

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Proceedings at the Annual Summer Meeting at Cirencester

1907, Vol. 30, 23-48

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING,
AT CIRENCESTER,

*Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 16th, 17th, and 18th,
1907.*

THE Society had paid at least three visits to Cirencester before the present occasion. The first visit was in 1887, under the presidency of the late Earl Bathurst. In 1892 there was a joint meeting of the Society and the Wilts archæologists, Mr. Wilfrid Cripps being president. In 1896 the Society came to see the supposed Saxon village on Lord Biddulph's estate, but it was evident from the statement of Canon Bazeley that the village belonged to the Romano-British period. An illustration of the importance of Cirencester in the seventeenth century is afforded in the fact that there were twenty-six varieties of traders' tokens in the town, no fewer than nineteen of the most interesting being now in the possession of Mr. J. E. Pritchard, by whom three of these were exhibited during the meeting. Arrangements for another visit of the Society to the town and certain localities within moderate driving distances were made, and on Tuesday the three days' meeting was opened, Mr. Edward C. Sewell kindly acting as local hon. secretary.

Delightful weather favoured the gathering, the dull greyness of early morning speedily giving place to brilliant sunshine. The sky was cloudless throughout the day, there was a genial warmth in the air, and conditions prevailed under

which Cirencester and its charming surroundings were seen at their best.

Among those present at the opening meeting were the retiring president (the Rev. C. S. Taylor), the president for the year (Mr. W. St. Clair Baddeley), the president of the Council (Mr. Francis F. Fox), the hon. general treasurer (Mr. G. M. Currie), the hon. secretary for Bristol (Mr. John E. Pritchard), the hon. general secretary (Mr. M. G. Lloyd-Baker), and a large number of members and their friends, including many ladies.

The members assembled in the Town Hall (over the south porch of the church) under the chairmanship of the Rev. C. S. Taylor (retiring president), where Mr. Lloyd-Baker presented the following report of the Council :—

The Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society present their report for the year ending July 16th, 1907 :—

There are on the Society's list 530 members, as against 556 at the time of the last annual report. The income of the Society for year ending December 31st, 1906, including a balance of £166 17s. 3d. (£66 17s. 3d. in the treasurer's hands and £100 on deposit at the Society's bankers) on January 1st, 1906, was £524 7s. 9d., and the expenditure £458 12s. 1d., leaving a balance of £65 15s. 8d. The Society also holds consols of the face value of £832 3s. 8d., worth at present price £707 7s. 1d., making total assets £773 2s. 9d.

The treasurer has also in hand a sum subscribed for the testimonial to Canon Bazeley.

The *Transactions* are only issued to members who have paid their subscriptions for the respective year. A new list of members will be issued with the next volume of *Transactions*, and the secretary would be obliged if corrections of addresses, &c., were forwarded to him at once.

Since the presentation of the last report the Society has held two General Meetings—at Bristol, under the presidency of Rev. C. S. Taylor, on July 17th, 18th, 19th, 1906, and at Northleach on May 28th, 1907. The account of the Bristol meeting appeared in the Society's *Transactions*, vol. xxix., part i. The Council desire to acknowledge the courtesy of the Lord Mayor and High Sheriff of Bristol, as well as the generous hospitality of the Society of Merchant Venturers, who entertained them to luncheon in their magnificent hall. The excellent

arrangements for the meeting were made and admirably carried out by Mr. J. E. Pritchard, the hon. secretary for Bristol.

With regard to the Northleach meeting, the Council desire to thank Mr. T. Overbury, who not only prepared the archæological notes on that occasion, but who in every way worked hard to make it a successful day.

The *List of the Gloucestershire Church Plate*, referred to in the last report, has now been issued to all members who subscribed during the years of 1894-5 and 1895-6. Other members may still subscribe for copies (price 15/- each).

The thanks of the Council have been given to the editor, the Rev. J. T. Evans, and his collaborators.

The hon. secretary for Bristol reports that gifts of books have been received during the past year, for the Bristol Library, from the following members:—The President of the Society (Rev. C. S. Taylor), Mr. J. Baker, Mr. J. B. C. Burroughs, Dr. Alfred Harvey, and the hon. Secretary for Bristol (Mr. John E. Pritchard).

The hon. secretary for Bristol wishes to remind members living in the northern part of the county, that as all the valuable books amassed at Bristol just after the foundation of this Society are now located at Gloucester, those members have a very distinct advantage over those in the Bristol district. He therefore appeals to members generally to assist in building up the small Reference Library in Bristol, founded in 1904, of which a first list was printed in the last part of the *Transactions*, by contributing volumes for the shelves.

Four winter evening meetings were held in Bristol last session, and several of the papers read will appear in the *Transactions*. This movement is self-supporting, and the surplus from the subscriptions is being devoted to the purchase of the *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, of which one volume has recently been issued.

The hon. secretary for Bristol gladly reports that by the vote of the City Council on the 23rd of October last, it was decided by fifty votes to fourteen to retain the old timber house—known as the “Dutch House”—*in situ*; but he has to report with regret that “Langton’s House,” which was visited by the Society last year, was demolished and removed from the city by the end of 1906. This interesting structure will be described and illustrated in an early volume of the *Transactions*.

The Bristol members are still pressing for the formation of an “Architectural Court” at the Museum and Art Gallery, as most valuable specimens are continually being lost to the city, often by wanton neglect. As a first acknowledgment of this requirement, the Museum Committee has set aside a room in the basement of the Museum and Art Gallery for the reception of such relics, but this can only be regarded as a

temporary expedient towards meeting what is a definite necessity. That a provincial museum should firstly house everything of local historic interest is an axiom immovable as the heavens.

Three winter evening meetings were held at Gloucester, and were well attended.

During the past year the following discoveries have been made:—

In April last, during some alterations to the churchyard of St. Mary's, Newent, the workmen had occasion to remove a stone block which for many years had protruded some eighteen inches above ground. After considerable excavation, the block was drawn up, and proved to be a portion of the shaft of a free standing cross. On the face of the fragment, which measures 4 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 4 inches by 10 inches, may be seen a sculptured representation of the temptation and fall of man. On either side of the tree of knowledge, round which a serpent is twining, stand the figures of Adam and Eve, &c. On the back of the stone is represented the sacrifice of Isaac. On one side is possibly David cutting off the head of Goliath, and on the other is a curious beast with some entwined foliage or interlacing ropework. The sculpture is pre-Norman, and in the opinion of Mr. J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A., of early Saxon execution, probably eighth century, thoroughly Mercian in character, and showing decided Northumbrian influence. The stone is a coarse grey sandstone, almost a gritstone.

To Mr. C. H. Dancey, of Gloucester, the Council are indebted for the following description of the finding of a Roman coin at Barnwood, near Gloucester. In May last, whilst digging for gravel, some workmen discovered a skeleton, perfect in all respects with the exception of the left foot, which was missing. The skeleton was that of a man about 5 feet 6 inches high, and between 25 and 30 years of age. Attached to the right wrist was an iron bangle, and amongst the remains was a coin. It is of brass, weighs one ounce, and is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference, and bears the image and superscription of the Emperor Domitian. The spot where it was found is close to the Roman road from Gloucester to Cirencester, known as the Ermine Way.

There has also been a very important find of bronze celts near the Fosse Way at Lower Slaughter, and three of them have been purchased for the Society.

The Council regret the loss by death of Sir Brook Kay (a former President of the Society, and for many years one of its most valued supporters), of Mr. H. A. Prothero (local secretary for Cheltenham), Mr. P. Baylis (local secretary for Forest of Dean), Mr. W. Leigh, General Hale, Mr. J. R. Horner, Mr. E. C. Little, Mr. Wm. Maclaine, The Rev. Canon Stackhouse (local secretary for Berkeley), and Mr. George Trower.

The Council has held six meetings during the year, four at Gloucester

and two at Bristol, and they desire to express their obligation to the Lord Mayor of Bristol for the use of the old Council Chamber.

The Council desire to nominate for re-election the President of the Council, the Vice-Presidents of the Society, the General Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Secretary for Bristol, and the Local Secretaries.

The following members of Council retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election : Canon Ellacombe, G. S. Blakeway, H. Medland, C. H. Dancey, R. Hall Warren, Dr. A. Harvey, and E. Conder.

The Council cannot close this report without a reference to the retirement of Canon Bazeley. For twenty-nine years Canon Bazeley has held the post of Honorary General Secretary, and during that period has spared neither time nor trouble in the interests of the Society. To his untiring zeal and devotion is due in no small measure the position which the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society holds amongst kindred societies at the present time. Whilst taking leave of him as General Secretary, the Council consider that they are fortunate in retaining him as one of their number, in which position, both from his great knowledge and long experience, his advice cannot fail to be of the greatest service.

Dr. SHINGLETON SMITH, in moving the adoption of the report, said such excellent work as the Council had done in the past, such good work as they were doing in the present, and such a degree of activity manifested and the balance at the bank, were things they had to contemplate with pleasure.

Major WRIGHT seconded the resolution, which was carried.

On the proposition of the MAYOR OF GLOUCESTER, seconded by Mr. R. H. CARPENTER, the retiring members of the Council were re-elected.

The out-going President proposed the confirmation of a revision of rules which had been passed at the Northleach meeting, and had, as a matter of form, to be brought forward a second time. Speaking of his work as Editor of the *Transactions*, he referred in appreciative terms to the reports, extremely well prepared, which he received every year for publication from Mr. Pritchard, and he emphasised the value of such co-operation on the part of local secretaries.

Mr. BOWLEY seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The President then left the chair, and Mr. W. St. Clair Baddeley, the new President, took his place.

The Rev. C. S. TAYLOR said they had had many presidents who did their work extremely well, and some whose names were not simply known in their county but throughout England, and now they had a president who had a reputation outside England. He was sure that Mr. Baddeley would do good work, and that they would spend a pleasant and profitable year under his presidency.

Canon SINCLAIR proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. C. S. Taylor for the able manner in which he had acted as president, and also for his care in editing the *Transactions*.

Mr. F. F. TUCKETT seconded the resolution, and it was cordially adopted.

Mr. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY then returned thanks for his election. He referred to the accomplished gentlemen who had preceded him in the office, and said he would specify only two—one Sir John Maclean, and the other the Rev. C. S. Taylor. He specially directed attention to the researches of the Rev. C. S. Taylor, and said besides his investigations in two old dark periods he had written a very useful volume, which they knew as the *Domesday of Gloucestershire*. He felt that they had done him (the speaker) great honour in electing him to the Rev. C. S. Taylor's place. There had been mention made of discoveries which the local secretaries should forward to the general secretary or editor, and it struck him that he had not done what he should have done in reporting interesting discoveries. He adverted to some rolls of the fifteenth century which came into his hands at Painswick, and stated that the names therein appearing identified some Roman roads, so that information was brought forth from dusty documents.

The Rev. C. S. TAYLOR thanked the assembly for the resolution recognising his services as president.

Mr. F. F. TUCKETT said the endeavour of the Bishop of Bath and Wells in respect to Glastonbury Abbey came before the Council of the Society, and it was thought it would be a graceful act if those in a neighbouring county could testify

their sympathy and approval of the Bishop's undertaking by some sort of communication to him, and offering a donation towards the completion of the fund he was raising. He (the speaker) was recommended to bring the matter before that meeting.

The PRESIDENT said they all felt sympathy with the Bishop under his heavy responsibility, for Glastonbury Abbey should be a national monument. It was not like a second-rate ruin, but was a monument for all time. If they could see their way to give further consideration to the subject during the coming month, their sympathy might perhaps take the form of a little presentation, but he did not think the Society could advance any large sum for an object outside the county.

Mr. E. J. SWANN proposed that the Council be authorised, if they thought fit, to make a donation to the fund for the preservation of Glastonbury Abbey.

The PRESIDENT thought gentlemen, apart from the Council, might arrange to give something which would, in some sense, express the feeling of the Society.

Mr. C. BOWLY advised them to reflect that they had matters in their own county which required funds.

Mr. H. W. BRUTON proposed that they should contribute twenty guineas.

Mr. J. McMURTRIE said there seemed in their rules to be no provision for anything of the kind outside the county.

Mr. F. F. FOX gave some particulars of a visit he had paid to Mr. F. J. Fry, near Chard, in Somerset. Mr. Fry told him that the Bishop had rendered himself liable for £15,000, but already £3,000 had come to hand, and there was a prospect more would follow. There was no hurry; let them wait and see what Somerset was going to do about the balance.

Mr. J. BAKER pointed out that Mr. Swann's motion was simply of a permissive character, and left matters in the hands of the Council. The abbey was a national monument and appealed to them all, and the Council might give a small donation, and so help.

In further discussion the suggestion was made that the Society might use their influence in the direction of the abbey being acquired as a national memorial, and thus relieve the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The PRESIDENT thought they might postpone action until they found the Bishop had any difficulty in meeting the responsibility. He thought the recent contribution of £100 by the Queen would give the movement an impetus.

Mr. TUCKETT expressed himself content, now the subject had been ventilated, to let it stand over for the present, if that were wished.

The discussion thereupon terminated.

After luncheon the members spent a pleasant afternoon in visiting various places of interest in the historic town. Naturally, the first pilgrimage was to the handsome parish church, where they were received by the vicar, the Rev. Canon SINCLAIR, who described the church and acted as guide. The members then proceeded to the abbey grounds, to inspect the Roman capital and the abbey grounds and gateway, permission having been kindly granted by Mr. T. Kingscote. A short walk, and the ruins of St. John's Hospital were reached. Mr. E. C. SEWELL gave some particulars of the hospital, and the party also inspected the site of St. Thomas's Hospital. One of the principal places visited during the afternoon was the Corinium Museum, the fine tessellated pavements discovered in 1849, in Dyer Street, being described by Mr. CHRISTOPHER BOWLY. They were removed in blocks, together with the concrete on which they were laid, and were transferred to their present position, when the building was ready to receive them. Both pavements are of high quality, the larger one at the western end of the room being of singular merit in design and excellent in execution. They are both probably the work of the first quarter of the second century. The principal pavement originally consisted, in its perfect form, of nine medallions, each nearly five feet in diameter, and included in octagonal frames, formed of a twisted guilloche, in which bright red and yellow tessellæ prevailed. Within all the octagons, with the exception of the centre one, are circular medallions, surrounded also by the twisted guilloche, but with tessellæ of a subdued colour, in which olive green and white prevail, this arrangement giving greater effect to the pictorial subjects within each circle, an effect which is heightened by inner circles of black frets of various patterns in the different medallions. The central figure, which is supposed to have been a centaur, together with

some other parts of the pavement, was unfortunately injured by the pressure of the foundation wall of a dwelling-house. There are representations of the goddess Flora, Silenus, the goddess Ceres, Actæon the hunter, at the moment when he was being changed by Diana into a stag, and was on the point of being devoured by his own dogs, and of the goddess Pomona. A small part only of the next medallion remains. When complete it probably represented Bacchus on a panther.

There were formerly three hospitals existing at Cirencester, dedicated to St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Lawrence. Only the ruins of St. John's Hospital remain. These are of the Transitional Norman style which prevailed during the latter half of the twelfth century, and probably are part of the original structure.

The townsmen of Cirencester in 1343, when accusing the abbey of Cirencester of certain usurpations, declared that St. John's Hospital was founded and endowed by Henry I., and was appropriated by the abbey in the time of Henry II. It appears that old folk and other miserable persons were received and maintained at the hospital according to its means, the largesses of the faithful, and the contributions of the almoner of the abbey.

There was a chantry founded in connection with this hospital, and the chapel no doubt stood on the site of the existing cottages at the east end.

Abbot Hereward obtained from Edward III., on the payment of £300, a confirmation of this hospital and other possessions, his tenure of which had been disputed by the townsmen.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 the income of the warden from various sources was returned by the canons of the abbey at £6 5s. 4d.¹

A walk through the picturesque gardens of Cirencester House brought the members to the Barton Roman pavements, which they inspected. Tea was provided by Canon Sinclair, and a pleasant half-hour was spent in the vicarage garden. Before dinner there was time to visit the Roman museum owned by Mrs. Wilfrid Cripps, and the bull-ring or amphitheatre.

Canon SINCLAIR kindly read the following account of the parish church while the members were assembled in the sacred building :—

In Roman times the site of the church was divided into two unequal parts by the Ermine Street, which passed through where now stand the north and south porches. No doubt there would be important buildings on such an important site, and indeed a Roman altar and a round vessel have been dug up in St. John's Chapel. Nor is it difficult to believe that in Romano-British times a Christian church may have existed here utilised as a place of worship by the Saxons after their conversion to

¹ See *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society*, viii. 224-8.

Christianity ; at all events, we know that the Saxons had a building, and possibly a church, here, for there are Saxon foundations under the east wall of the nave. All that, however, is conjecture ; it is not until Norman times that we arrive at anything like certainty.

If we stand in front of the chancel screen we shall be in the centre of the Norman church. It was without doubt cruciform ; the Norman masonry under the windows at the east of the south aisle would be the end of the south transept, and the two windows above are the lineal descendants of those in Norman times ; the roof in those days would be lower, and the second range of windows above would not be inserted till the rebuilding of the church in 1515. Parts of the east walls of these transepts still remain ; that of the south transept has a portion of a small Norman arch leading into what may have been a chancel aisle, but what was more probably a single bay, such as exists at Wimborne. Of the corresponding wall of the north transept, you will find remains near the entrance to St. Katharine's Chapel, where there is some cross-patching that tells of this period. You will notice that these transepts must have been of imposing size ; the nave (of which we have no trace) would be of corresponding importance, while the choir extended as far as the north arcade. Possibly also there was a tower over the crossing. All this would make up a very noble church, such as one would expect in a town which was a royal residence.

In the twelfth century there were alterations in and about the chancel. It is uncertain whether there were chancel aisles in the Norman church, though it is difficult to account for the Norman doorway in the present St. Katharine's Chapel if there were not. But if there were, the arcades must have been taken down about fifty years after they were built, and been replaced by the present transitional work. That this work does belong to the twelfth century seems clear from the fact that the capital of the central pillar in the north arcade has a square-edged abacus, while its base is precisely similar to one found by Mr. Fuller at St. Cross, Winchester, which was begun by Bishop Henry de Blois in 1135. The arches are pointed, and so must be later than 1125, but otherwise tell little ; they are plainly moulded. The arcade on the south side may be a little later, if we are to judge by the interesting foliated capital of its central pillar. The east pillar of this arcade is to be noticed ; it is Roman, the portion of the base embedded in the wall having its original moulding, while the half that is exposed has been reworked into mouldings of about the date 1170. The east wall of this aisle was diapered with stars and crescents, the badge of the early Plantagenet kings.

In the thirteenth century the chancel was extended eastwards, and the Norman termination (probably an apse) was replaced by the present square end with its east window. The east window is remarkable ; it

has fine thirteenth-century mouldings, but a broken, unshapely arch ; and it seems probable that the original window was narrower, like that at the east end of St. John's Chapel : and then, when the manufacture of glass was at its zenith and everyone wanted larger east windows, this window was converted into its present five-light shape, with the old arch bent outwards to accommodate the additional lights. Then was built the original Lady Chapel beyond the north or St. Katharine's aisle. This bore the name of " The Chapel of the Blessed Mary of the Charnell," on account of the charnel vault below it. The drip outside against the east wall of the nave shows where the sharp-pitched roof of this building extended. Late in this century the south chancel aisle—the chapel of St. John Baptist—must have been enlarged to its present size ; traces of the older lean-to roof can be seen against the wall of the nave aisle. The date of this chapel cannot be before 1280, to judge by the trefoils in the windows, for trefoils came in after that year. The south wall of this chapel was rebuilt about one hundred years ago, and a doorway and two late Perpendicular windows removed. In the same century the nave must have been reconstructed. Over the tower arch is to be seen the steep-pitched roof of this Early English building ; and on the west wall of the north aisle may be traced other lines showing the corresponding roof of that aisle, which was both lower and narrower than the one at present existing. The aisle on the south would no doubt be the same. The archway into St. John's Chapel and the lower portions of the archways into St. Katharine's and St. Mary's Chapels date from this century. The three cast pillars of the south aisle are said to rest on Early English foundations.

It is strange that little appears to have been done in the fourteenth century, unless the nave aisles were widened then ; they must have been widened to their present extent before the building of the Trinity Chapel in the succeeding century.

At the beginning of the fifteenth century we have the building of the tower. It is certainly a dignified and noble structure, but not exactly beautiful. The excuse for this is that it was never completed ; the squinches in its top angles show that it was designed for a spire, which would have had the effect of pulling the whole together, and have made it symmetrical and beautiful. The reason why this spire was never built is quite clear. The tower was no sooner built than it began to give way, and not only would it not bear any further strain, but the great flying buttresses had to be put up for its support—those buttresses which have such an unfortunate effect in making the church look high-shouldered when seen from a distance. In 1430—the year of the capture and burning of Joan of Arc—the Trinity Chapel was built, the gem of the whole church, with its elaborate carvings and unsurpassed roof. The

two men principally concerned in its erection—Prelatte and Dixton—were prominent adherents of Richard, Duke of York, whose badge—the fetter-lock and falcon—is to be seen above each arch and window in the chapel, while their own brasses are to be found on its face. This was the chapel of the principal guild of the town. Soon afterwards was put up the screen of Irish oak at the south-east angle of the nave enclosing the chantry-chapel of St. Edmund of Canterbury, afterwards called “The Chapel of the Fraternity of the Name of Jesus.” It owes its existence to a family named Garstang, wealthy merchants of the town, who had a crypt for burial immediately under the chapel, and who commenced the rebuilding of the nave, a work which seems not to have been continued till 1515. This screen has recently been restored to its old position ; it was removed and laid aside in 1803, and afterwards used for a choir vestry. In 1450 the Lady Chapel was rebuilt as we see it now ; but one hundred years ago part of the north wall fell down, and in the rebuilding the three side windows were put in with incorrect tracery. Again, to the fifteenth century we owe the clergy vestry at the south-east corner of the church. Its windows are so narrow and so heavily barred, and its door, walls and roof are so strong, that it evidently was the treasury or sacristy of the church ; in the eighteenth century it was used as a study by the perpetual curates of the church. About the same time the chapel of St. Katharine was prolonged eastwards ; originally it terminated at the end of the chancel arcade.

We now come to the sixteenth century. About 1500 the great south porch was built over a crypt, and with two stories of rooms over the entrance passage to the church ; the two stories are now thrown into one large hall. It appears to have been the reconstruction of an older building. It is a unique feature, and must impress everyone who approaches the church from the market-place side. There have been many surmises as to the purpose for which it was intended, but there can be little doubt that it was for a meeting-place of the town-guilds, which were at least four in number, with services and priests in the Trinity, St. Katharine's, St. John's, and Jesus Chapels. These guilds, which, as we all know, would have a good deal of business to transact (one of them maintained a hospice in Gosditch Street, and they all were benefit societies, and exercised the duties of practical charity), and these rooms or halls would be useful for social and business purposes.

But now a greater work was to be undertaken. In 1515 enough money was collected to enable those responsible to begin the rebuilding of the nave. The abbot and canons of the abbey must have taken a lead in the work, for the church was entirely in their hands, and the abbey arms appear in various parts of it ; and there would be other persons of position who would assist, such as Ruthall, Bishop of Durham.



Trans. xvii., 244.

EMBLEMS OF THE PASSION, IN THE THIRD SPANDRIL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NAVE OF CIRENCESTER CHURCH.

A FIST A SCOURGE. PILATE.

the Berkeleys, Comptons, &c. ; but the wealthy woolstaplers of the town must have the chief credit of what was done. Here, as in East Anglia, they enlarged and beautified their parish church as a thankoffering for their prosperity. I think the Garstang family alone had both a coat of arms and a merchant's mark, but you will find an interesting series of these marks amongst the arms and badges of those who contributed to the rebuilding of this which, I think you will agree, is one of the noblest arcades in England. And let me point out an exceptional feature. Not content with the great clerestory, they put one over the chancel arch, and even another over the arcade of the north aisle. The great work must have been finished about 1530, when one Henry Taffer left money for the seats. Abbot Blake's initials are carved on the external keystone ; he became abbot in 1522.

I have only now to mention that in 1535 the abbey was dissolved and destroyed, and in 1539 part of its groined cloister roof was found to fit on to St. Katharine's Chapel, and was placed in its present odd position, the walls, east window and entrance arch being raised for the purpose.

I have now sketched the history of the building of this most instructive church. It would be impossible for one in the course of a single paper to enter into a discussion on doubtful points, or to describe to you the many matters of interest which will engage your attention as you walk round it—the frescoes, brasses, chained books, coats of arms, hour-glass, ancient embroidery, glass, candelabra, inscriptions, &c., which caused William Morris to say of it that it was "romantic to a degree." But I will briefly mention one or two facts about the bells, the glass and the plate.

In 1634 there appear to have been eight bells, which were then recast, and the townspeople paid the Parliamentarians £30 to save them from being melted down for cannon. In 1658 one of the bells of St. John's Hospital was given to the church. In the eighteenth century Rudhall, of Gloucester, recast them, when there appear to have been twelve. There are now thirteen ; the extra bell is used when a minor peal is rung, and as an alarm bell for fires. There are many quaint customs as to these bells. The tenth bell is still rung as the curfew at 8 p.m. through the winter ; the ninth bell is rung on Shrove Tuesday—the old shriving bell, locally termed the "pancake" bell ; on Holy Innocents' Day a muffled minor peal is rung ; on Saturdays at 11 a.m. the bells are lifted one by one. It is said this has been done since a piece of land was given to the abbey to pay for the keeping in order of the parish church bells ; the abbot had the bells lifted in this way to show the town that the whole ring was in order. On saints' days and holy days the third and fourth are chimed as epistle and gospel bells.

The ancient glass is mainly of the fifteenth century. That in the east and west windows was collected from various windows in the church, under the direction of Lysons, about one hundred years ago. He advised that the east window should be cut down to the level of the altar in order to find room for more of it ; at the restoration of the church in 1865 the window was restored to its old form. Three years ago Lysons' arrangement of the east window was altered, and the green, orange and magenta glazier's glass of his period was taken out, and the leading of the whole carefully seen to ; this was done in memory of the late Mr. Wilfrid Cripps. The tracery of the side windows in the Trinity Chapel contains in the main its original glass. And while there are a few pieces in other parts of the church, the only other glass that requires mention is that in one of the north windows of the Lady Chapel, most of which I found loose in the church, and which was put up three years ago.

The church plate you see before you, and it is well known. The modern pieces include a large almsdish made by Mr. Harry Wilson, with enamel coat of arms and bosses of three saints connected with the town ; a cross of gold, silver and copper, made by Mr. Spencer ; and two chalices and patens. There are two almsdishes of Queen Anne's period, and an ancient strainer-spoon. But the glory of the collection is the plate of Tudor times. The two large jug-shaped flagons date from 1576 ; they are the finest specimens of their class, and weigh 66 and 67 oz. The great pair of gilt chalices with paten covers (1570) weigh 52 and 53 oz. ; they also are the finest known specimens of the early post-Reformation chalice. And, lastly, there is the famous Boleyn cup (1535), 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high ; it will be best understood by the illustration which we give from a photograph taken at South Kensington Museum. A friend of mine lately discovered that it is made from a design by Hans Brosamer, of Fulda, and later of Erfurt, where he died in 1552.

The church, as we have seen, has passed through many vicissitudes, often enlarged, sometimes allowed to fall into disrepair. It must have been very glorious prior to the great crash of the Reformation, when all its windows were filled with glass of the best period, when frescoes adorned many of its walls, and even its pillars and arches were coloured, and when its glorious nave was fresh from the hands of the builder. A hundred years later it was so broken, dilapidated and neglected, that it was made by its friends to petition Archbishop Laud in piteous terms for renovation ; something was then done, and repairs in the taste of the day were carried out from time to time afterwards ; but it was not till 1865 that the work was taken in hand thoroughly by Sir Gilbert Scott—too thoroughly many of us may think ; but it was the spirit of the age. Nor must it be forgotten that Sir Gilbert spared things which



the people here would have removed, and that his work was sound and good. And now we have a building that is not only fairly adapted for modern worship, but is still eloquent of the past. As Swinburne says :—

“Strong as time and as faith sublime,—clothed round with shadows of hopes and fears,
Nights and morrows, and tears and sorrows, alive with passion of prayers and tears,—
Stands the shrine that has seen decline eight hundred waxing and waning years.”

In the evening, after the annual dinner, there was a meeting at the Town Hall in order to hear an address from the President on “The Modern Status of Archæology and the Hopes of Archæology in Relation to Certain Dark Periods in Britain,” which is printed in this part of the *Transactions*.

The Rev. C. S. TAYLOR proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his illuminating address, which, he said, was valuable not only for having told them much they did not know before, but also because it had set before them a perfect example of the best method of archæological study, the working from the known to the unknown by a process of growth and evolution.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER BOWLY seconded the vote of thanks, which was heartily accorded.

Mr. SEWELL then read an interesting paper, illustrated by map and diagram, describing the discovery ten years ago, by the late Mr. Wilfrid Cripps, of the Roman basilica of Corinium—the fine building consisting of nave and aisles, with apsidal west end and portico supported by Corinthian columns at the east end, situated at the southern extremity of the modern Tower Street, contiguous to the spot where the crossing of the great Roman roads converging at Corinium marked the centre of the Roman city. Mr. Sewell reproduced the late Mr. Cripps’s graphic story of his important “find,” as already published in our *Transactions*, and clearly explained the situation and fine proportions of the building.

In moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Sewell, the PRESIDENT recommended caution in assuming that all basilicas were necessarily Courts of Justice, for the business halls or stock exchanges were of exactly similar plan, and the fact that to the Corinium basilica were attached small rectangular apartments on the south side suggested that these were money-changers’ offices, and that the basilica, like ones he met with in Rome, was used as a stock exchange.

Mr. FOX seconded the vote of thanks, and the day’s proceedings closed a little after ten o’clock.

On Wednesday morning, at 9.30, the members started in several brakes on what proved a delightful and interesting excursion in brilliant summer weather, under the leadership of the President (Mr. St. Clair Baddeley), who was a truly admirable guide, his inexhaustible stores of antiquarian

knowledge being freely drawn upon at each halting-place for the instruction of the party, there being no department of archæological research on which he had not something of interest and value to say. In spite of the Gloucestershire associations of the Society, the excursionists soon passed over the county border, and the greater part of the day's proceedings was confined to Wiltshire—Ashton Keynes, Purton and Cricklade being visited in turn—and Gloucestershire territory was not re-entered till the afternoon, when halts were made at Down Ampney, South Cerney and Siddington.

The first stopping-place was Ashton Keynes, and as the parish church of All Hallows was reached somewhat before the hour fixed in the itinerary, the President conducted the party round the exterior of the church, pending the arrival of the vicar, the Rev. M. J. T. Milling. The President, indeed, pointed out that in order to understand the changes made in the several centuries it was always better first to take an external view of a church, instead of making the common mistake of at once going inside. He proceeded to indicate the following features: On the south side, a Perpendicular porch added to a south wall which had Decorated and Perpendicular windows; at the west end, a tower in the main built in the thirteenth century, the whole after that being rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and the battlement probably added in the fifteenth; a little Perpendicular-headed priest's door leading into the chancel; on the north side, an early easternmost window, then a little triangular-headed cavity which originally went through the wall, being probably a hole in the wall through which the sanctus bell was rung; next came a window a little older than the previous one, the hood being sawn off; then a fourteenth-century window; then there was also a now blocked-up square window (which on going inside it was afterwards found was originally constructed to give light to a rood-loft in the north aisle, the curious reredos of which still remains); the north porch was either newly built, or rebuilt in the fifteenth century, with an Early English round-headed doorway, probably dating about 1220; at the west end of the north aisle was a good Perpendicular window.

Speaking of the Keynes family, which gave their name to this and other places in the immediate locality, such as Poole Keynes and Somersford Keynes, the President said they were extensive landowners in this part of Wiltshire at the time of Henry I., but the one who actually held Ashton Keynes and Poole Keynes was Sir John Keynes, of the time of Edward III., who married a daughter of Maltravers, who was concerned in the alleged murder of Edward II. In 1386 (*temp.* Richard II.) he also held large landed possessions in Northamptonshire, and at that time an epidemic must have seized the family, for Sir John Keynes and his wife died, the property descended to a little girl twelve years of age, whose



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PURTON CHURCH.

death was recorded in a few months, she was succeeded by an aunt, Elizabeth, and she dying, the property passed to a cousin, de Wootton.

On entering the church, the VICAR read extracts from the excellent description written for the Wiltshire Archæological Society by Mr. C. E. Ponting, F.S.A., a striking feature being the splendid three-membered Norman chancel arch, which was, however, unfortunately widened at the restoration in 1869 under Mr. Butterfield.

The church of the Holy Cross consists of nave with aisles and north and south porches, western tower, and chancel with north chapel. The earliest work in this church is to be seen in the chancel arch and the eastern pillars of the nave on the north side, but the former has been enlarged. In this work and in the corresponding pillars on the south side can be traced the course of the transition in architectural style which was completed about 1200. The font is also a fine specimen of the work of this period. The north and south aisles are both in the main fourteenth century, and have roofs of the same date, the easternmost window of the south and the west window of the north are, however, of the Perpendicular style. In the east wall of the north aisle is an arch leading into the north chapel. Above this arch may be seen the reredos of a rood-loft altar. Judging by the staircase and doorways there was a rood-loft to this chapel only. The north chapel was divided into two, each with its altar and piscina, the latter remaining both here and in the chancel. Chancel and chapel are both thirteenth century, though showing considerable alterations. The tower and north porch are both fourteenth century. The south porch is Perpendicular, and there is glass of the same date in the south aisle. A great part of the churchyard cross remains, and there are parts of three other crosses in the village. Near the church is a moated farm.

The programme announced a drive of "five miles of pleasant Cotswold lanes" to Purton, but by a misunderstanding the drivers elected to make a detour through Minety, and so nearly double that distance was traversed before the village was reached. Some years must have elapsed since we were so much behind our time, but no great harm was done, though it became necessary to shorten our stay at the very interesting little church of St. Mary at Cricklade. The Vicar of Purton, the Rev. J. Veysey, met the party at his noble church, chiefly of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century styles, and remarkable for the possession of both a western tower and central spire, a combination said to exist only in two other churches in England, viz. at Wanborough, another Wiltshire parish not many miles away, and at Ormskirk, in Lancashire.

Part of the churchyard cross remains, and there is a small piece of carved stone, supposed to represent the Annunciation, inserted in the outside of the east wall. The pillars of the nave are of early thirteenth-

century style. There were side altars in the south chancel aisle and in the south transept, and these are connected by a small opening some six feet from the ground. Many of the walls show traces of fresco work. Beneath the central spire is a chamber, entered from the north transept, which appears to have been used as a priest's chamber, but there is now no view of the altar from it, possibly owing to a change in the level of the chancel ceiling, and there is a more complete, if later, priest's chamber over the south porch. In the splay of the south doorway the Bishop of Bristol has lately brought to notice the consecration crosses. The south porch is also worthy of notice. Next to the churchyard stands a fine old gabled house, possibly Tudor, and beyond this a large tithe barn.

The President congratulated the vicar on the care he had taken of his beautiful church, on the success of the recent work, and especially on his having wisely withstood the desire expressed by some that the handsome oak screen should be painted. Alluding to the consecration crosses lately pointed out by the Bishop of Bristol on the thirteenth-century inner door of the south porch, the President expressed a doubt whether they all belonged to the same period.

On arrival at Cricklade, luncheon was the first business, and this was excellently served at the White Hart Hotel. After luncheon St. Sampson's Church was visited.

Two stones over the north door are probably relics of an early church, perhaps tenth century. The earliest part of the present building is Transitional Norman. Of this date remains only the eastern arcades of the nave, the western are slightly later, and both aisles and chancel have been remodelled. The south aisle was rebuilt last century, though probably most of its features are identical with those of a thirteenth-century restoration. The north aisle is mostly of the fourteenth century, when it probably became a chantry of the family living in the manor of Wildhill. An effigy long exposed in the churchyard has been placed in a recess here, perhaps originally its own. The chancel is of the fourteenth century; its transepts, though showing traces of a thirteenth-century original, have been much altered in the fifteenth century and recently. The south transept has been supported at its south east angle by a flying buttress, dated 1569. The tower, and possibly the porch, are magnificent examples of post Reformation Gothic, the date of the tower being considered to be fixed at 1552 by the combination of the devices of Warwick and Northumberland, only once born by the same individual—the successor of the Protector Somerset.

This large and important thirteenth-century church has comparatively little thirteenth-century work left, for it underwent great alteration

and extension in the fifteenth century. Apparently after the Reformation, probably about 1552 or 1553, the whole of the outer work of the central tower was rebuilt, and the inner portion has been entirely rebuilt in a manner which the President described as rather grandiose than graceful. The badges inside the tower showed that John Dudley, the famous, or rather infamous, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, the father-in-law of Lady Jane Grey, patronised the rebuilding. In the somewhat coarse rebuilding of the inner portion of the tower, the President discerned a deliberate attempt to be even with the Gothic, and such an attempt so late as the sixteenth century is certainly interesting. Among the accumulation of badges on all sides of the tower, in addition to Dudley's bear and ragged staff, are representations of the sun, moon and stars, and the presence of a sheaf of corn between two sickles, as well as a pair of wool shears, both inside and outside the tower, show that in addition to Dudley's patronage the work was also supported by some local magnates interested in the corn and wool trade.

The President also called attention to two interesting fragments embedded in the wall above the nicely proportioned thirteenth-century door within the added north porch of a half-century's later date. These fragments are specimens of that Celtic art to which Mr. St. Clair Baddeley made reference in his presidential address. That on the right is a portion of sepulchral stones, and that on the left is a piece of strap and plait work which the President thought to be a piece of the shaft of a cross. Immediately above the crown of the arch is a curious stone with six perforations, the original use of which is uncertain. The President suggested that it was formerly in a place where the perforations were needed for small bell ropes ; for he did not agree with the theory which represented the stone as the base of a small statue of the Virgin with the holes for holding candles. Reverting to the Celtic fragments just referred to, the President said they were of peculiar interest by reason of the unusual dedication of the church to St. Sampson, who was a Celtic saint, being Bishop of Dol, in Normandy, and died in 598. Such a dedication in the heart of Celtic Britain was particularly interesting, because usually the Saxons appropriated everything, including the saints, and in that dedication and in those two fragments one felt one had a connecting chord with Celtic times. There seem to be also some traces of Celtic place-names in the district ; though it is not fashionable at the moment to see the Celtic *Craig* in the first syllable of *Cricklade*, *Pool Keynes* and *Ewen* in *Kemble* certainly seem to have Celtic affinities.

The President also gave an interesting account of Adam de Stretton, to whom *Cricklade* once belonged, and who was Master of the Exchequer

in the reign of Henry III., who stands out as the arch-rogue of the thirteenth century, for after several times getting into trouble owing to his curious dealing with public funds, as the result of which he amassed great possessions—Cricklade amongst them—his disclosures so inconveniently involved high personages, particularly the king, that he was allowed to escape with nominal punishment, and became a trained forger, to whose beautiful script many false charters and transfers of land are due.

Nearly at the opposite end of the main street is the pretty little church of St. Mary's. The first feature to attract attention is the churchyard cross, almost complete and beautifully carved. Most of the church has suffered many things at the hands of many restorers. The chancel arch is a very fine example of Norman, the font is Early English, the roofs and arcades fifteenth century, and the pulpit Jacobean. The squints on either side are in their original state.

This small church was visited under the guidance of the rector, the Rev. S. Denton, who pointed out the Norman arch of 1180, the sole remaining vestige of the ancient church. The porch and outside buttress are Early English. Much damage was done in the 1862 restoration, including the removal of a Norman window from the east end, and its replacement by a terrible window that has lately been in its turn removed, and one of suitable design by Mr. Pointing erected as a memorial to the late rector. The rest of the church is quite late Tudor. There is a fine Laudian altar, dated 1627.

Passing on our way the village crosses of Latton and Down Ampney, we came to the church of the latter village, dedicated to All Hallows. Close by stands the manor house, with its gatehouse, which attracted the attention of Lysons. The house is in the best Tudor style, and the *Transactions* contain many interesting references to the history of the manor. From the Domesday Survey (1086) we learn that in the time of the Confessor Ednod held it. Now it is in the hands of the king, though granted at the Conquest to the Bishop of Bayeux. In 1203 Ralph Tesun, Seneschal of Normandy, held it, but as he adhered to the French side when Normandy was lost, his lands in England were forfeited. This manor passed to Warine Fitz Gerald, who had abandoned his Norman estates at John's demand. This did not, however, prevent his joining the baronial party in 1214, whereupon his estates were declared escheated to the Crown. In 1228 we find Down Ampney in the hands of Godfrey de Crawcombe, though it is still called an escheat. Godfrey was allowed to cut the king's timber to build a house here, but about 1250 he died, apparently leaving no heirs, and Baldwin de Redvers, in right of his wife, the heiress of Fitz Gerald, recovered the estate.

In 1285 the manor was held by Nicholas de Walers of Edmund,

brother of the king, for the service of a fourth part of one knight. Later the property passed to the knights of St. John. A carved slab in the chancel may perhaps mark the tomb of a prior of this Order.

After the Reformation, the manor came into the possession of the Hungerfords, who built the gatehouse; the house is dated 1537, and part may be older. These Hungerfords had the north transept of the church as their family chapel, from which the fine tomb with effigies of the time of Charles I. has been moved to the west end. The structure of the church is probably thirteenth century, but has been considerably altered.

The President pointed out the features of the thirteenth-century church, which has been so sumptuously restored by Mr. Martin Gibbs, and some fine oak work added, including a magnificent rood-loft and a screen enclosing the south transept as a chantry chapel. In the south aisle attention was called to a piece of drip work terminating in an exquisite boss of trefoil foliage. There is a Laudian altar in the chapel only three years later than that at Cricklade St. Mary's. A fine specimen of an early fourteenth-century stone coffin was thought by the vicar to be that of an abbot or other high dignitary of the knights of St. John, who presented to the living in 1297. A fine Elizabethan tomb of the Hungerfords was at the west end of the north aisle.

By the permission of Mr. Martin Gibbs, a short visit was paid to the adjacent manor house, which, with its imposing gatehouse and fine timbered roof, is in the best Tudor style.

South Cerney was the next stopping-place, and as the vicar, the Rev. A. C. Stephens, was unable to be present, the President described the parish church of All Hallows, which he said was thoroughly different in type from any of the others visited during the day, being a great deal more united in the appearance of the nave and aisles, but immediately you look beneath the surface all the different periods are represented, and represented in some respects in a very strong way. The earliest portion of the church, the western tower, was built in the time of King John. In the chancel there is much fourteenth-century work. The east window and the priest's doorway on the south side of the chancel have the wallflower ornament. The north door has fine chevron mouldings, and over the fine south door is a piece of sculpture, probably twelfth or early thirteenth century, representing the figure of Christ, and also Abraham sacrificing Isaac. The spire which formerly surmounted the tower was removed in recent years.

A curious tomb in the churchyard was said to be that of the parents of Abbot Parker, *temp.* Henry VII.

Siddington was reached after a short drive, and the day pleasantly closed at Siddington House, in the beautiful and finely-timbered grounds

of which Mrs. Christopher Bowly received the party to tea. while Mr. Bowly exhibited many of the objects from his interesting collection, including a Roman monumental stone and a votive altar, and a curious collection of man-traps and other specimens of the sort of humanity prevailing a hundred or so years ago.

Thursday morning was devoted to a visit to the bull-ring or Roman amphitheatre, as to which the usual rival and conflicting opinions were advanced, and at a quarter past eleven train was taken to Marlborough, whence there was a carriage excursion to Pickle Dean (where the "Grey Wethers" Sarsens were inspected under the able guidance of the Rev. E. H. Goddard, honorary secretary of the Wilts Archæological Society); thence to Silbury Hill, the largest tumulus in Europe; and on to Avebury, where were inspected the remains of what was once the grandest megalithic monument in the British Isles, consisting of probably six hundred stones, as against the hundred of Stonehenge. Avebury Church and the manor house (by kind permission of the rector) were also inspected.

Leaving the Ailesbury Arms Hotel, we passed down the High Street of Marlborough, the widest and perhaps one of the most picturesque streets in England, through which forty coaches passed daily along the Great Bath Road, and drew up at the famous Castle Inn, once the residence of the Marquis of Hertford, and now the central block of the college buildings, visible on the left as we pass the gates. Just before this we passed close under the tower of St. Peter's Church, one of the most striking in the county (the church itself boasts a vaulted chancel, but otherwise has not many points of interest). At the gates of the college stands Bodley's Chapel, in its interior one of the most beautiful of modern churches. The road then lay along the valley of the Kennett as far as Avebury. Soon after leaving Marlborough a small white horse on the side of the hill was passed on the left, and at about three miles the road passed the narrow valley of Piggie Dean, remarkable as containing one of the chief streams of Sarsen stones, known since the old coaching days as the "Grey Wethers," a name which those who walk up through the first enclosure to the point where the valley widens out in the second enclosure, and the stones lie thicker, will be seen to be appropriate enough. These Sarsen stones, the hard nodules and the sole remains of a stratum of Eocene sand which once covered the chalk, are found scattered over the downs of North Wilts and Berkshire, but nowhere else in the imposing number in which they occur in this immediate neighbourhood. From this valley they spread all over Totterdown to the north in countless thousands still, varying in size from small boulders to stones of sixty or seventy tons or more. They vary, too, a good deal in density, but for the most part consist of a stone



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SARSEN STONES, PIGGLEDEAN.



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SILBURY HILL.

of extreme hardness and durability, almost impossible to work with the chisel, but *split* with ease into gateposts and cubical stones for building or "pitching." The whole of the stones of the circles at Avebury, and all the larger stones of Stonehenge are Sarsens, and the latter probably came from the Marlborough neighbourhood, as they are not found, and could hardly have existed, in any number on Salisbury Plain. The National Trust and the Wilts Archæological Society have issued an appeal for funds to purchase and preserve a portion of this valley, as the mass of the Sarsens in this neighbourhood are now being broken up for building purposes.

On arriving at the entrance of Piggles Dean the party left the carriages, and walked for about a quarter of a mile up the valley to a point where the stones lie thickest for the purpose of hearing from the Rev. E. H. Goddard a most interesting account of the origin and distribution of Sarsen stones.

Beyond Overton, on "Seven Barrows Hill," are good examples of the round barrows of Wilts. Silbury Hill (2½ miles) is the largest tumulus in England, perhaps in Europe. It measures (according to Rev. A. C. Smith) 552 feet in diameter at base, 104 feet at top, and 130 feet in perpendicular height. Two attempts to solve the riddle of its origin have been made. The Archæological Institute excavated a tunnel to the centre from the west side in 1849, the Duke of Northumberland having sunk a shaft from the top to the base of the mound about a hundred years before. In neither case was anything in the nature of an interment found, though in a mound of this size this cannot be held to be conclusive as to its non-sepulchral origin. The great mound in the college grounds at Marlborough, the nearest rival to Silbury in point of size in the county, is doubtless the sole remnant of the earliest castle on the site, of the mound and bailey type, whether of Saxon or as the latest authorities would have it of the early Norman time. From the top of Silbury the West Kennett Long Barrow, one of the largest in England, lying in the fields some distance to the south could be seen.

The Roman road from Aquæ Solis (Bath) to Cunetio (Marlborough) coming from the west passed to the south of the mound beside the present road, swerving, it is believed, from its straight line to avoid the mound.

Continuing the journey to Beckhampton and turning to the right at the famous racing stables, the "Long Stones" or "Long Stone Cove," two large standing stones were seen in the cultivated fields to the left. From this spot an avenue of stones, "the Beckhampton Avenue," is asserted by Stukeley (1743) to have reached to the circle at Avebury. Aubrey, however, writing in 1663, makes no mention

at all of this avenue, and authorities are divided as to the probability of its existence. In any case, nothing remains of it now.

A little farther on, just before crossing the bridge over the infant Kennett, one of the best views of Silbury was obtained across the meadows to the right.

The earthworks of Avebury were reached almost immediately after this. These earthworks consist of a deep ditch with the bank on the *outside* (and therefore not for defence), enclosing a space of twenty-eight acres, within which the greater part of the village of Avebury now stands, built almost entirely of the Sarsens which once formed part of the grandest megalithic monument in the British Isles, consisting probably of at least six hundred stones, as against the one hundred of Stonehenge.

Immediately inside the ditch ran a circle of stones enclosing the whole area, and inside this circle were two other smaller circles, not concentric, the northern and southern "temples." Each of these smaller circles are said to have consisted of two concentric rings of stones, with a single standing stone in the centre of the southern, and a cove of three stones in the centre of the northern "temple." Of the whole at the present time, the earthworks for more than three-quarters of the circle, fifteen stones still standing, and sixteen which have fallen are all that remain visible, though the existence of eighteen other stones now buried underground was ascertained by Mr. Smith. A section cut through the bank and ditch some years ago proved that the latter had filled up some eight feet or more, but beyond the finding of considerable numbers of the horns of red deer in the rubble of the mound, and one or two pieces of worked bone, nothing which could throw any light on the age of the structure was found. It has generally been assumed that as the Sarsens here are entirely unworked, whilst those of Stonehenge have been worked, Avebury must be the older of the monuments. If this is so, and if the date assigned to Stonehenge on the strength of recent investigations there of about 1600 or 1800 B.C. be accepted, Avebury can hardly be put much later than 2000 B.C. As to its purpose, the temple theory, and a connection with sun worship, is the one now held by most archaeologists.

On the return journey to Marlborough via Kennett, the remains of the "Kennett Avenue" were seen. This, which is said by Stukeley to have consisted of one hundred stones on each side, stretched from Avebury to a small circle on Overton Hill, roughly following the line of the modern road to Kennett, beside which four of its stones still stand, while in the ploughed ground to the right of the road eleven stones, of which one only is standing, still occupy their original positions, and give the width of the avenue and the spacing of the stones.



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STONES OF GREAT CIRCLE, AVEBURY.



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DITCH AND RAMPART, AVEBURY.



The church is an extremely interesting example of Saxon work. The chancel is of early fourteenth-century work, of no special interest. (Good fourteenth-century work is singularly rare in Wiltshire.) The tower is a characteristic North Wilts tower of about 1450, to which time also the Perpendicular work of the south aisle belongs. The beautiful front of the rood-loft is original, and of about the same date. The screen beneath it is partly a modern structure. The font, of tub form, is covered with carving of rude workmanship, of twelfth-century date. On one side a bishop wearing a mitre and holding a staff with book in his left hand, on each side a dragon.

An interesting feature is the singular ambulatory (not a squint) leading from the north aisle to the chancel. Similar passages exist at Hilmarton and at Bremhill in this neighbourhood, but what was their special object and why they are found here and not elsewhere in England it is not easy to say. But the real interest of the building lies in the remains of the Saxon nave. This had four windows on each side, unglazed, and fitted with shutters on the outside, with four small circular openings also unglazed high up in the clerestory. North and south aisles were added in the twelfth century, two arches being cut through the Saxon wall on each side with a pier of seven feet of wall left between them. In 1828 these Norman arcades gave way to the present arches, copied it is said from those at Calne. But when these arches were cut out the original Saxon wall over them was left undisturbed, and in it on this side were afterwards found the three curious circular clerestory openings, one of which has never been moved, whilst the other two having been taken down before their nature was discovered have been replaced in the modern clerestory windows. It will be seen that a row of holes runs round the edges of these circular openings. These are regarded by Mr. Ponting as meant to hold sticks for a wattlework centre on which the splay of flint rubble might be turned, freestone being difficult to obtain in this locality. One of the original Saxon lower windows remains intact on each side at the west end of the nave, showing in each case the angle shafts of the responds and parts of the labels of the twelfth century cutting into the earlier Saxon work. The bold projecting string course below the upper windows and a patch of the original outside plastering of the Saxon nave may be seen in the north aisle, whilst the quoins of long and short work can also be traced at the west end of this aisle.

The manor house, visited by kind permission of the owner, Capt. Jenner, was the mansion of the Dunche family. It is a picturesque example of Jacobean, with earlier Elizabethan work. There is also in the farmyard adjoining a circular dovecot.

The priory, held in the thirteenth century by the abbey of St. George

de Boscherville in Normandy, and afterwards by Winchester College and the college of Fotheringay, was granted in 1555 to William Dunche, of Wittenham, co. Berks.

A delightful drive back to Marlborough, interrupted for some of us by an interesting visit to the college chapel, brought a highly successful meeting to a close, but not before cordial thanks had been conveyed to the President (who had previously on occasion thanked everybody else who had assisted), for his genial and scholarly leadership, to which much of the pleasure and profit of the gathering were due.
