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The
 Kent Archæological Society.

THE following brief abstract of the proceedings of the Society during the year 1861 is drawn up in accordance with the practice of former years. It will be found to contain the points of principal interest in the history of the Society during that period. The First Meeting of the Council for the year 1861 was held on the 3rd of April, at Canterbury.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Charles Roach Smith for his paper on the Anglo-Saxon Relics discovered at Sarre, and for his gift of a treatise on the Roman remains discovered at Lyminge; also to Mr. Cooper for allowing excavations to be made in his field near the old Dover Road; also to Mr. Lightfoot for the donation of an ancient Jet Matrix of a Seal.

It was resolved that the Archæological Institute of Great Britain be requested to place themselves in union with us for the interchange of publications.

Eleven candidates were elected.

The next Council was held in London, 14th June, 1861.

The thanks of the Council were voted to Mrs. Champion Streatfeild for her kind loan of wood-blocks from the collection of the Rev. T. Streatfeild, of Chart's Edge; also to Mr. J. Brent, jun., for a Roman Vase, excavated at Canterbury; to Mr. C. Roach Smith for his Memorial of the late Lord Londesborough, and for his account of the walls of Drax; to the Rev. E. M. Muriel for drawings from various churches; to Mr. J. H. Parker for his work on Gothic Architecture; to Mr. W. S. Ellis for his genealogical treatises; to Mr. A. Wilkinson for his work on Hurstbourn Priors, Hants; also to the Bridge Wardens

and Court of Assistants, Rochester, for placing at the disposal of the Society the materials of the Vaultings shortly to be removed at Rochester.

The announcement of the retirement of the Rev. L. B. Larking from the office of Hon. Secretary was received with great regret, and with an expression of the most cordial thanks of the Society for Mr. Larking's invaluable services.

It was resolved to request Mr. Streatfeild, of Chart's Edge, to accept the post vacated by Mr. Larking.

Six candidates were elected.

The Fourth Annual Meeting was held at Maidstone, on the 31st of July, 1861.

It was attended by—The Marquess Camden, the Earl of Brecknock, and the Ladies F. and C. Pratt; the Earl and Countess Stanhope; the Earl and Countess Amherst; the Ladies Cornwallis; Lady Harriet Marsham; Sir E. Filmer, M.P., and Lady Filmer; Lord Arthur Clinton; Sir Brook Bridges, M.P.; Sir Walter and Lady Caroline Stirling; Sir Percival and Lady Hart Dyke, the Misses Dyke, and Mr. Dyke; Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Talbot; Mr. G. Hardy, M.P., and party; Lady Sandys; Lady Frances and Miss Fletcher; Lady C. Nevill, the Hon. Ralph and Mrs. Nevill; Mr. Beresford Hope; the Bishop of Labuan; the High Sheriff of Kent and Mrs. Randall; Lady Isabel Bligh, the Hon. Mrs. H. Bligh; Mr. C. Wykeham Martin, Miss F. Wykeham Martin; the Hon. F. Boscawen, the Hon. Lucy Boscawen; Lady Mansell and the Misses Mansell; Admiral Jones Marsham, the Misses Jones, and the Misses Marsham; Sir R. W. Sydney and party; Mr. Champion Streatfeild and Miss Streatfeild; Col. and Mrs. J. F. Cator; Col. H. C. and Mr. Fletcher; Major Stanton; Major Scoones; Mr. and Mrs. Betts, and Mr. Betts, jun.; Capt. Cheere, R.N., and Mrs. Cheere; Mr. and Mrs. Whatman; Mr. and Mrs. Warde Norman and party; Mr. Dashwood, Mr. 'Espinasse, Mr. C. R. C. Petley, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Simmonds and family, Mr. E. Hussey, Mr. A. Beattie; Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Savage; Mr. and Mrs. J. Brenchley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Tassell (Malling), Mr. J. Whitehead, Mr. C. Whitehead, Mr. R. B. and Miss Latter, Mr. F. Barrow, Mr. Pretty, Mr. Blencowe, Mr. Faussett, Mr. Blaauw, Mr. Tharp, Mr. and Mrs. Birch Reynardson, the Rev. L. B. Larking, the Rev. W. Smith Marriott, the Rev. Beale Poste, the Rev. W. A. Hill, the Rev. W. L. Wigan, the Rev. J. C. B. and Mrs. Riddell, the Rev. R. and Mrs. Cobb, the Rev. J. Hooper, the Rev. R. and Mrs. Shawe, the Rev. St. Leger Baldwin, the Rev. Henry Lindsay, the Rev. D. Winham, the Rev. James Eveleigh (Alk-

ham), the Rev. F. Buttanshaw, the Rev. M. Onslow, the Rev. W. J. Edge, the Rev. W. Horne, the Rev. E. K. Burney, the Rev. T. Sikes, the Rev. Joshua Stratton, the Rev. H. Stevens, the Rev. E. MacLachlan, the Rev. M. Kingsford, the Rev. J. J. Marsham, the Rev. G. B. Moore and party, the Rev. John Latham, the Rev. R. P. and Mrs. Coates, the Rev. R. C. Jenkins, the Rev. D. D. and Mrs. Stewart, the Rev. F. Walter, the Rev. H. Glover, the Rev. A. Welch, the Rev. J. F. Thorpe, the Rev. W. and Mrs. De Vear, the Rev. W. Green, the Rev. Dr. Egan, the Rev. J. J. Saint, Mr. and Mrs. Brown (Wateringbury), Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Eythorne House), Mr. Rodger (Hadow), Mrs. Brockman, Mr. Hallows (Tunbridge), Mr. Parker (Oxford), Mr. Douglas Allport, Mr. Steele (Rochester), Mr. George Brindley Acworth (Rochester), Mr. Winch and party (Rochester), Mr. Spencer, Mrs. Harrison, Capt. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. R. M. Evans and family, the Misses Cole, Miss Erskine, Mr. Flaherty; Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Beale; Mr. Argles and family, Mr. F. C. Lewin, Mr. C. L. Norwood, Mr. and the Misses Dudlow, Mr. Thurston, Mr. and Miss Crosby, Dr. Woodfall, Dr. Monckton, the Town Clerk (Mr. Monckton), the Mayor of Maidstone (Mr. Ellis), Mr. and Mrs. George Wickham, Mr. Brown, Mr. W. Hoar, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Monckton, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Joy, Mr. Knowles King, Mr. and Mrs. F. Scudamore, Mr. M. Bulmer, Mr. E. Hoar, Mr. G. Hubbard, jun., Mr. Plomley, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Hodsoll, Mr. W. H. Bensted, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. and Mrs. Baverstock, Mr. G. Hilder, Mr. E. O. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. Richardson (London), Mr. W. Boyne, Mr. Golding, Mr. Smallfield, Mr. Medlicott, Mr. J. D. Jackson and party, Mr. H. Hill and party, Mr. Sidney Alleyne, Mr. Llewellyn Nash, of Nelson, New Zealand, Mr. W. H. Bensted, jun., etc. etc.

The Marquess Camden, K.G., President of the Society, took the Chair, in the Town Hall, and after briefly opening the proceedings, called on the Honorary Secretary to read the Report, which he read accordingly, as follows:—

“Again I have the gratification of reporting our Society’s successful progress. When we met at Dover last year, it was announced that 798 members had joined the Society since its formation in 1857; we then immediately admitted 22 new members. At the September Council we elected 10, in December 21, in April 11, and in June 6. This day we shall offer the names of 33 candidates, which will bring up the numbers to 901 elected since the Society was first instituted. I think, therefore, that I am justified in characterizing our progress as successful. With regard to funds, at our bankers we have a balance of £192, and we have invested £272 in the three per cents.;

but, to our great regret, and to the obstruction of the Society's proceedings, we have to report the amount of arrears, as nearly as we can estimate it, at £230. There may be errors in this statement, because many of our Local Secretaries have unfortunately not yet sent in their returns. Be this as it may, there is abundant reason for us to appeal earnestly to the vigilance of our Local Secretaries and to our members themselves, that they save us in future from such excessive inconvenience. The very existence of the Society is compromised by this neglect; if it be continued, the publication of the fourth volume next year will be very questionable.

"I am happy to report to you that the third volume is completed; it is only waiting the correction of the indices, and we can safely promise you that it will be found in nowise inferior to its predecessors, and that it will be issued in the course of the next fortnight.

"Since our last Report numerous learned Societies, both in England and on the Continent, have placed themselves in union with us for the interchange of publications, and our volumes are now deposited and appreciated in many public libraries abroad.

"We had hoped to have announced the acquisition of a collection of rare and beautiful Anglo-Saxon ornaments, discovered in a grave at Sarre in August last. We had thought that we had completed the purchase, but were disappointed. The account of the transaction is fully detailed in the volume now issuing from the press. In reference to this disappointment we would earnestly press upon our members the duty of securing, each in his own neighbourhood, every object of antiquarian interest that may be discovered, with a view to the formation of a Museum in this county, the oldest of the Saxon Kingdoms, and the richest in buried treasure of each successive race of colonists—that in this museum may be deposited the relics of these different races, and that antiquarians may have the means of examining them almost *in situ*, and that the history of these various tribes may be thus gradually and fully developed."

The Meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

J. Savage and J. N. Dudlow, Esqrs., were re-elected Auditors.

The six members of the Council selected for retirement, as having attended fewest Councils during the last year, were—Sir Walter James, Bart.; G. B. Acworth, Esq.; E. Hussey, Esq.; Major Luard; C. Mercer, Esq. (deceased); and S. Grimaldi, Esq. The first two were re-elected, and Rev. R. Jenkins, Rev. R. Coates, G. Wickham, Esq., and J. B. Sheppard, Esq., were elected in the room of the four others.

The President said he was sure it would be a matter of great regret to them all, as it was to himself, when he announced that Mr. Larking, who had been so instrumental in the original formation of this Society, and who had since been untiring in his efforts to promote its success, at the last Council meeting expressed so strong a wish, on account of failing health, to retire from that office the duties of which he had so ably discharged, that they were most reluctantly obliged to accept his resignation as Hon. Secretary. All lovers of archæology would lament that the Society was to lose the services of Mr. Larking, and he (the Chairman) would be wanting in his duty if he allowed that occasion to pass without a public expression of their sense of Mr. Larking's services, and their regret that he was unable longer to continue them. A better form of words could not be chosen than a resolution adopted by the Council on the proposition of Lord Stanhope, and he therefore begged to move—

“That this Meeting receives with regret the announcement of the resignation of the Rev. Lambert Larking as Secretary of this Society, and while acknowledging the force of the grounds of failing health and other calls on his time, desires to offer him its most cordial thanks for his continued and invaluable services, which have so greatly contributed to the original formation of this Society as well as to its success and good working up to the present time.”

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The Rev. Lambert Larking responded as follows :—

“The kind, hearty, and cordial expression of feelings which you have rendered to your retiring Secretary adds immeasurably to the pain he feels in rising to address his ‘novissima verba’ to old and dear friends. ‘Farewell’ is a word of painful utterance even to the coldest heart; but when it is addressed to warm ones, the pang is indeed severe; and I know not if under the feeling of the moment I shall be able to say all that I could have wished. Individually, I have much, very much, for which to be grateful. In my own name, and that of the lovers of our science, I would offer the warmest thanks for the zealous and unceasing support you have given me. When we think of the little party of eleven that met in the library of Mereworth Castle, the entire number of our Society, on the morning of the 19th of September, 1857, and look around this day, we may feel proud of our county's doings. It is ample reward for any labour of mine, however great,—it is ample encouragement for

my successor in entering upon his office. I may well feel regret at resigning my post, nor would I do so but that I am imperatively called to the sacrifice. Arrived at that period of life when the retrospect is immeasurably longer than the prospect, it were worse than folly to seek for new cords to be added to those which already bind too tightly to earth. They must be loosened and cast off one by one. At threescore and upwards every wise man slackens sail, and prepares to enter the haven before him as little burdened with earthly freight, and as calmly as may be.

“ Apparet Divum numen—sedesque quietæ
Quas neque concutiant venti, nec nubila nimbis
Aspergunt,—neque nix acri concreta pruina,
Cana cadens, violat, semper sine nubibus æther
Integer, et large diffuso lumine ridet.”

Pardon me for the quotation. I might have used more solemn words, and in our own language; but the words of the great philosophic poet start up unbidden. They seem very appropriate, and perhaps, after all, are more suitable to this occasion than holier ones. But even were it not for this duty of retiring from the world incumbent upon every wise man as age steals on, in my own case it is doubly so. I am every day becoming less fit for the work. Faculties are fast departing, and what few are left must be given to the duties of a holier calling. You will not, therefore, I hope, deem me unreasonable in my determination to retire from the office which I have held with so much pleasure to myself, and, as your kind expressions assure me, not altogether unsatisfactorily to you all. If you will only continue to my successor the same warm support you have given to myself, you will go on and prosper.”

The Chairman then proposed that Mr. Larking should be elected a vice-president, which would enable the Council of the Society still to have the benefit of his valuable advice and assistance. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The President next moved that Mr. J. G. Talbot be appointed Secretary, his Lordship feeling satisfied, from his knowledge of that gentleman, the business habits by which he was distinguished, and the great interest he had taken in archæological pursuits, that Mr. Talbot would prove a fitting successor to Mr. Larking. If any additional recommendation were needed, it might be found in the fact that Mr. Talbot bore a name associated with all that was noble and chivalrous in the past history of this country, and if he did not vie with his ancestors

in deeds of daring, he was winning for himself a name in the ranks of philanthropy and science.

Several new candidates were admitted members of the Society.

After a vote of thanks to the President, the archæologists proceeded to All Saints' Church, the chancel of which was crowded with a numerous assemblage to hear Mr. Beresford Hope deliver an explanatory lecture upon the sacred edifice. After a few introductory remarks, in the course of which Mr. Hope observed that All Saints' Church, the College, the Palace, and the old barn on the opposite side of the road, formed as interesting a group of buildings of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as could be found anywhere in England, and would be noticeable anywhere in Continental Northern Europe, he stated that he should confine himself to the broad architectural features of the church, instead of entering into those matters of detail which were fully treated of in a book published by Mr. Beale Poste, a gentleman whose name was well known in the antiquarian world. He then proceeded—

“We all of us see that this church is one of unusual size compared with the ordinary parish churches up and down the country. At the same time there is a certain degree of sameness in the architecture which we do not find in other buildings of inferior size to this. I presume that all present are acquainted with the rudiments of architecture, but as some may be more so and some less, it may be as well to remind you that this church belongs to the third period of architecture in this country, or what is termed the Perpendicular style. The earliest style of ecclesiastical architecture in this country was that of our Saxon ancestors, of which very few specimens remain, though that, perhaps, does not give much cause for regret. Then came in a style which may be distinguished by its round arches, known upon the Continent as Romanesque, known here as Norman, a style of which Rochester Cathedral is a singularly magnificent example. About 1190 came in the earliest form of Gothic architecture, known as the First Pointed,—less correctly, as the Early English style. That continued for about eighty years, or till 1270. Up to that time the windows were lancet-shaped and single, but gradually they were divided by strips of stone called mullions, while the tracery in the upper portion took the form of circles, trefoils, and quatrefoils. This style lasted for rather more than 100 years. Towards the end of Edward III., and beginning of Richard II., the tracery took the shape of vertical lines,—a style supposed to be invented by William

of Wykeham, the celebrated Bishop of Winchester. This is the Perpendicular style, which continued in vogue till Gothic architecture broke down under the revival of the Italian which characterized English art in the sixteenth century, and rather earlier upon the Continent. This Perpendicular style, I may explain, is peculiar to England, for on the Continent the change took another form. Instead of stiffening up into straight lines and panels, the third period of Continental architecture is distinguished for its greater freedom, so much so that it is termed the *Flamboyant style*, in consequence of the window tracery resembling flames. After this short *précis*, I will direct attention to the fine specimen of the Perpendicular style in which we are standing. This church of All Saints' was built in the reign of Richard II., by Archbishop Courtenay,—not one of the most eminent of the Archbishops of Canterbury, but still well deserving a niche in the page of history. Maidstone was an old residence of the Archbishops, and Courtenay seems to have had a special predilection for it. Accordingly, in 1395, he got the King's licence to transform the old parish church of St. Mary into a collegiate church, under the name of All Saints. Talking of collegiate churches, I may observe, that before the Reformation various establishments of clergy were much more common. . Indeed, the dissolution of the religious houses was one of the first acts which characterized the Reformation. It is a common idea that religious houses consisted only of monasteries and nunneries. If by monasteries it is meant a number of clergy living together and performing divine service, the idea is correct; but these various corporations had great internal distinctions. Thus the clergy of a collegiate church were bound by much less strict rules than the friars and monks. This, then, was a collegiate church. Even to this day Windsor and Westminster Abbey remain collegiate churches, governed by their old statutes, and in every respect similar to the old corporations, except that instead of being condemned to bachelorhood for life the clergy are now allowed to marry. Now we come back to the point from whence we started,—How is it that this church of All Saints is of such considerable size? Simply because Archbishop Courtenay, when he obtained the royal charter to convert the old church of St. Mary into a collegiate church, with a master and six fellows, rebuilt it according to, and consistent with, the greater dignity of his new foundation. If it had been an older foundation, we should probably have seen, as we do see in so many other buildings, specimens of different styles in different parts,—a Norman arch here, an Early Pointed window there, a Perpendicular roof above, and so on. But this church was built at once by a rich and powerful man; and although, no doubt, Archbishop Courtenay died before its completion, yet it was sufficiently advanced at

the time of his death to ensure the carrying out of his plans. Thus the size and regularity of the building are accounted for. Courtenay had for his friend one John Wotton, a canon of Chichester, and the first master of this college, a clever and active, and probably, at the same time, a money-making man. I hold in my hand a copy of Wotton's will, which has been transcribed by our friend Mr. Larking, who, for all that has been said to-day, will do more work than ten younger men than himself. This will of John Wotton's is altogether a very curious document. As a kind of protest against the great sumptuousness of funerals in those days, he directs that five lights only shall be burnt upon his coffin—one upon his breast, and one upon each of the four corners of the hearse. He also directs that only a certain number of torches shall be burnt, and wisely provides when they are to be put out, and what use shall be made of them afterwards. I should state that Archbishop Courtenay ordered his body to be buried in the churchyard of Maidstone. There is, however, a "leiger-book" at Canterbury, which minutely describes the Archbishop's burial in the cathedral, and it has long been a disputed point amongst antiquaries whether Courtenay was buried here or at Canterbury. Near the centre of the chancel here is a large slab, with the matrix for a brass representing the figure of an archbishop; and some years since a skeleton was found beneath that stone, though there is nothing to lead us to suppose it to be that of Courtenay,—on the contrary, it was apparently the skeleton of a younger man. There is one solution of the difficulty which I have not yet seen, and * which I throw out with great diffidence for the consideration of men who can judge of its value better than myself. Why should not Courtenay have been buried in both places? Some of you may be surprised, but the suggestion is not so ridiculous as at first sight appears. We know that in the Middle Ages it was one of the barbarous customs of the times—a custom which is even now occasionally followed in the case of royal funerals—to divide the dead body, and bury the heart in one place and the rest of the remains elsewhere. In this case Courtenay wished to be buried at Maidstone—the clergy of Canterbury naturally wished to bury their ecclesiastical chief in the cathedral, for in those unenlightened days a feeling of jealousy probably existed between the two towns, instead of that magnanimous spirit which I suppose now prevails. Why should not the difference have been split? Why should not the leiger-book of Canterbury speak the truth, in telling us that Courtenay's body was buried there?—why should not his heart or some other portion of his remains have been buried in this his collegiate church, and been covered over by that stone in the chancel? This reconciles both the conflicting claims, and, it may be, is the real

truth. Wotton died in 1417. Some ten or twelve masters followed in succession, none of them men of any great mark till we come to Richard Grocyn, a really eminent man, who lived at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the period of the revival of classical literature, and who was the friend and correspondent of the well-known Erasmus. Coming back to architectural matters, you are probably all aware that in all churches in every country, more or less, there are certain broad divisions to be noted. There is a provision for the congregation, called the nave and aisles; there is a provision for the clergy who officiate, which may be only one small reading-desk, but which, in buildings of greater pretensions, and in churches served by corporate bodies, develops itself into such a series of stalls as those which run round this chancel, and under the seats of some of which may be found the arms of Archbishop Courtenay. Beyond this is a place for the Lord's table, and near the chief western entrance is placed the font. These main divisions run through churches and chapels—great and small. But what mean those broad aisles and wide-spanned arches in the body of the church, and these narrow aisles in the chancel? In the olden time, when the simplicity of the early Christians had been departed from, and the custom of saying numerous masses had grown up, room was desired and demanded for altars. In this church there were four of these altars,—two in each of the chancel aisles,—one to the Corpus Christi Chapel, another in Becket's, a third in St. Catherine's, and a fourth in the Lady Chapel. In this we see the reason of the arrangement to which I referred, for two of these altars stood against the end walls of the aisles. Those richly-worked canopies within the modern altar-rails are sedilia, or the seats occupied by the clergy when they attended the Communion service. In some modern churches, built within the last twenty years, these sedilia have been revived. They are altogether unobjectionable, and much more suited to the dignity of the House of God than the ordinary movable chairs. At the back of these sedilia, in the south chancel aisle, immediately facing the south-east door, is the tomb of Thomas Wotton, which is not only curious as an example of monumental art at the beginning of the fifteenth century, but also as a specimen of painting at a period when, even in Italy, the art of painting was comparatively young, and of course still younger in this country. It represents an archangel, supposed to be Gabriel, with the figures of St. Catherine and St. Mark. There is another picture representing two figures, supposed to be Becket, the patron saint of Canterbury, and Richard De la Wyche, the canonized Bishop of Chichester. After a passing allusion to the clerestory, or range of windows above the nave arches, and to the triforium, or arcaded gallery, which is frequently found running down the aisles of large churches,

but is absent here, Mr. Hope adverted to the low-pitched roof. In the two earlier styles of architecture, the roofs, whether of groined stone or of woodwork, were of high pitch; but in the third period, or Perpendicular style, when more elaborate wooden roofs were introduced, these were not unfrequently constructed of a very low pitch, though the old pitch¹ prevailed in some districts. From all accounts, the old roof of All Saints' Church was a handsome one, supported by stone corbels running down the side of the church. But in 1790 the people of Maidstone were very clever, and no doubt thought they would improve the appearance of the church by putting up a lath and plaster ceiling. I do not know whether the archæologist who visits this church in 1890 will find the lath and plaster gone, but I hope that with the improved state of feeling on these matters, this grievous eyesore will as speedily as possible be removed. I do not wish for it to fall down upon a Sunday while people are at church, but if it were to tumble down some quiet week-day it would be a good thing, and I have no doubt that the people of Maidstone would have public spirit sufficient to restore the roof to its original state. In 1730 the church suffered a serious deprivation by the loss of the spire, eighty feet high, which surmounted the fine old tower, and which was struck by lightning and burnt down. When I first knew this church, it was seated with great heavy square pews, with galleries running round the aisles. In 1700 the people of Maidstone determined to repew their old church, and they replaced the old oak seats by the ugly pews which till recent times disfigured the church. But the course of this repewing, like the course of true love, did not run altogether smooth. At the time of which I speak, a Mr. Gilbert Innes was the minister. How a gentleman with so Scotch a name came so far south before the Union is a mystery, but it is a fact nevertheless. The Mote then, as now, belonged to the Marsham family, Sir Robert Marsham being in 1700 the occupier. The old Archbishop's Palace was then held by Sir Jacob Astley, a Norfolk squire, to whom it had passed from Lord Astley. To the Palace was attached, by a grant from the Archbishop of Canterbury, a certain number of pews in the parish church; and a good deal of correspondence seems to have passed between Mr. Gilbert Innes and Sir Jacob Astley when the subject of repewing the church was under discussion. Mr. Scudamore has kindly placed in my hands the letters of Mr. Innes, a few extracts from which may not be uninteresting. They run between July and December, 1700. Mr. Gilbert Innes, like a shrewd Scotchman, is evidently desirous to propitiate the powers that be; and, accordingly in his first letter he informs Sir Jacob that "your seats

¹ Though Maidstone itself is an exception, Kent is noticeable for high pitched roofs of a late date.

shall be built at the public charge as the others are, if you please. The reason is because the parish is willing to leave it to the gentry to do something of themselves towards the beautifying of the church as they shall think fit." He goes on to say that Sir Jacob is believed to have "more room in the church than any gentleman or nobleman hath in such a town as this," and delicately reminds the worthy baronet that the church possessed one "noble monument" of his predecessor's respect for it, in the shape of "a large silver flagon for the Communion, which holds a gallon." In the same letter the rev. gentleman informs Sir Jacob that the new pews will be somewhat differently arranged, "because the labouring men and waggons standing in the space where you and Sir Robert entered, and my Lady Taylor's and the other gentry's seats, was offensive to them." Sir Jacob seems to have been fearful lest he should be deprived of an inch of the ample space apportioned to him, and several letters from Mr. Innes contain minute details as to the position and size of his pew, the clergyman assuring Sir Jacob of his devotion to his interests, and that he will not lose anything by the alteration. The Norfolk squire is also informed that his pew shall be in nowise inferior to that of Sir Robert Marsham, and if the latter has carved work, Mr. Innes will take care to inform him. However, Sir Jacob seems to have been hard to please, for on October 12th, Mr. Innes begins his letter—"Right Worshipful, I am no less weary than you are about the seats. This business hath given both you and me the trouble of many letters, and I have had many hard words about them." He concludes his letter by requesting Sir Jacob, if he has anything more to say about the pews, to write to a Mr. Pierce, observing, "I have hustled enough, *res est adhuc integra*, and I desire to be excused from meddling any more." However, Mr. Innes does write again, on the 21st of October, giving some particulars about the seats, and informing Sir Jacob that both his and Sir Robert Marsham's pews will "stand a foot above the rest of the seats on that side, and will look very noble." At the same time he expresses a hope that Sir Jacob will leave the materials of his old seats to the churchwardens, "to be employed with the other old seats for building a range of seats under the gallery, as it is intended, for the ordinary sort of people." But perhaps the most curious of the whole series of letters is the last, in which the incumbent writes—"Right Worshipful, your seats are furnished and the locks put on, and the keys—one I delivered to Mr. Kingsley, another to my Lady Faunce, a third I have; the rest, for the servants' seats, Mr. French hath. I ordered my wife to take possession of your seat, as your tenant and in your right. My Lady Faunce was angry at this, thinking it a disparagement to her that the parson's wife should sit with her, and told my wife that some did take

notice of it, that the parson's wife should sit above all the ladies." After stating that he directed his wife to sit there simply to assert Sir Jacob's right, the Rev. gentleman proceeds—"The truth is, my Lady Faunce is very uneasy. She pretends that you gave her leave to sit in your seat, and takes it ill that Captain Kingsley and his lady should sit in it, and brings in all her friends, every strange people that came from London to see her. On the other hand, Captain Kingsley takes it ill that my Lady should do this, he dwelling in your house; and Mrs. Kingsley takes it ill that my Lady's youngest daughter should take place of her in the seat, because she is an esquire's eldest daughter, and the Captain is an esquire by his office, and mighty animosities there are between them upon this account. I told my Lady that if my wife should sit there none could be justly offended, for Mrs. French sits as high as my wife. My Lady Marsham's woman sits in her seat when she is not at church, and my Lady Taylor's woman sometimes sits with her, and my wife nor I never were to be servants to any. I speak not this from ambition; what I have done in this matter is to serve you." The rev. gentleman then asks for instructions how to proceed, at the same time observing—"I will not presume to dictate to you, who know better than I, what is fit to be done. There is no gentleman in England who should live in your house would be more tender of your rights to preserve them than I am, or would pay your rent better. You may have it when it is due, or before if you have any occasion for it." This curious correspondence shows that things were managed much the same in 1700 as in 1861. To pass on, a better time at length arrived, when people became aware of the ugliness of the old pews, and a man of great talent, one whom I am more anxious to praise because he is no longer living, the late Mr. Carpenter, was employed to superintend the alteration of the church. He first removed the organ to the place it now occupies over the vestry—a vestry, by the way, of singular size, and consistent with the dignity of the church. The chancel was restored, the galleries swept away, and the old pews replaced by oaken benches. I see that a very large stone pulpit has recently been substituted for the pretty wooden pulpit put up by Mr. Carpenter. It is perhaps hardly gracious to speak in other than terms of praise of so munificent a gift, but still I am rather jealous of the credit of my deceased friend, and I must say that I regret the old wooden pulpit, which harmonized so well with the style of the building, especially as the site chosen for the present pulpit has necessitated the cutting away of a large part of that flight of broad steps which formed so good a basement to the chancel from the body of the church. After briefly directing attention to the painted windows, expressing

a hope that the east and west windows would be enriched in a similar manner,—to the tombs of the Earl of Rivers (who lived at the Mote, and was the father of Elizabeth Grey, wife of Edward IV.), of the Astleys, the Knatchbulls, and other families,—and to the font, which, though it was of the seventeenth century, followed the ancient octagonal model,—Mr. Hope concluded by observing that, though the church was a good specimen of the Perpendicular style, still, for the reasons he had already stated, it offered none of those little knotty points to untie which were so frequently found in more irregular and, at the same time, more picturesque buildings, and thus lacked that antiquarian interest which other of our old churches possessed.”

The company then proceeded to the College, where Mr. Parker, of Oxford, the historian of the domestic architecture of the fifteenth century, delivered a brief explanatory address ; and thence to Allington Castle, where Mr. Parker also delivered a most interesting lecture on the venerable ruin.

The dinner took place at the Mitre Hotel, about two hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen partaking of it ; the Marquess Camden presiding.

In the evening, the Members adjourned to the Town Hall, where a variety of interesting portraits and antiquarian relics were displayed, in the Council-chamber and adjoining rooms. Amongst the chief contributors was James 'Espinasse, Esq., who exhibited a very choice assortment of articles, including an exceedingly fine collection of rubbings of brasses made by himself, a large quantity of Celtic money and fibulæ, and other interesting relics, as well as a number of paintings, one of which, a portrait of the celebrated Mrs. Robinson, the “*Perdita*” of George IV., by Gainsborough, was an object of much curiosity. James Whatman, Esq., also sent a large variety of curious and interesting objects, comprising portraits of his grandfather, James Whatman, Esq., of Vinter's, Sheriff of Kent in 1767, and his first wife, Miss Stanley, both painted by Dance. There were also portraits of Mr. Whatman's second wife, Miss Bosanquet, by Romney ; of the Right Hon. Wm. Pitt, of Holwood, in Kent ; of Prince Charles Edward, the young Pretender, by Cooper ; of his opponent, the Duke of Cumberland, by Gainsborough ; of Queen Elizabeth, by Holbein ; and of Lady Jane Grey, in a rich dress, ornamented with beautiful pearls. Mr. Whatman's collection also included a camp scene, by Wouver-

manns; two views of the Piazza San Marco at Venice, by Canaletti; a St. Barbara, exquisitely painted by Sassoferrato, from the Duke de Richelieu's collection; two curious old enamels, supposed to represent Joseph of Arimathea and a kindred subject; a Majolica, or Raphael-ware dish, representing Clœlia escaping from the camp of Porsenna and crossing the Tiber; an ancient bronze lamp, of choice design and workmanship; two iron castings, one being Sir Walter Scott, from the Royal Foundry at Berlin, the other "A Monk," cast at Coalbrookdale, and intended to show the comparative merits of English and of Prussian skill in this branch of art; a suit of Sheik chain-mail, and a brick from Babylon, with a clear and well-preserved inscription upon it. The local antiquities were well represented by cases belonging to Mr. Barling and Mr. Bensted. These consisted chiefly of Roman remains of an interesting character, those of Mr. Bensted having been lately found in Malling Wood. Mr. W. H. Bensted, jun., exhibited a collection of Roman antiquities found a few months since near the Hermitage Chapel, in the East Malling Woods, consisting of patella of Samian ware, a cineria containing human bones, a unique glass vessel, and four querns, etc. etc. A painting by Canaletti, representing the Enthronization of the Doge at Venice, was exhibited by Mr. Kibble, of Greentrees; while a curious full-length figure of a King of Poland, a meritorious work, was sent by Mr. Oakley. Ancient literature was represented by an early sheet of the 'Maidstone Mercury;' a book of Kentish pedigrees, and four volumes of parochial MSS., sent by Mr. Faussett from the Faussett Collection; and a copy of that part of Domesday Book which relates to Kent, and the grant by Edward I. to Stephen de Penchester, for "kernellating" Allington Castle, belonging to Mr. Larking. There were also tracings of encaustic tiles and glass, by Mr. Lightfoot, from Warehorne Church, and a full-length figure of St. George and the Dragon, from Sandhurst Church. The Rev. E. W. Muriel sent sketches from Appledore and Warehorne Churches, and some rubbings of brasses by Mr. G. C. White and Mr. May. Papers were also read by Mr. Allport upon antiquities in general, and by the Rev. R. C. Jenkins upon the Gates of Boulogne, which were given by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Hardres, of Hardres Court, but which have now altogether disappeared, Mr. Jenkins being unable to produce even a single nail used in their construction.

1st AUGUST, 1861.

About noon the Members re-assembled at the Town Hall, when a paper was read by R. B. Latter, Esq., upon "Kits Coty House."

The following votes of thanks were then passed, by acclamation :—

To the Mayor and Corporation of Maidstone, for the use of the Town Hall, and for the hearty welcome given by them to the Society.

To Mr. 'Espinasse, the President, and the Members of the Local Committee, for the excellent arrangements made by them in every department.

To the Directors and Managers of the South-Eastern and East Kent Railways, for the liberal accommodation rendered by them to the Society for the conveyance of Members to Maidstone and back.

To Mr. D. Allport, Rev. R. Jenkins, and Mr. R. B. Latter, for their papers.

To Mr. J. H. Parker and Mr. A. J. B. Beresford Hope, for their Lectures.

To the Exhibitors of Pictures and other objects of antiquarian interest.

The company then separated for their different excursions : one to Leeds Castle, where a numerous party was hospitably entertained by C. Wykeham Martin, Esq. ; and the other to "The Friars," at Aylesford, where likewise a hospitable entertainment was provided by Henry Simmonds, Esq.

Thus terminated a Congress in every respect equal to those of former years, both for scientific information and the hearty welcome of the local Members.

The first Council after the Annual Meeting was held on the 22nd of October, 1861, at Maidstone.

It was resolved to purchase antiquities from Westwell, etc., for £1. 17s. ; also ancient British Armlets, discovered at Aylesford, for £40.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Captain Cox for photographs ; to Mr. Sims, for Rochester Bridge Acts ; to Mr. Dashwood, for loan of Faversham Seal, etc. ; to the Master of University College, Oxford, for presenting the engravings to illustrate his proposed paper on St. Martin's Priory, Dover.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Mr. 'Espinasse, for his admirable management of the last Annual Meeting.

G. E. Hannam, Esq., of Ramsgate, was elected Local Secretary for his district.

J. H. Parker, Esq., Dean Butler, and Professor Innes, were elected Honorary Members.

It was resolved that the Suffolk Institute and the Society of Antiquaries of Edinburgh be requested to place themselves in union with ourselves.

Twenty-nine candidates were elected.