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HISTORY OF SHREWSBURY HUNDRED OR LIBERTIES.

BY THE LATE REV. JOHN BRICKDALE BLAKEWAY, M.A.

Continued from 2nd Series, Vol. I., p. 406.

BROUGHTON, ANCIENTLY BURGHTON.

A SMALL parish within the Liberties of Shrewsbury, containing the Townships of Broughton and Yorton.

Mr. Reynolds, in his *Commentary on Antoninus*, would suppose this place the Roman Rutunium, but he adduces no proof. An alleged similarity in the names and the proper distance from Wroxeter are his only grounds for this untenable position.

The Church of St. Chad of Shrewsbury held Burtone in the hundred of Bascherche in the Saxon times, and at the general survey. It was rated to the Danegeld at 2 hides, but there were 5 carucates¹ in tillage, 2 of which (as I conceive) were occupied by 3 villans. The excess of carucates over hides and the quantity of land assigned to each villan bespeaks much attention in the ecclesiastics to the improvement of their estates and the comfort of their tenants. Burtune, in the hundred of Bascherche, occurs likewise in *Domesday* under the possessions of St. Mary, to which it also belonged in the days of the Confessor. It was rated to the Danegeld at 5 hides, yet no more than 3 carucates¹ were accounted for, the half of one of which was holden by a priest, and the other two and a half by 7 villans.

¹ [Not carucates (carucatæ), but teams (carucæ).—ED.]
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The surveyors note that there was room for 3 more carucates [teams], and that there was a wood capable of fattening 24 hogs.

This is a great difficulty. I can find no place except the place before us to which both these entries can refer. Yet its extent is far unequal to the existence of 7 hides. I can only conjecture that St. Mary's Broughton is the present Clive and Sansaw.¹ They do not occur in Domesday, nor does St. Mary in any subsequent record appear to have any connection with Broughton except, as will be seen hereafter, in a way which adds some strength to the present conjecture. It is certain that Broughton was a place of much greater consequence in days of yore than it is at present, and the two names are in effect the same, *Brough* being one of the modes in which more recent times have endeavoured to represent the guttural sound of the Saxon *burh*, so difficult to be pronounced by modern organs. We learn from Camden (*Britannia*, ed. Gibson, p. 283) that Burton in Gloucestershire is in ancient grants Burgtone.

YORTON is a township of Broughton. At the time of Domesday a separate manor and township. It is there written Jartune,² and was then holden (as it had been in Saxon times) by the Church of St. Chad of Salop. It was rated at 2 hides, but the land comprised 4 carucates [teams], one of which was occupied by a priest and a villan.

Yorton passed through the same hands with Brough-

¹ [Mr. Blakeway is right in his conjecture. The *Burtone* and *Lartune* described in *Domesday* as held by St. Chad's are equivalent to the modern Broughton and Yorton, places which now form the parish of Broughton; whilst the *Burtune*, described in *Domesday* as held by St. Mary's, is undoubtedly Clive and Sansaw, two townships to this day in the parish of St. Mary. Cf. *Eyton* x. 160, 162.—Ed.]

² In the printed *Domesday Lartune*, as *Locehul*, when the original has *Joclehul*. The J and L of *Domesday* are so much alike, that it is almost impossible for any who are not assisted by local knowledge of the present names of places to avoid sometimes confounding them.

ton. In 2 Edward I. the Dean and Canons of St. Chad are found to hold it in socage of the Bishop of Chester.¹ In the Inquisition of St. Chad's possessions, 1326, is a list of the Dean's tenants in Yorton. Its tithes, which were a part of the property of the deanery of that church, were demised with those of Broughton for 61 years to Humphrey Onslowe, Esq., in 34 Hen. VIII.; and in 2 Edward VI. the reversion was leased to Beston for 21 years, as is stated in the account of Broughton. In 21 Elizabeth, land and tithe held by Roger Bromley, and the *advowson of the church*, were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, but I am not sure that we can certainly conclude from these words that there was actually a church at Yorton. The clerks of that day seem to have inserted almost any words into royal grants which the purchasers of such grants suggested. One of the prebends of St. Chad was called the prebend of Yorton. Under the rental of it, in the grant to Beston, are included:—"Diverse yearly rents issuing out of lands there to the amount of 5s. 4d., and the ferm of the tithe of sheafs, hay, and all other tithes there, demised to Bromley as above mentioned, amounting to 16s. 8d., which sum was to be divided between four of the prebendaries." In 28 Edward I. it is found that Broughton and Yorton are held of the Dean and Canons of St. Chad in free socage, and that the Dean himself holds it of the Bishop of Chester without any service; and in the Inquisition of the possessions of St. Chad's in 1326, among the tithes belonging to the

¹ [The Pimhill Hundred Roll of 1255 says that "the Dean and Canons of St. Chad, Salop, hold iv hides in Burhton and Iyarton of the fee of the Bishop of Chester. They owe no suit, and have a Franchise, the Jurors know not by what warranty." The Pimhill Tenure Roll of 1279 says that "Broughton and Yourketon are held of the Dean of St. Chad's, Salop, in free socage," and that "the Dean holds of the Bishop of Chester free of any service." It is surmised that St. Chad's held its manors, both before and after the conquest, immediately under the Bishop of Chester. Cf. Rot. Hundred. ii. 75; *Eyton* x. 162.—ED.]

Dean, is the whole tithe of the town of Burton, also 18s. of the lordship.

From the manner in which the Church of Broughton lies unenclosed and open to the adjoining fields, without any appearance of a churchyard fence, it should seem to have been a mere feldeyrie or chapel of ease (on which, see Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, p. 46). The field-kirk, indeed, had no right or place of sepulture, whereas a few graves are huddled together on the south side of Broughton Church, but they are all of late date, and Mr. Dawson expressly speaks of it as a church in the fields. It was, however, a place of note in the days of Popery, if the indulgences recorded in a paper preserved in Gough's *History of Middle*, and thence printed in Phillips's *History of Shrewsbury*, p. 94, refer to it. But concerning this there is some difficulty. That paper purports to contain the "Statutes, indulgences, and pardons granted to the holy chapel of *our lady* of Broughton, in the county of Salop," and Mr. Gough, the historian of Middle, who lived in the neighbourhood, expressly says, it was "afterwards" (i.e., after the destruction of a small monastery, of which more presently) accounted a chapel in the parish of *St. Mary*. Yet it is certain that the Broughton which belonged to St. Chad was dedicated to St. Margaret; and the Inquisition of the town liberties in 7 Henry VIII. expressly states that the townships of Burghton and Yorton are within and of the parish of St. Chad.

Mr. Gough, already quoted, says that "Broughton did formerly belong, as some say, to a small monastery, which stood on a bank cast up by men's hands near Broughton church," though he intimates his own belief that it was a castle which stood on the bank, and gave name to the place, "Broughton quasi Burghton." I have already intimated that the most diligent searcher into our provincial antiquities was assailed by the same difficulty that now perplexes us.

William Mytton, writing to Browne Willis in 1741, says:—"In my last I sent you word that Broughton

was dedicated to St. Margaret, but looking over some papers drawn up by an old attorney in my neighbourhood, he says 'tis dedicated to St. Mary, and mentions old bulls of two Popes, viz., St. Julian (*sic*) IInd and Leo Xth, which tell the occasion of its being built, and in short, makes a long story of it. This he says he found in the minister's study of that parish after his death, but whether this was the original or a copy I can't say, and so I leave it to your choice."

By the old attorney, Mr. Mytton evidently means Gough, who states himself to have found the paper quoted above in the study of his old schoolmaster, Mr. Wm. Sukar, minister of Broughton, after his decease. The mistake of *Julian* for *Julius* proves further the identity, but Mr. Gough was no attorney. My opinion is that St. Mary's Burtune in *Domesday* is the present Clive and Sansaw,¹ but it is not improbable that that collegiate church might retain an oratory in Broughton in token of its former connection with the place, and that this oratory stood on the spot indicated by Gough, and for which the Dean of St. Mary's might have interest enough with the sovereign pontiffs, Julius II. and Leo X., who filled the papal chair at the commencement of the 16th century, to procure the privileges contained in the paper preserved by Gough. That document states that "the holy chapel of our Lady of Broughton was begun by the revelation and power of God, and the miracle of our Lady," but the particulars of this legend are not recorded. Every person who visited the chapel, and recited a *pater noster* and *ave maria* before the image of the Virgin, and every benefactor to the building and support of the chapel, were to receive 1,500² days of pardon, *with clear remission*.

¹ [See p. 320 ante, note 1.—Ed.]

² By the Council of Lateran, one bishop present at the dedication of a church might grant indulgence only for 40 days. If more bishops were present, for a year, and no longer (Stavely on Churches, p. 96). This pardon then of four years and two months required the intervention of the Pope.

But it should seem that the prayers which were to be followed by these valuable privileges must be pronounced on the feasts peculiarly appropriated to the Virgin Mary, viz., her conception (Dec. 8), nativity (Sep. 8), purification (Feb. 2), annunciation (Mar. 25), assumption (Aug. 15), and the octaves of those feasts. Permission was also to be purchased at this chapel, for each individual to choose a priest, who should, once in his lifetime and again at the hour of death, grant him clear remission and absolution of all his sins, *nothing excepted*. As a further inducement to the faithful to contribute by their bounty to this chapel, an obit with dirge and mass of requiem was kept four times in the year for all those who had entitled themselves to become the objects of its benefits. These privileges, it is added, were granted by Pope Julian (Julius) IInd and Leo Xth, and *lately* confirmed by 15 cardinals of the court of Rome, and most of the bishops of England. This confirmation, then, must have taken place in the interval between the death of the last of those Popes and the English Reformation, a space of only seven years; yet so little was that event in contemplation of the person who drew up this *advertisement* (for such, in fact, it is), that he concludes with a declaration "that the prayers which shall be said and done within the holy chapel, *shall endure there* for evermore." Almost immediately after this unlucky prediction, the stately fabric of papal superstition,—eremites and friars

white, black, and gray, with all their trumpery . . . were brushed away by the rude hand of reformation; and what candid and attentive peruser of the document just quoted can pronounce that reformation either wanton or unnecessary? I am no unqualified panegyrist of the English Reformation. Its great author was truly —*monstrum nullâ virtute redemptum*, and many of its chief instruments were compassed about with human frailty. Deep, and I fear, irreparable, has been the wound it gave to Christian unity. Most important would have been the benefits resulting, had it been

attainable, from a reform without a separation from the Church of Rome. Neither would I willingly paint the errors of that church in colours darker than the truth. I revere in her the traces of primitive antiquity, and I would emulate the models of sincere piety which she has produced both in her clergy and laity. But masses for the dead, absolution of all sins, "nothing excepted," pardon of "all punishment due in purgatory for faults and offences committed against God and man" (the terms of the form annexed to the paper just quoted)—surely enormities in doctrine such as these, leading by inevitable conclusion to equal enormities in practice, are enough almost to excuse the lustful violence of a Henry, quite sufficient to vindicate the tear of pity we shed over the infirmities of a Cranmer, and the raptures of deathless veneration with which we contemplate the sufferings of a Ridley. "But the Church of Rome never taught that these absolutions were of any avail without the sincere repentance of him who was their object!" I grant it. I am assured that an enlightened Romish priest would rate their effects at a value not much higher than that at which they would be prized by a sober Protestant. And I know that an enlightened Methodist teacher, and a sound divine of the English Church would differ little in their estimate of the comparative value of faith and works. But as in that I can complain that an ignorant congregation are deluded by ignorant and interested teachers into a false reliance on faith alone without works, so do I contend in this, that the benefits of a pardon were too ostentatiously blazoned, and the necessity of repentance too studiously suppressed. That neither of these pernicious doctrines produce their full effect upon morality, or, we trust, upon salvation, we ascribe to that conscience of good and ill, that lamp of the Lord implanted by God within us, which, as it were instinctively, warns the sound mind from gross aberration in practice:

"Cum ventum ad verum est, sensus moresque repugnant,
Atque ipsa utilitas justî prope mater et æqui."

But I return to the history of Broughton, from which, if I have too long digressed, it is not, as Mr. Gough observes upon the same occasion, without a PARDON.

The later Deans of St. Chad's, who appear to have been much absent from their preferment, seem to have been much in the habit of leasing out their deanery. We have an instrument of this kind, dated Feb. 28, 1542-3,¹ by which Master George Lee, brother of the Bishop of Lichfield, lets his deanery to ferm to Humphrey Onslow, Esq., of Onslow, for 61 years. This lease, which was made by consent of his chapter, is absolute for the term, and not dependent upon the life of the lessor. The tithes of the townships of Broughton and Yorton are expressly excepted, and reserved to the dean and his successors. But they were almost immediately afterwards, viz., on the 3rd day of the following April, demised to Roger Bromley of Broughton, gent., and Johan his wife, by a lease in which "the ferm of the Church of St. Margaret of Broughton, with all the glebes thereunto belonging, viz., a croft adjoining in the Netherfelde, a nook of land in the Wyndemyll fylde, another nook in the Crassefelde (I suppose the field abounding in cresses), and 2 acres of meadowe in Brode medowe, and all tithes, pensions, portions, oblations, and all other profits belonging to the said church," are demised to them for their lives, rendering to the dean and his successors 24s. at Michaelmas, 6d. yearly for synodals, and to a chaplain celebrating divine offices in the said church, £4 6s. 8d. yearly, besides divers other rents paid yearly to certain of the prebendaries.

The rapacity of Henry spared, as is well known, the collegiate churches. Sated by his unhallowed spoil, or touched in conscience, or sensible of the utility of such parochial establishments, he left the world without this additional guilt upon his soul, but he had given his

¹ [*Cf.* Owen and Blakeway ii. 201-2, for this and the next mentioned leases.—Ed.]

ministers an example, upon the atrocity of which they were eager to improve. In the first parliament of his innocent successor, they were all thrown down by a single enactment of the unprincipled Somerset; and as they were chiefly situated in large towns, it is to this statute that we are to ascribe that general inadequacy of provision for the incumbents of the most populous parishes, to which Mr. Studley, minister of St. Chad's in the portentous times immediately preceding the great rebellion, mainly attributes the progress of Puritanism which led to that event.

On this dissolution, the whole property of St. Chad's college was leased 22 June, 2 Edward VI., to George Beston, Esq., for 21 years.¹ The ferm of St. Margaret of Broughton, as already described, and valued beyond reprises at £6 16s. 8d, being part of the dean's portion, is included in this demise from the Crown, but subject to the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Bromley. They were probably dead in 21 Elizabeth, when the queen granted the advowson of the church and tithes of St. Margaret of Broughton, belonging to the late college of St. Chad, to her favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton.²

In 1713, Richard Lyster, Esq., was seised in fee of the rectory and parsonage of Broton in fee, and was entitled to all the tithes of every description, great and small.

[Mr. Blakeway has inserted in his manuscript the following newspaper advertisement, undated:—"To be sold by auction in lots, in a few weeks, the MANOR of BROUGHTON with the Rights, Royalties, and Appurtenances thereof, and the donative of the Parish Church

¹ [*Cf.* Owen and Blakeway ii. 205, for this lease.—Ed.]

² [Queen Elizabeth, 11th April, 1579, granted all the possessions of the deanery, which then remained in the crown, to Sir Christopher Hatton, who conveyed them the next day to Thomas Crompton and John Morley; as they did 30th April, 1580, to Thomas Owen and Rowland Watson, esquires, of Lincoln's Inn. *Cf.* Owen and Blakeway ii. 209, 210.—Ed.]

of Broughton, together with several Lands, Farms, and Hereditaments in the Parishes of Broughton and Middle, in the County of Salop; and also the tithes of the township and parish of Broughton. The Broughton estate lies on each side the road leading from Shrewsbury to Wem, about 5 miles distant from each place.

Further particulars will appear in a future paper, and may be known by application at Messrs. Lloyd and Williams's Office, Shrewsbury."

BROUGHTON.

I.—The Parish of Broughton consists of the townships of Broughton and Yorton.¹

II.—There are 2 constables—one for each township.

III.—There is no house in Broughton above the character of a farm house.

IV.—The whole lies in the liberties of Shrewsbury, except one piece of land called the Hall marsh, near Bilmarsh, in the hundred of Pimhill.

V.—No, except the above-named Hall Marsh in the Parish of Middle.

VI.—No.

VII.—There is one manor called the Manor of Broughton, which is co-extensive with the parish.

VIII.—Rich. Lyster, Esq., of Rowton, is the Lord of the Manor. He holds no courts, but a Court Leet is held in Shrewsbury, as the parish is in its Liberties.

IX.—About 800 acres.

(Signed) L. GARDNER.

Broughton Register begins 1586, but contains no entries of special interest.

[It seems doubtful in whom the Manorial rights are now vested. The Directories state that Viscount Hill is Lord of the Manor. Mr. Blakeway describes Robert Lyster, Esq., of Rowton, as then being lord; and, if this were so, he is now represented by Lord Rowton, of Rowton Castle.

Lord Hill sold his property in Broughton to J. Wilson, Esq., of Beobridge, and his executors sold it to Mr. Rd. Barber, of Harlescott, who now owns it. Robert Gardner, Esq., sold his property in

¹ [For the Questions, to which these are Answers, see under ALBRIGHTON, 2nd Series, Vol. I., pp. 101-2.—ED.]

Broughton (or more strictly, Yorton), partly to J. J. Bibby, Esq., of Hardwicke, but the great bulk of it to William Nevett, Esq., in 1873. Mr. Nevett's estate in Yorton consists of about 335 acres, and his house was built by Mr. Davies.

In Bilmarsh is a well, flowing out of the hollow trunk of a tree, and called "The Captain's Well." The legend connected with it, if any, is not now remembered. The parish of Broughton contains about 800 acres.]

THE CHURCH.

[The early records as to the Chapel of Broughton are scanty, as it was a mere dependency of St. Chad; and the Diocesan Registers contain no records of its pre-Reformation Incumbents. There was probably a Church at Broughton at the time of the Domesday Survey, which was, no doubt, served by the Yorton priest mentioned in that record. Some account of the 16th century leases of the Church, glebe, and tithes of St. Margaret of Broughton will be found in Owen and Blakeway's *History*, ii. 202, &c. In 1548 the King's Surveyor reported as follows:—"Also the said church of Broughton is a parishe church in the countrie, distaunte from the said town miles: and the deane and collegians of the said collegiatt church, having the profetts of all the tenths of the said towne of Broughton and Yorton, have byn allwayes chardged to fynd a curatt there to minister: and have demised the said x^{ths} to Roger Bromley, who is bounde by his lease to find the curatt there, and to paie suche further somes for the same, as in his lease above declarde maie appere."

The old church was stripped of its roof and left to decay, in the year 1857, when a new church was erected. In a circular issued by the Vicar in that year, it is stated to be the most dilapidated church in the county, as well as the dampest and coldest. The church was a very small building. The east wall remains, with two lancet windows; also the south wall, which contains a door-way and window, and a piscina; and portions of the west wall. The real motive for destroying the old building was the dampness of the burying ground; but the act cannot be defended.

In the old churchyard is the base of a Cross, and several tombstones. Amongst others are these:—Isabell Hales, daughter to George and Isabell Strange of Bridgnorth, and wife to John Hales of Broughton, died 1815; Isabell Brid, died 2 Oct., 1802; Edmund, son of Richard and Elizabeth Parr; Charles, son of Cornelius and Elizabeth Maddock, died 1823, aged 16, &c.

The new church was erected by subscription, some distance away from the old church and on higher ground, on a site given by Robert Gardner, Esq., in the year 1858, and was opened in April, 1859. It consists of chancel, nave, and bell turret, and contains a tablet to a member of the Nevett family. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a most interesting pre-Reformation chalice, with possibly a

later stem and cover, belonging to the church. The patronage is vested in Viscount Hill. E. Percivale, Esq., is lay impropiator, having purchased the titles from Lady Charlotte Lyster.]

INCUMBENTS OF BROUGHTON.

(From MS. Top. Salop, C. 9).

BROUGHTON.

- Thomas Newnes, of Middle; rector of Broughton in 1577. See Register of Middle. See also CLIVE.
- William Sugar, minister 1628; sep. 17 Nov., 1675. [He married Mary Otley on 16 Oct. 1628. Curate also of Clive and Grinshill.]
- James Doughty, curate; sep. 12 May, 1730, Holy Cross.
 Sutton. See NEWTOWN.
- [William Bagley, minister 1754 to 1778; Incumbent of the Clive; died 22 Feb., 1783, and buried 28th at Preston Gobalds.]
- Thomas Moses Lyster. See OLDBURY.
- Francis Salt. [Signs the Register as Curate in 1810-11; and as Minister from 1815-1836. Qu. also Headmaster of Wem Grammar School. M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxford. Born at Bridgnorth, 1795; died 14 April, 1841. Son of the Rev. Francis Salt, of Bridgnorth.]
- [William Boulton, M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxon. Headmaster of Wem Grammar School, 1839-1878. Born at Bridgnorth, 1808; died 22 April, 1880. Son of Mr. William Boulton, of Bridgnorth.
- Francis Barney Parkes, B.A. Ch. Ch., Oxon. Signs the Register as Curate in 1836. Perpetual Curate 1840-1855. Afterwards Rector of Southwick, Sussex, 1858-1873, and Vicar of Atcham, 1873-1881. Born at Loppington, 1812; died 24 Sept., 1881. Son of the Rev. Richard Parkes, Vicar of Hanmer and Loppington; and grandson of Mr. Pryn Parkes, of St. Martin's, co. Warwick.
- John Wood, M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxon. Incumbent of Grinshill, 1849, and of Broughton 1855 to 1864. During his incumbency, in 1857, the old church was unroofed, and the new church erected. Born at Grinshill, 1801; died 18 May, 1864. Son of Mr. John Wood, of Grinshill.
- John Hawkesworth. Formerly a barrister-at-law. He died at Wem in 1876.

John Wright, M.A. St. John's Coll., Camb.; Vicar of Broughton
1876. Also Vicar of Grinshill since 1874.

The following also sign the Registers as Curates of Broughton:—

Edward Powys, Curate, 1781.

William Clarke, 1782.

Thomas Jones, 1783.

R. Howell, 1790-4. [*Qu.* Richard Howell, of Wem.]

D. Evans, 1797-1800.

Richard Walker, 1800-9.

John Kynaston, 1826.

Viscount Hill is patron of the Vicarage of Broughton. There is no Vicarage house; but the living has usually been held with other preferment. For this addition to Mr. Blakeway's list of Incumbents I am indebted to the Rev. John Wright, M.A.—Ed.]

BROUGHTON REGISTER EXTRACTS.

(Extracted from Geo. Morris's MS. Shropshire Registers, &c., in the Shrewsbury Free Library).

The Register begins 1586.

- 1586. Wm. Witcherley, yeoman, buried Oct. 15.
- 1588. Richard, son of James Witcherley, bapt. March 5.
- 1589. George, son of James Witcherley, bapt. June 22.
- 1593. Jane, daughter of James Witcherley, bapt. April 8.
- 1595. William, son of James Witcherley, bapt. Mar. 16.
- 1598. Mychael Lyster, gen., buried Dec. 14.
- 1603. John, son of James Witcherley, bapt. Sept. 25.
- 1605. Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Otley, buried Dec. 12.
- 1608. Edmont Towers of Preston Gubbals, and Margaret
Hancox, mar. Nov. 1.
- 1609. Elizabeth Lyster, widow, bur. May 3.
- 1618. William Wicherley, bur. May 4.
- 1620. John, son of Joseph Wicherley, buried Feb. 22.
- 1621. John, son of Joseph Wicherley, bapt. June 7.
- 1623. Adam, son of Joseph Wicherley, bapt. Jany. 25.
- 1625. Joseph Wicherley, of Broughton, bur. Oct. 24.
- 1628. Wm. Sugar and Mary Otley, mar. Oct. 16.
- 1635. George, son of James Wicherley, bur. Jan. 14.
- 1640. James Witcherley, bur. Sept. 14.
- 1662. Richard Witcherley, bur. Dec. 6.
- 1675. William Sugar, minister of Broughton, Curate of Olive
and Grinsell, bur. Nov. 17.
- 1678-9. Thomas, son of John Oateley and Sarah his wife,
bapt. Feb. 5.

1681. Joshua Barnet, clerk of Ercol and Margaret Cooper of Wem, widow, mar. Oct. 24.
 1683. Daniel, son of John and Mary Witcherley, bapt. May 6.
 1718. Mr. Thomas Barnes, of St. Alkmond's, and Mrs. Abigail Nevett, of St. Chadd's, mar. May 13.
 1727-8. Mr. John Barnes, of Wem, and Mrs. Elizabeth Whitehead, of Wellington, mar. March 13.
 (Additions from the original Registers).
 1715. Mr. John Horwell, of St. Julian's, and Mrs. Mary Chapman, of St. Chad's, mar. July 21.
 1738. Richard Herbert, of St. Mary's, and Mary Reynolds, of St. Chad's, mar. Sept. 29.
 1761. Nehemiah Huffa, of Clive, and Margaret Embrey, of Grensill, mar. Feb. 1. Witnesses: Anne Kilvert, John Embrey, junior, and John Kilvert.
 1807. John, son of Mr. Thomas Rogers and Mary his wife, bapt. May 24; born 22nd.

[The earliest Register is lost. The present one commences only in 1705. Vol. I. extends from 1705 to 1774, Vol. II., 1775 to 1812, Vol. III., 1754 to 1811, Marriages; Vol. IV., 1815 to 1837, Marriages. These names occur in the earliest existing Register:—Hales, Ebry, Eaton, Newnes, Kilvert, Edwards, Maddock, Garmson, Painter, Miles, Yeomans, &c.

A Court Book of the Shrewsbury Municipal Court Leet, preserved amongst the Corporation Records, and dated 1647-8, names these inhabitants of Broughton:—Thomas Lister, Joshua Richardson, Richard Prees, John Ford, and Francis Gough; and of Yorton:—Thomas Heath, William Crosse, William Nowans, Roger Gittyns, and William Wood.

A Court Roll of 1649-50 names Joshua Richardson, gent., John Soudlyn, and John ffoord, as then living at Broughton.

In 1580 there seem to have been 16 men in Broughton and 16 men in Yorton, over the age of 16, capable of bearing arms. Their names and particulars of their arms will be found at page 275 ante.]

CLIVE.

A chapelry in the Parish of St. Mary, Shrewsbury, consisting of the townships of Clive and Sansaw, each having a separate constable and being a separate manor. There can scarcely be a doubt that Clive was an ancient possession of the collegiate Church of St. Mary, from times antecedent to the Conquest, but Domesday passes it by in silence, unless, as I conjecture, it was that part of Broughton which then belonged to that church,¹ and our few public records of property for nearly two centuries after are almost wholly confined to catalogues of the tenants by military service. I find no mention of this place before the *Iter* of Henry III., in which it is recorded to be "*elemosina Regis capelle sue de Salop.*" In the Hundred-Roll of Pimhill 28 Edward I.,² more fully: "the dean and canons of St. Mary hold the villis of Clive and Sansawe of the King in frank-almoign: and the men of Clive and Sansawe hold it of the said canons in free socage."

In the reign of Edward III. John le Strange of Whitchurch, a potent baron, had molested the men of this chapelry and the contiguous one of Astley, in the occupation of certain land which they had assarted, or cleared from the waste. As their landlords were a spiritual body, he probably thought to commit this outrage with impunity. The dean of St. Mary's, how-

¹ [Clive and Sansaw, both in Saxon times and at Domesday, formed that part of Broughton which belonged to St. Mary's. The Manor is thus described in Domesday:—"The Church of St. Mary heid and holds Burtune. There are five geldable hides. One priest has there half a team, and seven villans with two teams and a half; and there might yet be there three teams more. There is wood for fattening 24 hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 10s. It is now worth 15s." In 1255, the Pimhill Hundred-Roll describes this estate simply as Clive:—"The Dean and Canons of St. Mary, Salop, hold 4 geldable hides in Clive, and it is the King's almoign to his chapel of Salop. It does suit to County and Hundred, and pays 2s. for Stretward and motfee." *Cf. Eyton* x. 160.—Ed.]

² [Eyton calls this "the Pimhill Tenure-Roll of 1279." *Cf. Eyton* x. 161.—Ep.]

ever, procured a writ of privy seal directing him to place things in their former state, and the lord of Whitchurch found it necessary to bind himself in a recognizance of £40 to comply with this mandate. The substance of an instrument by which the college released him from this bond upon condition of his performing its stipulations, is as follows:—"Covenant made between Mons^r John Le Strange of Blankminster and Sir Tho. de Baddebye, dean of y^e free chapel of our Lady of Salopirs and y^e chanons of y^e same chapel, lords of y^e towns of Astleys, Sonsawe and Clyve: viz. que le dit Mon^r Johan ad empris de fair reseisir & restitution avoir as dits Dean & chanons of all y^e lands assarted & occupied by their tenants & neifs in y^e same towne, & also of y^e woods & wast belonging to y^e s^d chapel in y^e s^d towns, & to distrain their tenants & neifs to make to them their rents & services due: to do which he has been commanded by the king by writ of privy seal & as he is bound hereto in £40: y^e dean & c^t grant that y^e s^d obligation be void if he perform it. 18 Edw. III. Done as Salopirs."

As tenure in socage, though the most beneficial, is the humblest of all tenures, we must not expect to find any great families among the ancient proprietors of Clive. Thomas Russel, otherwise called de la Clyve, was town clerk of Shrewsbury (clericus burgi Salop) in the beginning of the 14th century, and it seems from the numerous bequests, among which is one of 12d. to the chapel here, was evidently a person of opulence and consideration. As late as 7 Henry VI. I find a John Russel of Sonsawe, who was, I presume, one of his descendants. This seal¹ is appended to a release of actions dated 7 Henry VI. from Jn. Russel of Sonsawe and Emelyn his wife to Ralph Frebody of Smethcote and Margaret his wife, to which the releasors say, "sigilla

¹ [The seal, a cross between four birds, and legend of which "comune" alone is legible, is tricked in the MS., but is not here copied.—Ed.]

nostra apposuimus;" but this, which evidently appears to have been a common seal, is the only one which was ever affixed to this instrument. (*cart. pen. Jos. Loadale arm.*)

The most ancient family that has occurred to me, after that of Russel, as connected with this place, is that of Wycherley, of whom Roger Wycherley of Clyve is stated to have lived in 10 Henry IV.; and the family was of sufficient consequence to have its pedigree entered "in the ancientest visitacion book of Shropshire remainig in the Heralds' office," which Dugdale had seen, i.e., I suppose the visitation of 1584.

Another ancient family at Clive was that of Gery, who may perhaps mount up beyond the Norman Conquest, since Gheri, a free man, *qui dare & vendere potuit*, who had the uncontrolled dominion over his property, enjoyed Octune and Etbritone in the time of the Confessor. But the earliest mention of the family of Gery, as connected with this place, is in 27 Henry VI., when Richard Gery is entitled of Clive. In 38 Henry VI. he occurs as of Clyff, and with the addition of 'gentilmon.' He probably removed to Shrewsbury, as in 14 Edward IV. I find Rich. Gery called son and heir of Rich. Gery formerly of Salop; and the same Christian name was continued for several descents, since in 34 Hen. VIII. (if this be not, as I suspect, an error of my transcript for Henry VI.) is Rich. Gery of Clyve, gent., son and heir of Rich. Gery, lately deceased. All these appear in the Waring evidences of lands in Shelton. Mary, the daughter and co-heir of Rich. Gery of Clyve, married Wm. Wycherley of the same place, who was living in 3 and 4 Philip and Mary.

The family of Wycherley is chiefly remarkable for having produced the celebrated William Wycherley, who, however unduly he may have been extolled by his contemporaries, and however mean his productions may now appear, must certainly be regarded as the father of our modern comedy. Such particulars as I have been able to collect of this writer are subjoined. The annexed pedigree will sufficiently explain the subsequent

descent of his property to Robt. Embrey, who was stated at his death in 1786 to be lord of the manor of Clive, though I understand that Mr. Gardner of Sansaw lays claim to the manor.

What Cicero says of a famous oration of an old orator whom he commends, is perhaps applicable to the extravagant praises which have been bestowed upon the comedies of Wycherley:—"Hæc de incestu laudatur oratio puerilis est multis locis: de amore, de tormentis, de rumore, loci sane inanes: veruntamen *nondum tritis nostrorum hominum auribus, nec erudita civitate tolerabiles.*" Brutus 32. What he says afterwards is very true: "Quo nihil est melius, id laudari, qualecunque est, solet." 86.

This parish having given birth to that rare production of nature, an original genius, in the person of William Wycherley, the father of modern comedy, we shall perhaps be pardoned in deviating from our usual course in presenting our readers with a few particulars of his life. He was, however, much indebted for his future eminence to the care taken of his education by his father, and that father was in every way so remarkable a person, and the first of his family who emerged from the yeomanry of the country, that a sketch of his history may not be unacceptable.

The following account of Mr. Wycherley the father is chiefly derived from two MS. authorities. 1. Rich. Gough of Newton, in the parish of Middle, completed his account of that parish about the beginning of the last century. The author was a respectable farmer, who amused the leisure hours of his declining age by committing to paper every particular which he could collect concerning the history of his neighbours, none of whom were too high or too low for his notice. It is written with a characteristic garrulity and simplicity, which render it not uninteresting, though it sometimes excites a smile at the expense of the honest author, and may occasionally remind the reader of the *Memoirs of P. P., clerk of this parish.*

2. The Rev. Samuel Garbet, M.A., second master of Wem school, began the history of that parish about 1740. This is in point of research, judgment, and diction, a very superior performance to Gough's, and is, in fact, a very excellent production. A part of it has stolen into print in the *Monthly Magazine* for It seems to be the work alluded to by Mr. Archdeacon Plymley in his *Agricultural Survey of Shropshire*, under the title of a "History of the Hundred of Bradford."

Daniel Wycherley, then, was the eldest son of Daniel Wycherley of Clive, in this parish, by Margery his wife, daughter and heir of Wm. Wolfe of Acton Reynald. From the Visitation of this county in 1663 it appears that the family had been seated at Clive at least as early as 1410. He was born about the year 1617. (This date is taken from his age at the time of his death, as stated by Mr. Garbet, but I should suppose him to be older. In the register of admittances to the Free Schools of Shrewsbury, the name occurs in 1616, but I will not affirm that this was our Daniel Wycherley. It may have been a person of both these names, a Batchelor of Divinity, whom we learn from Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy* was ejected from his fellowship of Queen's College, Cambridge, and from the rectory of Hemingstone in co. Suffolk for his loyalty; he may have been of this family, though I cannot connect him with the Wycherleys of Clive.)¹ Having been well educated in all sorts of learning that the country could afford, Daniel Wycherley went to London, where, after remaining for a time in the service of some person belonging to the law, he at length obtained an office in the exchequer.² All this must have taken

¹ I find mention of this name in Camden's Epistles, p. 42, where Gunter writing to that antiquary says, I enclosed my letter in that of our friend Mr. Vecherley.

² "Having the prospect of obtaining a teller's place in the King's Exchequer, his aunt in Acton furnished him with £100, which procured the place."—Gough. The reader will not require any proof that it could not be a teller's place which was obtained at so easy a rate.

place before the breaking out of the great rebellion, since before that event he also became steward to John Powlett, fifth Marquis of Winchester, an appointment which furnished him with an occasion of greatly increasing his fortune, and of acting a more conspicuous part on the theatre of the world than he would otherwise have done. The share which the Marquis took in the civil wars is well known. He was a singular character. It was said of his family that its representatives were alternately fools and wise men. The enthusiasm of this nobleman was evinced by the stout resistance of Basinghouse, on every pane of glass in which he caused to be inscribed his motto: *AymeZ Loyaulté*. For that loyalty he was thrown into prison and his estates were confiscated. In this emergency the talents of Mr. Wycherley for business proved eminently serviceable to his employer. With great despatch he procured the sum requisite to pay the marquis's composition (so says Gough, but I cannot, however, find the name of the marquis in the list of those who compounded for their estates; and indeed, we can hardly suppose that so capital a delinquent, whose house had withstood the Parliamentary forces for above two years, would be admitted to make any composition). He thereby gained the uncontrolled management of his vast estates, was enabled to remit considerable sums of money to the exiled monarch (*Garbet*). Absolute power of any kind is very unfavourable to honour and probity; and if Mr. Wycherley's contemporaries may be credited, he did not pass through a situation of great temptation with an unsullied character.¹ However this may be, he was enabled to make the great purchase of the Manors of Wem and Loppington. Gough, who spares nobody, would insinuate that this sale was founded on a fraudulent and collusive transaction between Wycherley and a Mr. Hessell, the Earl of Arundel's steward. Mr. Hessell had, according to him, a commission to sell

¹ He was admitted of the Inner Temple, November 25, 1658.

the copyhold tenures of Wem to the copyholders in order to raise money for the payment of the earl's composition. But this measure not proving so productive as was expected, he was at length obliged to sell the manor to Wycherley, who had obliged him with certain advantageous purchases of the lands of his principal, the Marquis of Winchester. This statement is, however, entirely erroneous. The Earl of Arundel never compounded, as he acted quite a neutral part in the great convulsions of his country; also, it is certain from Mr. Garbet's MS. that the sale did not happen to take place till July, 1665, five years after the restoration. "So," says Gough, "Mr. Wycherley became lord of the manor, and was by some persons called Lord Wycherley; he was afterwards put into the commission of the peace for this county, and wrote himself *Esquire*. And now I've brought this Esq. to his zenith or vertical point.

"Parva quidem crescunt lente, summisque negatum
Stare diu." Ovid.

The justices of the peace it was done. p. 150.

The remaining years of Mr. Wycherley's life were clouded with litigations. Besides a tedious and unsuccessful contest with the Marquis of Winchester, son of his patron, who called him to give an account of his stewardship, and a suit with the free schools of Shrewsbury about the maintenance¹ of Clive chapel, he was engaged for nine years, from 1673 to 1682, with the copyholders of Wem, from whom he demanded an augmentation of their fines, and in which he was ultimately victorious; but the expenses of these various suits compelled him to sell his estates; like Swift's fictitious hero, Gulliver, "he was almost ruined by a long suit which was decreed for him with costs." In 1684 he conveyed the Manors of Wem and Loppington to that odious instrument of tyranny, the infamous chief justice Jeffreys, "and after that," says Gough, "Mr. Wycherley was no more called My Lord Wycher-

¹ [Or rather, patronage of Clive chapel.—ED.]

ley." Domestic uneasiness aggravated the misfortunes of Wycherley. By his wife Bethia, daughter of William Shrimpton of Whitechurch, in Hampshire, and "gentlewoman" to the Marchioness of Winchester, he had a numerous family, four sons and six daughters. Besides the extravagancies of his eldest son William, which are well known, his second son George, rector of Wem, died in the Fleet prison, and his daughter Elizabeth died distracted from disappointment in a matrimonial connection. Notwithstanding these vexations and contests he lived to a great age, being, according to Garbet, above 80 years old at the time of his death. He was buried at the Clive 7 May, 1697. But as late as the year 1703, at the court held for St. Mary's peculiar, on Sept. 13th, "Mr. Wm. Wytcherley" was cited to prove the will of his father, Daniel Wytcherley, Esq.

The person of Mr. Wycherley was prepossessing. He was of a large stature and a comely countenance, his hair white with age. His behaviour was genteel and courteous. "I have heard him much commended," says Gough, "that he never contended with persons unable to deal with him, but with great persons." In effect, though his character has not been delineated by the hand of friendship, it seems probable that after making reasonable deductions for that calamy which is apt to pursue the rapid increase of wealth, we should not have much severely to arraign in his public conduct. His unkindness in the parental relation forms a juster ground of censure. It is alluded to by Dryden in his Discourse on Satire: "Horace," says he, "gives the best character of a father which I ever read in history, and I wish a witty friend of mine, now living, had such another."

But on this it is impossible now to decide with certainty. The *virtues* of that witty friend were not calculated to create much esteem or affection, and the resentment of the father was not unfounded, if it be true that the dramatist intended to depict the litigiousness of his character, by the Widow Blackacre in the "Plain Dealer."

The exact date of William Wycherley's birth is so much connected with his literary history, that it would be desirable to ascertain it, but this is a point of some difficulty. If we might believe Mr. Oldys's account of his age at the time of his death he must have been born in 1634; but Garbet places his birth about 16 Car. I., 1640; and this, though he does not state the document on which it is founded, seems nearer the truth. His father seems to have determined to give him the education of the first gentlemen of his time, and sent him to make the grand tour at an early period. On his return he resided a short time at Queen's College, Oxford, where, though he was never a member of the college nor entered upon its registers, he resided in the Provost's Lodge, and was entered in the public library under the title of *philosophiae studiosus* in July, 1660. (*Quære*, who was provost of Queen's?) Hence he removed to the Inner Temple, of which he was admitted a member 4 November, 1659. Whether it was intended that he should study the law as a profession does not appear. If it was, he soon frustrated the design, and turned his attention to the muses. Burlesque poetry had been recently introduced into this country from France, and the success of Cotton's *Travestie* of the *Æneid* had given it an extensive circulation among us.¹ Wycherley availed himself of the prevailing taste, and produced *Hero and Leander* in burlesque verses, 1669, of the merit of which I am not able to speak, having never seen it. Hence the transition was not difficult to the drama. His "*Love in a Wood*" made its first appearance in 1672, and was followed in each of the three succeeding years by the "*Gentleman Dancing Master*," the "*Plain Dealer*," and the "*Country Wife*,"²

¹ It is scarcely credible that the most sacred subjects could not escape this pollution. "*La Passion de notre Seigneur en vers burlesques*" appeared at Paris in 1649. See the life of Cotton in Hawkin's ed. of Walton's *Angler*.

² I cannot imagine how the annotator on the *Tatler*, No. 3, should say the "*Country Wife*" was first acted in 1683.

which last appeared in 1675, and closed the dramatic race of our author.

His contemporaries vied with each other in applauding these pieces. The fastidious Rochester allows:—

“None seem to touch upon true comedy
But hasty Shadwell and slow Wycherley.”

The great Dryden in the preface to his “State of Innocence,” 1674, writes thus:—Many theatre, and again (p. 52, and Dryden iii. 335).

Yet when one turns to the productions that called forth these lofty encomiums, one is almost tempted to exclaim with Horace:—

“At vestri proavi Plautinos et numeros et
Laudavere sales: nimium patienter utrumque,
Ne dicam stulte, mirati.” [Horace, *Ars Poetica*, 270-2.]

Wycherley told Pope that he wrote these plays in the above order at the respective ages of 19, 21, 25, and 31 or 32. But either his memory, which was a very bad one, deceived him, or he was actuated by the mean vanity of representing himself as as early an instance of premature talents as the youthful poet to whom he was addressing himself. It is surely incredible that he was in the habit of keeping his plays from 14 to 9 years in his desk before he produced them to the public. This would be an obedience to the precept of Horace of which we have seen few examples. His age when he wrote the last piece is the only date to which we can give implicit assent.

The first of these pieces is really beneath criticism. To the “Country Wife,” which is said to have been drawn from living characters,¹ and to which no one can deny the praise of sprightly and bustling intrigue, and the manner in which is thrown into the way of her gallant by Horner’s perpetual efforts to keep her from his, is original and comic. Through the inimitable acting of Mrs. Jordan this play still retains a place on our stage.

¹ “In the Country Wife . . . Country Wife,” Oldys MS. notes on Langbaine. For North I am informed we should read South Tidworth.

But in the "Plain Dealer" we seek in vain for the usefulness of satire which Dryden highly commends. Its satire is directed against sincerity and frankness of character, a censure from which its original, the celebrated Misanthrope of Molière, is by no means exempt. (Rousseau alleged this objection to the Misanthrope, from which D'Alembert has attempted to vindicate Molière, in his reply to the Citizen of Geneva, but with no success. He has shown indeed how the play might have been formed to convey a most useful lesson; but his arguments to prove that it might have been so constructed evidently show that it does not in its present form produce this effect). Manly, the hero of Wycherley's piece, who has been supposed to be intended for a portrait of himself, renders the virtue and independence to which he pretends disgusting by vulgar brutality and causeless petulance. It is needless to observe that the brightest pages of our author are deformed by that gross and undisguised obscenity which was taken for wit by Charles, and is a conspicuous proof of the barbarism of the English court at that period.

How then may we account for the high reputation which Wycherley so long enjoyed? He was the first who brought the familiar conversation of common life upon our stage. Even Shakespeare has rarely exhibited the unrestrained ease of common life. The inimitable character of Justice Shallow is the only instance I at present recollect, for even his Falstaff, unrivalled as it is, much less his Mercutio or his Beatrice, which are, I think, alleged by Johnson, are not such characters as one meets with in real life. Wycherley opened a new career in the drama, and his productions appeared when the nation, weary of the solemn hypocrisy of the fanatical period, was not disposed to be very delicate in its choice of amusement. This was the true foundation of Wycherley's fame, which succeeding writers, dazzled with the splendour of his name, adopted without examination. Fame then was cheap, and the first

comer sped : Dryden eulogised the conquest of Granada, nor can it reasonably excite surprise if the modern reader, who comes to the perusal of his works with his expectations raised by these exalted panegyrics, should experience a woeful disappointment. I am far, however, from wishing to pluck every laurel from his brow. He was certainly a man of talents. Many of his faults were the defects of the age in which he lived, and on that account obtain our indulgence, but can never expect, after the great models which have succeeded him, to obtain the extravagant applause which they once drew forth. In a word, we may well apply to this subject the remarks of Horace on y^e merits of the ancient dramatists of his time, and which Wycherley himself adopted as y^e motto to his first play, little thinking that it would ever be applicable to himself:—

“ emendata videri
Pulchra qui et exactis minimum distantia miror ;
Nec veniam antiquis, sed honorem et præmia posci.”

[Horace, Epist. II., i. 71-2, 78.]

But we should form a very imperfect notion of Wycherley's character if we considered him merely in the light of a man of letters. His greatest merit in his own days, and that to which he owes perhaps no small share of his fame, was his character as a man of fashion. Pope, who knew him well, says that he possessed *l'air noble*, that is, as he explains himself, a certain air of dignity, accompanied by an entire ease of manner, perfectly unconscious of superiority and devoid of affectation,—such an air, says he, as all noblemen should, and so few really do possess, and of which he cites the Duke of Bucks as an example.¹ It is no wonder then, that with a winning and graceful exterior, and all the talents which embellish society, and a lively and brilliant flow of conversation, Wycherley embarked in all the pleasures of a gay and dissipated court, and enjoyed

¹ Oldy's MS. he adds “see Voltaire.” The meaning of this reference I do not comprehend,

what is called *la bonne fortune*. He is even supposed to have shared with the monarch himself in the favours of the celebrated Duchess of Cleveland, who is known not to have been very constant in her amours. The manner in which their acquaintance commenced was as follows. This incident gives one a curious and not very advantageous idea of the manners of that period, in which licentiousness was not refined from any of its grossness. But when we are told that she used to visit him at his chambers in the Temple, dressed like a country girl, in a straw hat, with pattens on, a basket or box in her hand, etc., it is difficult to avoid classing this story with those anecdotes which have a very slight foundation in truth. However faithless she might occasionally be to her regal lover, we cannot doubt that her intrigues were conducted with the utmost privacy, and can never believe that, well-known as she must have been, she would adopt a disguise which would only heighten her very uncommon and exquisite beauty, and attract the eyes of all passengers in the streets.

These excesses, the company with which he associated, and the figure which he supported, so far exceeding the allowance which he received from an austere father, quickly involved our author in pecuniary embarrassments. From these he was extricated by his marriage, of the steps leading to which we have a curious story. (*Here insert it.*)¹ The lady was Letitia, daughter of the Earl of Radnor, and widow of the Earl of Drogheda; but her jointure of £1,800 a year, though it released him from his more pressing difficulties, probably added little to his happiness. She was extremely jealous of her handsome and gay husband, and it is related that after he had obtained her permission to dine at a tavern with some of his old companions, she would engage a room on the opposite side of the street, from which she

¹ [Mr. Blakeway has unfortunately left several gaps in his account of Wycherley, which we have no means of filling up.—Ed.]

might watch his motions and detect the introduction of any improper company, a circumstance which may seem to be alluded to in the *Country Wife*, where though it is evident that if this conjecture be founded in truth, this passage must have been added long after the first representation of the piece. It was on the death of this lady, I presume, that Wycherley's distresses returned ; since we are told that he passed seven years within the walls of a prison : a woeful and gloomy contrast to the glittering scenes which he had once adorned. For this tedious confinement his father has been condemned, but with what justice it is impossible to determine, since we neither know the ability of the old man to relieve him, nor how far the conduct of the son deserved relief. (*Here insert the account of his being released*), and see Malone's *Life of Dryden*, p. 190, n. In the great revolution which ensued, I conceive Wycherley to have adhered to the abdicated monarch. To this he would be led as well by his obligations to James II. as his peculiar intimacy with Dryden. He did not, however, like that great poet, publish his dissent. He contented himself with enjoying his own sentiments in private. His spirits broken by imprisonment and disappointment, the brilliant characters with whom he had passed the morning of life departed from the scene, he was content to pass his declining years without any further struggles for public notice, in the possession of an easy fortune which his father's death put him into the possession of, and in the enjoyment of that reputation which he had acquired in the court of Charles. He did not, however, relinquish all attention to poetry, though it was now rather the amusement of his leisure hours than the occupation of a profession, and he cherished all a father's fondness for these productions of his old age.

Pope, now rising fast into celebrity, was introduced to the veteran author, who submitted these precious manuscripts to his correction. The young poet, with the [assurance] of our author's own Manly, and with the cons-

ciousness of superior talents, exercised with so much vigour the office of a censor over these wretched rhymes, (yet see the effect of prejudice, Hill represents Pope as guilty of mean servility to Wycherley; Richardson's Correspondence,)—that the old bard's vanity took the alarm; and the result was not unlike the affair of Gil Blas and the Archbishop in the admired romance of Le Sage. Pope has given us a curious account of Wycherley's mode of composition. (*Here insert it*).

With his native county and his patrimonial estates our author kept up but little connection, though a walk in the grounds of Sansaw is shewn in which he is said to have written one of his plays. In his correspondence with Pope, we find the few following notices of his visits hither.¹ (*Here insert them*).

The last transaction of his life was an act of cruelty to his heir, but of justice to his creditors. He appears to have had only a life interest in his estate, with a power, however, of settling a jointure upon any wife in proportion to the fortune which she should bring him. Aware of his approaching dissolution, and very desirous of availing himself of this power to raise a sum of

¹ Among John Dennis' letters, printed in the *Familiar and Courtly Letters*, 8vo, 1700, are several addressed to Wycherley. The first of these is directed to him at "Cleve near Shrewsbury." He says, "When I venture to write to you, I consider you, not as the greatest comick wit that ever England bred, sent purposely to cheer the ears of the wittiest men, and to ravish the hearts of the most beautiful women,—no Sir:—that in writing to you I may assume some spirit, I only consider you as the humble hermit at Cleve; humble even in the full possession of all those extraordinary qualities, the knowledge of which has made me proud." "None but such real greatness as yours can capacitate a man to be truly humble." "When I receive your answer, I shall then believe, what you were pleas'd to tell me when I saw you last; that you are much more humble in the clear air on your mountain at Cleve, than when you are in fog and sulphurous smoke in Bow Street."

Wycherley in reply says,—“Though I receive no rents here, yet I must own if I did, I could not receive greater satisfaction than I had from yours with even a letter of exchange;” and the whole correspondence runs in the same hyperbolic strain of panegyric, that it looks like a reciprocation of sarcastic irony.

money sufficient to pay off his debts, he commissioned his relation, Captain Shrimpton, to find out a lady who was willing to sink her fortune upon these terms. The lady, she was Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Joseph Jackson, gent., of Hertingfordbury, was procured, and the marriage celebrated in the 81st year of Wycherley's age, if we may believe Oldys, but in his 79th year according to other accounts. (See *Memoirs of Mrs. Oldfield*). Soon after which our author died, on the 1st January, 1715. This date and Oldys' statement of the age of Wycherley is confirmed by a MS. addition to the *Athenæ* in the Bodleian Library, p. 977, by Rawlinson. He was buried in a vault at St. Paul's, Covent Garden. In his person Wycherley was remarkably handsome, a circumstance of which he was sufficiently sensible. There is a mezzo-tinto of him at the age of 28, by Smith, after a picture by Sir Peter Lely, which it is said he was wont to survey in his declining years with an emotion of regret, and a mournful sigh of *Quantum mutatus!* Lord Chesterfield, says Oldys, marks of age. This portrait seems to be the same referred to by Granger, iv. 44, and the testiness of which Oldys speaks is very conspicuous in our author's correspondence with Pope.

The old ballad of "My Father was born before me," which appeared in 1672, agrees in so many respects with the personal history of Wycherley, that I cannot but conjecture that it was intended for him, though in this case we must suppose a few circumstances have been altered to prevent the resemblance from being too glaring. As this once noted song is now but little known, and as it is not without some merit, it is here subjoined for the reader's consideration. (*Here insert it*).
Mr. Ireland,¹ born at the Trench Farm, near Wem,

¹ A letter from Mr. Egerton Jeffreys, dated at Shrewsbury, September 25, 1804, gives the following information, picked up, he says, from two old people at Wem:—"The poet Wycherley married on his death-bed a young woman from London, supposed to be a stationer's daughter, which he was induced to do in consequence of his brother

and the birth-place of Wycherley;—his mother was a daughter of the Rev. Thomas. Holland, 30 years minister at Wem, and the grandson of Philip Henry,—educated by Mrs. Shrimpton, relict of Wycherley.

By the Inquisition taken 19 June, 9 Charles I., after the death of John Gardiner, he is found to have died seised of two messuages, four cottages and divers lands, &c., in Clive, late Wycherley, holden of the King of the late college of St. Mary in Salop. (*Co. Es.*)

CLIVE.

I.—The Chapelry of Clive consists of the Townships of Clive and Sansaw.¹

II.—There are two Constables, one for each Township.

III.—In the Township of Clive is Clive Hall, formerly the residence of the Wycherley's. The poet and dramatic writer

and heir having displeased him. His widow married Captain Shrimpton, with some property left her by the poet, and survived her second husband. She spent several summers at the Trench Farm, near Wem. Her manners and conversation were coarse and unrefined, strongly indicating a birth of low origin.

The poet's *brother* married Miss Hill of Souldon near Wem, by whom he had two children, Hill Wycherley, a boy, and Ann. The former died in London of the small pox [29 Feb., 1752, æt. 22], and was brought down to Wem for interment, which was performed by candlelight. Ann married Thos. Jervis from the neighbourhood of Drayton, a man of low origin; she died also without issue at Whitchurch. One part of Hill Wycherley's estate descended to Daniel Wycherley of Whitchurch, or some distant relation there, whose descendants now enjoy it. The other part (supposed the hereditary part) went to two branches, Nehemiah Huffa and Mrs. Cadman; the latter was niece to the poet, and left her property to Mr. Embrey of Grinshill, deceased, whose daughters now possess the Clive estate.

N.B.—Mr. John Ireland, 47, St. Ann's Place, Knightsbridge, was personally acquainted with a Mrs. Jackson, supposed to be a sister of Mrs. Shrimpton's. He was likewise acquainted with other branches of the Wycherley's family, and can most likely give a better account of them than any person in this neighbourhood."

Ireland is the author of "Hogarth Illustrated," is a native of Wem, and was formerly apprentice to Mr. Isaac Wood, late of Shrewsbury.

¹ [For the Questions, to which these are Answers, see under ALBRIGHTON, 2nd Series, Vol. I., pp. 101-2.—ED.]

of that name in Charles II.'s time lived here. It is now the property of Mr. Charles Harding, a farmer.

In the Township of Sansaw is Sansaw House or Hall, the residence of the Gardners. It is now occupied by the Rev. Laurence Gardner.

IV.—The Chapelry is in the Liberties of Shrewsbury.

V.—Uncertain. There is now a dispute between Sansaw and Grinshill upon this point.

VI.—No.

VII.—There are two Manors, Clive and Sansaw: each manor co-extensive with its Township.

VIII.—The Rev. Laurence Gardner is the lord of both Manors. He holds no Courts; but a Court Leet is held in Shrewsbury every half-year, and Townships are in its Liberties.

IX.—About 1,450 acres.

(Signed) L. GARDNER.

[The Clive Hall estate, formerly the residence of the Wycherleys, on the death of Hill Wycherley 29 Feb., 1752, went to his cousins, Nehemiah Huffa (son of Peter Huffa and Frances Wycherley), and Elizabeth Cadman (daughter of Joseph Cadman and Mary Wycherley). Nehemiah Huffa married Margaret, widow of Robert Embrey of Wellington, and daughter of John Kilvert and Elizabeth Russell, but died in November, 1765, without leaving issue, when his estate went to his step-son, Robert Embrey of Grinshill, who was his wife's son by her first husband. Robert Embrey was also devisee of Elizabeth Cadman, who died 9 July, 1773, and so came into possession of the whole estate. He died 8 July, 1786, and his trustees in 1801 sold the property to Charles Harding. On his death, it came to his son, George Harding, whose trustees sold it to his nephew, Thomas Meares, Esq., of Clive Hall, the present owner of the Clive Hall estate.

The Sansaw estate, formerly the residence of the Gardners, a family descended from Thomas Gardner of Sheinton, in the 15th century, came in 1804 to the Rev. Laurence Panting, D.D. (son of the Rev. Stephen Panting and Josina, daughter and heiress of the Rev. Laurence Gardner), who took the name of Gardner. At his death 27 July, 1844, it came to his nephew, Robert Panting, Esq., who also took the name of Gardner, and married Jane Eliza, daughter and heiress of Anthony Kynnersley, Esq. Their son Thomas Kynnersley Gardner, Esq., of Sansaw and Leighton, sold the Sansaw estate to J. J. Bibby, Esq., of Hardwicke, who is the present owner.

The Rev. Laurence Gardner, D.D. (who died in 1844), claimed to be lord of the Manors of Clive and Sansaw.

The area is 1,198 acres, and the chief landowners are J. J. Bibby, Esq., of Hardwicke, Thomas Meares, Esq., of Clive Hall, the widow of John Hall, Esq., of Holbrook, and George and John Thorniley, Esqrs., of Shooter's Hill.]

CLIVE REGISTER begins 1671.

1677. Joseph, son of Joseph and Anne Wycherley, Oct. 28, bapt.
 1678. Mrs. Frances, daughter to Mr. Daniel Whycherley,
 buried 17th Oct.
 (On a blank leaf in a different handwriting
 Wm. son of Mr. John Wycherley and Mary his wife,
 bapt. at Wem, Feb. 2, 1684).
 1696. Robert, son of Adam Whycherley, buried Sept. 8th.
 1697. Daniel Whycherley, Esq., buried May 7th.
 1698. Jane, daughter of John Gardner, gent., and Jane his
 wife, Sept. 15, bapt.
 1699. Thomas the son of Richard Smith of Sansaw and
 Martha, bapt. 3 March, 1699.
 1700. Bathia Whycherley, May 10th, buried.
 1701-2. Jane Whycherley, buried January 26th.
 1703. Roger Whycherley, May 28th, buried.
 1707. Adam Whycherley, buried July 21st.
 1743. Elizabeth, daughter of George and Ann Wycherley,
 bapt. April 24.

[Further entries from "Extracts from Shropshire Registers, &c., by Geo. Morris," a MS. in the Shrewsbury Free Library.]

1679. Samuel Orpe, Curate, signs Register.
 1684. Ralph, son of John Gardner, Esq., and Jane his wife,
 bapt. March 5.
 1697. Elizabeth Walker, gent., of Acton Reynold township,
 bur. Nov. 27.
 1713. Thomas, son of John Gardner, Esq., and Elizabeth,
 bapt. May 8, and bur. July 4.
 1713. May 23, Edward Lloyd and Susannah Scarlett of
 Worthing, married.
 1783. The Rev. Wm. Bagley, minister of this chapel, died
 Feb. 22, 1783, and was buried at Preston Gobbals in
 y^e porch [on the 28th, æt. 80.]
 The Rev. John Rowland succeeds him.
 1788. Mrs. Emma Gardner, buried at St. Mary's, July 14
 1657. Aug. 3, A long memorandum, signed by the principal
 parishioners, about the pews in the chapel.

[In the Registers are a number of affidavits of burials in Woollen, from 1679 to 1682, and also a list headed :—

"The benefacance (?) of the most of the inhabitants of the Clive the 17th day of November 1671 as followeth" with note at foot—"There was collected upon this Breefe for rendering oure prisoners frome the Turks £1 6s. 8d. by the Minister Mr. Suker and the Chapel Wardens John Onslow and Richard Locklee."]

INCUMBENTS OF CLIVE.

(From MS. Top. Salop, C. 9).

CLIVE.

Mr. Witcherley patron¹ 1726. Willis.

Thomas Newnes, curate 1578. See BROUGHTON.

Sir Thomas Yvans, 1594. (Shrewsbury regr).

William Sugar, 1636, ob. 1675 [bur. 17 Nov., 1675, at Broughton. He was also minister of Broughton and Grinshill. He married Mary Otley at Broughton on 16 October, 1628.]

John Williams.

1679, May 24. Thomas Tither was elected to this curacy vice Williams, and £4 a year was allowed him. (Salop Exchequer).

Samuel Orpe also occurs in 1679 [and in 1682.]

Thomas Ankers, 1691.

William Griffyth, 1692.

William Joban, resigned 1694.

Francis Price, 1709, 1724.

1729, May 9. Samuel Betton, 1725, 1746. See ASTLEY.

William Bagley, 1746, ob. 22 Feb., 1783 [bur. 28th, at Preston Gubbalds, in the porch, aged 80. Curate of Preston Gubbalds, 1737.]

[¹ But this was not an end of Mr. Wicherley's suites at Law, for hee had a greate. suite with the towne and schooles of Shrewsbury, about maintenance for the Minister of Clive Chappell. The case was faire, if his designes had been soe; but to endeavour to prove it a donative, and himselfe patron was such an idle thing that his owne children laft att it Mr. Wicherley began his suite by English Bill in the Exchequer, in London, but hee had soe bombasted his matter with the title of donative, and his claim of Patronage, that he could doe nothing but spend money. . . .

From Gough's *History of Middle*, pp. 86, 87.

"Here doeth the accounts of Richard Locklee begin in the year 1687 since the clerkship was bestowed of him *by the patron of the Clive Mr. D. Wycherly Esq.* being the first day he served which was on the 22th of January in the year 1687 under Mr. Sukers Minister of that place for the pabtizinging of children and for the burials of the dead Anno Domini. William Maddox and John Ward Churchwardens."

From Clive Register, with the words underlined erased afterwards.—Ep.]

- 1783, May 15. John Rowland, resigned 26 Oct., 1810. John Flint, Esq., Mayor,
and Rev. James Atcherley,
head schoolmaster.
[Son of the Rev. John Rowland of Llanddewi Brefi, co. Cardigan; born 1745; matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, 8 April, 1767; a master of Shrewsbury School 55 years; rector of Llangeithio, co. Cardigan; died 1816. *Cf. Gent. Mag.* lxxxvi. i. 284; and vol. for 1852, p. 99.]
- 1811, May 1. Laurence Gardner, M.A. Mayor, Aldermen, & Assistants
[Son of the Rev. Stephen Panting, Vicar of Wellington and of Wrockwardine, by Josina his wife, daughter and heiress of the Rev. Laurence Gardner; he took the name and arms of Gardner on succeeding to the Sansaw estates in 1804; bapt. at Wellington, 11 June, 1767; d.s.p. 27 July, and bur. 3 August, 1844; also Rector of St. Philip's, Birmingham; D.D. and Fellow of St. John's Coll. Camb. He married at Wrockwardine, 21 Feb., 1799, Martha, dau. of Edward Pemberton, Esq., of Wrockwardine, but left no issue. He was succeeded in his estates by his nephew, Robert Panting, Esq.]
- [1846. William Jeudwine, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge; adm. M.A. Oxford, com. causa, 1861; Vicar of Chicheley, Bucks, 1860-1881; afterwards of Aspley Guise, Woburn; died 1888; he resigned Clive in 1854, and in 1857 published "The Clive Chapelry; a plain statement of facts relating thereto, in a letter to a kinsman. By Wm. Jeudwine, M.A."]
1855. William John James, M.A.
1863. Henry Forster Welch; Vicar of Pattishall, near Towcester, 1873, when he resigned Clive.
1873. John Cooper Wood, M.A., and late scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge; formerly Head-master of Hales Owen Grammar School; rector of St. Kenelm-in-Romsley, 1867-1872; Vicar of Grinshill, 1872-3. The present incumbent. In 1885-7, he made a thorough restoration of Clive Church.

For this addition to Mr. Blakeway's list of Incumbents, I am indebted to the Rev. John Cooper Wood, M.A.—ED.]

THE CHURCH.

[There are no means of ascertaining the date of the foundation of the Chapel at Clive, as it was associated with the Royal Peculiar of

St Mary's, whose capitular muniments are wholly lost. The Diocesan Registers do not give the pre-Reformation Incumbents, who were presented and instituted by a secular power. We can therefore only expect to find incidental notices. It is, however, probable, that a Church existed at Clive at the date of the Domesday Book, and was served by the priest mentioned in that record. The Chapel is dedicated to All Saints.

On 8th October, 1543, Arthur Kelton of Shrewsbury (who was a poet), and Thomas Kelton, his son, had a lease for 30 years from the the Dean and Chapter of St. Mary's of all their tithes belonging to the deanery (including Clyff and Sensawe), reserving a rent of £22 11s. 4d., of which £4 was for the tithe of Clyff and 15s. for the tithe of Sensawe. Arthur Kelton died in 1549, in which year, March 3rd, Thomas Kelton surrendered the lease of 1543, and received a new lease for 21 years. (See Owen and Blakeway ii., 330, &c.)

King Edward VI., by letters patent dated 10 Feb., in his 6th year, granted to the bailiffs and burgesses of Shrewsbury the tithes of sheaves, grain, and hay, arising in the town's fields, &c., of Sansaw, Cliffe, &c., lately belonging to the dissolved College of Blessed Mary, for the support of the Free Grammar School of King Edward VI. in Shrewsbury. Queen Elizabeth by indenture dated 23rd May in her 13th year granted to the said bailiffs and burgesses (*inter alia*) the premises demised for 21 years to Thomas Kelton, and lands in Sansall of the annual value of 8s., for the better maintenance of the said Free Grammar School, also towards the maintenance of divine service in the Chapel of Clive, £5, &c.

By an Act of Parliament 38 Geo. III., for the better government of the said school, it was enacted (*inter alia*) that the governors might augment the salaries of the curates of St. Mary's, Astley, and Clive, &c.; and that the right of presentation to the benefices belonging to the school should be in the mayor, aldermen, and assistants of Shrewsbury for the time being; but that in such presentation to the curacy of St. Mary's, Astley, and Clive, preference should be given to persons brought up at the said school, and who should be graduates of the Universities, and also sons of a burgess of Shrewsbury.

The Charity Commissioners reported (about 1830) that the property then held by the governors consisted of (*inter alia*) the tithes of Clive and Sansaw, which were let to yearly tenants at rents amounting annually to £347 13s., and a chief rent at Sansaw, paid by the Rev. Dr. Garder, of 8s.; but they note that "part of these tithes are in dispute, the question being whether a few acres of land are or are not in the township of Clive." They also paid to the curate of Clive the yearly stipend of £45, in 1827 and 1828. (See *Charity Commissioners' Report, Salop*, vol. xxvii., pp. 369, &c.)

In 1580, and previously, there were great disputes between the parishioners of St. Mary's and the inhabitants of Astley and Clive, who endeavoured to free themselves from the burden of contributing to the repairs of the window in Trinity aisle in St. Mary's Church.

The parties appealed to the Council of the Marches, who decided against Astley and Clive. (See Owen and Blakeway, ii., 362).

The chapel at Clive consisted of a nave, without transept or separate chancel. In 1849-52, a partial restoration was effected by the Rev. William Jeudwine, the incumbent; the west gallery was removed, with a low ceiling and old pews; three windows on the south side and a west window were inserted; a turret with two bells, and a new font, and stone pulpit added; the carved panels of this pulpit are now inserted in the wall of the new porch, and the old font was buried beneath the new one. The total cost was about £425.

In 1885-7, the Chapel was thoroughly restored by the Rev. J. Cooper Wood, the incumbent, Mr. Chas. J. Ferguson being the architect, at the cost of between £5,000 and £6,000, the bulk of which was contributed by J. J. Bibby, Esq., and Thomas Meares, Esq. A new porch, chancel, vestry, and organ chamber were added, and chancel arch inserted. The Church was lined throughout with dressed ashlar work, the interior of the walls having been removed to the outer skin of ashlars. The old roof was replaced by one of carved oak. The nave was laid with woodblocks, and the chancel with marble. The wood work of the seats, screens, choir stalls, pulpit, lectern, and reredos is of oak, and enriched with exquisite carving by the best English carvers. The reredos is an alabaster panel, representing Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. A two-manual organ was given by John Hall, Esq., of Holbrook. A mortuary was added, and the churchyard extended, laid out, and walled. The restoration was most thorough and effective; and the carved wood work is as fine as any in the county.

The west window of the chapel is filled with stained glass representing the Ascension, and was erected in 1876 in memory of Charles and Elizabeth Harding of Clive Hall, by their daughter Catharine. Two windows on the south side are also filled with glass, representing four of the apostles. A plinth on the west and on parts of the north and south sides of the chapel marks an earlier and smaller building than the present one. It seems to show an original entrance at the west end. The porch on the north side has a Norman arch, with a mitred figure above.

In the Churchyard are many tombstones to members of the Russell, Wycherley, Ravenshaw, Huffa, Harding, and other old Clive families. Amongst others are these:—John Wycherley, gent., third son of Daniel Wycherley, Esq., died 20 June, 1691. Daniel Wycherley, Esq., died 5 May, 1697, in his 81st year. Frances, wife of Peter Huffa, Esq., and daughter of John Wycherley, gent., died 11 March, 1759, aged 81. Nehemiah Huffa, died Nov. 8th, 1765, in his 58th year. . . . daughter of William and Elizabeth Russell, and wife of John Dickin, of Acton Reynold, died 22 April, 1739, aged 40.

The inscriptions have been carefully re-cut and preserved.

The patronage of the Vicarage was formerly vested in the Trustees of Shrewsbury School, but has been purchased from that body by J. J. Bibby, Esq., of Hardwicke, in whom it is now vested.—*Ed.*]

PEDIGREE OF WYCHERLEY.

[The following Pedigree of Wycherley of Clive, &c., is given in the Blakeway MS. in tabular form, but for convenience is (with some additions, to make it more complete), here printed in narrative form.—Ed.]

- I. Roger Wycherley, of Clive, living 10 Hen. IV. His son,
- II. John Wycherley, of Clive, living 2 Edw. IV. His son,
- III. John Wycherley, of Clive, living 16 Hen. VII. His son,
- IV. William Wycherley, of Clive, living 8 Hen. VIII. His son,
- V. William Wycherley, of Clive, living 3 P. and M., married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Richard Gerey, of Clive, and had issue, three sons :
 - (1) Richard, of whom next.
 - (2) William.
 - (3) Roger.
- VI. Richard Wycherley, of Clive, living 21 Eliz., married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Richardson, of Whitchurch, and had issue, three children :
 - (1) Daniel, of whom next.
 - (2) Mary.
 - (3) Joseph ; father of Thomas ; father of Thomas of Lacon ; father of Daniel, who died 1764, and married Beatrice Henshaw (she died 1809), by whom he had issue, two daughters, Mary, wife of John Brookes, and Beatrice, wife of Richard Smith.
- VII. Daniel Wycherley, of Clive, died Dec., 1659, married Margery, daughter and heiress of William Wolfe, of Acton Reynald, and had issue, five children :
 - (1) Daniel, of whom next.
 - (2) John.
 - (3) Elizabeth.
 - (4) Alice.
 - (5) Mary.
- VIII. Daniel Wycherley, of Clive ; purchased the Barony of Wem, the Manors of Wem and Loppington, and Clive in July, 1665 ; J.P. for co. Salop ; died 5 and bur. 7 May 1697, in his 81st year, at Clive, M.I. ; married Bethia, daughter of William Shrimpton, of Whitchurch, and by her, who was buried at Clive 10 May, 1700, had issue, six children :
 - (1) William, of Clive, son and heir, the dramatist ; born at Clive, 1640 ; died 1 Jan., 1715-6, bur. at St. Paul's, Covent Garden ; married first, Letitia Isabella, widow of Charles, second Earl of Drogheda, and daughter of

John Roberts, first Earl of Radnor, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland; and secondly, in 1715, Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Jackson, of Hertingfordbury, who rem. Captain Shrimpton.

- (2) George, rector of Wem, which living was sequestered in 1654; died in the Fleet prison, and bur. 3 Jan., 1689; by Dorothy his wife, he had a daughter, Letitia Isabella, who was born 28 Nov. and bapt. at Wem, 17 Dec., 1680, and died in 1685.
- (3) John, of whom next.
- (4) Henry.
- (5) Elizabeth, died insane, because not allowed to marry one Mr. Pyke.

(6) Frances, bur. at Clive, 17 Oct., 1678.

IX. John Wycherley, third son; died *in vita patris* 20 June, 1691; M.I. at Clive. By Mary his wife, he had issue, four children:

- (1) William, of Wem; bapt. at Wem, 2 Feb., 1684; buried there 12 July, 1745; married Anne, daughter of Thomas Hill, of Saulton, near Wem, and by her, who died 22 Feb., 1731, and was buried at Wem, had issue, two children,—[1] Hill, bapt. at Wem, 8 Aug., 1729, died s.p. in London, 29 Feb., 1752, æt. 22, and was buried at Wem, March 17th; [2] Ann, who married Thomas Jervis, and died s.p. at Whitechurch.
- (2) Daniel. (3) Frances, of whom next.
- (4) Mary, born 1678, died 10 Nov., 1735, æt. 57, at Clive, M.I.; married Joseph Cadman, of Clive, and had issue, an only daughter, Elizabeth, co-heir to her cousin Hill Wycherley, born 1707, died 9 July, 1773, æt. 66, when she left her estate to Robert Embrey.

X. Frances Wycherley, mar. to Peter Huffa, of Clun, and had issue, two sons:

- (1) Peter Huffa, bapt. at the Clive, 8 July, 1705.
 - (2) Nehemiah Huffa, of the Clive; co-heir to his cousin Hill Wycherley; bapt. at the Clive, 12 March, 1707; died s.p., and buried there 11 Nov., 1765, M.I. He married at Broughton, 1 Feb., 1761, Margaret, widow of Robert Embrey, of Wellington, and daughter of John Kilvert and Elizabeth (who was daughter of William and Elizabeth Russell, of Clive, where she was bapt. 6 Jan., 1707), his wife.
- Margaret Huffa, widow of Nehemiah, died 10 May, 1771, æt. 40, and was buried at Grinshill, M.I. By her first husband, Robert Embrey, of Wellington (who was born in 1723, and married at Grinshill, 4 March, 1751), she had a son,

Robert Embrey, of Grinshill, who became seised of the whole estate by devise from Nehemiah Huffa and Elizabeth Cadman; he was born in 1755, and died 8 July, 1786; the trustees of his Will in 1801 sold his estate to Charles Harding; he married Boodle, and had an only daughter, Margaret, who became wife to the Rev. J. Pitchford.
Robert Embrey, at his death in 1786, is styled lord of the Manor of Clive.

ARMS of Wycherley: Per pale, argent and sable, three eagles displayed counterchanged.

CREST: An eagle displayed sable ducally gorged argent.

Quartering Beeston, Betton, Gerey, and Wolfe.

See Pedigree in Harl. MS. 1396, fo. 328; and Harl. Soc., Vis. of Salop, 1623, ii. 512.

[Wycherley's Dramatic Works have been published in the Mermaid Series of the best plays of the Old Dramatists, in a volume edited, with an Introduction and Notes, by W. C. Ward, and a portrait after the picture by Sir Peter Lely, 1888. His Poems were published in 1704, and again in 1728. The best account of his life is perhaps that given by Lord Macaulay, in his essay on "The Comic Dramatists of the Restoration."

The Shrewsbury Corporation muniments give the following particulars about Clive:—

In 1644 were assessed: John Huffa, William Russell, Widow Onslowe, James Smith, Will. France, Mr. Adam Weel for tithes, Edward Clarke the lieke, Thomas Gardner, and Mr. Richard Onslowe.

In a Court Book of 1647-8, these names occur: Thomas Heath, John Huffa, Edw. Onslowe, Robt. Hilton, Wm. Robinson, Wm. Russell, Thos. Lockley, John Webbe, John Boycott, Thos. Helton, Thos. Witcherly, Thos. Witcherley, yom., Geo. Hincks, Wm. Onslowe, Joseph Witcherly, Daniele Nowan, and Rich. Lockley.

In a list of the "Names of Inhabitants of the Town and Liberties," undated, but probably about 1660-70, these names occur under Clive: Joseph Witcherley, Howell Hughes, Roger Russell, Roger Gittins, Rd. Lockley, Joseph Smythe, Geo. Dod, John Hoggins, Daniel Sturdy, Wm. Watkys, John Webb, Roger Gittins, and Daniel Thomas; and under Sansaw: Mr. Thos. Gardner, Richd. Smyth, and Wm. Jones. Mr. Wm. Suker, clerke, occurs at Broughton; and Rd. Witcherley at Yorton.

In 1703, Peter Huffa and Samuel Gregory, of "Clive and Sandsall," were assessed to the Land Tax.—Ed.]

THE CRYPT OF OLD ST. CHAD'S CHURCH, SHREWSBURY.

REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS MADE 1889-90.

By J. NURSE, ARCHITECT.

WITH INTRODUCTION BY REV. THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A.

It was hoped that it would be possible in this Introduction to throw some new light on the subject to which it refers. It was anticipated that entries would be found in Parish records of St. Chad's, which would give some information as to the maintenance and use of the Crypt under the old Church, of which the remains have now been brought to light. A diligent search, however, among the Archives of the Parish, with the kind assistance of the Vicar (Rev. E. S. Carpenter) and the Senior Churchwarden (Mr. R. Hughes), has failed to produce any such records. The old Parish books of St. Chad's, likely to contain such entries, either do not exist, or have been removed from the Church, and the knowledge of their whereabouts has been lost. All that can be done therefore in this Introduction is to put the readers of the *Transactions* in possession of sufficient facts from the past history of the Church, to enable them to fully understand Mr. Nurse's report.

The spot on which Old St. Chad's Church stood must have been one of the most important sites of the town, in every period of its history. It is one of the highest points of the peninsula formed by the winding of the Severn, and when unobstructed by buildings, the view from it embraced a prospect not easily surpassed. It is not surprising, therefore, that when the peninsula formed the British settlement of Pen-

gwern, the spot was occupied by the Palace of the Princes of Powys, who ruled there. But in the latter part of the seventh century, Pengwern fell before the arms of the Saxon Offa, King of Mercia; and to him tradition ascribes the erection here of the first Christian Church, which he dedicated to St. Chad, then recently canonized. But it is almost certain that a Christian Church existed in Pengwern before it passed into Saxon hands, and this may well have been its site. Not only is this antecedently probable, but it receives confirmation from the two ancient graves discovered in the course of the excavations, to which further allusion will be made hereafter. From their position east and west, there can be little or no doubt that they were Christian burials, and though nothing was found to give a clue to anything like an exact date, the method of sepulture points to a period earlier than the time of Offa.

Whether, however, there was a Church upon the site in British times or not, there can be no doubt as to the Saxon period. This fact may now be considered proved, not only by tradition or written historical record, but by the discoveries made in the recent excavations. The original architecture of the Crypt was undoubtedly Præ-Norman, and the conjecture may be hazarded that we are now enabled to look upon walls and pillars which formed part of that Christian structure which King Offa is said to have dedicated to the memory of the great Mercian Bishop. Or, if that first Saxon Church was a less substantial building and soon passed away, we have, at least, in the work now brought to light, the remains of the building which took its place.

But the time came when underground Churches ceased to be necessary or desirable. Though wars and rumours of wars continued to prevail, the contest was henceforth between armies which professed the same Christian faith, and not between the representatives of Christianity and of heathenism. And so, as both civilization and faith made progress, there began to grow up

everywhere the imposing Churches which are still in so many places the glory of the land. Shrewsbury formed no exception to this rule. Already in Edward the Confessor's time four important ecclesiastical foundations existed within the walls, of which St. Chad's probably took the lead; and within less than two centuries after the Conquest, there commenced to rise upon its site the magnificent edifice which remained till nearly the close of the last century, and which would have been standing now, but for the almost incredible folly of the parishioners of that day.¹ The exact date of the erection of at least a considerable portion of it is inferred from a grant made by King Henry III., in the year 1226, for the work of re-building the Church, then out of repair. In 1393 it was partially burnt down; and, as usual, various additions were made to the fabric from time to time, down to the period of the Reformation. The accompanying view, taken probably about the year 1780, shows the North transept. This was built over, and upon the lines of, the Crypt which has been excavated, with the exception of the chamber marked **A** on the plan. This chamber must have been outside of the building; but it is conjectured that when the structure ceased to be used for purposes of worship, and became only a Crypt under the larger Church, this chamber was filled up—possibly at a comparatively early period.

Among the objects discovered during the excavations, beyond the Crypt itself, the most interesting were the two ancient graves already alluded to, which are marked **R** on the plan, and of which further details are given on plate 5.² It will be seen that the enclosure

¹ The Tower fell, July 9th, 1788, and the remainder of the Church was taken down immediately afterwards, with the exception of the Lady Chapel, then known as the Bishop's Chancel.

² Readers of the late Rev. J. W. Warton's *Old Shropshire Oak* will remember how, in a story of early Christian life in Shrewsbury, he describes one of his characters as laid to rest by loving hands, "in that portion of Pengwern Powisa, which we now know by the name of Old St. Chad's." Vol. I. p. 360. It is an interesting coincidence with the discovery of these graves.

in which the body rested in each case was not in any sense a coffin, but simply a cyst built of separate stones,¹ with only the soil underneath, and covered with slabs of stone. The bones in the longer grave were apparently those of a man in the prime of life; those in the shorter evidently belonged to a man, or possibly a woman, more advanced in years. From the finger bones having been found close to the shoulders, they seem to have been interred with the arms crossed on the breast. A very careful examination of the soil was made, with a view of finding some clasp, or other relic, which might assist in determining the date of the interment, but nothing whatever was found except considerable traces of a layer of charcoal under the body. Possibly those who rest there were among the Princes of Powys, who once reigned in ancient Pengwern, or Priests who ministered at its altars; but whether this were the case or not, as they lay there with their faces towards the dawn, close beside a Christian edifice, which we indeed call early, but which was of far later date than their time, they were, at least, a silent witness to the growth and development of that Faith, which binds the centuries together, and was the common heritage of them and of ourselves.

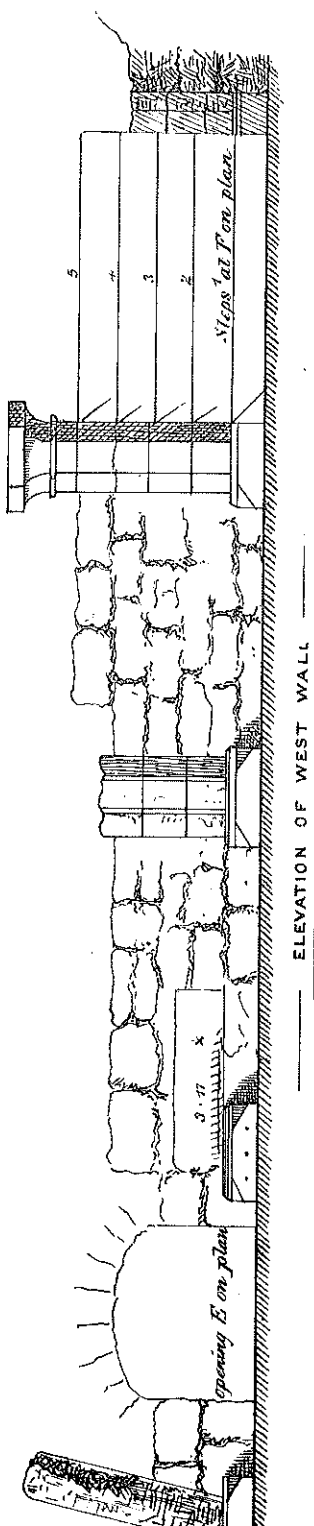
THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. CHAD, SHREWSBURY.

To the President and Members of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

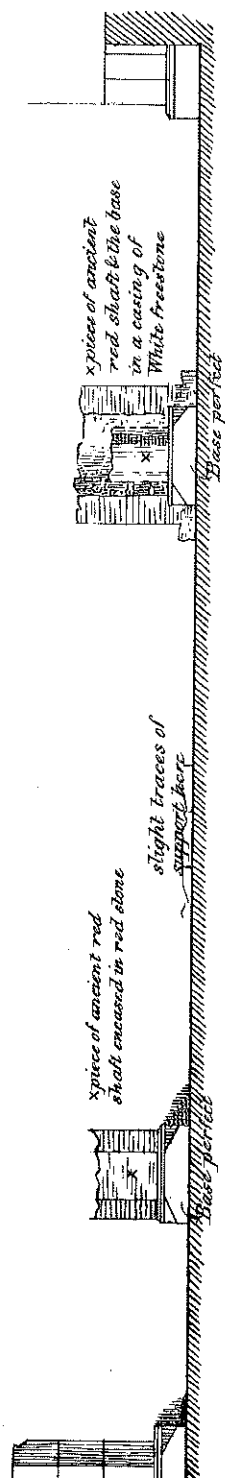
MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you a Report of the excavations made under your directions in the old Churchyard to discover the ancient Crypt, it may conduce to the clearer understanding of the subject if I first preface my remarks and particulars with a

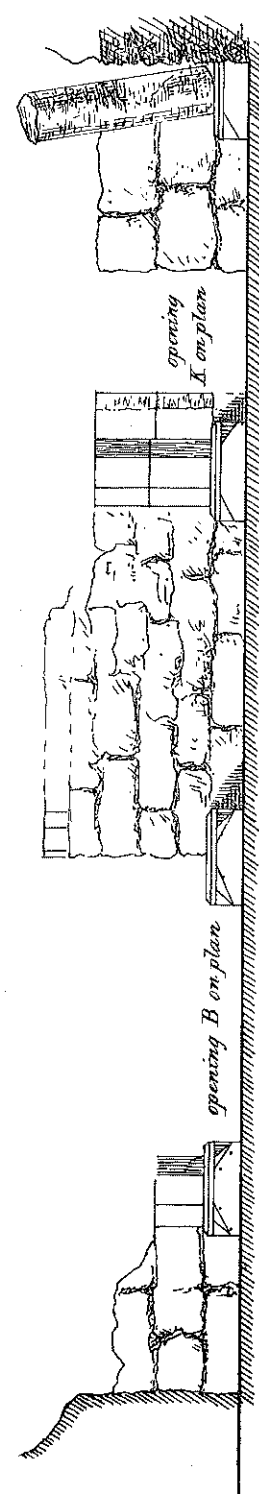
¹ In my former Parish of Ford of which the Churchyard was only consecrated in 1861, having been previously an open green, sloping from the Church down to the brook, the late Sexton often told me that, in digging graves in the upper part, he had more than once come upon very old skeletons: "they lay east and west, and he always knew when he was getting to one by the stones which they had round them."



ELEVATION OF WEST WALL



ELEVATION OF CENTRE PILLARS



ELEVATION OF EAST WALL

1/4 Scale

Dr.
S.
J.

short extract from Owen's *History of Shrewsbury*, and give you briefly a description of the Sheets of Drawings and sketches to scale prepared by me to illustrate the subject.

Archdeacon Owen writes (p. 165) :—

“Under the North Wing was an ancient Crypt supported on a row of short thick pillars with round arches. It was called the Dimery, *and is still perfect*, although filled up with rubbish.”

And again on page 169, he gives the dimensions of the Church as follows :—

“The whole length East to West, 160 feet, (assumed to be inside).

“The whole length of Transept North to South, 94 feet.

“The whole breadth of Nave and Aisles, 53 feet.”

As to the Drawings, the *Double Sheet*, No. 1 is a general plan of the east end of the old Church, including the Transept and Tower, with the new boundary line to Princess Street and Belmont, as these streets were widened by the Corporation in 1794; the Lady Chapel with its great side arches, now blocked, formerly opening into the chancel and the south transept; one pier (the S.E.) of the great central tower, with the stair turret on the outer gable of the south transept, for approaching the tower over the arch opening to the Lady Chapel; also the remains of the ancient Crypt as now cleared of the rubbish.

Sheet No. 2 shews elevations of east and west walls of the Crypt, and the remains of the central supports of the groined roof.

Sheet No. 3 shews detail to a larger scale of the ancient bases and shafts.

Sheet No. 4 shews a plan and elevation of the entrance to a smaller chamber, eastwards, through the side wall of the Crypt, 5ft. 6in. thick.

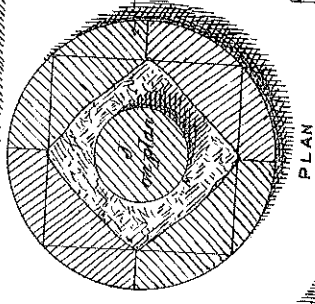
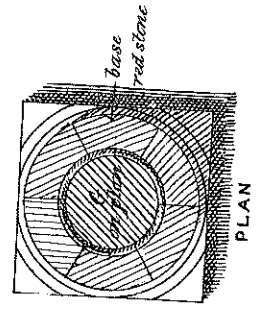
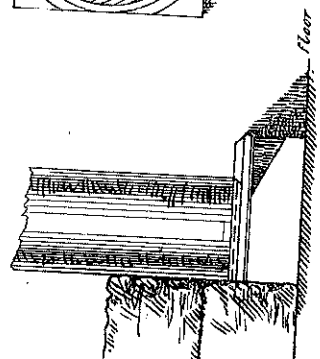
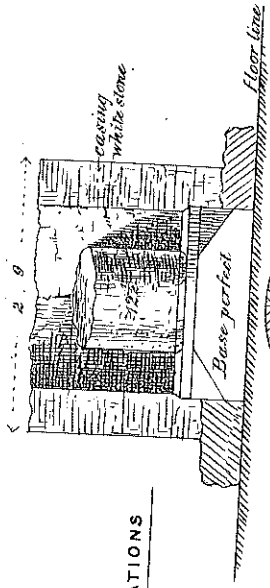
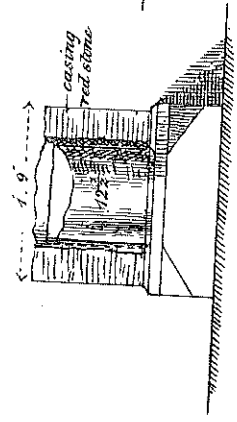
Sheet No. 5 has a plan and section drawn to scale, and a sketch of the two stone cysts discovered on the west side of the Crypt, outside the wall.

On October 10th, 1889, labourers were employed by the Council of the Society, who commenced to probe the ground with iron bars, hoping by that means to find the groined roof or to hit upon the walls. The rectangular space (near the N.E. pier of the tower, marked on No. 1) was first discovered closed with rough flags, slightly below the surface; the rubbish with which it was nearly filled was partly excavated and probed to a depth of 17ft. Several other excavations were made to a considerable depth, but nothing of consequence was found. These were filled in and the work was on the point of being aban-

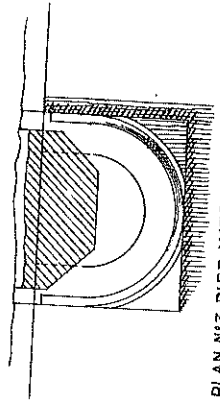
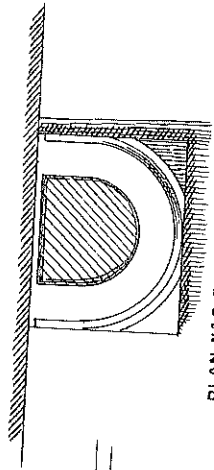
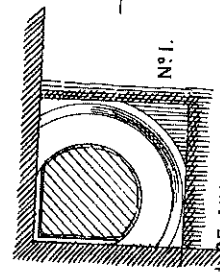
done, when a further trial excavation was made in a line with the north wall of the tower, embracing the area of the N.E. and S.W. piers, with the result that remains of foundations of the S.W. pier were discovered; a deeper cutting through the mass of rubbish (chiefly building refuse) revealed the end of a piece of stone with tapering sides, roughly resembling a mullion. Efforts were made to raise it, but without success, so that recourse was had to carefully removing the rubbish from around it, with the gratifying result that it was discovered to be an angle pillar that remained *in situ*. It stood with a slight tilt, as it was left when the tower fell, crushing in and destroying the north transept, and with it the vaulting of this chamber. On clearing the rubbish to the bottom, the base was also discovered, quite perfect. This excavation further revealed the fact that there was but a small portion of the walls left (the height at this point being only 2 feet), showing clearly that the greater part of the material had been removed for use elsewhere. Your Council, after consideration, deemed the finding of this pillar and base with a part of the wall of sufficient importance to warrant them in following up the clue thus obtained, and directed the excavations to proceed, keeping close to, and exposing, the wall lines everywhere; by so doing, the general outline was discovered, with very gratifying results. Ultimately it was determined to cut down the trees that flourished over the ruins, and to clear out the whole of the central mass of rubbish. By permission of the Vicar of St. Chad's this was proceeded with; the rubbish and soil being deposited and levelled over a portion of the churchyard, thereby somewhat raising it and improving its general appearance, and leaving it ready for seeding with grass at the proper time.

The clearance of the rubbish brought to light what remained of the central supports of the groining, of which there should be three, but one of them has been completely removed. The two others had been cased, but they contain within the case a short length of the ancient purple-red stone shaft, very much crushed, and in each case their ancient bases, quite perfect; in fact so fresh and nearly free from injury are these bases everywhere in the ruins, that they might have been executed only yesterday. It is noticeable that one (marked G) is some 16in. out of its true line, east and west, with those on either side. The casing material of this is *old red stone*, making the pillar in appearance not 12½in. as originally, but 21in. in diameter. It is built in courses, starting on the old base as a foundation, an indication of a very early failure. The other is cased chiefly with *Grinshill white stone*, making the pillar 2ft. 10in. in diameter,

ELEVATIONS



ELEVATIONS OF BASES



Nº 1.

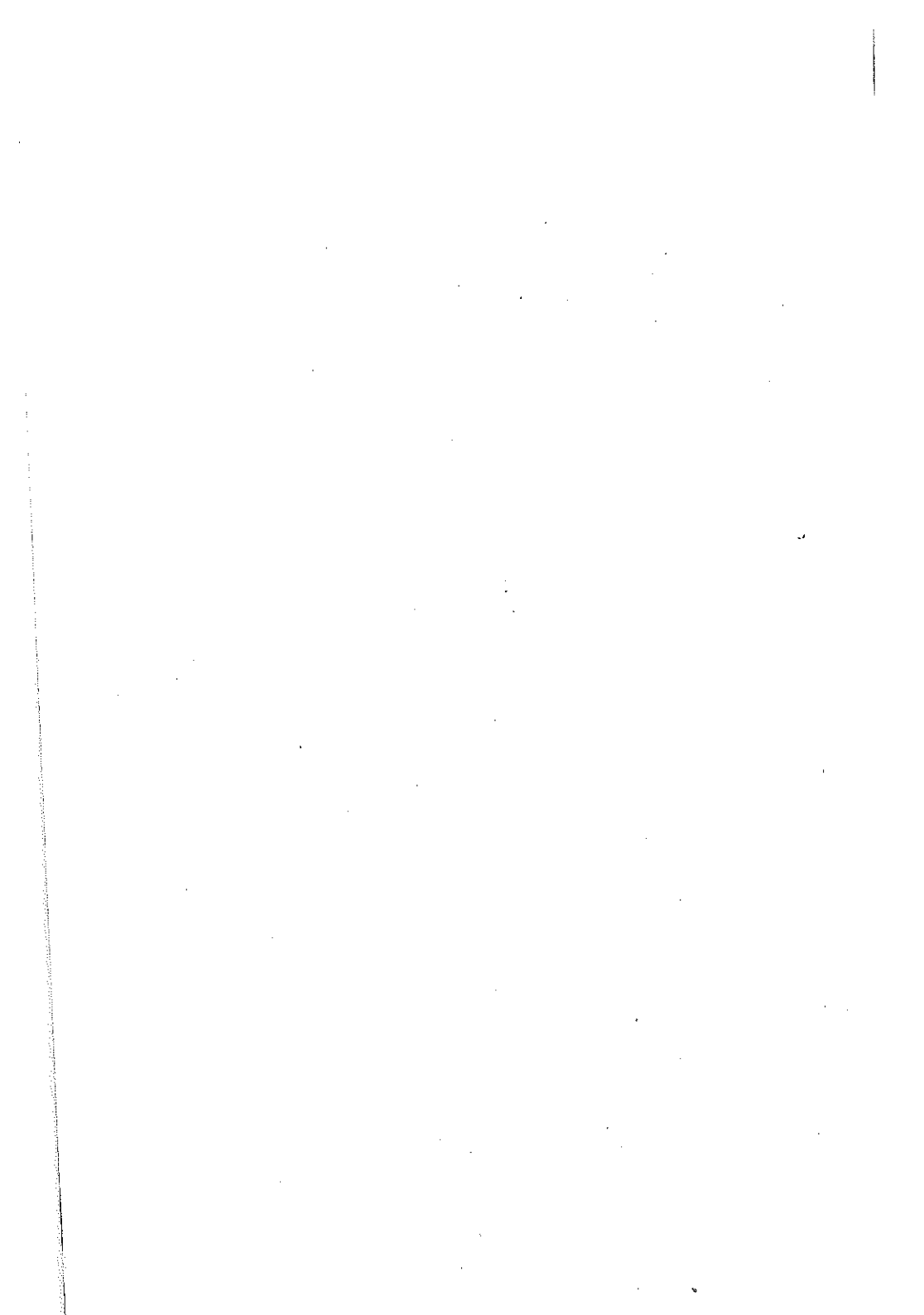
$\frac{1}{2}$ Scale

PLAN OF ANGLE under Tower N.W. angle

PLAN Nº 2 PILLAR WEST WALL

PLAN Nº 3 PIER WEST WALL repaired

ADNITT & MAUNTON, LITMS, SALOP.



laid on a rough foundation outside the ancient base. This is an indication of a later repair, it being generally assumed as a fact, that *Grinshill white stone* was not used in this locality until the 12th century. A water-colour drawing in the vestry of the new Church, shows clearly the use of red and white stone, and helps to fix the date when the white was used for building purposes in this Church.

On reference to the general plan No. 1, the situation of the Crypt will be seen to occupy the whole space under the north transept of the later or transition Norman Church, a very unusual situation. Its length is 30ft. 7in., divided into four bays, its width, 22ft. 7in., divided into two bays, giving an ordinary quadripartite vault of rather weak construction. The span of the arches being unequal, the groin point of the longitudinal arches would not rise to the same height as the transverse arches, unless the former were stilted. Some stones found in the debris would indicate vaulting of rubble work of a very heavy nature. An opening (B) in the thick wall on the east side gives access to a smaller chamber A, extending 7ft. 9in. further eastwards, and 11ft. wide. Part of this wall on the north, and the Crypt at C, has been destroyed by building the new boundary wall to Princess Street. At the south end of the Crypt D, this bay appears to have served the purposes of an ambulatory, or, if a more ancient origin is assigned to this chamber, it may properly be called the Vestibule. The ancient entrance was at E, there being the foundations of steps here. At F are some steps of white *Grinshill freestone*, not much worn, probably erected at the end of the 16th century, as a more convenient approach for the use of the chamber as a Dimery (i.e. a dark place), for storing away planks and barrows, as a store for lime, and the making of mortar for repairs when needed. At G are the remains of the ancient pillar, cased with red stone, and at J, that cased with white stone; at H the pillar and base are entirely gone. At K is a narrow door opening, which may probably have been connected with circular stairs in the space L, and thus may have given access to the Church, by means of the Chantry Chapel on the north side of the Chancel. M M M are piers that supported the great central tower at the crossing; N the pier now standing. The north-west pier, marked M_x, was the one that failed, and led to the destruction of the Church, on July 9th, 1788. At O is a large semi-elliptic arch, formerly open from the chancel to the Lady Chapel, now blocked with masonry. P is a similar arch, of greater span, over which are the steps formerly used for access to the tower. Q is the stair turret on the south side, con-

ned with the steps just mentioned, and having remains of the jamb of the early English triplet window that adorned the gable of the beautiful south transept. At **R** were the two ancient stone cysts, the sides of which were formed of red stone slabs, set on edge in the ground, and the covering was of the same material; the bottom had a thin layer of charcoal laid on the natural earth. They contained human remains, the larger cyst having apparently been opened, and the remains disarranged. The foundations of a great buttress rested partly upon the head of the cysts. On sheet No. 5 is an enlarged plan and perspective sketch of these cysts.

On referring to the general plan of the Crypt, it will be noticed that the pillar on the second base of the west wall is prostrate. This was so found in the excavation, and has not been disturbed. The front portion of this only is semicircular, the sides are partly straight, and the back quite straight, exactly fitting the sinking in the base on which it would be bedded. The pillars on the angles have the same peculiarity, being prepared to fit the right angle; this will be made clear on reference to the details on Sheet No. 3. The Saxon method of dressing the stone with an axe, as distinguished from the later work when chisels were used, is clearly noticeable on these pillars, whilst a still coarser kind of walling, with thick and uneven beds (almost rubble work in places), indicates a work possibly of still higher antiquity than Saxon.

During the excavations a few articles of interest have been found, which will, I understand, be placed in the Shrewsbury Museum in a special case. The following is a list of them:—

A Bronze Stylus (Roman), very perfect, 5 inches in length. See Plate 4.

Coins.—1. A Nuremberg token¹ or Counter, 15th century. *Ob.* A shield charged with 3 fleurs de lys. *Legend*, AVE MARIA GRATIA PL. *Rev.* Latin cross with fleur de lys termination.

2. A Nuremberg token or Counter, 16th century. *Ob.* MELLO MANU. A Man-faced and winged lion, regarding a picture representing a Bishop with a pastoral staff. *Rev.* NOVENI, NOVENI, NOVENI. A trefoiled space enclosing an orb and cross.

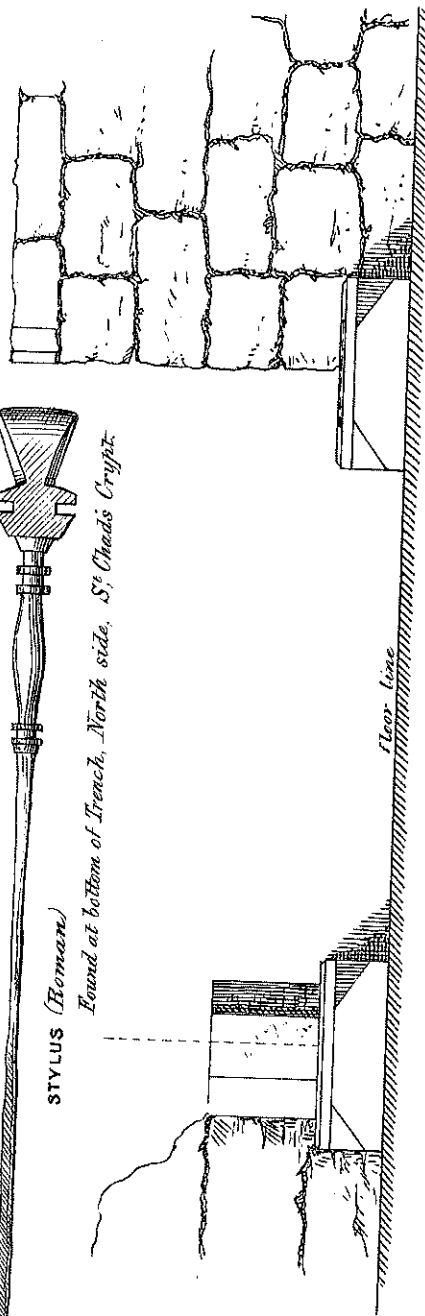
3. Small coin. Apparently an Irish farthing of Charles I.

¹ A similar Nuremberg token was found in a garden on Belmont. It is of the 16th century, and has on the obverse a meaningless repetition of letters, and on the reverse a trefoiled space enclosing an orb and cross, with a legend, perhaps intended for "Hans Schalter."

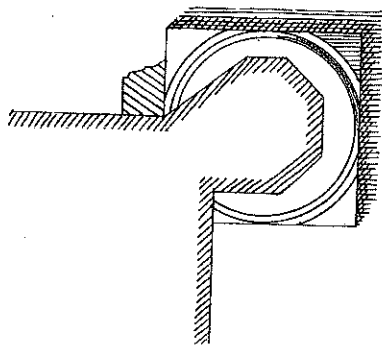


STYLUS (Roman)

Found at bottom of Trench, North side, St Chad's Crypt.

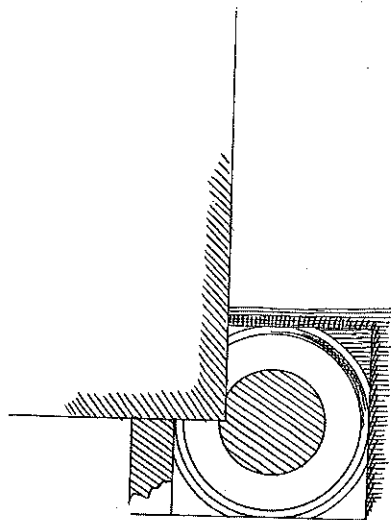


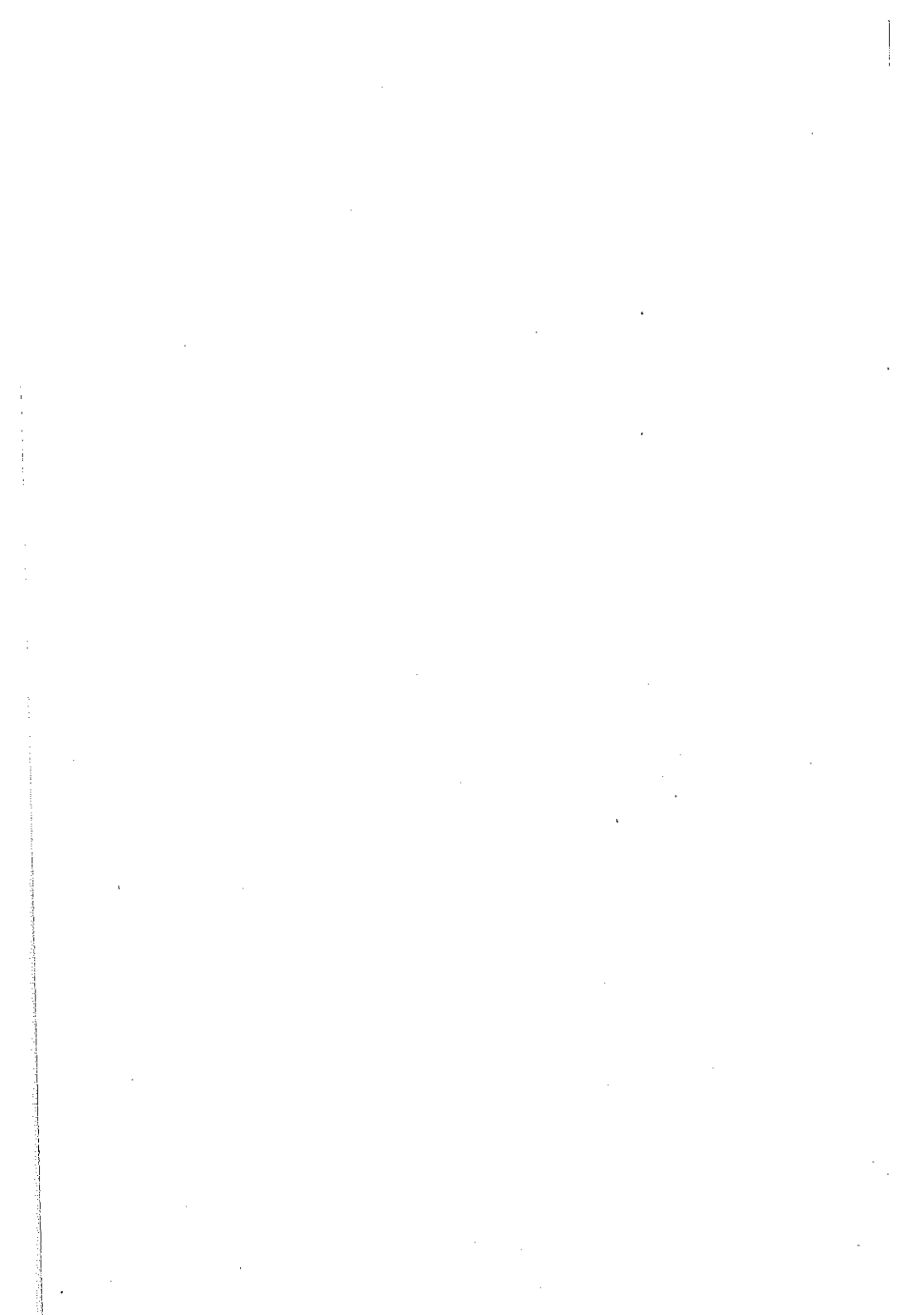
— ELEVATION —

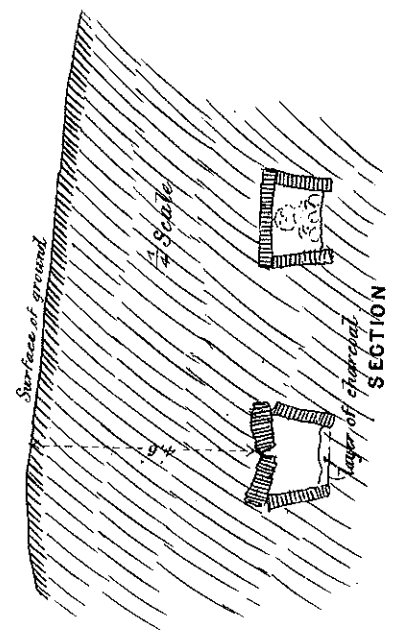
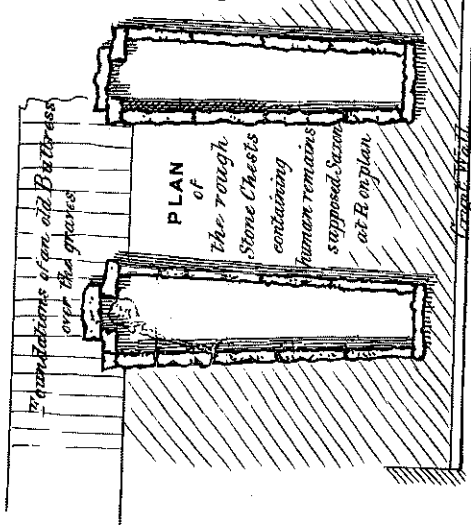
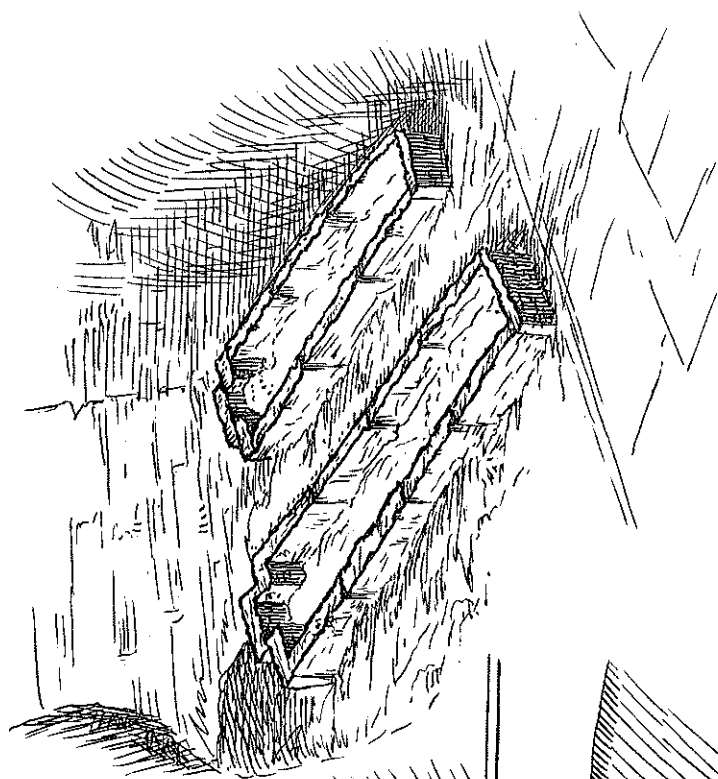


PLAN of enlarged opening B
giving access to chamber A

$\frac{1}{2}$ SCALE.







Ob. CARO. D.G. MAG. BRI. Crown and sceptre. *Rev.* FRA. ET. HIB. REX. Crowned harp.

4. Small thick coin or weight, of James I. *Ob.* I R. MA. BRIT. A king crowned, with sceptre and orb. *Rev.* A crown XXII S.

5. A portion of a very small and thin coin, much worn, but having slight remains of design upon it.

6. A very thin coin, much worn, apparently silver.

7. A farthing, George III., date 1773.

8. Five half-pennies, George II. and III.

Two wig curlers of pipe clay, 3in. long.

A flat circular plate of lead, 1½in. in diameter.

Some bits of old glass, much iridated.

A small piece of metal, probably a bit of the bells destroyed in the fire of 1393.

A small glazed pot, labelled : Scarlet, Perfumer.

Several encaustic and plain tiles were found in the excavations, the designs being very similar in some cases to those found at the Abbey Church, which are now re-laid near the vestry door of that Church, and under an arch on the north side of the new chancel. The examples preserved range from the 11th to the 15th century.

A collection of curious and interesting bowls of old tobacco pipes, stamped with the makers' names, initials, or dates, were also found, which will be placed in the Museum, with the other objects discovered.

It will be observed that the history of the building has been but slightly touched upon in this Report; and in concluding it, I venture to be very bold, and claim for the Council of the Society the merit of having explored, and opened up to view, the remains of the most ancient and correspondingly interesting structure in the County town. It has been suggested that the Chamber was even of British origin, and was afterwards converted to sacred uses. This would not be an improbable conjecture, bearing in mind that on this identical spot stood the palace that had been the residence of a long race of British Princes, and which is said by Archdeacon Owen to have been burnt down in the Saxon wars. I am, however, inclined to ascribe its construction to the Saxon period, at the time St. Chad was Bishop of Lichfield, in the middle of the 7th century. Possibly it was built by Wolfere himself, King of Mercia, for a distinctly religious purpose; and was in fact the Saxon Church erected for a Christian community.

There are several points strongly in favour of this view. The plan is peculiar—divided as its length is into four bays.

If one on the south end is assumed to be cut off and used as a vestibule at the entrance, it would leave three bays, which may be called the nave, immediately in the centre of which would come the opening into the smaller space, which would form the chancel eastwards. The walls are of rough hewn masonry, of massive thickness, necessary to resist the thrust of the very heavy rubble stone vaults. The bases of the several columns are plain in detail, well spread, and are laid on the gravel or sand without further foundation. The pillars are slender ($12\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter), worked with a tool peculiar to the Saxon masons, namely the axe, and in one piece of stone, in height 3ft. 11in. The period is also evidenced by the long and short work, as well as the baluster shafts in one piece of stone, a method of construction usually ascribed to them; again there are the two interments in the stone cysts outside the west wall, observing orientation. If the crypt had been erected by the Normans, they would have constructed these columns in courses and bonded them with the walls. They would have made them also of larger dimensions, like the smaller pillar which has been cased with red stone, and this particular casing is not unlikely to have been their work.

To prevent accidents, a light iron fence has been placed around the excavations, and a rough plank approach has been made to the stone steps at the N.W. angle, giving a tolerably safe means of access for anyone wishing to descend to the interior.

It remains for me, in taking leave of the subject after three months' labour, to express the pleasure I have felt in directing the progress of so interesting an excavation, under the direction of the Council, and to thank the Chairman and members, individually for the personal assistance, kindness, and courtesy shown to myself throughout.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

JOHN NURSE.

ARCHITECT.

*Dogpole, Shrewsbury,
January 29th, 1890.*

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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Society was held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, February 1st. Mr. Arthur Sparrow, F.S.A., presided, and there were also present—Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., F.S.A., Mr. James Watson, M.P., Mr. R. Ll. Kenyon, Rev. T. Auden, Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A., Alderman Southam, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. W. Burson, Mr. J. M. Harding, Mr. W. W. Naunton, Mr. Parry-Jones, Mr. Sandford Corser, Mr. J. Nurse, Mr. Oldroyd, Mr. W. T. Southam, and Mr. Goyne, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The report was read by Mr. GOYNE, as follows:—

The Council of the Society in presenting their annual report, are glad to be able to speak favourably of its financial position. It is true that the statement of accounts shows a small adverse balance, but this may be regarded as only temporary, arising from the recent settlement of a large outstanding account due to the printers of the *Transactions*. With regard to these *Transactions*, the Council are glad to think that recent numbers have fully maintained the interest of those issued in former years. This has been largely due to what may be described as the opening of two new veins of County History. The first of these is the collection of Blakeway MSS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. It will be remembered that at the last annual meeting a special fund was started to pay for the copying of these MSS. for publication in the *Transactions*; and a portion of them has already appeared. A statement of this fund, attached to the general statement of accounts, shows that of £48 collected, only £12 has at present been required to be spent. The other new vein of county history is that afforded by the municipal records of Shrewsbury itself. For several months past, a small committee, appointed by the Corporation, has been engaged in sorting and cataloguing these records, and, by permission of that body, several interesting papers have already been, or are in process of being, given to the world in the pages of the *Transactions*. The Council have recently had the administration of another special fund, raised for exploring the ancient crypt in Old St. Chad's Churchyard. The work has been carried to a successful completion under the superintendence of Mr. J. Nurse, to whom the Council desire to express their great obligation; but as it did not fall within the year covered by this report, it is not further alluded to here. Since, however, it is convenient to refer to it while still recent, and in fact this annual meeting has been held later than usual in consequence of it, a special report will be presented by Mr. Nurse on the subject. In conclusion, the Council would call attention to two recent publications bearing upon Shropshire Local History, "The Visitation of Shropshire in 1623," issued by the Harleian Society, and the "Parish Registers of Broseley," by Mr. Alfred F. C. C. Langley.—THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., Chairman.

The PRESIDENT then said: Before moving the adoption of the report which we have just heard, I must heartily thank the Council of this Society for so kindly wishing me to take the chair at this annual

meeting. I consider it a great honour to have been asked, and one that I thoroughly appreciate. The whole of my life I have been interested in Archaeology and antiquarian pursuits, and I have been especially interested in all that relates to Shropshire and the neighbouring county of Stafford, where, for many years, I lived. Your chairman at the last annual meeting (Sir Offley Wakeman) spoke of the large number of old manor houses existing in this county, and of the great interest attaching to them. I agree with him that the history of these manor houses, and of the manors attached to them, could it, as I am sure it can, be written, would let in a flood of light upon the days gone by, and we should be able to realise how our fathers lived 300 or 400 years ago, and what sort of surroundings they had as regards this county and its inhabitants. I am induced more to speak upon this subject, because I have been now for some time, at intervals, engaged in tracing the devolution of the manor of Church Preen, the parish in which I live; and in the course of my researches I have come across many most interesting particulars, and I hope I shall not weary you if I speak chiefly in reference to my own parish.

The Record Office is, as you know, a vast storehouse of antiquarian knowledge, and there are few parishes in the kingdom the history of which may not receive light from a systematic search in the treasures it contains. (Hear, hear.) Eyton, that learned and wonderful man who wrote our County History, owed much to the Record Office; but, unfortunately, his work only carries us down to the end of the 13th century or thereabouts. Since that time the history of the county has to be written, and whoever undertakes this laborious task, or an instalment of it, will still find the Record Office an unfailing source of information. In the same Record Office I fell accidentally upon the report of a Commission that was held at Hughley in the 32nd Elizabeth (1590.) Preen was a cell of Wenlock Abbey; and in 1533, or three years before the dissolution of Wenlock, the prior of Wenlock, either with or without the concurrence of the prior of Preen, sold the manor of Preen to one Gyles Cirrote. No doubt this was done by the prior of Wenlock to avoid the confiscation of Preen with the rest of the Abbey property. The Hughley Commission appears to have been held by the Concealed Land Commissioners with the object of proving that the priory of Preen was independent of Wenlock—that in fact the prior of Wenlock had no right to sell it to Cirrote. Now, as the sale took place in 1533, and the Commission at Hughley was held in 1590, a period of nearly 60 years had elapsed; and as the witnesses summoned had to speak of events that occurred at a period so long antecedent, they were nearly all very old people. Their ages are indeed remarkable; and it speaks much for the salubrity of the neighbourhood of Preen. In all, 37 witnesses were examined. Of these, 11 were on behalf of the Crown, and 16 on behalf of the defendant, William Dickins, the son and heir of Humphrey Dickins, who in 1560 had bought the manor of Preen from Gyles Cirrote. The united ages of these 27 witnesses was 2,120 years, or an average of $78\frac{1}{2}$ years each; ten were between 80 and 90, three over 90, and one old lady had reached the patriarchal

age of 100. (Applause.) The remaining ten witnesses were the tenants of Preen. I have had the whole of the evidence transcribed, and it contains much of great interest. Several of the witnesses speak of the prior of Preen being punished by the prior of Wenlock for misdemeanour. One of them, William Persons, curate of Preen, (who seems to have been appointed when the prior left, soon after the sale), says "that he knoweth that the Prior of Preene for a false offence which he had comytted was sent for by the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke, and was by him ponished for his said offence in the Chapter-house of Moche Wenlocke aforesaid, and made his obedyance there." (Laughter.) Another witness says that he "was there ponished and deteigned under corection in the Sextry by the space of aboute one fortynighte or eighte dayes. And by the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke another monck of the said howse called Sir Richard fishwyck was appoynted duringe that tyme to serve and saye servyce and prayers in his rome at Pryne aforesaid, and that the Pryor of Preene was under the obedyence of the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke and called him Mr." (Laughter.) It appears that the Prior of Preen thought himself injured by the sale of Preen by the Prior of Wenlock, for one witness says, "After the suppression of the said Priorie and the puttinge out of the said Castle, he, the said Don John Castle, went to London in companie of this examynates father to complayne of the wronge to him done and obteyned an annuytie of four markes or three pounds by year during his lief, and immediatly afterwarde the said Don John was placed in the Priorie of Dudley, and there contynued till the suppression thereof, and then came to Moncke Hopton where he lived as curate till he died." The evidence of another witness is curious and interesting. He says "that he hath hard that the said Priorie was founded and given to three to be howse of praier of the order of St. John the Baptiste, and saith that he sawe the pecture of a heade called the heade of St. John Baptiste in the church or Priorie of Pryne, where the same contynued and was offered unto untill the dissolution of the said Priorie; and hath harde by credyble reporte that the said John Castle had a common seal whereupon was engraved the picture of the said St. John, wherewith he sealed the wrytings or leases of such landes as he graunted who were parcell of the said Mannour or L. of Pryne." I may remark in reference to this image that St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of Church Preen, and that at the east end of the Church are two corner brackets, upon one of which, I imagine, the image of St. John stood, and on the other, probably, that of the Virgin Mary. The Rev. Mackenzie Walcott thought that an ankerhold might have existed at Preen at the close of the 13th century, and that a legend relating a vision that befel the recluse, and taken from the chronicle of Lanercost, referred to the Preen ankerhold. I have not, at present, been able to discover among the Assize Rolls any record of the decision arrived at after the close of the Hughley Commission; but the result was that Preen continued in the possession of the Dickens family: probably there was some compromise. I quite hope that the labours of the committee who are

now examining the municipal and county records may throw some light upon this point, as the trial probably took place at Shrewsbury, and, in this case, the Assize Rolls should record the result. In the evidence of the various witnesses, there are many incidental allusions to the state of the parish for the 50 years between the dissolution and the time of the Hughley Commission.

Preen appears to have been very much more densely populated than it is now; and indeed, if we may judge from the register of births and deaths in the various country parishes, and also from the remains of manor houses, and tradition, this seems to have been the case in most of the agricultural parishes in Shropshire. Three hundred years ago there were few parishes without their Church and manor house, in the latter of which the squire lived, well content with his patrimony of 1,200 to 1,500 acres; and in those days the labourers required to farm the land all lived on the land; now, alas, times are changed, and in consequence of the higher wages obtained in the manufacturing towns, and the poverty that sunless seasons and foreign competition have caused to the owners and occupiers of land, the sturdy agricultural labourer of old days seems destined to be as rare as the Dodo.

It seems to me that it would be well, as far as practicable, to preserve the traditions of every country parish. (Hear, hear.) We can little understand how much that we should have rejoiced to have known has been lost simply through neglecting to record every little circumstance and tradition that comes often to the knowledge of most of us. Among other sources of information, I may mention the names of fields. These often tell their own story. At Preen, on the high ground commanding the Apedale Valley, we have a field called Castle-yard, and below it another called The Butts. There are many indications to show that some kind of building—probably a castle—existed on the site of the Castle-yard, even if the Butts below, where doubtless the archers practised, had not given us corroborative evidence. I hope some day that I may be able to speak more definitely on this point.

Hitherto I have alluded to the treasures of the Record Office, but there are many other sources of information which are well-known to archæologists, chief among them the Bodleian Library and the British Museum; and I must congratulate this Society upon the work they have undertaken at the Bodleian, in transcribing the Blakeway MSS., which are of great value. I have myself had portions, referring to parishes in which I am interested, transcribed, and I can speak as to their great interest. There is a curious pamphlet in the Bodleian in reference to Preen, printed in 1727, entitled, "Leases for 21 years to be granted of an estate capable of such improvements that the lessees will be entitled to the gain of six hundred pounds for the payment of one." It seems that 150 years ago there were, as there are now, wild speculators; but it is difficult to think that any one could be found sufficiently credulous to believe the wonderful statements that are to be found in this pamphlet. The proposal was

to build "two furnaces for melting iron metals," which were to produce 1,000 tons of iron each, the profit on which was estimated at the prodigious sum of £50,000 per year; but large as this sum is, the promoter claims to have stated it "at a moderate rate to avoid the imputation of any extravagant calculation." (Laughter.) This large profit would be made in consequence of the great quantity of ironstone to be found at Preen (which, I need not say, only existed in the imagination of the promoter), the quantity of wood existing, that might be made at cheap rate into charcoal, and the proximity to the river Severn, which would save much in carriage. But the great interest of the prospectus consists in the light it throws upon the aspect of Preen 150 years ago. It tells of the number of houses, the extent of the holdings, and the rent per acre; the six fish ponds (fish ponds that once supplied the Prior with fish); the small town; the farmhouses clustered together; and it finishes by saying, "It is a most delightful and pleasant situation, and so very healthful that the inhabitants live to a great age." This part of the prospectus is, at any rate, true. Not many years ago, an old woman resided at Preen and the neighbourhood who lived to be 100 years old—a similar instance of longevity to the old lady who gave evidence at the commission.

It may interest some of you to know that we have in the churchyard of the parish Church of Preen one of the largest yew trees, if not the largest, in England. I very carefully measured this tree last week, and its proportions are as follows:—Girth round tree at ground, 40ft. 5in.; one foot from ground, 30ft. 10in.; at four feet, 21ft. 9in.; at seven feet, 22ft. The tree is at least 50ft. high, and its branches measure 61ft. 6in. across, or a circumference of nearly 200ft. The trunk of the tree is hollow, and measures 5ft. 6in. across inside. It is of this width for 10ft., and will hold inside 21 men standing upright. Notwithstanding the decay of the trunk, the tree is, to all appearances, thoroughly healthy, and every year throws out fresh wood. Fortunately the size of this tree was recorded in 1780, and also in 1833; in the former year it measured 32ft. 2in. round at ground, and 19ft. at four feet from ground, showing that the growth in 109 years has been 2ft. 9in. In 1833 the measurement at ground was 36ft., and at four feet from ground 20ft., so that in the last 56 years it does not appear to have increased in size. The only yew tree that I know at all comparable in size to the Preen Yew is the famous tree at Crowhurst in Sussex. This tree is stated to be 33ft. at ground; ours is over 40ft. The Crowhurst tree is, however, 26½ft. at five feet from the ground, and our tree is 22ft. at seven feet. I saw the Crowhurst tree some two or three years ago; it did not then strike me as possessing anything like the vigour and health of the tree at Preen. As to the age of our tree, it is difficult to form an opinion, but I think we may be sure that when Preen Church was built in the 13th century it was a giant tree.

I am sure that I must have wearied you, for I have, I am

afraid, digressed from my duty as chairman. ("No, no.") I now beg to move the adoption of the report, which is very satisfactory to us all. It shows that the Society is solvent and has done good work. (Applause).

The Rev. T. AUDEN, in seconding, said he desired to thank the chairman for his address. (Hear, hear). In one paragraph of it, Mr. Sparrow said he hoped some day to be able to speak more accurately on a particular point, and he could only hope that he would give them the result of any further investigation, as well as what he had said now, in the pages of their *Transactions*—(applause)—because there was nothing more important, and nothing more useful, than to publish old parochial histories, and histories of manors, such as the chairman had brought before them in outline that afternoon. (Hear, hear). There was nothing he need add on his own account, but in the name of the Council he should like to thank those, whether members of the Society or outsiders, who had assisted the Council in carrying out the two special matters they had had in hand during the past year. First of all, there was the fund for copying the Blakeway manuscripts and others relating to the county, which work had been very successful. They had some £48 given to them, but it had only been necessary thus far to spend £12, so that he hoped they would have enough to carry on for some considerable time to come. Then, in the name of the Council, he should also like to thank the large number of non-members—the outside public—who took such a kindly interest in the excavations in Old St. Chad's Churchyard, and enabled the Council to carry the work to a successful issue.—The report was then adopted.

THE RECORDS OF SHREWSBURY.

Alderman SOUTHAM, in moving the re-election of the Council, said it was his good fortune, at the last meeting, to mention the great importance of trying to rescue from positive destruction the records of the borough of Shrewsbury; and he knew they would all be glad to hear that his suggestion had been acted upon, and that a very able committee had worked arduously and well, and had obtained a vast amount of valuable information as to the records of the ancient borough. He felt, and no doubt the committee felt, assured, when they came to look at the matter, that the records had been within measurable distance of absolute destruction. Posterity would have blamed them if they had allowed the records to become so bad as to be illegible—(hear, hear)—and he thought the Society had done a good work, if it never did anything further, by placing these records in thoroughly good condition, and sorting them in such a way that anyone who liked to look over them could always be able to get valuable information at a small cost.—In reply to Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., Alderman Southam said the work had been done voluntarily by a committee, who were not yet in a position to publish the result of their labours.—The Rev. T. Auden said that at present the work was in a comparatively rudimentary state. The committee

were engaged in the process of looking over the records sufficiently to see what they were, and then carefully tying them up, with a note outside showing the contents. A few of the papers of special interest had already appeared in the *Transactions*. The committee reckoned the other day, from the progress they had then made, that they had gone through between a third and a half for the first time; but there remained a great deal to be done yet.—Mr. Stanley Leighton asked who had possession of the county records.—Mr. Goyne replied that they were in the custody of the Clerk of the Peace.—The Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher remarked that the borough records went back to Henry III; but those of the county were not nearly so old.—Mr. Phillips said the committee had not been authorised to go into the county records at all.—Alderman Southam said he was much obliged to Mr. Auden for the information he had given. Owing to increasing age he himself had not felt justified in joining the committee, though he took a deep interest in the work. (Hear, hear).—Mr. James Watson, M.P., seconded the re-election of the Council, which was carried unanimously.

MR STANLEY LEIGHTON proposed a vote of thanks to the auditors (Mr. Oldroyd and Dr. Calvert), and the other officers, for past services, and moved their re-election. He hoped that the work of auditing would become more and more serious, as he hoped that the finances of the Society would grow and grow. (Hear, hear.) There was an enormous amount of archaeological work within the sphere of the Society. He confessed that sometimes, as one of the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries, he felt a little jealous that the London Society should find it needful to think of raising a fund for exploring the ruins at Wroxeter. He thought that the rich county of Salop ought to have sufficient *esprit de corps* to do the work for themselves. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the local Society would get more and more support. He did not mean to say that it did not get good support already—he meant that they should endeavour to increase the number of subscribers. Such a work as that alluded to by Alderman Southam ought to have this effect, namely, the great work of cataloguing and indexing the records of Shrewsbury, and, as he hoped, the records of the county, which were in the hands of the public officers. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. Kenyon seconded the re-election of the auditors, and the motion was unanimously carried.—Mr. Oldroyd briefly responded.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT OLD ST. CHAD'S.

MR. NURSE read a paper on the excavations at Old St. Chad's,¹ as stated in the report of the Council.—The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to him. (Applause.) He stated that there was nothing more interesting in the whole of the excavations than the discovery of the

¹ Printed at length in the *Transactions*.

two ancient coffins, which were of very early date, as they were formed of separate stones. It was unfortunate that these graves had been covered up, but he supposed it was impossible to avoid it. With regard to Mr. Nurse, he had not only evinced great care in looking after the excavations, but had prepared several drawings very skilfully.—The Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, in seconding, said the committee had come to the conclusion that, had it not been for Mr. Nurse, the work could not have been carried out. (Hear, hear.) In the course of the operations there was found a stylus, which was a most interesting relic. It was as perfect as if it were only made recently. These instruments were used as late as the 13th century. When the labourers employed in the churchyard came across the stylus, they stated that they had found a bodkin—(laughter)—and he (Mr. Drinkwater) would have been glad if they had found a good many more of them. (Hear, hear.) He believed they were exceedingly rare—at least in a perfect state—and he thought that a similar discovery to the one in Shrewsbury had not been made anywhere in the kingdom.—The motion was then carried, the Chairman remarking that the relics would be placed in the Museum.—Mr. Kenyon suggested that the stylus should be engraved for the *Transactions*.—The Chairman said this ought to be done.—He also expressed a hope that the Committee appointed to examine the borough records would undertake those relating to the county, when they had finished their present task.—Mr. Phillips remarked that it would be time to think about the county records in twelve months' time. The borough records, which are of the highest possible interest, were in a terrible state of confusion, and, therefore, involved a considerable amount of labour. When these were completed, the Committee, he thought, would not hesitate to undertake the county records.—Mr. Phillips then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, remarking that the Society was most fortunate in obtaining the services of a gentleman who was in full sympathy with its work.—The Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and, after the Chairman had responded, the meeting terminated.

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

ON Tuesday morning, July 8th, under cloudy skies and threatenings of a downpour, a party of some twenty-five ladies and gentlemen (members of the Shropshire Archæological Society and their friends) left the General Station, Shrewsbury, *en route* for Bromfield and Ludlow, on the Society's annual excursion. Mr. F. Goyne, the secretary, was, as ever, most watchful that all arrangements were punctually and agreeably carried out, and to his attention to details on the way, the interest, success, and pleasure of the "outing" was largely due. Among the party were—Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A. (Chairman of the Council of the Society). Mrs. Auden, Miss Auden, Miss Salwey, Rev.

J. G. Swainson, Rev. A. T. Pelham, Rev. R. W. Gleadowe, Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Rev. J. Wright, Mr. J. Barker, Mr. J. Dovaston, Miss Ada Dovaston, Mr. Heather, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. Oldroyd, Mr. W. E. Harding, Miss Radermacher, Mr. F. W. Pearce, Mr. Sandford Corser, Miss Corser, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Goyne.

Bromfield station was reached shortly after eleven o'clock, in a gleam of sunshine, which one was only too ready to accept as augury of the day to follow. From Bromfield the party at once drove in a couple of brakes past the tumuli on the "Old Field," along a pleasant mile of the southern end of the beautiful Corve Valley, and, crossing the Corve stream, drew up at Stanton Lacy for the purpose of inspecting its fine old Saxon church. All strolled round and about the church, the Vicar (Rev. L. R. C. Bagot) and the Rev. T. Auden both kindly pointing out and explaining its objects of interest. It is a cruciform building; the west end of the nave and the north transept are of Saxon work, the remaining part of the structure is mainly of the Early Decorated style. On the south side of the chancel, at the base of the outer wall are two ancient arched tomb recesses under which lie dilapidated full-length stone effigies, which are supposed to be memorials of the last of the Lacys, anciently lords of this manor. The church contains several interesting epitaphs.

Among other objects in the Church that attracted the attention of the party is the west window, representing SS. Peter and Paul, the peculiarity of which is that in the faces of the two saints are reproduced likenesses of two gentlemen once locally well known, namely, the late Rev. Dr. Bowles, vicar of Stanton Lacy, and his friend, the late Mr. Clement, of Shrewsbury. Before quitting the Church, the Rev. T. Auden briefly recapitulated the chief points of what is historically known about the place. "The Manor of Stanton Lacy," he said, "belonged in Saxon times to Siward, and at Domesday to Roger, son of Walter de Lacy, Norman Baron of Lacy and Campeaux, under Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. This Walter founded the Monastery of St. Peter, at Hereford, and died in 1085 from a fall while superintending its erection. Roger possessed more than a hundred manors, among which Stanton Lacy was one of the most important. It passed, like Ludlow, from the De Lacys to the De Mortimers, Earls of March, and became Crown property when an Earl of March came to the throne as Edward IV. Shortly before Domesday, Walter de Lacy gave two-thirds of the tithes of Stanton Lacy to his Monastery at Hereford; and *Domesday* speaks of the Church as endowed with a hide and a half of land. In 1290, it was visited by Bishop Swinfield, on which occasion the Prior of Llanthony, in Monmouthshire, who was at that time Rector, provided hay and straw for the Bishop's suite. It was still connected with Llanthony at the dissolution of monasteries in Henry VIII.'s reign. The patronage then passed through various hands till 1620, when it was purchased by William Craven, created Lord Craven a few years later. It is now in the gift of Lord Windsor."

At the invitation of the Vicar, the party passed from the Church to the adjacent Vicarage, erected by Dr. Bowles, some 60 years ago, to view the fine carved oak panelling and oak cornices, &c., in the library.

From Stanton Lacy the party next proceeded, by way of Peaton and Bouldon, to Heath Chapel, quitting the brakes at Bouldon, and doing the remaining distance up the hill on foot. Heath Chapel consists simply of nave and chancel, without tower or belfry, and forms one of the most perfect specimens of Early Norman architecture in this district, if not in this country. It is, indeed, conjectured by some authorities that the main building is Saxon, and that the door-way, which is unmistakably Early Norman, was the introduction of a later age. Upon the flat buttresses or ribs at the eastern end of the building, are marks vividly suggestive of the uses to which these ancient stones have at one time been put—the sharpening of arrow points, and these signs are curiously confirmatory of the theory that this old Chapel was originally provided here for the use of the foresters in the Long Forest that anciently surrounded this region. The windows are few, small, and of lancet shape, as though intended quite as much for purposes of defence as for light. Inside, the Chapel is plain, and bare. The font is roughly hewn out of the block, tub-like, and devoid of all ornament, except a very primitive border round its upper edge. The pews are of oak, blanched with age and decrepit by use, and are but a very slight advance upon the simple low seat anciently extending along the inner walls. With reference to "The Heath," the Rev. T. Auden stated that "it was held in early times by the Barons of Holgate, under the Prior of Wenlock. In the middle of the 13th century the tenant of the Barons was William Fitzjohn, who, among other misdemeanours, in 1248 imprisoned Herbert de Crofton, with his wife and son, at the Heath, and stole from Herbert's house at Crofton eight cattle, six sheep, five cartloads of corn, two carts, and five cartloads of other chattels, for which he was ordered to be sent to gaol, as well as make restitution, but he contrived to escape by paying £2 and restoring one cow and two carts. This William Fitzjohn's son sold the main part of his property to John Fitz-alan (3), from whom it passed to the Earls of Arundel."

Nordy Bank was the next spot visited. A walk up narrow, winding, hill-side lanes brought the party to this most interesting and commanding elevation, whereon are the remains of an important military encampment, probably Roman (although some hold that it is really British, assimilated by later Roman occupation), and described by Hartshorn (in *Salopia Antiqua*) as one of the most perfect in England. It commands the valley of the Corve, and has manifestly been a very important station. Having arrived at the top, the party were addressed by the Rev. A. T. Pelham (Rector of Cound), who kindly described the salient features of the encampment. When the Romans sought to subjugate and hold this part of the country, they encountered the fierce opposition of the Silures, one of the strongest and most war-

like of the aboriginal tribes, and many were the deadly conflicts that marked the struggle. Thus it happens that the Roman remains of camps are found scattered over these hills, for the Silures stubbornly contested every inch of their country, and retreated from camp to camp only before the superior arms and military tactics of the invading legions. At length they were subjugated by the Romans under the direction of Agricola, and henceforth the conquered country was held by the Roman forces placed in stationary camps, which were connected by military roads. Nordy Bank was such a stationary camp, having a military road connecting it with Uriconium. This road is still in existence, the places located upon it being Pitchford, Frodesley, Wall, Rushbury, the Roman Bank, Hungerford, Tugford, and the Ford (the last-named just below Nordy Bank). The natural site of this camp is, as was also pointed out by the Rev. A. T. Pelham, eminently adapted for purposes of defence, and particularly for holding the valleys which radiate round and slope up to it. There are no traces of buildings upon the hill, a circumstance not surprising when we bear in mind that the military force anciently occupying it as a garrison was most probably sheltered in huts of wood, and the great earthworks alone remain to attest the extent and importance of Nordy Bank as a Roman military station. It is a parallelogram in form, though the corners are to some extent rounded off, and was well supplied with water, possessing a fine spring. In the conversation which arose upon various points suggested in Mr. Pelham's interesting remarks, the Rev C. H. Drinkwater expressed the view that as a camp it was really of British origin. The party, retracing their way down the hill-side, met the conveyances on the road between the Bank and Bouldon, and being soon all re-seated, the route was continued. It was intended to make a short halt at the site of Corfham Castle, associated in English history with Henry II. and Fair Rosamond; and Mr W. Phillips had kindly prepared a paper on the subject, but it was, unfortunately, crowded out by want of time. From Corfham, of which nothing now remains except a double moat, the party went on to Diddlebury, where the Church was a great attraction. It is of Saxon foundation, and was among the earliest grants made by Roger de Montgomery to his Abbey of Shrewsbury. On the north side of the nave is a door which is probably Saxon, and the inside of the north wall is covered with herring bone work, while nearly all the styles which followed are represented in different parts of the edifice. At the south side of the entrance to the chancel, and nearly in line with the crown of the pillars of the aisle, was noticed a corbel from which no doubt formerly sprang the supporters of a rood loft. It was stated by the Vicar (the Rev. A. Pope), who kindly showed the visitors over the edifice, that there was some suggestion a-foot for the restoration (or re-building) of the fine old tower on its ancient lines, a sum of money having been bequeathed for that purpose. Such a work may not be altogether unnecessary, for that the tower has betrayed signs of weakness.

from time to time is pretty plainly evidenced, not only by what we may call facial furrows and fractures, but by the massive fashion in which it has been buttressed. Here the Rev. T. Auden read the following brief historical sketch of the place:—"Diddlebury was originally only a member of Corfham Manor, but became by degrees the more important place. Before 1086 the Church belonged to Shrewsbury Abbey, being one of the first grants of Earl Roger and Adeliza, his second countess, but in 1147 it was in the hands of the monks of Seez, and in 1236 the advowson passed to the Bishop of Hereford, who allotted ten marks to be paid annually out of its income to Seez, and gave the patronage and remaining income to his Chapter, to whom it still belongs. There was also a chapel within the Castle of Corfham, and in 1384 Richard Ludlow, vicar of Diddlebury, exchanged preferments with John Davyes, perpetual chaplain of the Free Chapel within the Castle of Corfham. Corfham Manor, which included Diddlebury, was given by Henry II. to Walter de Clifford, father of 'Fair Rosamond.' From the Cliffords it passed to the Stranges of Blackmere. At the close of the 14th century the family of Baldwin, which had been located here for a considerable period, rose to importance, and by degrees became possessed of the greater part of Diddlebury. Richard Baldwin sold it at the end of the 18th century to Frederick Cornwall, of Berrington, co. Hereford. Among the inscriptions discovered a few years ago in the Beauchamp Tower in London, scratched on the walls by various prisoners, occurs the name of Thomas Bawdewin, with the words 'As vertue maketh life, so sin causeth death,' and a pair of scales. This was a member of the Diddlebury family, who was associated with the Earl of Shrewsbury, then in charge of Mary Queen of Scots. He was buried at Diddlebury, and allusion is made in his epitaph to this imprisonment in the Tower. The Black Monks of the Order of Grandmont—a division of the Benedictines—had a house here, their principal settlement being at Alberbury, also in this county."

At Culmington, a pleasant variation was imparted to the day's programme by the hospitable welcome given to the party by the Rev. H. C. Bowker, the rector of the parish, who invited all to afternoon tea at the Rectory—an invitation readily accepted. After the agreeable rest thus afforded, the party proceeded to the church, accompanied by the rector, and explored its several points of antiquarian interest. It is mainly of Norman and Early English work, and has a curious double piscina. The tower and spire are peculiar, the latter being partly a truncated octagon, with a short stumpy spire projecting above it. On the south side of the chancel is—extremely rare in our Shropshire churches—a low-side window. Various theories have been advanced to explain the presence of this kind of side-light, some finding its supposed purpose in the facility it might afford for persons outside the church to view the "host" within, when mass was being celebrated, while others see in it only a convenience for the ringing of the Sanctus bell; but after all no entirely satisfactory explanation of the matter has yet been forthcoming. The church con-

tains an oak chancel screen of Perpendicular date, of simple but good design. The parish registers have been well preserved here, and date from the later half of the sixteenth century, the only hiatus in their continuity being, as not seldom happens, the interregnum of the Commonwealth. The Manor of Culmington, as pointed out by the Rev. T. Auden in the short paper which he read on the subject, is mentioned in *Domesday* as having belonged in Saxon times to Edric, and as then possessed by Earl Roger, who in 1086 endowed the church of Quatford with a third of his tithes in Culmington and Seifton. The remaining two-thirds were probably reserved for the parish church. The manor was given, like Diddlebury, by Henry II. to Walter de Clifford, who presented the church to Haughmond Abbey. In 1248, the then abbot resigned his right to the grandson of the donor. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the Stranges occur as presenting to the living, and from them it passed to the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury. Since the fifteenth century it appears to have repeatedly changed hands down to modern times. It is now in the gift of J. D. Allcroft, Esq.

Here practically ended the day's itinerary. The drive was now towards Ludlow, through delightful scenery, seen at its best in the light of the summer evening. Ludlow was reached about half-past six, and the party assembled at the Feathers Hotel, where dinner awaited them. After discussing this refreshment, the interval till the hour of the train's departure for Shrewsbury was pleasantly utilised by most of the party in visiting either the Castle or the Church. Then, about a quarter to nine o'clock, the homeward railway journey was made, Shrewsbury being reached about ten.

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GENERAL INDEX TO TRANSACTIONS.

The Council have decided to prepare, if possible, an Index to the first eleven volumes of the Shropshire Archaeological *Transactions*, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the matter. The Sub-Committee recommend that there be four Indexes:—(1) General Index; (2) Persons; (3) Places; (4) Plates. The General Index to include as subdivisions, Authors, Arms, Pedigrees, Wills, Register Extracts, Churchwardens' Accounts, Church Plate, Bells, Monuments, Castles, Monasteries, Seals, &c. The Index of Persons to give Christian names (as well as Surnames), except where often in connection with the same place, and then once with "passim" added.

To carry out this Index, further co-operation is still necessary. One member (Mr. H. F. J. Vaughan) has kindly undertaken the Pedigrees and Arms, another the Wills, another the Register Extracts, Churchwardens' Accounts, Bells and Church Plate, another (Mr. A. F. C. Langley) the Names of Persons, and a lady the Names of Places. Will any members or friends, who are willing to assist in compiling this Index, kindly communicate with the Secretary to the Sub-Committee, the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, M.A., F.S.A., St. Michael's Vicarage, Shrewsbury?

The Council respectfully solicit Contributions of Papers, especially Parochial Histories for future volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society.

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