

## The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archaeological Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1880.

The Annual Excursion of the Society took place on July 25th, the route lying through a portion of Mid Bucks. There was a good attendance, and the party started from the George Hotel, Aylesbury. The first halt was made at Stone, where the visitors were conducted over the Church by the Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Challis, who read the following paper :—

### THE PARISH CHURCH, STONE.

The mound or rising ground on which this Church is built is natural, and not artificial, as stated erroneously in "Lipscomb" (Vol. II., p. 463, published in 1847). The Church was consecrated June 1st, 1273, in the first year of Edward I., by Reginald, Bishop of Gloucester, for the Bishop of Lincoln, and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. But the earliest historical reference to the Church is in A.D. 1150, and the architecture of the nave is of a much earlier date than that of the consecration, as is evident from the semicircular arches and the capitals, but especially that which surmounts the pier at the north-western corner. The other piers are cased in Roman cement, and the capitals apparently have been touched up. The whole of the present chancel is modern. It was built in 1844, and replaced an Early English chancel, "with fine old sedilia, foliated canopies and columns . . . When a portion of the wall at the south-east angle of this chancel was being taken down, the Rev. J. B. Reade (Vicar of the parish) took with his own hands, from between two of the largest stones, a silver penny of Edward I., thus obtaining satisfactory proof that this chancel was built during that king's reign. The foundation of the south wall was placed only just below the surface, and not being at an equal distance from the centre with the north wall, it was proposed to make it so. On preparing the ground for this purpose the workmen found a deep and well-laid foundation of a former wall, exactly similar in character to the foundation of the north wall. There can be but little doubt that this foundation supported the first chancel of the ancient church." (A Lecture "On the History and Antiquities of the Parishes of Hartwell and Stone," by the Rev. C. Lowndes, March 24th, 1862.) The present chancel is therefore built upon the foundations of the first chancel, the south wall being slightly to the north of the wall of the second chancel, the original position of the roof of which may still be seen on the external surface of the east wall of the nave. The second chancel was therefore wider than the first and than the present (by about 1½ feet). The south transept arch is Early English, perhaps of the same date as the second chancel, *i.e.*, of the consecration of the church. It probably had an altar at the north wall, for when the south wall, which was leaning, was taken down in 1883, a piscina was uncovered. Its position was carefully measured, and when the wall was rebuilt it was placed in its original position, and where it can now be seen. The small north transept seems to be of a later date. In 1883, the porch, which was in a very dilapidated condition, was entirely taken down. It had been built against the west wall of the south transept, and its removal revealed the former existence of a small window in this wall, which would seem to show that there was no porch when the south transept was built, and that no porch was then contemplated. There was nothing distinctive in its architecture

to indicate its date, and it was an unsubstantial structure. The present porch is six feet to the west. The zig-zag moulding round the semicircular arch of the doorway was found to be covered with, and partly composed of, Roman cement, and the side shafts were similarly covered, and so filled in at the back, that they did not appear to be detached, as they now are seen to be. The tower is evidently of later date than the nave, and perhaps than the south transept. A gallery was taken down some time ago, and in 1883 the turret at the south-east corner being in a crumbling condition, was rebuilt. The upper part of the interior surface of the walls of the nave is lath and plaster. I conclude that the walls were carried up to their present height at a reduced thickness, and the clerestory windows inserted, when the present roof was put on and replaced the old high-pitched roof, the ridge of which was of the same height as that of the present roof. It is intended to return to the high-pitched roof, as has already been done in the case of the transepts. There are brasses on two stone slabs in the nave. On one are the effigies of a male and a female: the head is gone from the male effigy, apparently before it was placed on the present slab, and the effigy is clothed in a shroud, with this inscription underneath (filling in the abbreviations):—"Orate pro animabus William Gurney quondam de Bishopston et Agnetis Uxoris ejus qui quidem Williamus obiit. xxix. die Maii Anno Domini mccccxxv. et predicta Agnes obiit. die Anno Domini mccccxx. Quorum Animabus Miseretur Deus. Amen." On the other slab are the effigies of a male and a female, with the figures of six male children (not five, as stated in "Lipscomb") and three female, *not* kneeling. The inscription below is as follows:—"Here lyeth Thomas Gorney and Agnes his wyf which Thomas dyed the viii. day of May, Co. Din. mxxx. on whose soule Jhu have m'cy." This plate is double-faced, or engraved on the upper surface, but the last line of this inscription has been cut through. The whole inscription has been given by the late Admiral Smyth, the last line restored by conjecture from the bits of letters remaining (see RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, Vol. II., p. 175):—"Of your charity pray for the soul of Christopher Thorpe which deceased the 28th day of September, the year of our Lord mxxiii. On whose soul have mercy." (Modernized.)

The brass of the effigies is also engraved on the other side. Concerning the font, I take the following from Mr. Lowndes' lecture:—"The Norman font was placed in the Church when it was repaired in 1845. An account of it has been given in an article published in the *Builder* of July 25th, 1846, under the title of 'The Wanderings of a Church Font.' It appears that this font was formerly in the Parish Church of Hampstead Norris, in Berkshire, and at the time of its removal to Stone was well remembered by many of the older inhabitants. Nearly one hundred years since, the family of Matthews, then resident in the parish, originally members of the Society of Friends, having conformed to the Church of England, presented on the occasion a new font, which bears an inscription with date 1767. The original font was consequently removed to the Rectory garden, where it remained until J. G. Akerman, Esq., F.R.S., Secretary of the Society of Antiquarians, who married into the Rector's family, had it conveyed to Kensington, and placed in his garden; thence it was removed to a villa about six miles from London, on the road to Croydon; and it was here that it was traced by Mr. Wm. Hewitt, jun., of Reading, who kindly furnished this information of its *progresses* to the architect employed in the restoration of Stone Church. Mr. Akerman offered it to the Rev. J. B. Reade, and, on the approval of the architect, it was accepted. When it arrived it was covered with composition and whitewash. The pedestal is modern, cut in imitation of the old work on the font. The font was placed in its present position, on a new stone platform, last Christmas (1888). The bells were re-hung by Warner and

Sons in 1883, and a new treble bell was added, the gift of Mrs. Bartlett, making a ring of six. The tenor bell was also re-cast. It was the oldest bell, bearing the date 1634, with the inscription, 'Tenor hum all round.' There is also a small bell, with the date 1699; perhaps the priest's bell. The old treble bell has the inscription, 'I as trebel Beginn.' The old second has 'Chandler made me, 1726.' The old third, 'I as third ring.' The old fourth was re-cast by Thomas Mears, founder, London, 1839. Small bell has 'Richard C. made me, 1699.' The old register begins with the year 1538, and there is no break in the registers down to the present time. At Nov. 20, 1653, when there is a change in the handwriting, the entries cease to be of baptisms, but only of births, till September 27, 1665, when the date of baptism is added to that of birth. The one exception is Elizabeth, the daughter of William Lucas, was borne the 7 of July [1654], and bapzt. in the chappell of Bishopstone."

#### PARISH CROSSES.

In the Churchyard the subjoined paper was read by Mr. Gibbs, F.S.A.

"The stone we are surrounding is a relic of antiquity; it is the base of the churchyard cross. What became of the cross or the date of its destruction is not known. In former years no churchyard was without its cross, which was generally conspicuously placed in the area on the south or south-west of the Church, and near the principal entrance. After the third century of the Christian era, no Church was allowed to be erected until the Bishop had placed the holy symbol of the cross on the intended site of the structure. Stone pillars, or crosses, are of great antiquity, and were very early used as boundary marks of lordships, parishes, or lands given to monasteries, or were erected in memory of any remarkable event, as near the spot where a battle had been fought, or over the buried slain. Cornwall, Wales, and Ireland abound with wayside and churchyard crosses. Crosses are also found in conspicuous places. In Cornwall, especially, every parish contains several crosses, and almost every churchyard has at least one on the south side of the Church, facing the west, and usually raised on a mound or steps. Probably the very earliest use of the upright crosses as tokens of religion was to mark the spot where people assembled for religious worship, or where the earliest preachers declared the glad tidings of salvation. At these, as may be supposed, mendicants were accustomed to station themselves to beg for alms—sturdy ones doubtless very often, as they are in the present day. Hence the adage, 'He begged like a cripple at a cross.' The first Christian cross in Britain is supposed to have been a wooden one, erected by Oswald, the tenth Saxon monarch of Northumberland, where he offered up prayer prior to his battle with 'the implacable Cadwallar;' but, as we have shown, they existed in England before the arrival of the Saxons. It was customary formerly, in carrying a corpse to the place of interment, always, at any cross which might be in the way, to rest the bier for the few moments whilst prayer was offered; and it was not unusual to erect a cross at any spot where the bier of a celebrated person had been necessarily rested on its way to interment. Our own country was once enriched by many beautiful mementos of this kind. But these are mostly thrown into the shade by reference to the magnificent crosses, twelve in number, erected by Edward I. to the memory of his beloved Queen Eleanor, at every station where her corpse rested on its way from Herdeley, in Lincolnshire, to Westminster. Of these only three remain. Buckinghamshire possesses remains of crosses in the churchyards of Hillesden, Wing, Boarstall, Linslade, Stone, Bledlow, Mursley, Buckingham, and Dinton. In primitive England, large and important meetings were held in the open air; indeed this was a necessity, as no such public

buildings as we now possess were then in existence. The places for holding these meetings were sometimes on a tumulus; indeed, it is averred that some of these large and ancient mounds were formed for the accommodation of large public assemblies; but the popular place for holding local meetings was at the cross—the town cross or the churchyard cross.

"The most recent case I can find of a public assembly meeting in a churchyard took place at Aylesbury. The cross had, however, vanished many years before; but this meeting was held without doubt on the spot where the cross formerly stood. My father used to point out to me the spot in Aylesbury churchyard where the nomination of Parliamentary candidates for the representation of the Borough took place; he recollected such nomination in the year 1802; it was on an old tombstone situate in the open space southward of the Church, facing the west. This was doubtless the place where for generations large numbers of the townsfolks had assembled round the churchyard cross, and notwithstanding its destruction they still clung to the custom of their forefathers. Consequent on the venal state of the electors of the town, an Act was passed in 1804 extending the constituency by adding the Hundreds to the Borough; the election was no longer a town matter, but a district one, and the candidates were subsequently nominated at the County Hall, and the townspeople of Aylesbury abandoned their meetings at the churchyard cross."

#### DINTON CHURCH.

At this Church the Vicar (the Rev. J. Bond) and Colonel Goodall, received the party, and some time was spent in examining it. The Vicar drew special attention to the beautiful doorway within the porch. It is a specimen of early Norman work, which Lipscomb thus describes: "The semicircular arch has four rows of zig-zag pilasters, which are carved, and have foliated capitals. Within is a smaller arch; and the doorway is formed by voluted columns, with a narrow spiral band entwined round them, having circular bases and richly embossed capitals; one of them having a bird with expanded wings as a principal ornament, conjectured by some to be a Christian dove, as a mystic allusion; and others a falcon, as connected with the office held by the great family of Molins, ancient Lords of the hamlet of Morton, and patrons of the Church. A semicircular fillet, interlaced with a cord, in good preservation, bounds the sculpture of the arch." (Lipscomb's "History of the County of Buckingham," Vol. II., p. 146.) In the tympanum is a rude carving in bas relief of a tree with fruit, which is being devoured by two grotesque looking animals; and an angel thrusting a cross into the open mouth of the great dragon. Between these representations is an inscription, in Latin, which may be translated as follows:—"Should any fail of hope of reward for his deserts, let him listen in this place to the precepts he must observe." The style of this building is Early English. The remains of Simon Mayne the regicide were buried in this Church. He was the owner of the Dinton Estate, and resided as a County Magistrate at Dinton Hall. He was confined in the Tower, and dying there his body was brought to Dinton for burial.

#### DINTON HALL.

Colonel Goodall then led the way to his residence, Dinton Hall, which is close at hand, and here the members and their friends spent a pleasant and profitable time. Colonel Goodall first of all pointed out the interesting stained glass in the windows of the north front, and then descended to the cellar, where curious old coffers, or money chests, with their elaborate fastenings, are to be seen. Here was pointed out what is taken to be the oldest part of the house. The visitors were conducted over the house, and

in the long room in the upper storey viewed an interesting collection of old armour, swords, guns, Anglo-Saxon curiosities, a shoe of John Bigg, the hermit, and other objects. Colonel Goodall, addressing the members, observed that when he was asked to write a paper on the Church and House, he looked into the matter, and found that so much had been said concerning them that he thought it was not necessary that he should do so. He found, on reference, that the Society visited the House on July 27th, 1854, and that an account was published on July 20th in the *Bucks Herald*. Another account was given in the *Records* for 1872 by the Rev. C. Lowndes—whom he was glad to see present that day—and illustrations were then published of the glass vessel (Anglo-Saxon), the shoe, the hermit, Oliver Cromwell's swords, and some of the stained glass. Colonel Goodall here displayed the Naseby sword, pointing out that it is of exceptional quality, and engraved with the name of the maker—the celebrated Andrea Ferrara—on both sides of the blade, leading to the inference that he was especially proud of it. After Naseby, the members were informed that Cromwell came to Dinton Hall, and slept in the room below that in which they were assembled. He left his sword in the House, and it had been there ever since. Colonel Goodall then quoted from memoranda concerning the House and its history which he had recently lighted upon, one of which (dated 1804) referred to the discovery of a private door in the chimney of the maids' room, which was on the far side of the house near the churchyard. There was a space between the ceiling and roof lined with blanketting; and the hiding place was provided with a "bolt hole," which might be used in an emergency. This was probably where Simon Mayne was concealed prior to his surrender after the Restoration. With regard to the length of the room in the upper storey where the members were assembled, there were various surmises why such a lengthy apartment should be at the top of the house. Colonel Goodall mentioned that such rooms were not unusual in old houses, and that the explanation of it was that they were used as banqueting chambers. They commanded a fine view of the surrounding country, and that was an advantage in ancient times when people wore armour, which they naturally took off at dinner time, but might have to hurriedly put on again. From such a place they could see their enemies coming across the country, and quickly prepare to meet them. Colonel Goodall next produced a most interesting series of Court Rolls of the Manor from the time of Richard II. Referring to the Dinton hermit, Colonel Goodall remarked that he was at one time secretary to Simon Mayne, and according to local tradition the executioner of the King. After the restoration he came to Dinton and lived in a cave or hole in the ground, and a lane in the village was still called "Biggs' Hole." His clothes were made of pieces of leather, which he nailed together. His burial place was not known.

After fully inspecting the relics in the Chamber, the company descended to another apartment, where they were hospitably entertained.

The Rev. R. H. Pigott expressed to Colonel Goodall the cordial thanks of the Society for the reception he had given them. Colonel Goodall was the worthy owner of a beautiful house, and he had come down at considerable inconvenience from London to meet the members.

Colonel Goodall briefly responded, expressing the pleasure it gave him to welcome his guests.

#### CUDDINGTON.

From Dinton the members drove on to Cuddington. The Vicar (the Rev. J. M. Price) was unavoidably absent on the occasion. In his absence, Mr. J. Parker, F.S.A., offered a few remarks. He said the church was dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron of fishermen, and he believed there was

a very remarkable fishery in that parish; in fact, it was mentioned in ancient records. They would observe by looking at the pillars that the Church was Transitional Norman. The capitals were Norman, and the Pointed arches showed the Transitional work. It was very curious and noteworthy that the columns on the opposite sides of the Church did not correspond with each other. A considerable portion of the Church was of later date than the original building, and belonged to the Decorated period. After drawing attention to the tower and windows, Mr. Parker said a letter had been received from Mr. Price to the following effect:—

"I am very sorry not to be at home to-day to welcome the Bucks Archaeological Association, but some weeks ago I had arranged to take our choirmen and bell ringers for their annual holiday, and as all the arrangements had been made it was impossible for me to postpone it. Your Society will notice several points of interest in the Church. The south aisle was a chapel, apparently associated with Notley Abbey, for the piscina shows that there was an altar there, and in washing some tiles at the restoration of the church, I found in this aisle one which I believe was one of the quarterings of Notley Abbey, and I conclude that this church, like others in the neighbourhood, was formerly served by the monks of Notley."

In conclusion, Mr. Parker observed that the building was a good type of a village church, dating from the late Norman period.

At the suggestion of Mr. G. Weller (Amersham), a number of the members also paid a visit to an Elizabethan house near the Church. Over a large doorway leading to a flight of stairs the initials "T. R.," and date, "1609," were discerned.

#### NOTLEY ABBEY.

From Cuddington the route lay through a beautiful country to Notley, where a halt was made at the farmhouse owned and occupied by Mr. H. Reynolds. The visitors were shown into what is now a large barn, which Mr. J. L. Myres (Swanbourne) explained was once the refectory of Notley Abbey. They could trace the foundations of the Church of the monastery in the adjoining meadow. The farmhouse was an addition, and had undergone alterations from time to time. He then read the following extract from a paper written by the Rev. F. G. Lee, D.D., F.S.A.

"Notley Abbey, Bucks, lying in the valley of the river Thame, about two miles north-east of the Oxfordshire town of that name, was founded by Walter Gifford, Earl of Buckingham, and Ermengarde, his lady, about the year 1161. The abbey church, a magnificent Second Pointed building, was subsequently dedicated to God in honour of the Blessed Virgin and St. John the Baptist. The abbey, in the earliest Latin instruments, was originally called *Sancta Maria de Parco*; Crendon Park, in which it stands, being referred to in Domesday Book. The *villa* itself was designated Nottley, Nutley, Nottesleigh, Noteley, Nuttslegh, and Notcele in old deeds. Anthony A Wood asserts that it was so called from the abundance of nut-woods existing in that part of the parish of Crendon. Here a band of Augustinian Canons, by this foundation, formed a home about the middle of the twelfth century. The rule was severe, they wore coarse woollen garments, no linen, abstained altogether from meat, and, save during their devotions, observed the strictest silence. The abbey was founded by the Giffards ("in perpetual aims," as the phrase stands), in order that the souls of Henry II. and Queen Eleanor of Guienne, together with those of the founders and all their kinsfolk, might be prayed for perpetually. King Henry V. himself approved of the foundation, and at once became a considerable benefactor. He gave to the community the Chapel of Our Lady annexed to the Church of Cavor-

sham, Berks, Bottisham Church in Cambridgeshire, land in Wittenham, and Crendon Grange; while, in the reign of Richard I., Hugh of Radnage, in Bucks, confirmed a gift of land at Hillesdon in the same county. King John subsequently freed the tenants of Notley Abbey from various tolls, and gave them certain substantial and valuable rights in Bernewood Forest. Jocelyn de Balliol, Bishop of Sarum, was also a benefactor. His charter is dated 5th of the Ides of January, in the first of his episcopate. Lands, tithes, and other gifts were steadily added by some of the noblest and most distinguished persons of the locality—*e.g.*, Walter of Chearsley gave lands at Nether Winchendon, while in 1225 Pope Honorius confirmed the previous donations of the Churches of Caversham, Risborough, and Chilton. Gilbert, Earl of Pembroke, gave tithes of his mill and fishery at Caversham; William, Earl of Pembroke, bestowed lands in Crendon upon the Abbey of Notley. Constance, daughter of Hugh de Bolebeck, gave a croft in Hillesdon, Bucks, formerly held by Thorold. Other donations consisted of land in Dinton, Bucks; Ashenden adjoining; Swell, in Gloucestershire, and elsewhere. The family of De Grenville were large and munificent benefactors. I possess a list, and partial abstracts of the deeds, amounting to nearly 200 gifts to this renowned Abbey. The Abbot bore the pastoral staff by right of grant by Innocent III. Between the Abbey's foundation in 1161, and its suppression in September of the year 1534, thirty-one abbots, beginning with Osbert, nominated by the founder, and ending with Richard Ridge, respectively governed the community. The last-named received an annuity of £100 a year (equivalent to £1,000 a year at the present time) until his death in 1583. In his will, dated in 1557, he directed his remains to be buried in the chancel of his native village, Cholsey, Berks. The value of the abbey possessions—calculated by the money rate of to-day—amounted to about £5,000 a year, of which King Henry VIII. took possession. In 1542, three years after the Dissolution, the King granted to John Williams and Roger Lee, both of Thame, the very ancient water-mill of Notley, on the river Thame, and 250 acres of land in Crendon Park. But these soon changed hands again. It was the obvious policy of the spoilers to break up, divide, and re-sell the monastic properties, for the more numerous were the persons interested in holding the lands, the less chance there appeared of the poor rising up—as in Lincolnshire and Cornwall—to defend their assumed rights. Sir William Paget obtained a part of the lands, as did persons resident in London, scribes it appears, called William Tipper and Dawe. Sir Anthony Bacon, Sir John Williams, and the Duke of Somerset also shared in the other spoils. Subsequently Sir John Williams, created Lord Williams of Thame, dying at Ludlow Castle, 19th October, 1559, the abbey buildings and lands which had been conveyed to him passed to Margaret, his youngest daughter and co-heiress, who married Sir Henry Norris, of Wytham, near Oxford. It eventually passed to the Wrays of Glentworth, some of whom lived at Thame and Rycott—through Elizabeth Vere, daughter of the 17th Earl of Oxford, and then to Montagu Bertie, Earl of Lindsay. It was sold by the Duke of Ancaster, 9th Earl of Lindsay, in 1791, to Mr. Henry Reynolds, ancestor of the present owner. The family of Lenton inhabited the abbey for some years during Elizabeth's and James I. reign, after which members of the Bertie family, its subsequent owners for several generations, resided there. At the period of the Norman survey Crendendone or Crendon, with Crendon Park, were held by Walter, son of Osborn de Bollabec, surnamed Giffard. Walter was a relation of William the Conqueror, being descended from Aveline, sister of Guinnora, dowager duchess of Normandy, and consequently great grandmother of the Conqueror. Walter Giffard was Earl of Longueville, and shared largely in the lands of the conquered and dispossessed Saxons. He owned no less than 107 manors in England, including Crendon, Chilton, Policott, Easington, Ashendon, Winchendon, and



Newton. His castle was at Crendon, near the Church, overlooking a magnificent range of country.

"Impressions of three seals of Notley Abbey exist in the Record Office. The oldest, *vesica piscis* in shape, has a representation of the Blessed Virgin seated on a throne holding the Holy Child. On each side are representations of the sun and moon, the legend standing thus: *Sigillum Sanctae Marie de Nutle*. The second, circular in shape, contains figures of the Blessed Virgin, St. John the Baptist, and St. Hugh of Lincoln under canopies, with shields of arms of France and England quarterly, Giffard and Bohun. The third, with the Blessed Virgin and Child standing under a second pointed canopy, is of the same shape as the first. In the impression, however, the legend is imperfect and defaced, though the word 'Nutle' remains. So great has been the destruction wrought in what remains of Walter Giffard's foundation, that it is exceedingly difficult to identify the position of the various parts of the old Abbey. The site of the great church, however—146ft. long by 70ft. wide across the transepts—can be traced. It was cruciform in form, with a nave of five bays, transepts, and a deep choir, rectangular at the east end, and some chapels, or sacristies, probably added at a later period, both on the north and south sides of the choir. The refectory, 88ft. by 24ft., on the south side of a large quadrangle, about thirty yards square, had a magnificent carved roof of walnut and oak, which the Berties removed to Chesterton, Oxon, circa 1689. Close to the refectory were the kitchen, buttery, and cellars. The chapter-house was 34ft. by 20ft., the base of the tower of the Church was 22ft. square, though its broad and solid foundations were considerably wider. When the Church and its monuments were destroyed, the bells which hung in the tower were removed to the Church tower of Crendon. There is an ancient broad and stately staircase of solid oak in the mansion, and parts of which are possibly as early as the original foundation of the monastery. Some curious encaustic tiles have been discovered. These were found near a plank bridge over the river Thame, where the river bank had been evidently mended with carved *débris* from the Abbey Church. I am enabled to reproduce a sketch made in the early part of the present century which faithfully represented the mansion house as it existed at that period. Since then it has been altered, not only by constructional rearrangements, but by destruction and the removal of the dilapidated buildings. In some of the solidly-built outhouses to the immediate south of the mansion, which are now used for farm purposes, the painted roofs are of singular beauty and interest, the rafters showing signs of having been adorned with rich colour and gilding. There is an ancient black-oak bedstead of the Elizabethan era preserved in the servants' sleeping apartments; while on every part of the premises, which appear to have covered nearly five acres, abundant tokens, in broken mullions, carved mouldings, and rich carvings, exemplify the stateliness and grandeur of the original monastic buildings. Most of these were pulled down when Edward, Duke of Somerset, was their owner, under Edward the Sixth. Much internal woodwork appears to have been put up, however, just prior to the Dissolution—i.e., circa 1530. For the initials R. R. (for Richard Ridge, the last abbot) remained carved in oak, conjoined with a knot, with the figure of a pastoral staff. Also the subscription: *Time Deum, et recede a malo*. R.R. RIDGE.—*Principium Sapientiae est timor D'ni*. In the MSS. of the celebrated antiquary, Brown Willis, of Whaddon, Bucks, there are records of many examples of stained glass which existed in his day; but none of these now remain. Anciently there remained a broken lavatory of Purbeck marble, containing seven washing places and a separate drain for the used water. It stood on an Early English pillar at one end, and a solid link of marble at the other. I possess a sketch of it. The position of the abbey is very retired. It lies in a valley—a part of the well-known Vale of Aylesbury, very near



however, to the county of Oxford—beautiful in itself and well watered, and is well worth a visit from any archaeologist or antiquarian. From the high road from Thame to Aylesbury, along the crest of a series of hills, it can be easily distinguished, and even now, notwithstanding all the destruction wrought, is a picturesque memorial of a once distinguished religious house.”

#### LONG CRENDON.

At this village the members found the nave and aisles of the Church undergoing restoration. The Vicar, the Rev. T. E. Ogden, was present, and also the Rev. Dr. Lee. Surprise and deep regret was expressed at the fact of an elevated square pew, forming an isolated gallery, being allowed to remain in the Church, and it was explained that it was a faculty pew, and that the owner refused to have it removed. The Vicar pointed out that amongst other structural features the Church has north, west, and south porches.

Dr. Lee gave an able address, in the course of which he said that such notes as he had taken to provide an article for the Society remained pretty accurately in his mind. They should remember the fact that this part of Christendom was for a long time in the diocese of Dorchester, and the influence of the Bishops of that See were plain in this Church as in many others lying within a few miles of it. For instance, at Tetworth, Emmington, Great Milton, and other places there were examples of stone work most possibly carved with some especial rule for the diocese of Dorchester. The transfer of Dorchester to Lincoln led to an earnest work of material restoration of Churches, which likewise remained till this very day, and were manifest in this Church. Further reference to the address will be unnecessary, as Dr. Lee's paper on this Church, in this number of *THE RECORDS*, will be read with much interest.

The members then proceeded to other parts of the Church. The monument over the family vault of the Dormers attracted much attention, and Dr. Lee made some interesting remarks upon it. He added that it was believed this was originally a Chantry Chapel, possibly dedicated to S. Christopher.

The visitors also inspected the beautifully-kept register.

#### THE COURT HOUSE.

Having left the Church, the following notes on the adjacent Court House were read by Mr. Myers:—

The date at which the Court House was erected has not been ascertained. The following information was given respecting the holding of Courts:—1. Crendon, being assigned in dower to Queen Catherine, her great steward, Walter Beauchamp, held several Courts in Crendon from the 1st to the 18th of the reign of Henry VI. 2. This estate being granted for the foundation of All Souls' College in Oxford, here the warden and scholars held their Court in 1449 and 1459. 3. The manor having passed from the hands of Elizabeth, Queen Consort, 1478, was given to the foundation of the Collegiate Church at Windsor by King Edward IV., and the Dean and Canons held their Courts at Crendon in 1482-1488, and in the 6th, 10th, and 13th of Henry VII. The Court Rolls relating to the Manor of Crendon are lodged at the offices of Mr. William Parker, solicitor, Thame. They date back to the time of Edward III. Mr. Parker has kindly offered to permit any member of the Bucks Archaeological Society who may desire to see them to inspect the rolls.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

At the Annual Meeting, which took place at the Eight Bells Inn, Long Crendon, the Rev. R. H. Pigott presided.

Mr. Parker, in giving a statement as to the position of the Society, regretted the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Williams, who had, however, supplied him with data. In 1888 the receipts were £84, and the payments £79, leaving a balance of £5. This year an appeal was made for the purpose of getting the Society out of debt, and he was glad to say that it was successful. The amount promised came to £51 2s., and the estimated subscriptions receivable would be about £75, making a total of £126 3s. On the other hand, the estimated liabilities, including the printing of *THE RECORDS* for the present year, would amount to, say £118, leaving a balance in hand of about £8. The Treasurer informed him he expected more subscriptions towards the Special Fund, and he was glad they were no longer in the embarrassed position in which they had for so many years been placed. The appeal was the result of a meeting at Wycombe, at which it was also decided to appoint Local Committees, agreeably to a circular issued. This circular Mr. Parker read, as follows:—

“At a Meeting of the Bucks Archaeological and Architectural Society, held at High Wycombe on the 14th February last, it was resolved that ‘local authorities, not less than two in number in each of the towns therein-after named, be appointed to superintend the working of the Society throughout the County, and to be responsible to the Central Committee.’ We are desired by the Central Committee to ask you, as interested in archæology, if it will be agreeable to you to act as one of these authorities for the town of . . . . . The work which the Central Committee would be desirous for you to undertake, so far as time and opportunity will allow, would be—

- (1) To call attention to the Society’s objects, with a view of obtaining new members.
- (2) To communicate any archæological discoveries made in your locality to Mr. Parker, one of the Honorary Secretaries, and to call the Society’s attention to any subjects which should come within its observation, such as the Restoration of Ancient Buildings, and to new matter bearing on Historical Inquiry.
- (3) To assist the Treasurer, Mr. John Williams, in the collection of the members’ subscriptions in your district.
- (4) To obtain donations for discharging the long outstanding liabilities of the Society, in accordance with the terms of the accompanying circular (copies of which can be supplied to you).
- (5) To promote an interest in archæological study and research in your district in the way you may deem most practicable.

We can only add that, if the Society could be aided by the local centres in the way suggested, it is felt that its influence and usefulness would be greatly increased; and we trust you will see your way to render your valuable assistance in the manner proposed.

We are, yours faithfully,

RANFOLPH H. PIGOTT,	} Hon. Secretaries.”
JOHN PARKER,	
ROBERT GIBBS,	

The Representatives of the Society who had given in their names to act in the different towns in the County, Mr. Parker then read:—

*Buckingham*—Mr. J. T. Harrison, Buckingham.

*Chesham*—Mr. Wm. Lowndes, The Bury, Chesham.

*Amersham*—Mr. George Weller, The Plantations, Amersham.  
*Newport Pagnel and Olney*—The Rev. J. Tarver, Filgrave Rectory.  
*Fenny Stratford and Bletchley*—Dr. Lawford, Oriol House, Leighton Buzzard.

*Winstow*—Mr. J. L. Myres Swanbourne, and New College, Oxford.  
*Great Marlow*—Mr. A. H. Cocks, Thames Bank, Great Marlow.  
*Slough*—Mr. James Rutland, The Gables, Taplow.  
*Chalfont St. Giles*—Mr. S. Saunders, The Grove, Chalfont St. Giles.  
*High Wycombe*—Mr. E. Wheeler, High Wycombe.  
*Wolverton and Stony Stratford*—Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, Wolverton, St. Mary, Stony Stratford.

Mr. Parker then called attention to the work undertaken by Mr. J. L. Myers in rearranging the Museum. He then referred to the Conference of Archaeological Societies, held at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, and to this Society having been registered as a Society in union, and explained the privileges which resulted from the registration. Alterations were then made in the Rules of the Society—one as to the mode of election of members, and the other expunging the rule permitting churchwardens, under certain circumstances, to be members without payment of an annual subscription.

The Chairman said he thought they should not separate without first of all making some allusion to the death of their late President, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Most of them would remember the pleasant meeting they had at Stowe some years ago, and all present would recall the kind, cheerful face of the Duke, the extreme interest he took in taking them round Stowe, and the care and trouble he put himself to in entertaining them. Some of them could go back further and recall a pleasant meeting they had at Wotton House, where he was equally kind and courteous. He did not believe it was possible for them to appreciate the loss the county had suffered by his death. It seemed to him the passing away of their President was the leaving of a blank which nothing could fill. He would not say anything as to what the Duke was to those who had the honour of his acquaintance, but his memory was dear to all, and those who had business with him must have felt that he was the personification of all that was upright and that could possibly be expected of a business man. Some of them were present when all that remained of their late President was committed to the grave in the Old Church at Wotton. A more touching sight it would be impossible to conceive. It seemed to him doubly touching that in the mausoleum where he was laid all the spaces had been filled but one. There was one space left, and in that the last Duke of Buckingham was laid to rest, and there was now no more room for burial in that chapel at Wotton. It was not only in the passing away of the name of the Duke of Buckingham that they as antiquarians felt great sorrow and regret, but in the passing away of the name of Grenville. It had been associated with the county, probably, longer than any other single name, and the passing away of the old name of Grenville, as well as of one who honourably fulfilled the great and high position he held, seemed sad beyond expression. He was quite sure that in what he said he had their deep sympathy. He moved that they express their most sincere and deep regret at the loss of their most kind and useful President, the Duke. He also wished to propose the name of a young member who would be a great help as one of the additional secretaries. He referred to Mr. Myres, who had taken a great interest in the Society, and had already proved himself an excellent scholar. He proposed him as an additional secretary.

Mr. Gunn seconded the proposal, and it was agreed to.

Several new members were then elected and this terminated the proceedings.

## THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXCURSION.

Through the exertions of Mr. John L. Myres, recently appointed one of the Secretaries of the Society, a Supplementary Excursion was held in North Bucks to supply a deficiency of the Meetings of the Society in that part of the County. At Swanbourne Church the Members were received by the Vicar, the Rev. W. M. Myres, M.A., who read a very interesting paper on the history of the benefice and fabric, in which the parish registers and accounts were referred to. The paper was illustrated by rubbings of the brasses in the church, by the plans of the Church before its restoration in 1863, and by a water-colour drawing, giving the south-east view in 1857, in the possession of Lady Midleton.

The Members then proceeded to Swanbourne House, the seat of Lord Cottesloe, where they were welcomed by his Lordship; the house contains an interesting collection of pictures, family relics, and a collection of autographs, which were examined and much appreciated by the visitors, who were afterwards entertained with great hospitality to lunch. After the entertainment the Rev. R. H. Pigott proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Cottesloe for his generous hospitality, which was seconded by Sir Harry Verney. In returning thanks, Lord Cottesloe said that it gave him great pleasure to be able to receive and entertain the Society at Swanbourne.

After leaving Swanbourne House the Members visited Mursley Church, where Mr. John L. Myres gave an account of the Church, with a note on a neighbouring earthwork. The tomb of Sir Francis Fortescue in this Church was the subject of special observation.

Little Horwood Church, now in course of restoration, was next visited, where the Rev. F. R. W. Malpas, the Vicar, read a short paper on the history of the parish. It was observed by Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, F.R.I.B.A., that here an arcade was probably a close copy of that in the Salle des Chevalliers at Mont St. Michael, in Normandy, the style being Transition Norman. The registers, the Communion plate, one small chalice, which bears the date of 1547 upon its cover, and a Jacobean brass bearing the Ten Commandments, abbreviated, and admonitory verses, were among the objects exhibited. The frescoes in this Church were also examined by several of the Members. Some of the Members then continued their journey to Great Horwood, and inspected the Church; others were kindly received by Mrs. Danucey at Horwood House before returning homeward.