admirable description of the monuments and effigies.

MR. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY pointed out that one of the great advantages in the display of glass in the choir was characteristic of the time in which it was put in: viz., that the artist who made it was enabled to have one single scheme in his mind. That scheme, to fill the whole of seven

windows, started with the central spiritual idea of the choir of an abbey church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. That was the central idea of the whole. It began with an east window of five lights, with a rich wheel of tracery above it. In the centre of the wheel was represented the Virgin enthroned with the Infant Christ. Above it was Christ Himself. In the twelve segments made by the symbolical twelve spokes of the wheel, the Twelve Apostles are angels playing on musical instruments, therefore constituting a miniature choir to the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated. In the sections below are five figures in niches, with richly decorated canopies in *grisaille*, the central figure being Christ enthroned, aureoled with a cruciform nimbus with a pearl border—a very beautiful specimen of its kind. He raises His hand in the act of benediction, and in His hands and feet are the stigmata—the wounds of the Crucifixion. On either side of Him are figures, being very much patched and restored, of St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Divine. On the extreme left is a figure of the Virgin with a head of 1129, put in by Mr. Collins, of London, and on the extreme right is a group of worshippers, including St. Peter, whose sword is represented drawn. At the right side, in the section below this, has been represented the Last Judgment, in five panels, abbots and kings rising from their graves, and St. Michael, with golden wings, calling them up. In the lowest section are the arms of Tewkesbury. The next two shields are patchwork, made to look like real coats of arms, which are gone. Then comes *argent and azure Barry* for William de Monchensi, Lord of Painswick. The last coat is *Barry, wavy, argent, and gules*, and over all a *bend azure* for Sir Richard Damory, killed at Tutbury, 1328, who married Elizabeth de Clare. The next two windows on each side, each of five lights, have been filled with prophets and kings of the Old Testament, in richly decorated niches, with diaper backgrounds alternately blue and ruby. Above them crocketed canopies in golden stain, and enriched with tabernacle work with flowered borders. The secular part of the choir had on the north side a window of four lights filled with four military figures in chain and mail armour, having at their shoulders œillets which went out in 1340, giving the date to the window. Each has his left hand on the hilt of his sword, and supports a spear in his right. In their present order comes first Robert Fitzroy (son of Henry I.), Gilbert de Clare the first, Hugh Despencer the third, and Robert Fitz-Hamon, the founder of the Abbey. The last man was the father-in-law of the first. The windows had all been taken down for repair, and had been put up haphazard, and should have begun with Fitz-Hamon. On the other side they had Gilbert de Clare the second, who died at Monmouth in 1290; William Lord Zouch of Mortimer came in the next light, then the other two Gilbert de Clares, the last of whom was killed at Bannockburn. Mr. Baddeley then proceeded to narrate an exceedingly interesting and most romantic

episode bearing upon the history of this window, which hitherto has escaped the whole of the multitude of writers upon the Abbey and the notable people with whom it has been connected. Eleanor, eldest of the co-heiresses, sister to the last Gilbert de Clare, married Hugh le Despencer the second, hanged at Bristol, 1376. She then became engaged or was actually being married to Sir John Gray, Knight, when Lord Zouch attacked them and carried her off with violence. Sir John Gray appealed to the Bishop of Coventry, and claimed his wife, but was unable to obtain any redress. Other appeals likewise failed, and at last he turned to the Pope, Clement VI., at Avignon, who wrote to the Archbishop that justice should be done, and if Eleanor le Despencer were married to Sir John Gray she must be restored to him. Within a few months, in a Parliament assembled in 1333, in the presence of the King, Lord Zouch and Sir John Gray violently attacked each other, and were hurled to the ground, whereupon the King's great officers of state, by Edward's orders, conveyed both of them to the Tower of London. Lord Zouch, however, continued to retain the lady, who declared that she was his wife. He died the following year (1335), whether from wounds or not does not transpire, and Eleanor survived him many years. These facts have recently been unearthed from the Papal Registers of Clement VI., and printed by Mr. Bliss, of the Public Record Office, Mr. Baddeley being the first to appreciate their interest in connection with the windows in Tewkesbury Abbey. In a line with the two windows, all the de Clares referred to lie under the pavement, and the Despenchers a little further to the left. Isabel Marshal, who married the first Gilbert de Clare, left her heart to be buried in front of the high altar, and a great many rich relics to the Abbey. Five months afterwards she was persuaded to marry Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., and founder of Hailes Abbey. The window is very characteristic of 14th century work, Mr. Baddeley remarked, there being little in the drawing; still it was a great advance on 50 years before, and the colouring is magnificent, glowing with the depth of potmetal colours, and enriched with gold stain and grisaille in the canopy work above.

Mr. ALBERT HARTSHORNE, F.S.A., described the effigies and monuments of the Abbey. He said: By the kind wish of the Committee I have undertaken to describe the tombs and effigies at Tewkesbury. But the exigencies of circumstances, the limitations of time, require that the description can only be very general. With such a copious stony text it is not quite easy to decide which points to emphasise and what to disregard. We might, for instance, deal with armour only, and take the details item by item. In speaking of mail, such as is shown by the military figures here, attention might be called to mail manufacture. It could be shown in the presence of the so-called Wenlock effigy how each gauged length of wire had its ends flattened, pierced, rivetted, and finished *en haute*

or *en basse*, or in *double clouee*, passing on to the mystery of banded mail such as is exhibited on the same figure, and see the immemorial defence vanish on the death of Henry IV. as a visible protection of armed men. Or we might treat of the headpiece and track it down through mediæval times from the plain cylindrical helmet of the early Crusades, such as the men whose effigies are in the Temple Church wore, and show how the round bascinet which Hugh Despencer exhibits gradually grew from the "chappelles" under the mail hoods, and passed into the Assyrian-like helmet of the warlike panoply of De Brien, and of the knight in the north aisle. Later we should notice the sudden change into the close helmet of the time of Henry V.; the open salads and burgonets of more advanced times, and the beauteous fluted headpieces of the end of the 15th and the early part of the 16th centuries, and track them in their turn, through morions and cabassets, down to the pikemen's helmets and the harquebusiers' pots of the Civil Wars. Or, again, we could take the defence for the hand, as shown in effigies, and follow its various forms through the ages from the mail muffler with the empty palm of inveterate Oriental origin, passing in review the gloves of leather, reinforced with articulated plates such as we have shown on the effigies here, and again descend to Civil War times with the rattling gauntlet of the doomed White King and the thin helmets of countless heraldic "achievements." These are some of the interests which are excited and illustrated by the monumental effigies which many modern church restorers find "so much in the way," and are usually dismissed by casual visitors with the remark that "it is a pity their noses are broken." To touch, however, now, only generally upon the Tewkesbury monuments. We have first in order of time, under a canopy of later date, in the north aisle of the nave, an effigy of a man in armour exactly of the middle of the 14th century. He wears the high-pointed bascinet, which had been lately evolved from the round headpieces of that type. The camail of mail is fastened by a lace in the usual way, passing through small staples, as we have it in the accounts of Etienne de la Fontaine of 1352, "*pour six onces de soie de diverses couleurs pour mettre les camaux aux dits bascinets.*" The whole figure has suffered much from decay, whitewash, neglect, and cleansing, so that some of the delicate details are not easy to decipher. But when Charles Stothard drew the figure for his great work in 1813, he first spent a whole day in clearing away a thick coat of whitewash. He then discovered that the mail forming the camail was of that kind so frequently shown in MSS., brasses, seals, and glass; that is to say, that each alternate row is formed by a plain band. Only four other sculptured examples of banded mail on effigies are known in England. In this case the edge row is mail, and is *pro tanto* a step to solution. The arms of the figure are shown by Stothard to have had extra and very thin sleeves laid over them, fastened here and

there by studs. Thanks to a relentless cleansing process, these items are now barely apparent. In the popular imagination the feet are naked, but this condition is based upon the embellishments of an idler on one foot only. Of course, the feet below the instep plates were mail-clad. The thighs are covered with *jazerant*, which was the precursor and the reverse of brigandine. It is often seen in brasses of this and rather later time. The identity of the man has been much prejudiced by a statement made long ago that a Lord Wenlock, slain at the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, is here commemorated. This fiction having become deeply rooted in print, is very difficult to eradicate. The arms on the jupon—which is a good example of the transition from the skirted jupon (itself the direct successor of the cyclas) to the jupon proper,—a *chevron between three leopards' faces langued*, were borne by several families. It was guessed some years ago that Monsire de Lughthburgh, whose arms appear, as here, in a Roll of Arms of the time of Edward III., it being supposed that the effigy had been moved from elsewhere, was here commemorated. Now within the last few days the ready acumen of Mr. St. Clair Baddeley leads to the conclusion that a member of the Burley family, Lords of Burley and Pembridge Castle, Hereford, who bore these arms, is here represented. Proceeding almost chronologically, we come to Hugh Despencer, died 1349, son of Hugh Despencer the younger, who was slaughtered with more than the usual and shocking barbarity associated with the ferocious punishment for high treason, at Hereford, in 1326, a deed fittingly reprobated in the *Register*. This is one of the finest monuments of its kind in England, and has been sheltered in the most solemn of interiors under the stateliest of vaults. The figure is tenderly sculptured in white alabaster, and shows the man in an old-fashioned round bascinet, with its camail fastened in the common manner. There is no departure from the usual style of representing both Despencer and his wife, Elizabeth Montacute, but they have a simplicity and a dignity not common. Nor is there anything remarkable about the armour or in the habits of the lady. The multiplicity of buttons on her sleeve imply quite Oriental profusion, and must have been a sad, exasperating matter to do up. The contemplation of these figures brings about the question of portraiture in monumental effigies. This is a very considerable and intricate subject which has only lately occupied attention. To put a large matter in a few words, it should be stated first that the minute information necessary for appreciation of the matter can only be obtained by painfully measuring, drawing to scale, and comparing a large number of effigies throughout the country, and the known circumstances of their production must copiously aid in arriving at a just conclusion. Thus, during the 13th century, a great number of military effigies were executed in Purbeck or in Sussex marble. These must have been largely made and kept in stock, and supplied as they were called for, being repre-

sentations of knights, *quelconques*, conventional or routine figures. For instance, an effigy in the Temple Church, and another at Stowe Nine Churches, Northamptonshire, are almost replicas. Again, the figures of William Longespée the younger at Salisbury, and one at Castle Ashby, are so much alike that the one might be mistaken for the other. Both cannot be portraits. On the other hand, the statues of Henry II. and Richard I., at Fontevrand, resemble each other to the extent that might be expected between father and son, while those of Eleanor of Guienne, Berengeria of Navarre, and Isabel of Angoulême are so unlike each other that, arguing from the kings to the queens, they may also be sufficiently faithful likenesses. Torel's bronze effigy of Henry III., in the Abbey, is evidently a true likeness. This is supported by the countenance of the king at different periods, from youth to age, on his great seals. The furrowed forehead, and the upright triple creases at the junction of the eyebrows, indicative of the feverish and anxious life that was led, can hardly be taken as imaginary creations of the sculptor. On the other hand, again, the effigy of Queen Eleanor, also by Torel, is a purely conventional figure, of singular and dignified beauty, with the characteristic straight under eyelids of the late 13th and the 14th century. In short, portraiture was attempted only when circumstances and conditions were specially favourable; and, as to high ecclesiastics, doubtless careful personal directions were often supplied by cultivated members of conventual bodies. As the use of Purbeck and such like hard stones died out, and freestone and wooden effigies became more numerous, the treatment of such figures with "gesso" for impressing, painting, and gilding, set accurate portraiture more forward; the works now executed had high artistic nature, yet faithful portraiture was rare. Such things as the gessoed church effigy of Guy de Brien must have come from good artistic workshops. There is reason for thinking that Gloucester, London, Norwich, and York were some of these centres. De Brien's effigy is interesting as a late example of the use of gesso, and is, of course, merely conventional. Notable productions from London studios are the effigies of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, and his wife Aveline, the great Fortibus beauty and heiress, in the Abbey. These are portraits, as nearly as the methods employed could make them, but the lady has the narrow slit-eyes not generally looked upon as attractive, but it was the conventionality of the time. Throughout the country, and specially in Gloucestershire, are numberless bare freestone figures marked by no attempt at either art or portraiture. These are the works of the local *cementarii*. They have value as authentic historical documents, for general armour and costume, to the extent that the intractable or irresponsive material would permit. At the end of the first quarter of the 14th century came the great change, and the uses and value of Derbyshire alabaster, which surrendered so readily

to the chisel, were then recognised. The beautiful portrait-effigy of John of Eltham (died 1334)—formerly sheltered by a canopy as fine as that of Despencer, and perhaps by the same sculptor—appears to be the earliest example of alabaster, though that of Edward II. must have been made about the same time. The figure of William of Hatfield, at York, born 1335, and lived but a few weeks, represents a youth of about twelve years old, and can be no portrait. Then comes Despencer and his wife. There is reason for thinking that we have here fairly authentic portraits, and specially in the case of the lady, who doubtless superintended the erection of the monument to her first husband, her own coffin, when the time came, being introduced next to the body of her husband, "lapped in lead." From this time forward—save in a few royal instances, such as Queen Philippa and Henry IV., and Joan of Navarre—portraiture in alabaster effigies vanished, and the country became filled with purely routine figures of the "camail" and "bascinet" model. There was, indeed, a short intermission when brasses took for a time the place of effigies in the early part of the 15th century, but the artistic gessoed figures came to an end, and alabaster brought about retrogression in monumental art. Here and there we find a belated gessoed and painted figure of the olden type, as to its decorations. Such is the remarkable kneeling effigy of Edward Despencer (died 1375). It is too high up for proper study, but a drawing to scale reveals its delicate and careful details. No doubt a portrait is intended. It should be noticed that in the very few cases where contracts for monuments exist we are not specifically informed that portraits were to be produced. We find the expression "*deux images d'alabastre l'un contrefait a un esquier en armes en tout point l'autre contrefait a une dame gisant en sa surcote ouverte*"—just as Elizabeth Montacute does—not a word to the effect that personages should be presented "*come ils etaient en leur vivant.*" Even in the case of the Black Prince his will only speaks of "an image in memory of us all armed in steel for battle." Here it may be recalled that Isabella, Countess of Warwick, who sleeps within the beautiful chapel of her erecting in 1439, left the remarkable instructions in her will that a statue of herself should be made all naked, with the hair cast backward, according to the design and model which Thomas Porchalion had for that purpose. In the covenant for the regal monument of her first husband, at Warwick, the figure of "Brass Beauchamp"—though an accurate portrait—is only spoken of as "an image of a man armed." It is possible that the sub-canopy of Isabel's chapel sustained a kneeling figure of wood of Richard Beauchamp, after the manner of Edward Despencer. That the 15th century sculptors in England studied the nude is exemplified by many "lively pictures of death" always placed below the paramount and living representation. The monument attributed to Abbot Wakeman is made up. The canopy must be earlier than his time, 1531—1539, and the

"cadaver" brought from elsewhere. Returning for a moment to the tomb of De Brien, as the latest military figure, here it should be observed that he died at the age of 90, and that a man of middle age is conventionally shown. In its mutilated state there is not much now to be made out from the details of the church effigy. But Stothard has carefully depicted and recorded what could be perceived in 1813. He speaks of the armour and mail as being gilded and silvered on gesso; some fragments remain. The splint armour on the legs is rather German than English. The trefoil arching of the cells of the canopy is unusual, and gives great richness, but the three disjointed stalks of finials running up in the upper stages have no merit whatever.

The Rev. Canon BAZELEY conducted parties round the site of the conventual buildings, most of these exceedingly extensive portions of the monastic establishment having disappeared before the ravages of time and iconoclasts. Canon Bazeley was very positive on the fact that the portion of the Vicar's house known as the "misericord," and believed to have been the infirmary of the monastery, was nothing of the kind. The Latin words, part of which remain, and which have given rise to this notion, he later, at one of the meetings of the Society, expressed the belief were a part of a motto of the Benedictines—*Lætabor in misericordia*. At Malvern Priory they got the motto many times over. He believed this was part of the newark—new-work, not new-ark as it had been interpreted elsewhere—which Abbot Beoley built, and which was the guest chamber. He led the company to the south-east of the Abbey to the Vicar's orchard, and indicated where the infirmary probably existed, mentioning that although a great deal of its foundation was dug up 60 or 70 years ago, he had no doubt there was a great deal left. Perhaps Mr. Yerburch would excavate the spot some day, and the speaker knew that Mrs. Yerburch was very keen on it; but Mr. Yerburch said he must have his hay first. The remains of the cloisters were also inspected.

The visitors were afterwards received in the charming grounds of the Abbey House by Rev. and Mrs. O. P. Wardell-Yerburch, and partook of afternoon tea, the kindly welcome extended being highly appreciated.

During the early part of the evening the members divided into small parties and visited some of the interesting old houses of the town, the supposed site of Holme Castle, &c., under the guidance of Mr. A. Baker, Mr. F. W. Godfrey, jun., and Mr. F. W. Moore.

Later in the evening a conversazione was held at the Assembly Room, when a number of the gentlemen and ladies who have taken part in the local arrangements joined the members in what proved an exceedingly pleasant evening's proceedings.

The PRESIDENT (Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell), who was in the chair, gave a sketch of the rise of the Abbey of Tewkesbury, and of conventual

life and work, which, by his kind permission, is published in this volume.

Colonel NOËL proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his paper, which was carried with acclamation.

Light refreshments, which had been thoughtfully provided by the Mayor and Mayoress, was then served, after which a series of lantern slides were displayed from a lantern kindly manipulated by Mr. G. S. Railton. These, most of which have been obtained by Mr. F. W. Godfrey, jun., and Mr. W. G. Bannister, chiefly dealt with the bosses, groining, windows, misereres, &c., of the Abbey, the misereres at Ripple Church, &c.

Canon BAZELEY, on behalf of the Society, warmly thanked Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Bannister for having so enthusiastically carried out a suggestion he made a few weeks ago, and remarked that if this were done in every centre the Society would get a very valuable collection of slides.

Mr. H. A. PROTHERO next gave an interesting paper, also beautifully illustrated by the lantern, with slides, including many from his own drawing, dealing chiefly with his ideas, based on records of the past, and his own architectural knowledge, of the appearance of the Abbey before its Norman work had been mixed with that of later periods, its roofs lowered, spire blown down, and west window put in. He was most cordially thanked for his kind services, and the pleasant gathering shortly afterwards dispersed.

The proceedings of Wednesday began with a break trip to Great Malvern and Little Malvern, which was joined by practically the whole of the members taking part in the meetings. A pleasant drive through the picturesque Twynning Common, where is situate a giant oak, connected in local legends with the name of the redoubtable Dick Turpin, was followed by a short halt at Upton-on-Severn, where the members received an object lesson on the trials of market gardeners, and their readiness to call modern science to aid them in their difficulties, a motor-car with a ton of fresh-picked strawberries from the Evesham district pulling up alongside the breaks, and supplying their luscious wares at 3d. a pound, in lots to suit all customers.

Malvern Chase, the still richly-wooded district which lies between the Severn and the Malvern Hills, was bestowed by Edward I. on his daughter Joan in dowry, on her marriage with Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester.

Here in earlier times in the fastnesses of the ancient forest, which extended for many miles on either side of the Malvern range, the Briton struggled vainly against Roman and Saxon invader, ere he withdrew across the Wye to make his final stand in the mountains of Wales.

Here, if we may accept the tradition handed down by the antiquary, Leland, and pictured for us by the monks of Malvern in the clerestory windows of their choir, St. Werstan, flying from Deerhurst to escape the

was again consecrated ; for, like Gloucester in the previous century, it had been transformed from Norman into Perpendicular.

The Priory was dissolved in 1539, notwithstanding the entreaty of Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, that it might be spared. The buildings passed into the hands of Mr. John Knotsforde, "Servant to King Henry VII.," and he began to pull them down for the sake of the materials.

The south transept, the lady chapel, the chapter house, the refectory, and other parts had already perished, when the inhabitants of the Chase, like the men of Tewkesbury, nobly came to the rescue and bought what remained of the conventual part of the church for the sum of £200.

Knotsforde fitted up the prior's house as his own residence, and, dying there in the 23rd year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, was buried with his wife on the south side of the Presbytery. Their effigies and that of their daughter, Mrs. Anne Savage, in alabaster, are in excellent preservation and beautifully carved.

During the last three and a-half centuries the church has passed through many vicissitudes—of neglect on the one hand, and restoration on the other—but much remains of unusual interest, and the sacred building is exceptionally rich in stained glass and decorative wall and floor tiles.

The church consists of a Norman nave, with aisles of unequal width ; a central tower, not unlike ours at Gloucester ; a north transept and a presbytery, with ambulatory or surrounding aisle.

The arch which led into the eastern Lady chapel remains, and there are traces of the amputated southern limb.

Externally there are no signs of any work earlier than the latter half of the 15th century ; but within we have the nave arches and the south wall of a Norman Minster. As far as we can judge from the massive semi-circular arches of the nave, devoid as they are of moulding, the original church would seem to have been erected soon after Gloucester and Tewkesbury, early in the 12th century. The monks appear to have commenced their church, as was usually the case, at the east end, and to have built westwards. When it was complete it had a nave with narrow aisles, a central tower, north and south transepts, and a presbytery, with semi-circular apse, ambulatory and chapels, like Westminster.

Early in the 13th century an eastern Lady chapel was added, and the earlier Norman central chapel was destroyed ; but the transformation of the eastern limb took place in the middle of the 16th century. As in many other cases, the Norman tower fell down, and falling, destroyed the adjoining parts of the church. A reconstruction of the nave, presbytery, and transepts was found to be necessary.

The arcades of the nave were taken down as far as the apex of the

semi-circular arches, and the triforium was destroyed. The blank between the arches and the lofty perpendicular windows of the clerestory is the only disappointing feature of the church. The south aisle of the nave could not be widened, for the cloisters abutted on the south wall; but on the north, where there was no such obstacle, the aisle was doubled in width, and a new porch with a parvise was added. The north transept was remodelled, and so also, no doubt, that on the south. As at Gloucester, the architect sought to construct a great east window and a spacious new Lady chapel beyond, with an intervening space for the sake of light. The rebuilding, encouraged and aided by Bishop John Carpenter, went on for many years, and in 1460 the church was ready for consecration.

The story of these eventful days may be read in the architecture, glass, tiles, and carving. When complete, the stained windows must have vied with Fairford in beauty; some of them are of the same date. There is no glass earlier than the reign of Henry VI., and some is as late as the commencement of the 16th century.

An account of the glass, as it appeared in 1600—1640, has been handed down to us from the pen of Dr. Thomas Habyngton, and on comparing it with what remains it is evident that much has perished, and not a little has been removed from its original position.

The late Mr. James Nott, of Malvern, devoted many years to the study of the Priory Church and its contents, and we are indebted to his executors and to his coadjutor, Mr. T. Stevens, for their kind permission to reproduce some of the illustrations of his works.¹

Mr. St. Clair Baddeley has kindly promised to describe the glass, and therefore only a short list of subjects is given here.

West window, thought to have been given by Richard III., because it contained his arms; originally contained a representation of the Last Judgment, as at Fairford. Upper tiers: St. Christopher, St. Mary and Child, St. Lawrence. Below these: An Angel, a Bishop, St. Mary. Lowest tier: An Abbot, St. Augustine, St. Leger, Angel, St. Katharine, St. Nicholas, St. Edmund, Bethesda, Healing the Blind.

Great east window: Scenes from the Last Week of Our Lord's Passion, Groups of Donors and Benefactors.

Clerestory windows, south side, beginning from the east: (1) Angels, St. Jerome, St. Gregory, and various scenes from the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and Moses. (2) St. James the Great, St. Thomas, St. James, Head of St. Mary, Centurion, Crucifixion. (3) Arms: *France quartering Barry of 6 or and gu. Supporters: Two Boars, Female Head, Four Angels.*

¹ History of the Church and Monastery of Moche Malverne; and the Descriptive Account of the Glass, Tombs, and Pavement. Malvern: M. T. Stevens, Printer, Church Street.



MARTYRDOM OF ST. WERSTAN.

Clerestory, north side, beginning from the west: (1) History of St. Werstan; Donations of William, Earl of Gloucester, Bernard, Earl of Hereford, and Osbern Fitz-Ponz; Grants by William I. and St. Wulstan to Aldwin. (2) Two Sainted Archbishops, Four Sainted Bishops, including SS. Oswald and Wulstan, and two female Saints. (3) Legend of Joachim and St. Anne. From one of the many inscriptions: *Orate pro anima Johannis Malverne qui fenestram fieri fecit*, we gather that the rebuilding of the Presbytery was completed before the prior's death, about 1449.

St. Anne's Chapel, south ambulatory: (1) The Creation. (2) Scenes from the lives of Abraham and Noah. (3) Scenes from our Lord's Passion.

The windows of the north aisle of the Presbytery are too fragmentary to describe in these brief notes. There are apparently the Annunciation, Nativity, Ascension, and Celebration of the Holy Communion.

The north transept, called the Jesus Chapel, contains two excellent windows. That on the north side contained a bidding prayer for Henry VII., Queen Elizabeth, Prince Arthur, the Princess Katharine, and their three knights. As the married life of Prince Arthur lasted only from November, 1501, to April, 1502, this window must be exactly four hundred years old. It was blown out in the 18th century, badly damaged, and disgracefully replaced. The likenesses of Prince Arthur and Sir Reginald Bray alone remain. Above them are the Nativity and Salutation. In the third tier from the bottom are the head of Henry VII., Christ and the Doctors, the Miracle at Cana, and the Presentation in the Temple.

In the fifth tier are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, the Adoration of the Magi, the Ascension, part of the legend of St. Anne and Joachim, and Angels.

The west window contains in the lower half scenes from our Lord's Life and Ministry, including the Last Supper; the marriage of St. Mary, and portraits of donors. In the upper lights are St. John, St. Paul, St. John Baptist, the Annunciation, Nativity, and Presentation.

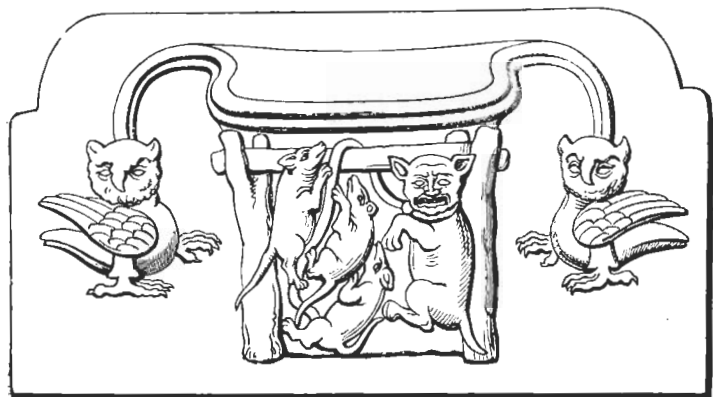
These beautiful examples of 15th and very early 16th century stained glass need most careful re-arrangement, and we are glad that the matter is being considered.

Great Malvern is especially rich in encaustic tiles, which have been proved to be of home manufacture by the discovery, in 1833, about 200 yards east of the Presbytery, of the Priory kiln and fragments of tiles similar to those in the church. Many tiles remaining in Worcestershire and the neighbouring counties appear to be of Malvern manufacture.

Here we have tiles bearing:—The sacred fish; the arms of the Passion; M. (St. Mary) crowned; the pelican in her piety; the swan ducally gorged and chained; the fiery wheel; many inscribed titles with Job xix. 21, &c.; many heraldic tiles of the De Clares, Newburghs, Despencers, Beauchamps, Braceys, &c. Two interesting series of wall tiles bear the dates respec-

tively of 1453 and 36 Henry VI. (1457-8). One tile is lettered WHIL LAR,—perhaps the maker's name. Most of the tiles are now imbedded in the semi-circular wall at the back of the high altar.

An excellent account of the Malvern tiles, by the Rev. Arthur S. Porter, will be found in the 20th volume of the *Antiquary*, 1889, and there are illustrations of them in John Gough Nicholl's *Examples of Decorative Tiles*, London, 1845, 4to. See *Archæological Journal*, v. 232.



MISERERE, GREAT MALVERN.

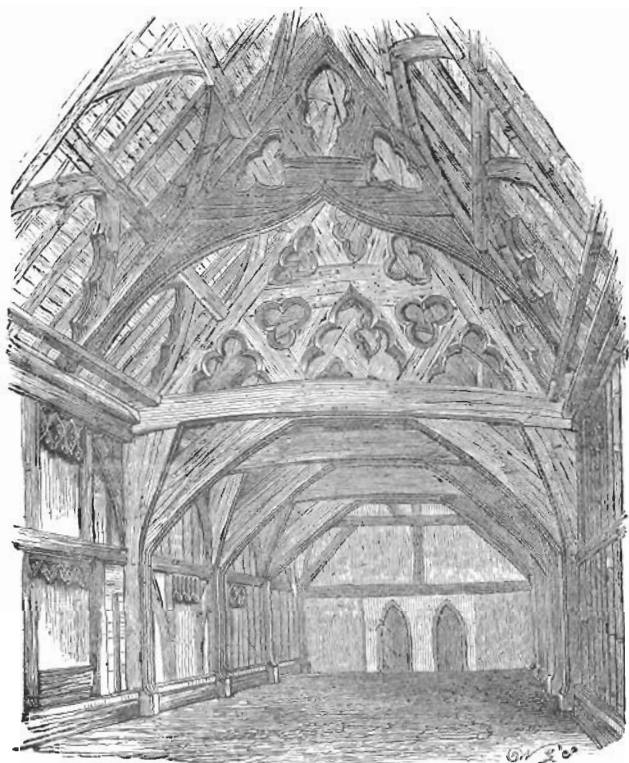
The misereres of the choir stalls are carved with the figures of agricultural labourers, domestic and fabulous beasts, a bootmaker, angels, devils, &c. We give one from Mr. Nott's *Descriptive Account*.

On the north side of the sanctuary lies the effigy of a warrior in chain mail with small circular shield and a long-handled hammer.

On the south side of the church stood, until 1841, a timber building described as a hall. It appears in the plate of Malvern Priory, in Nash's *History of Worcestershire*. The south side of the church, where the conventual buildings were situated, is in private hands.

The Priory Gateway, built in the 15th century, with a porter's room, will be found on the south-west of the church.

Great Malvern was reached shortly after mid-day, and the members at once proceeded to the Priory, where Canon PELLEY read prayers, and afterwards kindly gave some particulars of the church, of which he remarked that various books had been written upon it, but the best book of all was the church itself, as it seemed to speak its own history, its stained-glass windows taking them back to the story of the foundation of the Priory of St. Werstan of Deerhurst, who, driven thence by the Danes,



GUESTEN HALL, 1850.

sought a more peaceful abode under the shelter of the lovely Malvern. The windows also told of the martyrdom of the prior and the persecution of the monks by the Danes. The rector also gave some interesting particulars relating to the architectural features of the church, which is notable for a grand nave of Norman style, which alone remains to represent the original structure, the year 1501 seeing a rebuilding, which gave the church an exceedingly fine choir in the Perpendicular style, and lofty clerestory and other works in the same style—all excellent specimens.

The PRESIDENT warmly thanked Canon Pelley for his excellent epitome of the history of the church, after which

Mr. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY gave a truly charming description of the stained glass, as he had done the previous day at Tewkesbury Abbey. He said* that there could be no more lovely contrast in the matter of its

windows than the Abbey they had visited the day before and the Priory—the Abbey, with its solemnly-lovely 14th century work, glorious in its colouring, and the Priory, later by a hundred years, which had seen a marvellous growth of the appreciation of light and a desire to realise the beautiful. In all directions, except in colour, there was advance.

After luncheon the drive was continued to Little Malvern. By this time the pleasant morning had given place to a leaden sky, and rain fell heavily throughout the remainder of the day in a manner to greatly interfere with the pleasure of the proceedings.

The Priory of Little Malvern, like its more important neighbour, was founded by some monks from Worcester, about the year 1171.

The principal benefactors were William de Blois, Bishop of Worcester, 1218—1236, Henry II., Gilbert de Clare, and John Alcock, Bishop of Worcester, 1476—1486, which last rebuilt the church, and dedicated it to St. Mary, St. Giles, and St. John the Evangelist.

The Priory held lands in Naunton, in this county, and Horewell, in Worcestershire. They were patrons of Cubberley, near Cheltenham, and Nash tells us that Gilbert de Berkeley (it should be Giles de Berkeley) left his body to be buried at Little Malvern and his heart in the chancel of his own church of Cubberley.¹

Soon after the Dissolution the Priory was granted to John Russell, one of the Russells of Strensham.

“The Priory Church of Little Malvern was originally cruciform, with a tower at the crossing and a sacristy behind the altar; but now only the chancel is used for Divine Service, what remains there are of the rest of the church being only ivy-covered ruins. The tower is beautifully panelled, and within there is much of interest in the woodwork of the roodloft, screen, and choir seats; there are also some tiles similar to those in the church at Great Malvern, and others apparently of an earlier date. The church was rebuilt by John Alcock, Bishop of Worcester, 1476—1486; and to this period, and more precisely perhaps to the years 1480—1482, may be assigned what is now, as it must always have been, the glory of the church—the beautiful glass in the east window.

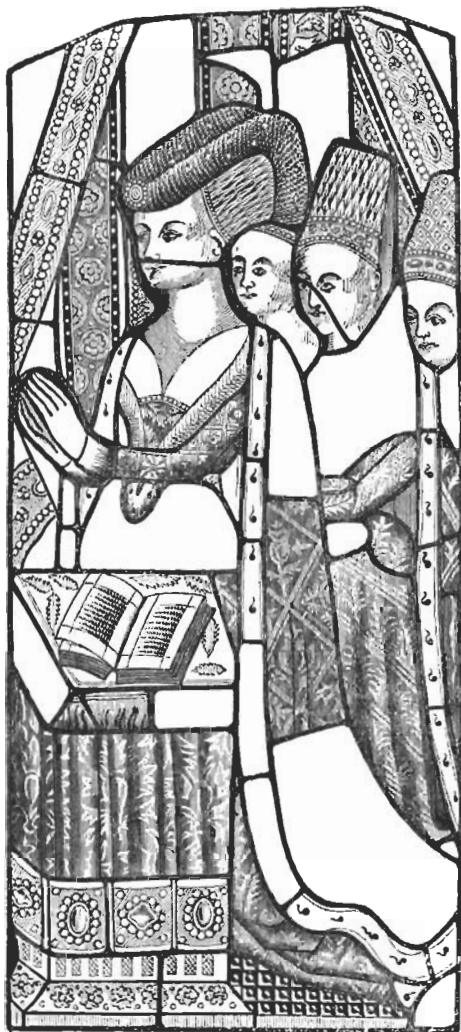
This window consists of six lights, with four smaller lights of quatrefoil form in the tracery above; but with the exception of a few fragments, the two central and the two side panels of the window have perished. It is known, however, that the two central panels represented King Edward IV. and his queen, Elizabeth; in the panel behind the king was the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward V., and behind him again Richard Duke of York. In the panel behind the queen are four princesses, her daughters; and behind them again was John Alcock, Bishop of Worcester and their preceptor. Of the figures of the king and of the Duke of York there are

¹ See *Transactions*, xvii., p. 109.



now no remains; of the queen's figure there are but a few doubtful fragments; of the representation of the bishop there remain fragments of an alb, a violet chasuble, and a crozier—in the right hand is a book, and a chain to which is appended a padlock.

The figures of the Prince of Wales and of his four sisters are perfect, and form most beautiful and interesting examples of the costume of the



period. The prince was in 1482 about twelve years of age; his sisters were—Elizabeth, afterwards queen of Henry VII., who was then about sixteen or seventeen years old; Cicely, in her thirteenth year; Anne, in her seventh year; and Katherine, who was at least three years old."¹

The two illustrations of the Little Malvern windows are reproduced from the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxii., by the courteous permission of the Archæological Institute.

Arrived at the Little Malvern Priory, the interesting choir, which, with the tower, alone remains, and is used as the parish church, was inspected under the guidance of Canon Bazeley, Mr. St. Clair Baddeley giving a delightful account of the quaint stained glass.

A cross-country drive of about seven miles in the rain brought the party to Pull Court, the fine old ancestral mansion of the Dowdeswell family, the head of which, the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell, is this year's president of the Society. The mansion is beautifully situated amongst some of the loveliest undulating scenery in Worcestershire, its well-timbered park extending to the banks of the Severn, and commanding an exquisite view. Here the members were heartily welcomed by the president and entertained at afternoon tea, returning to Tewkesbury in the evening under much better atmospheric conditions than prevailed during the afternoon.

After returning from the Malvern excursion, the members reassembled at the Town Hall, where they had a great treat in Mr. St. Clair Baddeley's disquisition on "Mediæval Art in Stained Glass." With the experience and knowledge of one of the greatest living authorities on the matter, he dealt with his subject in a fascinating lecture. After Mr. Baddeley's address, a large number of beautiful slides illustrating the stained glass of the choir of Tewkesbury Abbey and Deerhurst Priory Church were displayed. The series of slides shown also included several illustrative of the use of the "Lord's Table" not at the East end or as an altar, but in the centre of the chancel, and with seats all round, these including Deerhurst, Winchcomb, Hailes, &c., Canon Bazeley remarking that it seemed a pity that in places where such an historical arrangement existed it should be interfered with. This enjoyable gathering concluded with a learned paper by Mr. F. F. Tuckett, of Frenchay, on "Roods and Rood Lofts."

On Thursday morning a meeting of the Council was held, Mr. F. F. Tuckett being in the Chair, when the following votes were passed:—

That the hearty thanks of this Society be given—

(1) To the Mayor and Corporation of Tewkesbury for their courteous reception of the Society and for their generous loan of the Town Hall, for the Museum, Conversazione, and other meetings

(2) To the Chairman of the Local Committee, the Rev. O. P. Wardell-Yerburgh; to the able and energetic Secretary, Mr. Cecil C. Moore; to the Treasurer, Mr. A. Baker; and to the other members for the excellent manner in which they have made and carried out the arrangements for the meeting.

(3) To the Mayor and Mayoress of Tewkesbury, to the Rev. and Mrs. O. P. Wardell-Yerburgh, to the President and Mrs. W. Dowdeswell, and to Mr. and Miss Strickland for their kind hospitality offered to the members and others at the Town Hall, the Abbey House, Pull Court, and Apperley Court respectively; and to all the residents in Tewkesbury and the neighbourhood who have so kindly received the members as guests.

(4) To the Incumbents of Tewkesbury, Great and Little Malvern, and Deerhurst for the facilities given by them of examining their interesting and beautiful churches, and for the information afforded by them.

(5) To the Rev. D. G. Lysons for the use of the Deerhurst Schoolroom for lunch.

(6) To Mr. W. Phillips and Mr. Harris for their kind permission to the members to visit Deerhurst Priory and Whitefield Court.

(7) To Messrs. St. Clair Baddeley, H. A. Prothero, Albert Hartshorne, E. S. Hartland, A. Baker, W. G. Bannister, F. W. Godfrey, jun., and Mr. F. W. Moore for their valuable services as guides.

(8) To Messrs. A. Baker, F. W. Godfrey, jun., and W. Ridler for arranging the excellent Loan Collection in the Town Hall.

(9) To the President, to the Rev. C. S. Taylor, and to Messrs. Prothero, St. Clair Baddeley, F. F. Tuckett, W. G. Bannister, R. H. Murray, and Albert Hartshorne for the papers prepared and read by them at Tewkesbury.

(10) To Mr. G. S. Railton for his clever manipulation of the Limelight Lantern at the two evening meetings, and to Messrs. Prothero, Dugdale, Bannister, F. G. Godfrey, jun., R. H. Murray, and to Dr. Oscar Clark for the beautiful Magic Lantern slides exhibited or provided by them.

(11) Mr. F. F. Tuckett proposed and Mr. H. W. Bruton seconded a vote of thanks to the President, the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell, for his genial and able leadership, and it was carried unanimously with acclamation.

(12) Proposed by the General Secretary and seconded by the Editor, and carried unanimously, a vote of thanks to the Press [the name of Mr. Perry, of the *Western Daily Press*, was specially referred to].

(13) It was proposed by Mr. H. W. Bruton that Gloucester be the place of the Annual Meeting in 1903. This was duly seconded and agreed to. It was suggested that there should be a popular meeting for working men, and a visit to Hereford in connection with the Summer Meeting.

The choice of President was left to the Council.

(14) A vote of thanks was given to Mr. F. F. Tuckett for presiding.

It was thought that Sherston might make a suitable centre for the next Spring Meeting; and a suggestion that the next Annual Meeting might be held at Gloucester, with perhaps one day spent at Hereford, met with much favour.

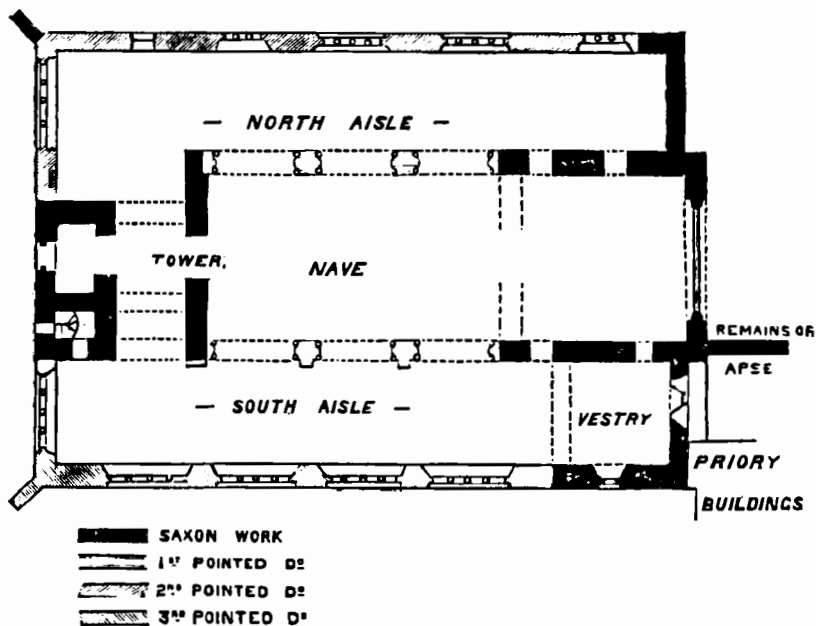
Later in the day the Society visited the battlefield of Tewkesbury, where the fortunes of the House of Lancaster were dashed in a great and final overthrow. The chief events connected with the battlefield were graphically described by Canon Bazeley. The battle fought on May 4th, 1471, although reversed by Bosworth Field in 1485, was for the time decisive, in giving Edward IV. undisputed possession of the Crown and destroying the hopes of the Lancastrian party.

Soon after Queen Margaret landed at Weymouth, on April 13th, she learned that Warwick, the King-maker, had been defeated and slain at Barnet; and she hastened with her untrained levies of west country men towards Gloucester, hoping to cross the Severn by the Westgate Bridge and join her ally, Jasper Tudor. But the Gloucester men were adherents of her foe, and they barred their gates against her, as 172 years later they barred them against Charles I. From Gloucester she marched to Tewkesbury, hoping perhaps to be able to cross there. But Edward, who had lost no time in pursuing her, was close upon her rear, and the two armies took up their positions near the town the same night, the Lancastrians at Gupshill with the Swilgate on their left, another little brook on their right, and the Abbey in their rear. The Duke of Somerset and his brother, Lord John Beaufort, commanded the first line, Prince Edward, the Prior of St. John, and Lord Wenlock the second, and the Earl of Devonshire the third. Edward IV. took up his position on a little common called "The Red Piece," now enclosed, half a mile to the south-west, whence the ground sloped down and formed a hollow between the two forces. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, commanded the van, Edward himself and the Duke of Clarence the centre, and the Marquis of Dorset and Lord Hastings the rear. Gloucester attacked the Lancastrians, and, making a feigned retreat, was pursued by Somerset. Gloucester thereupon turned on his opponents, whilst 200 spearmen lying in ambush in the Park attacked their rear. Somerset fled, and threw the rest of the Lancastrians into confusion. Then the rout became general, and few of the leaders or their men escaped. There seems to have been no quarter given or expected. Some who took refuge in the Abbey were brought out a few days later and executed.

From the battlefield the party drove on to Deerhurst, which bears its antiquity in its name (Deor a wild beast, and Hurst a wood), carrying us back to the far distant ages of the past when a vast forest extended from Worcester to the gates of Gloucester, and when the wolf, the stag, the

badger, and it may be also the bear were the principal inhabitants of the Severn Vale. Leland, the well-known antiquary, of the reign of Henry VIII., tells us that Bede, who died in 735, "makith mention that yn his tyme there was a notable Abbay at Derehurste"¹ Leland was, however, probably referring to the passage in *H. E. v. i.*, "Monasterium quod vocatur Inderaуда, id est silva Derorum," but this Monastery was Beverley Minster.

About the year 679 a Bishopric was founded at Worcester, but we hear nothing of any Monastery at Deerhurst until 804, when Ethelric in disposing of his property gave land at Todenham and Preston-on-Stour, and also at Scraefleh and Cohhanleh, which cannot certainly be identified, to Deerhurst, for himself and his father Ethelmund, who had been slain at Kempford in 800, on condition that he was buried at the Minster. St. Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1005-1012, was Abbot of Deerhurst from 970 to 978, when he became Abbot of Bath. The Worcester Chronicle tells us that Cnut and Edmund Ironsides met at Olney, near Deerhurst, and divided the kingdom. Gloucester men like to believe that the meeting took place near their city. In the time of the Confessor Deerhurst lost its independence, for the king gave it to Baldwin, a monk



GROUND PLAN OF DEERHURST CHURCH.

¹ Leland's *Itinerary*, vol. vi. 79.

of St. Denis, who became Abbot of Bury St. Edmund's about 1065. He seems to have kept the Deerhurst property, for William the Conqueror confirmed it to him when he obtained the kingdom. Afterwards, on April 13th, 1069, the king gave Deerhurst Minster to the Abbey of St. Denys;¹ it had, however, been previously plundered for the benefit of Odda, Elfric, and Westminster Abbey.

In 1250 the Priory was sold by the Abbey of St. Denys to Richard, Earl of Cornwall; but it appears to have reverted to St. Denys, for in 1442 it was confiscated as the property of an alien monastery and given in unequal shares to Tewkesbury and Eton. By some arrangement it came wholly to Tewkesbury in the reign of Henry VII., and was dissolved as a cell of that monastery in 1539.

The church as it exists at present forms a parallelogram, but it appears to have been at one time cruciform. The eastern apse which formed the sanctuary of the original church has been for the most part destroyed. The tower is probably earlier than the Norman Conquest, for about half its height. The upper part was built in the 14th or 15th century.

The lower and earlier part is built principally of lias with bands or patches of herring-bone work, but with no long or short quoins in its angles, or any panelling as at Earl's Barton, Barnack, and other Saxon churches. The arch of the pointed doorway was inserted beneath the earlier one, in the 14th century. Above it is the head of a monster, called by some the "Deerhurst Dragon." Within the tower is a second arch, plain and round-headed like the one beyond it. Over this second doorway is the mutilated figure of a saint,—it may be St. Dionysius or Denys, who is said to have been beheaded at Paris. We find him in French glass and sculpture carrying his head in his hands, and he would appear to do so here. The N. and S. arches of the tower have been pierced with lofty Transitional Norman arches to give access to the lengthened aisles. The original ceiling of the porch has been removed, and there are no traces of stairs. The second storey contains two rooms, the one on the west having a western window, and that on the east a round-headed doorway which once led into a western gallery. The corbels supporting the gallery are visible. Near this doorway is a small triangular aperture giving an imperfect view of the church. Two similar apertures are seen in the side walls of the nave. The third storey is divided into two chambers. In the east wall is the interesting two-light window, figured in so many architectural works, having triangular heads, tile-like imposts, fluted jambs and curved plinths. Just above the window is seen a block of stone, which may have been intended to bear an inscription. In the fourth storey there is a blocked-up doorway in the east wall, not visible from the church, which must have led to a chamber between the ceiling and earlier high-pitched

¹ *Monasticon*, iv. 665.



roof of the nave. In the single chamber above, the fifth storey, the bells are hung. The tower had a spire, which was blown down in 1666.

The nave has north and south arcades of three early pointed arches. The Transitional Norman pilasters in the south aisle attached to two of the piers look as if they had been left unfinished, and remained so. The clerestory windows and the roof seem to be of 15th century date. The nave was separated from the choir by a wall, pierced with a lofty arch;

this has been removed. The nave belonged to the parishioners; and the monks, who had their own entrance from their cloisters, worshipped in the choir and sanctuary. The dividing wall seems to have been superseded by a rood screen, the doorway to which remains. The original choir rose to the height of 40 feet, with side walls unbroken by any window or even any ornament. The east wall contains a lofty arch with square-edged label terminating in the heads of wolves. Above the arch is a 15th century window, which was probably inserted after the destruction of the apse.

There are signs of small narrow lights as well. High up the wall are two corbels similar to those at the west end.

The sanctuary, of which only a short piece of walling remains, was semi-circular, and was not so high as the choir.

The choir aisles or transepts appear to be coeval with the choir itself, though the rude doorways connecting them with the choir look like after-thoughts. Each transept had a square eastern apse, but both of these have been destroyed. Fifty years ago, when the site of the apse on the north side was disturbed, many human bones were found; it was, therefore, used for burial. It is a question whether the archways in the north and south walls of the choir opened into the upper storeys of these transepts or were constructed for the purpose of light. The western walls of both transepts have been removed.

The transepts were connected with the choir by rude doorways. The north transept has a flat-headed doorway in its east wall, and the south-eastern transept a massive archway. A doorway also led into the south transept from the cloisters.

In 1675 Judge Powell, whose effigy we have in the Lady chapel of Gloucester Cathedral, found in the orchard of Abbot's Court an inscribed stone which reads as follows:—

"ODDA DVX JVSSIT HANC REGIAM AVLAM CONSTRUI
ATQUE DEDICARI IN HONOREM S. TRINITATIS PRO ANIMA
GERMANI SUI ELFRICI QUE DE HOC LOCO ASSVMPTA.
EALDREDVS VERO EPISCOPUS QUI EANDEM DEDICAVIT
II IDIBUS APRILIS XIII AUTEM ANNOS* REGNI EADWARDI
REGIS ANGLORUM."

Everyone believed this to refer to Deerhurst Church, and it was accepted as proof that it was built in 1056. But since the discovery, in 1885, of the Saxon Chapel, and a second inscription, we have felt sure that this refers to that building, and not to the church. We are no longer bound by any historical limits. The church may be of any date its walls seem to show.

Small Saxon churches of the Celtic type, like Bradford-on-Avon, consisted of a nave and small sanctuary connected by a low, narrow door-

* Should be "ANNO."

way; but churches of the Basilican type, erected under the influence of Roman builders or missionaries, had a large chancel arch, with apses, transepts, western porches, and sometimes nave aisles.

It seems probable that Deerhurst, like Monkswearmouth, Brixworth, and Barton-on-Humber, had in Saxon times a porch or narthex, and not a tower at the west end; though here, as in those churches, a tower was constructed over the porch in later times. There is evidence in the stonework that the western portion of Deerhurst tower is later than the eastern part, though all of it appears to be pre-Norman.

The first change after the Conquest was the construction, about 1160, of a south aisle. An arch was formed in the west wall of the south transept, and its south wall was produced westward. A great part of the south wall of the nave was removed, and three transitional Norman-pointed arches were inserted. At the back of two of the piers pilasters were constructed, from which pointed arches or vaulting ribs were to spring. The north and south walls of the old western porch were pierced with pointed arches, the dividing wall under the tower was carried southward till it reached the line of the arcade, and the interval was bridged over with an arch in line with the other two, thus forming a western aisle. In the angle of the tower thus formed a staircase was built leading up to the third storey, and the aisle was extended westward as far as the western extremity of the tower. Then, for some reason unknown, the work ceased.

In the 13th century the north aisle, planned sixty years previously, was constructed, with an arcade of three arches similar to those on the south side, but in a later style, made out of the solid wall. At this time, it is thought, the piers and capitals of the south arcade were altered. The alternate use of the white freestone and the green sandstone is very pleasing. We do not find it on the north side.

In the 14th century, fine Decorated windows were inserted in the north and west walls of the north aisle, and in the west wall of the south aisle. Such windows were impossible on the south side because of the cloisters. In the 15th century, clerestory windows were inserted, the tower was raised, and a spire added. The chancel arch was removed, and a rood screen superseded it. In the 16th century, the square-headed windows were inserted in the south wall of the south aisle.

Late in the 14th or early in the 15th century, a reconstruction took place of the conventual buildings. A hall with kitchen and buttery at the south end, and an upper parlour or state bedroom with a panelled ceiling, superseded the slype, chapter house, and dormitory, which, according to the Benedictine plan, should occupy the east side of the east cloister alley. Bigland says that at the end of the 17th century a large hall was standing on the south side of the cloisters. This was, no doubt, the refectory or

frater. We are told that foundations of buildings—probably the guest house, &c.—were found on the west side.

Reference should be made to the papers in the 11th volume of our *Transactions*: by Mr. Hudd, on the Font; by Mr. Buckler, on the Priory; by Mr. Pope, on the Conventual Buildings; and by Mr. Butterworth on



the Saxon Chapel. These papers have been used by Mr. Butterworth, and the illustrations which appear in volume xi. have been reproduced in his *History of Deerhurst*, published by Mr. North, who has kindly lent the plan and the view of the west wall of the church.

In the north transept are four brasses representing Sir John Cassey, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1400, his wife Alice and two

other ladies, one of whom Bigland says is Elizabeth Bruges, married first to William Cassey and secondly to Walter Rowdon. One of the illustrations, kindly lent by Mr. Phillimore, from Mr. Cecil Tudor Davis' *Brasses of Gloucestershire*, shows the judge in a coif, tippet and mantel, lined with minever. The lady has a pet dog at her feet called "Tirri." The figures are under a double canopy, between the gables and central pinnacles of which were the figures of St. John the Baptist and St. Anne instructing St. Mary. The former is lost. The Cassey arms: *av. a chevron between three griffins' heads gu. are on a shield above Sir John.* The two other ladies wear pomanders, *i.e.* round boxes containing perfumed powder.

The following notes on the stained glass in the west window of the south aisle have been kindly communicated by Mr. Baddeley:—

A west window of four lights with traceries, the two central ones only being fitted with stained glass, which, however, are not likely long to survive (owing to local catapulting), as may be observed in two places. Probably the four lights once displayed four figures, one of which was St. Apollonia, now vanished. In the left light has been inserted an early 14th century panel of glowing tints, representing St. Katharine of Alexandria, on a ruby ground, within a niche, surmounted by a richly-crocketed canopy. She wears an orange mantle over a rich green tunic. Her crown and wheel are of gold; while the canopy-work is chiefly silvery, relieved upon a green ground. This valuable and uncommonly beautiful panel was removed from the chapel at the east end of the north aisle, where the Cassey tombs lie, and inserted here on a ground of later grisaille quarries with golden flowers. A bullet has passed through it lately. The 15th century remaining light displays a full-length bearded figure of a beatified prior, or non-mitred abbot, all in grisaille and yellow stain, except the violent mauve foot, which is, of course, modern. He is represented in the act of benediction. In his left hand he holds a crosier, with orarium; and wears a chasuble. The whole is set within a rich border of bright crowns, alternately with ruby quarries.

Each of these lights contains also two separate groups of donors (male and female), kneeling, alternately in blue and purple. The head-dresses of some of the ladies are in Tudor style, and their hair is shown beneath, in cross-hatching.

In the head-light are the arms of De Clare, and the heads of two saints. That on the right has been nearly destroyed by a stone. There are also two rayed suns.

Fragments of scrip contain the following:—**Tewk**: for Tewkesbury; **Apollonia**; **Dne Salvs et protectio**; **De Baudi** . . c. Wyllie.

The arrangement of the seats on three sides of the Holy Table is well nigh unique, though within the memory of many living the same arrangement existed at Winchcombe, Toddington, Hayles, Leonard Stanley, and

other local churches. The date found on one of the panels—1604—really belonged to a pulpit which was formerly in the church, and gives no direct evidence with regard to the age of the chancel woodwork. There does not seem to be any sufficient reason for calling this arrangement a Puritan one. At Deerhurst it would represent the old place of the altar on the chord of the apse. There are some 15th century bench ends in the south aisle.

The Saxon Chapel had no connection with the priory or its church. It was built, as the inscription tells, in 1056 by Odda, lord of the manor, as a chantry chapel where prayers might be sung for the repose of the soul of his brother Elfric.

A nave, 18 feet wide inside, is connected with a narrow chancel by a Saxon arch, 10 feet high and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, which has jambs of long and short ashlar work, flat moulded imposts, and an arch of single square stones, with a plain square-edged label. The nave had two entrances, north and south, opposite one another, and two windows similarly placed. The chancel does not seem to have had any window. The north wall is a restoration. A square stone, part of which had been cut away to form a lancet window, was found in an old chimney stack, and has been inserted in the east wall for preservation. The inscription, when complete, was probably IN HONOREM SANCTE TRINITATIS HOC ALTARE DEDICATUM EST.

A copy of the inscribed stone previously referred to is also to be seen.

On leaving Deerhurst the members drove to Whitefield or Wightfield Court, which is a fine 18th century mansion, standing on the site of an earlier house in which dwelt Sir John Cassey, whose brass effigy is in Deerhurst Church. The house has stepped gables such as we see at Nuremburg and in Belgium. Two square towers containing newel staircases are perhaps relics of the earlier house. There is some stained glass commemorating the marriage of Henry Cassey to Dorothy Fettiplace. The Casseys gave their name to Compton Cassey and Kilcot Cassey. Some notes on the Cassey family and on the devolution of Whitefield Manor will be found in our *Transactions*, vol. xi., pp. 2-5.

From Whitefield the party proceeded to Apperley Court, where they were most kindly received by Mr. and Miss Strickland, and after viewing the interesting museum, were entertained at afternoon tea. A pleasant drive back to Tewkesbury ended a meeting which, in spite of uncertain weather, proved to be a most interesting and enjoyable one.