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The
Kent Archaeological Society.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1863 AND 1864.

THE Proceedings of the Society during the years 1863 and 1864 were as follows:—

THE FIRST Meeting of the Council for the year 1863 was held at Maidstone on the 19th of March.

Thanks were voted to the Rev. R. Drake for a donation of Roman Antiquities; and to the Revs. C. Lane, L. B. Larking, Dr. Stevenson, F. Southgate, W. L. Wigan, F. E. Tuke, C. Parkin, J. F. Russell, J. Hooper, E. Brailsford, E. Heawood, W. N. Griffin, and S. Hannam, T. W. King, Esq., York Herald, W. H. Hart, Esq., F.S.A., R. E. Thomson, Esq., T. Thurston, Esq., E. Pretty, Esq., F.S.A., Captain Cheere, and W. B. Gilbert, Esq., for valuable information afforded to Mr. J. J. Howard in preparing his first number of "The Visitation of Kent, 1619," for 'Archæologia Cantiana.'

The noble President reported that he had communicated to Lord De L'Isle the wish of the Council that the Annual Meeting of the Society should, with his Lordship's permission, be held at Penshurst, and that Lord De L'Isle had with the greatest kindness and hospitality given permission for the use of the Hall at Penshurst Place, promised all facilities to the Meeting, and invited the Society to luncheon. Thanks were unanimously voted to his Lordship accordingly.

T. G. Faussett, Esq., was elected of the Editorial Council.

Eight candidates were elected.

THE NEXT Meeting was held in London, on the 11th of June.

Thanks were voted to the President and Council of the Society of Antiquaries for their present of a copy of the Correspondence between that Society and the Admiralty respecting the Tides in the Dover Channel, with reference to Cæsar's Landing; and to A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq., for his present of a copy of 'The Condition and Prospects of Architectural Art.'

It was resolved—

That the Local Secretaries be requested to inform all members whose subscriptions are in arrear that they will not be entitled to tickets for the Penshurst Meeting, unless their subscriptions, up to 1862 inclusive, are paid.

Notice was given that at the Annual Meeting T. G. Faussett, Esq., would be proposed as Honorary Secretary, and J. Crosby, Esq., and J. J. Howard, Esq., as Auditors.

Eighteen candidates were elected.

THE SIXTH Annual Meeting was held at Penshurst Place on the 16th of July.

It was attended by,—the Marquess Camden, President, and the Ladies Pratt; the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Misses Longley; the Lord Lieutenant and Viscountess Sydney; the Earl and Countess of Winchilsea; the Earl and Countess of Stanhope; the Earl of Brecknock; the Viscountess Falmouth; the Viscountess Holmesdale; Lord and Lady De L'Isle and Dudley, and the Hon. Mr. and Misses Sydney; Lord and Lady Hardinge; Lord Wensleydale; the Bishop of Gibraltar and Mrs. Trower; the Hon. and Rev. Sir F. J. Stapleton, Bart.; Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart.; Sir Edward Dering, Bart.; Sir Walter Stirling, Bart.; Sir Walter James, Bart.; the Rev. Sir W. Smith-Marriott, Bart., and Lady Marriott; Lady Rycroft; Lady Dyke, the Misses and Mr. W. Dyke; the Hon. Mrs. Denman; the Hon. Mrs. Cropper; A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, Esq., Lady Mildred, and the Misses Hope; J. G. Talbot, Esq., Honorary Secretary, and the Hon. Mrs. Talbot; G. Leveson-Gower, Esq., and the Hon. Mrs. Leveson-Gower; the Dean of Canterbury; Sir Samuel Hayes; Sir W. R. Sydney; C. Wykeham-Martin, Esq.; G. E. Hammond, Esq.; H. D. Streatfeild, Esq.; W. C. Streatfeild, Esq.; J. W. Stratford, Esq.; Major and Mrs. Luard; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Scott; J. Kirkpatrick, Esq., and Mrs. Kirkpatrick;

G. W. Norman, Esq.; James 'Espinasse, Esq., and Miss 'Espinasse; E. Hussey, Esq.; R. E. Hussey, Esq.; R. W. Blencowe, Esq.; L. A. Majendie, Esq.; the Rev. L. B. Larking; the Rev. G. and Mrs. Taswell; the Rev. A. Eden; the Rev. D. Winham; the Rev. J. W. Bliss; the Rev. R. Drake; W. Delmar, Esq.; D. Denne, Esq.; Captain Ruxton; the Rev. T. Brockman; the Rev. J. P. Alcock; the Rev. R. Jenkins; the Rev. A. Wigan; the Rev. F. E. Tuke; W. L. Lawrence, Esq.; H. B. Mackeson, Esq.; M. H. Bloxam, Esq.; Coles Child, Esq.; the Rev. Beale Poste; T. F. Bailey, Esq.; the Rev. T. Wrench; the Rev. A. Lyall; the Rev. J. Y. Stratton; T. G. Faussett, Esq.; and upwards of seven hundred others.

The Marquess Camden, K.G., President, took the chair in the dining-room of Penshurst Place at half-past twelve o'clock, and called upon Mr. J. G. Talbot, the Honorary Secretary, to read the Report, which ran as follows:—

It is my pleasing duty again to assure the Society that their condition is exceedingly prosperous.

It is not often that the Council of any Society can meet the general body of their subscribers, and assure them that their numbers are steadily and rapidly increasing, and that their funds are quite adequate to meet their ordinary expenses. Yet this is the happy state of the Kent Archæological Society. The numbers last year were about 840; now they are about 870; and 28 candidates are waiting for election.

The balance at our bankers' is £397. 17s. 10d. The arrears, which in previous Reports have been so strongly and so justly deplored, have very sensibly diminished; and I cannot but think that the wise severity of the Council on the present occasion, in refusing a share in the splendid hospitalities of Penshurst to all subscribers in arrear, might well be a precedent for future occasions.

There is nothing very remarkable to record in the history of our Society during the past twelve months, except the deaths of two gentlemen who were distinguished members—Mr. Deedes, the late member for East Kent, and Mr. Grimaldi, a well-known archæologist of the county. But the circumstances of the present deserve special comment.

I think it no slight tribute to the position which our Society has gained in the county, that it should be received, as it is to-day, with so marked and cordial a welcome by the possessor of one of the ancestral homes of Kent, whose name is famous not only in Kentish archæology but in English history.

And in resigning the office which I have very unworthily held into

abler hands this day, I am glad to think that my short tenure of the post of Honorary Secretary will be connected with what I am sure will prove one of the most notable of our gatherings—the Sixth Annual Meeting in Penshurst Place.

The Meeting then proceeded to elect officers for the coming year. J. Crosby, Esq., and J. J. Howard, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A., were elected Auditors. Six retiring members of the Council were named, of whom five were re-elected, E. Hussey, Esq., of Scotney Castle, being chosen in the place of T. G. Faussett, Esq., who retired.

The noble Chairman then expressed his regret at the loss which the Society was about to incur in the retirement of Mr. J. G. Talbot from the post of Honorary Secretary, his numerous other duties having compelled him to tender his resignation. He proposed Mr. T. G. Faussett as his successor, remarking upon the zeal for the welfare of the Society which Mr. Faussett had already shown as the best possible guarantee that its interests would be safe in his keeping.

This was carried unanimously, as was also the Chairman's next proposal, that Mr. J. G. Talbot be elected a Vice-President of the Society.

Mr. J. G. Talbot returned thanks for the honour thus conferred upon him, and in taking leave of the Society as Honorary Secretary, expressed his sense of the kindness and courtesy which he had ever received at the hands of members, and his regret at being obliged to resign his office.

Mr. Beresford-Hope drew the attention of the Society to the Congress of the Archæological Institute at Rochester in the ensuing week, and expressed his confidence that a large body of Kent Archæologists would welcome their brethren. He moved that the President and Council be requested to appoint a deputation to receive them in the name of the Society, and give them a hearty welcome to the county. This was most cordially agreed to.

Twenty-eight new candidates were elected.

On the motion of the Dean of Canterbury, thanks were voted to the retiring Secretary and Auditors.

The Archbishop of Canterbury proposed a vote of thanks to the Marquess Camden for presiding this day, observing that, lately as he had become a member of the Society, he could not

fail to notice the great interest which his Lordship took in its welfare, and the able manner in which he presided at its meetings.

This being carried by acclamation, the private business was over.

The members then dispersed through the house and grounds of Penshurst Place, the Hall and other rooms in which were, by the great kindness of Lord De L'Isle, thrown open to the Society during the entire day. The Society was also entertained with magnificent hospitality by his Lordship and Lady De L'Isle.

A lecture was delivered in the Hall by Mr. J. H. Parker, on the History and Architecture of Penshurst.¹ This was read twice over, in consequence of the want of space even in that splendid room for the numbers which crowded to hear Mr. Parker. He afterwards conducted parties round the exterior, and to the church, explaining the interesting features as he passed, and especially drawing attention to the two remarkable crosses, of the Decorated period, which were found in the church and are now inserted in the wall of the tower.

During the afternoon the noble President returned thanks to Lord and Lady De L'Isle in a speech which was received with great enthusiasm by the Society; as was also Lord De L'Isle's acknowledgment.

THERE was no second day to this brilliant Meeting, the Council having deemed it unadvisable within so short a time of the Congress of the Archæological Institute at Rochester.

THE Archæological Institute of Great Britain held their Annual Meeting this year at Rochester on the few first days of August, under the Presidency of the Marquess Camden. This Society received the Institute with a deputation, headed by Lord Darnley, and welcomed it to our county. The temporary Museum formed by the Institute, which was rich in ob-

¹ It has not been thought advisable to reproduce this interesting paper in this volume, it having already found that wider circulation which it deserves in the columns of the 'Gentleman's Magazine.' Members will find it *in extenso* in the number of that periodical for August, 1863, p. 180.

jects of interest, was obligingly opened to the members of our Society.

THE THIRD Meeting of the Council was held on the 29th of September, at the Guildhall, Canterbury.

Thanks were voted to Lord and Lady De L'Isle for their splendid hospitality to the Society at Penshurst; to the Local Committee who arranged the meeting there; to Mr. J. H. Parker for his interesting lecture; and to the authorities of the South-Eastern Railway Company for their facilities on the occasion; to the Rev. G. H. Dashwood, the Rev. C. Boutell, and Mr. Farrer, for presents to the Society.

E. F. Astley, Esq., M.D., was elected Local Secretary for Dover, in the room of the lamented W. Clayton, Esq.; and Charles Augustin Smith, Esq., and Mr. Smallfield, Local Secretaries for Blackheath.

J. Brent, Esq., exhibited to the Council some beautiful Saxon sepulchral remains found by him on behalf of the Society in graves at Sarr, in the Isle of Thanet.

The Surrey Archæological Society was taken into connection. Thirteen new members were elected.

THE LAST Meeting of the Council was held at Chillington House, on the 12th of December.

The neighbourhood of Richborough was selected as the scene of next year's meeting, and the Local Committee for its arrangements was appointed.

The Honorary Secretary reported further success in the excavations at the Saxon cemetery at Sarr, undertaken by the Society and zealously prosecuted by Mr. Brent.

The President exhibited some Roman pottery, discovered at Sundridge, and presented to the Society by Lord Amherst, to whom thanks were voted accordingly.

Nine new members were elected.

1864.

THE FIRST Meeting of the Council for this year was held at the Guildhall, Canterbury.

The Honorary Secretary reported that at a meeting of the Local Committee for the arrangements of the annual meeting,

held at Sandwich, under the presidency of Sir Brook Bridges, Bart., it had been resolved that Sandwich be the spot for the Meeting of the Society, and that an excursion to Richborough take place on the first day, and that the second day be occupied with visit to the churches of Sandwich, Woodnesborough, Betteshanger, Eastry, Ash, Minster, etc.

He also reported that he had obtained kind permission from Denne Denne, Esq., to prosecute researches in and about the Castrum at Richborough, and leave was given to him to advance funds for the purpose at his discretion.

The President read a letter from Sir Walter James, containing a hospitable invitation to such members as should be visiting the churches in that neighbourhood, to lunch at Betteshanger Park.

On the motion of Mr. Foss, it was agreed that the forthcoming volume of 'Archæologia Cantiana' should bear the date of 1863 on the title-page, and 1862-3 on the cover.

Major Luard was elected Local Secretary for Tunbridge, *vice* T. Hallows, Esq., deceased.

The question of a private museum for the Society was introduced, and a general wish expressed that such a scheme might be matured.

Eleven candidates was elected.

THE SECOND Meeting was held on June 9, at the house of the Marquess Camden, Grosvenor Square.

The President laid before the Council the answer which he had received from the Lords of the Treasury in reply to his request, that the Society might keep the "Treasure Trove," or gold and silver articles, discovered at Sarr; it was as follows:—

"Treasury Chambers, 7th June, 1864.

"My Lord,—I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, that my Lords are pleased, on behalf of her Majesty, to present the several articles of Treasure Trove, obtained in the excavations made at Sarr, in the Isle of Thanet, by the Kent Archæological Society, to that Society, to remain in their Museum.

"I am, my Lord, your obedient servant,

"G. A. HAMILTON.

"The Marquess Camden, K.G."

It was finally decided that the General Meeting for this year should be held at Sandwich.

On the motion of Lord Stanhope, seconded by the Rev. Canon Robertson, the following resolutions were carried:—

That each Member of this Society shall be at liberty to introduce, free of charge (except for dinner tickets), any members of his own immediate family.

That he shall also be at liberty to introduce any strangers, gentlemen or ladies, by means of tickets.

That tickets be issued for this purpose in a printed form by the Committee, to be obtained by any member on application, at the price of 2s. 6d. each.

That each ticket be marked "not transferable," and be not admitted unless it have in writing the name of the person bearing it and also the signature of the member who has applied for it.

The Honorary Secretary gave notice of an addition to the Society's Rule 2, to be proposed at the General Meeting, providing for the filling up of casual vacancies in the Council.

The subject of a private Museum was again much canvassed. Eighteen new members were elected.

THE SEVENTH Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on the 4th and 5th of August, at Sandwich.

It was attended by,—The Marquess Camden, K.G., President, and the Ladies Pratt; Sir Brook Bridges, Bart., M.P.; Sir Walter James, Bart., Mr. and Miss James; Sir Walter Stirling, Bart.; Lady Dundonald and party; the Dean of Canterbury and Miss Alford; Charles Wykeham Martin, Esq.; L'Abbé Haigneré; the Rev. Canon Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Robertson; the Rev. Canon Blakesley; J. Kirkpatrick, Esq., and Mrs. Kirkpatrick; G. W. Norman, Esq., and Mrs. Norman; E. Foss, Esq., and Mrs. Foss; T. Wright, Esq.; C. Roach Smith, Esq.; M. H. Bloxam, Esq.; — Richardson, Esq.; the Mayor of Sandwich; the Rev. R. Jenkins; the Rev. R. Drake; the Rev. W. Wodehouse; the Rev. F. Scott; the Rev. F. E. Tuke; E. F. S. Reader, Esq.; G. Dowker, Esq.; J. R. Planché, Esq., Rouge Croix; W. H. Black, Esq.; R. E. Hussey, Esq.; G. E. Hannam, Esq.; W. Gibbs, Esq.; T. G. Faussett, Esq. (Honorary Secretary), and upwards of two hundred others.

The Preliminary Meeting was held at the Guildhall, which had been kindly lent to the Society by the Mayor and Cor-

poration, and was opened by the reading of the Report, as follows:—

The Council of this Society, in presenting to its members the Seventh Annual Report, cannot but congratulate the Society on its steadily increasing prosperity, from whatever point of view it is regarded.

First, as to our numbers. These were reported at our last meeting as about eight hundred and seventy: we then proceeded to elect twenty-eight new members, and at our Council Meetings have since added, in September, thirteen; in December, nine; in March, eleven, and in June, eighteen,—making a total of seventy-nine members elected during the year. Thirty-eight more candidates are now waiting for admission, and when, as we hope we may assume, you have elected these, our Society will not number less than nine hundred and fifty members. Though among the youngest, we already form the largest of County Archæological Societies.

Secondly, as to our finances. Their condition is on the whole good, in spite of the somewhat enlarged sphere of expenditure which we have this year admitted. We have at this moment at our Bankers' the sum of £498. 9s. 1d. Our printer's bill for our Fifth Volume has just been sent in, and will now be paid, amounting to £308. 8s., leaving us still a good margin for our year's expenses and towards our Sixth Volume. Most sad, however, are the shortcomings in our Bankers' Books from what we might and ought to read there, and we cannot too strongly urge upon our members, that the usefulness of our Society is seriously impaired by this one blot upon our prosperity,—the large number of subscriptions in arrear. We are at this moment suffering from a deficiency of this nature amounting to more than £300.

Thirdly, as to what we have done.

Our last year's meeting at Penshurst Place was most successful, and particularly distinguished by the magnificent hospitality with which we were entertained. The historical interest of Penshurst rendered it a most instructive spot for the Meeting, and was ably illustrated by Mr. J. H. Parker.

The Archæological Institute of Great Britain held their Congress last year at Rochester, and a deputation of our Society, headed by Lord Darnley, cordially welcomed to our county our elder brothers in Archæology. We need scarcely add how much the success which their Congress achieved was ensured by the Presidency of our own noble President. The Institute did us the honour of expressing much gratification at the reception which we gave them.

An enthusiastic and valued member of our Society, our Local

Secretary for Canterbury, obtained last year permission for us to make researches in a Saxon cemetery lately discovered at Sarr, in the Isle of Thanet, and himself conducted them with great energy and ability. In this, one of the best and most legitimate objects of such a Society as ours, we were eminently successful, and have added many new and interesting details to our previous knowledge of the Jutish inhabitants of Kent. The claims of Government on the gold and silver found, as Treasure Trove, had been courteously exercised by the gift of them to our own collection. The more portable of the relics are exhibited here to-day, and all will be placed in our museum at Maidstone.

Our Museum and Library have also received several kind donations, and the growing importance and wealth of our collection brings us to a subject which has been much discussed at our Council meetings, where no doubt has prevailed as to the necessity which exists of inaugurating a private museum of our own. Placed as our collection is at present in a public and very insufficiently guarded building, it cannot possibly be exhibited to any advantage. Our gold and silver relics, and we have many now and more promised, can be kept nowhere but at our Bankers', and become mere bullion in our hands. Our books lie useless in cupboards; one great object of our Society—the full enjoyment of its really good collection—is entirely lost.

Much has to be considered and adjusted. The rival claims of Canterbury, Maidstone, Rochester, and London, as to convenience of situation, have to be discussed. The subject of a keeper and the general financial arrangements require much thought. The Council hopes it is warranted in believing, that as soon as it can propose to you a well-matured scheme for this very desirable object, it may reckon upon the hearty co-operation of the Society in carrying it into effect.

We have to lament the loss of some valued members during the past year, among whom the honoured names of Mr. Clayton, of Dover, than whom were few more eminent antiquaries, and that of Mr. Hallows, of Tunbridge, one of our most active Local Secretaries, deserve especial mention. For the two local secretaryships thus vacant, we have been fortunate in securing the services of Major Luard and Dr. Astley.

The death of Mr. Clayton occurred in the very week of our last Annual Meeting, and owing to a deficiency in the rules of our Society, his seat at the Council has remained for a whole year vacant. A slight alteration in our second rule, with a view to prevent the recurrence of so long a vacancy, will be proposed for your approval.

The Fifth Volume of '*Archæologia Cantiana*' has been lately issued, and, as we hope, will be considered not inferior to its predecessors.

This meeting is held in a somewhat remote corner of our county, and, full of interest as the neighbourhood is, we cannot expect so large an attendance of members as in more central districts. By the exertions of our Local Committee, and by kind permission of Mr. Denne, much of the subterranean building in the centre of the Castrum at Richborough has been laid open for your inspection, and cannot but be viewed with great interest by the Society. We hope too, that mainly owing to the kindness of another valued member, our temporary museum will be found more than usually interesting.

In conclusion, we can only remind the Society, that for the objects which it has in view, the hearty co-operation of all its members is necessary. We have so grand a field for our operation, in a county more eminent in history, and more fertile in relics of the past, than perhaps any other district of England,—a county, too, which from its situation may be said to be the connecting link between British and Foreign Archæology,—that our very vantage-ground seems to impose upon us the necessity of preserving a position in the front ranks of antiquarian science. It rests with ourselves that we continue to do so.

The following alteration in the Society's Rule 2, of which the Honorary Secretary had given due notice, was then proposed, and carried, viz. that it do now stand as follows (the words in brackets being the additional matter):—

2. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council, consisting of the President of the Society, the Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary, and twenty-four Members elected out of the general body of the Subscribers. One-fourth of the latter shall retire annually by rotation, but shall nevertheless be re-eligible; [and such retiring, and the new election, shall take place at the Annual General Meeting, but any intermediate vacancy among the elected Council shall be filled up either at the General Meeting or at the next Council Meeting, whichever shall first occur.] Five Members of the Council to constitute a quorum."

Of the six retiring members of the Council, four were re-elected, Major Luard, Dr. Astley, and G. M. Arnold, Esq., being the new members elected in the place of E. Hussey, Esq., J. Rogers, Esq., and the late W. Clayton, Esq.

Thirty-eight new members were elected, and with a vote of thanks to the noble Chairman, proposed by Sir Brook Bridges, the Business Meeting closed.

The Society and their friends were then conveyed by train to the Castrum, at Richborough. Here they were met by Mr. C. Roach Smith, who delivered a very able and interesting lecture on this and other relics of the Roman occupation of Britain, taking his stand on the cross-shaped foundation built over the wonderful mass of subterranean masonry inside the area of the camp. He afterwards went round parts of the walls, and to the gates, explaining their structure, and comparing them with other specimens of Roman military architecture in England and on the Continent. For some weeks previously to the Meeting, the Society had been engaged, under the superintendence of the Rev. R. Drake and Mr. G. Dowker, and by kind permission of Mr. Denne, the landlord of the Castrum, in making excavations upon and around the central mass of masonry, and had completed the idea of the late Mr. Rolfe, who had dug a gallery more than halfway round the *enceinte*, hoping to discover an entrance. The Society's attempt, however, proved as unsuccessful as Mr. Rolfe's, and a shaft sunk for the purpose of ascertaining the depth of the masonry had to be abandoned, on account of the springs encountered, at a depth of twenty-five feet.

Dinner took place at the Bell Inn at a quarter-past three o'clock. Upwards of 150 sat down, the Marquess Camden presiding.

The Evening Meeting was held at the Town Hall, where the Rev. R. Jenkins delivered a most interesting lecture on the "History of Sandwich." He spoke as follows :—

It is now somewhat more than two centuries since the corporation of Sandwich petitioned the House of Commons in behalf of their town, in words which seem almost prophetic of our present invasion of its quiet scenes. The petition alleges that this Cinque Port is "seated in a place of imminent danger of foreign enemies, and both hath been and still is subject to bear the brunt of any foreign invasion, and is the gate which opens and shuts to the peril or safety of the kingdom." From foreign enemies the desertion of the sea has long since secured it; but it may well submit to the "brunt of an invasion" from its friends and neighbours of East and West Kent, to whom the gates of its hospitality have been opened, not (as we may well trust) to the peril, but to the safety and illustration of those

records of other races and other times of which it is the silent and peaceful depository.

The approach to Sandwich from the west must have reminded many of you of those old Flemish pictures of which in earlier days, and at the period when it was the resort of so many sojourners from the Low Countries, it must have frequently formed the subject. The marshes of the foreground, the familiar mills on the left, and the two churches crowning the landscape, one of which, in its hard outline and quaint ogee cupola, looks almost an importation from Holland,—a kind of Dutch bulb,—must bring to mind very forcibly the long connection of the Cinque Ports with the havens of the Flemish coast; while the broad and impressive Norman tower of St. Clement's, the beautiful arcading of which becomes the most prominent feature of the town as we approach it more nearly, carries us back to a still more distant past, when the connection with Normandy was read on the stones of our churches and castles, recalling the memory of the great Lanfranc, who, as his biographer tells us, "brought squared stones in swift-sailing ships from Normandy," and with them rebuilt the churches and manor-houses of his See. If we may draw a little on our imagination as we look upon the Sandwich of the present, we may fill up the picture, so as to restore the features of that day of its greatest prosperity. St. Clement's was then a cruciform church, agreeing in all its parts with the stately tower, which is the only remaining portion of its first design. St. Peter's (which even yet is the most interesting church of the three which are left) was doubtless of the same character, for the vast quantities of squared Caen stone which remain in the building itself and in the walls and buildings of the town, give silent witness to the truth of the conjecture. The little church of St. Mary, in which these squared stones still predominate, and in portions of which the masonry is as close and regular as in the tower of St. Clement's itself, was probably always a church of smaller proportions, corresponding with the greater antiquity of its foundation. A fourth church, dedicated to St. James, of which only the name and tradition remain, closely adjoined this last, and one or the other is believed to have represented that branch or cell of the great nunnery of Minster which Domneva is said to have established in Sandwich. Such were the ecclesiastical buildings of the town in the twelfth century. Those of a military character, and designed for defence as well as ornament, were not less remarkable, though more difficult to reproduce. We must imagine the Stour a navigable river, of considerable width and volume, and place on the other side of the bridge which connects Sandwich with the meadows beyond, the ancient town of Stonar, still reckoned its limb, and then almost its rival. Mr. Reader, but for whose zeal and guidance Sandwich would have

almost been a sealed book to us, has been so fortunate as to trace out the foundations of the church and adjacent buildings of ancient Stonar. In the middle of the clump of trees which marks their site we are able now to picture the ancient church, and to add to our view of mediæval Sandwich the important feature which it has now lost, thus putting together, as it were, the Chatham and Rochester of East Kent. Along the river, and girding the town, ran the walls or ramparts, which probably in the earliest period were rather designed to mark its boundary than to form a substantial defence; for the mandate for fortifying the town was not promulgated until the eighth year of Richard II. These walls, as they were subsequently raised and strengthened with towers and gateways (two of which latter still remain), must have been a feature of great importance; and if we carefully study their foundations, still left, we shall form a very clear idea of the advantageous position of the haven, and of the prosperity which it enjoyed in days when small craft carried on so successfully the commerce of the world.

From the gates, which opened upon the river and the low country to the westward, the narrow tortuous streets ran almost like the limbs of a polypus. Most of you must have already found that though Sandwich has so long lost in her churches the "rich windows that exclude the light," she has preserved in her streets the "passages that lead to nothing." And I may observe that these streets, in their narrowness, their crookedness, and general oblique direction, illustrate the remarks of M. de Caumont, the greatest of French archæologists:—"In the fifteenth century," he writes, "our cities presented narrow curved streets, the openings of which rarely corresponded one with another." "In the middle ages," he adds in a note, "when the principal articles of commerce were transported by beasts of burden, and the use of carriages was unknown, there was no necessity for large streets. Narrow streets, moreover, appear to have been a tradition of the Gallo-Roman era. In ancient cities, and notably in Pompeii, the streets were very narrow. The oblique direction of the streets in our mediæval towns is by many writers considered to be the result of a combination of circumstances; either to break the force of the winds and to protect from cold, or better to defend the town in case the walls should be scaled."* An observation of the remains of the walls and gates (one of which has fortunately been purchased and preserved by Mr. Reader) will at once indicate this tortuosity of the streets as a method of defence.

And now that we have endeavoured to restore ancient Sandwich, not by appealing to our inventive powers (as do so many modern Church restorers), but by recurring to the records and relics of the

* 'Cours d'Antiquités Monumentales,' tome v. p. 465.

town itself, let us fill its silent streets with the bustling groups of its older inhabitants,—from its knightly denizens, whose works of piety still remain, the families of Sandwich, of Septvans, of Grove, of Loverick, of Ringley, whose costumes have been preserved for us on their monuments at Sandwich, at Ash, and in other neighbouring churches,—from these to the Ellises, the Manwoods, and other of the ancient burgher families who allied themselves to the knightly houses,—and thence to the mixed multitude of French, Flemings, East-Anglians, and Londoners, who carried on with the native inhabitants a trade so flourishing and so extended as to enable us to regard this port as the Liverpool of mediæval England. We may picture it at this time as filled with its light trading vessels, laden with objects of Continental importation, and above all, with the wines of France and Germany, which seem to have been its chief import. For these Sandwich appears to have been a privileged and principal port; and we find in the *Liber Albus* of the City of London that the king's prisage upon wines is laid down with special reference to the port of Sandwich:—"If the mariners of the ship or of the boat can shew that the king's prisage has been taken at Sandwiz, or any other seaport," etc.,—"the Chamberlain ought to take nothing at London." The ancient custumal of Sandwich, still preserved among the muniments of the town, enables us to discern this scene of ancient prosperity. In this we read the regulations for the town's government; the presentations to its churches; the law for the curfew at St. Peter's, still rung at this distance of time and in this change of state; the customs and dues of the market; and in view of all this, find it hard to realize a day when Sandwich represents the strange anomaly of a port without a haven; a fortress without fortifications, having a perfect code of trading without a trade. Casting our eyes to the seaboard, we may imagine the French or Spanish fleets in the "narrow seas," as the Channel was then called. We may almost see them land their armies to destroy the town, as they did so fatally in 1215, and again in 1456, two dates which, in connection with the architectural features of the churches, are to be borne clearly in mind. Then we may call to mind the many strange arrivals which the town has witnessed,—the landing of the Saxon heathens and the Christian missionaries in its neighbourhood, the triumphant landing of St. Thomas à Becket on his return from the Continent, when he was escorted hence to Canterbury by thousands of his admirers. We may picture the unhappy pretender Perkin Warbeck, who landed between this place and Deal, and whose pretensions the men of Sandwich had the credit or discredit of being the first to resist,—a fidelity acknowledged and rewarded by the then new dynasty of Tudor. Strange as it may seem, as late as 1689 the loyalty and perspicacity

of the natives had so degenerated, that I find in an old MS. diary of the town, preserved among its records, the following notice:—"One Cornelius Evans, a Frenchman, came to this town about May, 1689, and feigned himself to be the Prince of Wales; gained much credit among the people; was nobly entertained for awhile; afterwards was found to be an impostor and secured, but afterwards escaped." The diary of the town, like that of almost every other at this period, merely presents the ordinary alternations of plenty and scarcity, wonderful dearness and as wonderful cheapness; chronic visits of the plague; fights in the Channel; royal visits and transits; the vicissitudes of the harbour, and capricious inroads and desertions of the sea; falling of church steeples; hopes and fears in relation to the harbour, until the last hope held out by Queen Elizabeth faded away before the then terrible vision of £10,000, an impossible sum even to a queen who scarcely thought any demand upon her subjects unreasonable. Among the great dearths of the town was one in 1437, in which "bread was made of fitches, peas, and fern-roots." Among the visitations of the plague that of 1609 may be specially mentioned; while the year 1562 brought a combination of evils, a kind of Pandora's box, for there was then (in the words of the MS. which I am quoting) a "threefold plague, the pestilence, want of money, and dearth of victuals."

And now we may enter upon modern Sandwich, and endeavour to seize upon every relic which the hand of the spoiler has not destroyed. The different kinds of masonry which the walls of the churches, and by a natural imitation those of the more recent buildings present, will first arrest our attention. I venture to think that this element has been too much neglected by our architectural antiquaries. Here in Sandwich we observe three or four different varieties. First, there is that rude kind of building which the interior of the Roman walls at Richborough presents,—boulders and large irregular stones embedded in a rough concrete, the volume of which is almost as great as that of the stones themselves. Of these the walls of the aisles of St. Clement's church and of St. Peter's present striking instances. Secondly, we have something more nearly approaching masonry in prepared and faced flints, often alternated with squared stones; and this appears to me to indicate the close connection which subsisted between the Cinque Ports and the eastern counties, especially through the dependent borough of Yarmouth, for this kind of masonry was there very early developed and brought to a very high degree of perfection. Instances of it occur in the gates of the town, and in some few portions of the churches. Thirdly, we have the period of the Norman stone, squared and faced and finely jointed, of which the tower of St. Clement's, a considerable

portion of St. Mary's, and one or two fragmentary parts of St. Peter's present specimens. Nearly all these styles of masonry appear in the Roman walls of Richborough, the Norman builders apparently imitating the facing of those walls (then doubtless very perfect), while the builders of the thirteenth century were content to fashion their exterior after the rough model of the filling-up of the Roman walls.

The first church at which we arrive in our route from the west is that of St. Mary, the foundation of which is, with some reason, believed to be the most ancient in the town. There are here clear indications of a Norman origin, both internal and external. It would be difficult to imagine a more deplorable wreck than this church presents internally. The tower, probably Norman, fell as early as 1448. It was then rebuilt, but fell again in 1667, and destroyed the greater part of the church. The fine ship thus twice dismasted was soon cut down into a hulk, and, as if to add insult to injury, the stone pillars dividing the nave from the aisles were replaced with wooden props, —possibly the relics of some wreck, and the work of some seafaring churchwarden. St. Mary's is said to have been one of those destroyed by the French in the reign of Henry VI. (1457), and is alleged by a MS. on Sandwich, quoted by Dr. Harris and by Mr. Boys (but to which the latter historian did not assign great authority) to have been rebuilt by Sir William Loverick, of Ash, and his wife Emma, daughter of Sir John Septvans, of Ash. Their monument, partly hidden, is in the wall of the north aisle. That they were contributors to the rebuilding of the church after its destruction, and also founders of a chantry in it, appears very credible; but the churchwardens' accounts, which have been preserved with unusual care from the year 1447 downward, represent the parishioners as its chief restorers. It is memorable that a payment is recorded to the mason of Christ Church, Canterbury, for Caen stone and cutting. Notwithstanding this unusually perfect record, the early history of this church, which appears, in the point of foundation, to be the oldest in Sandwich, is involved in great obscurity. The account of Sandwich in *Domesday*, though it makes mention of three hundred and eighty-three mansions or tenements in the town, makes no allusion to the churches which had been erected for so considerable a population. The statement that a monastic building was founded by Domneva as early as 640 has no proper historic foundation; and the date is clearly too early, as Domneva's only established work, the nunnery of Minster, was not founded till nearly forty years after.

Bryan Faussett, in his valuable collections on the churches of Kent, made in the year 1760, to which I am much indebted on this occasion, mentions the existence at that period of some ancient foundations near this church, which I have been unable to trace. From

the Church Book of 1447 it appears that the church of St. James must have been pulled down and its materials employed for the reparation of St. Mary's about that date; and the rebuilding of the tower or steeple took place a few years later, as appears by a payment for consulting the masons of Christ Church in regard to its construction. A very remarkable fragment of a bead-roll belonging to St. Mary's Church ascribes the foundation of the chapel of our Lady at the east head of the church and of three windows at the north side of it to Thomas Loveryk and his wife. There appears also to have been a chapel in it dedicated to St. James, which probably succeeded or superseded the dismantled church of that name. It is difficult, however, to identify the ancient features of a church which has been so completely gutted as this. The small tower, or rather turret, which remains is built upon the porch of the older church, and contains a small bell, without inscription.

Passing away from the church of St. Mary towards the centre of the town, after threading a few narrow winding streets, we reach the church of St. Peter, which under a most uninviting exterior conceals some of the most singular and interesting relics to be found in this town or neighbourhood. At first sight the tower, rising from the ruins of the south aisle, reminds us of those churches in Norfolk portions of which have been suffered to fall into ruin designedly, and have been subsequently cut off from the church. But here we are enabled to trace the desolation to an accident. "On the 13th day of October, 1661," are the words of the Parish Register, "St. Peter's church fell down, that day the same year was a Sabbath-day; there was 2 sermons preached there that day and it fell down within 6 or 7 houres after the people were gone home. Presently after one quarter of an houre past 11 o'clock at night. Had it fell at the time when the people were there the chiefest of the town and parish had been killed and buried under the rubbidge, stones and timber, but the Lord was so gracious as to shew a miraculous mercy in that judgement for there was no man woman nor child killed nor hurt; and very few heard of it. The rubbige was 3 fathoms deep in the middle of the church, the bells underneath them." This disaster reduced the south aisle to a shapeless mass of ruins. In that aisle, as in the nave of the church, were several monuments of considerable antiquity and interest, and one of these (which has been removed into the church) has occasioned no little difference of opinion in regard to its age and identity. It is an altar-tomb, having a mailed figure upon the top, and is alleged to have belonged to Sir John Grove, who was living in 1450, and who was a great contributor towards the building of the steeple. I will not attempt to solve this question, but will pass on to the remarkable monuments in the body

of the church, three of which are still visible, though the central and most beautiful is hidden barbarously behind the pulpit. We will begin with the tomb on the east of this, which is completely exposed. All seem agreed that this marks the resting-place of that good and wealthy burgher of Sandwich, Thomas Ellis, and of Margaret his wife. He had endowed a chantry in this church, among many other pious gifts and appointments, and near the scene of this foundation it was natural that he should seek a burial-place. It is a simple altar-tomb, on which lie the figures of a man and woman in the costume of the age, without inscription and without coat-armour. In the tomb in the adjoining arch we are able to detect the features of a monument of singular beauty, resembling in the closest degree that tomb in the chancel of Folkestone church which has been assigned to a Fiennes, a Segrave, or a Rokesle. Tradition (supported and perhaps originated by the writer of the Sandwich MS.) assigns this tomb to one of the knightly family of Sandwich, who filled the most important positions in the Cinque Ports, and are very prominent in their history. They were nearly connected with the great Norman family of Averanches, lords of Folkestone, and to one of them that great inheritance devolved. But though the striking resemblance of the tombs, and the near connection of the families of Sandwich, Septvans, Segrave, and Averanches, would lead us at first to claim this monument as that of Sir Nicholas or Sir John de Sandwich, the principal coat of arms on the right side of the arch too evidently is that of the family of St. Leger to permit us to acquiesce in the received view. The shields above and below are as follows:—On the right of the arch a large shield, bearing, fretty, a chief,—the colours gone, but appearing to have been those of the St. Leger coat, azure, fretty argent, a chief or. Opposite to this are the arms of the Cinque Ports, probably adopted in consideration of some official connection with Sandwich. In the centre quatrefoil at the top is a very small shield, much decayed, but which appears to have had a chief and a chevronel in base between three figures, quite obliterated. Along the base of the monument are the shields following. The first, three wheat fans (for Septvans), with a crescent for difference; the second, a fess lozengy between three griffins' heads; the third, three lioncels rampant; the fourth entirely effaced. Now we find a very important branch of the St. Leger family settled at Woodnesborough, an adjoining parish to Sandwich, in the time of Edward III. We find it further connected with the Sandwich and Septvans families, some of the latter of which lived and are buried at Woodnesborough, in the windows of the church of which were formerly to be seen the arms of St. Leger. The manor of Woodnesborough was inherited successively by Edward de St. Leger and

Thomas de St. Leger, and some later descents. Edward de St. Leger was in possession of it in the 20th year of Edward III. (1347), and this date (if I mistake not) would represent with sufficient accuracy the period of the monument we are considering. The chantries which had been founded in this church might well lead the inhabitant of an adjacent parish to fix his last resting-place here; the near relationship between the Ellis and the Septvans families, and their probable union in the privileges of the chantry, rendering this conclusion still more reasonable. To the east of this is another of considerable elegance, which is not so clearly identified as the other two. It is possible that there are other tombs hidden behind the high pewing of the western extremity of the nave.

I think we shall agree in fixing the date of the present church very early in the thirteenth century, a restoration probably after the general destruction of 1215. But the lowest portion of the tower inside and the western entrance bear some evidence of a still earlier date. The ruins of the south aisle exhibit the clearest indications of Early English work in the window-frames and in other features. A remarkable and unaccountable feature is a very large window in the tower, evidently a part of the original design, and proving that this church could never have had the cruciform character of St. Clement's. The great beauty of the tracery of the north window of the chancel cannot but inspire the wish that it may be some day relieved from its filling up of bricks and plaster. Immediately adjoining the chancel is a desecrated portion of the church, which until recently was used as a wine-vault, and for the rescue of which we are indebted to the present incumbent, who, under the heavy burden of a large and poor population, is most laudably planning the restoration of his church. The building adjoining the ruined aisle, and abutting upon the chancel (which has been already alluded to), is believed to have been the abode of the chantry priest of the Ellis chantry, and on its floor may be seen the fragments of what must have been a very beautiful arcade, adorning the wall on the side of the altar. But the most remarkable feature of this church is, beyond question, the crypt at the eastern end. Several such crypts are said to exist in Sandwich; and we might reasonably conjecture that they served for hiding-places or the stowing away of what was most precious in the days when the town was liable to constant invasion and pillage. The crypt under St. Peter's would seem almost too small for a chapel, but it is not improbable that it might form the treasury of the church, the place where the plate and ornaments (which in these churches during prosperous days were of unusual value), were preserved. The double column which supports the central vaulting of this crypt is very remarkable and interesting. Those who call to mind the small

side-crypts recently reopened in Canterbury Cathedral will at once recognize a resemblance to this building in many features. We may hope that means will be taken to clear out this venerable undercroft, which is in good repair notwithstanding the desecration and hard usage of so many ages. The restoration of the upper portion of the tower in brickwork made from the mud of the harbour, reminds us sadly of the permanent decay of the haven, while it indicates the last sorrowful effort to relieve it of its choking burden, and at the same time to utilize the agent of all this mischief.

We arrive by a short walk at St. Clement's, in many respects the principal church of the town, and from its early features and grandeur of design more fully and faithfully representing the ancient dignity of the town than any of its remaining monuments. Fortunately it has retained its Norman tower, adorned with a succession of fine arcades, and resembling those of New Romney, St. Margaret's at Cliffe, and other places on the coast. All these recall the model of the churches of Normandy and Picardy, the masons of which were probably employed both here and at Canterbury, and reproduced in England these kindred structures. This tower, which has been preserved from the original fabric to form the centre of the present cruciform building, rests upon four massive Norman columns (which, as well as the arches, are nearly crushed under the vast weight of the structure), and above which there is an internal arcade, resembling the outside. The two portions of the nave which are divided by this central tower are of different periods; the eastern probably a restoration after the destruction of the town in the thirteenth century, while the western must have been restored after the second great calamity in 1456. The frightful wood-work of the church, and the obstructions which meet the eye at various points, may be attributed to the worthy burgesses of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, one of whom claims (in a Latin epitaph on the floor) to have "adorned the church" as far as he could; while another asks in plain English (in a rhyming epitaph now effaced, which Mr. Faussett has, however, recorded),

"Who ornamented this Church? Why, it was your friend,
Whose coffin then was made, and text chose for his end."

As this church was, up to the year 1692, the ordinary place for the election and installation of the mayors of Sandwich (a usage which was forbidden by a letter of the king in that year), we might well expect its secularization to be even before the age in its completeness. A portion of it has, however, been rescued from this "encumbered estate," and gives good indication of its stately appearance, were the rest relieved in like manner. The brasses that have

been torn from the stones have left traces of great beauty and costliness. One stone, which has been used as a gravestone, appears, from the crosses upon it, to have once covered an altar. The font is very interesting, and of unusual character. It is adorned with four escutcheons; the first France and England quarterly; the second, a merchant's mark in the form of a cross crosslet prolonged to the base, and throwing off two limbs with rounded ornaments from its shaft; the third, the arms of Sandwich; the fourth, those of Ellis, with a crescent for difference. We may conjecture it, from this combination, to have been presented to the church by a second son or grandson of Thomas Ellis, the munificent benefactor of Sandwich. The church is filled with records of the customers, jurats, mayors, and naval celebrities of a later day, which probably supplanted the monuments of a better age.

From the churches of Sandwich we pass to its hospitals, the foundations of its wealthy burghers, which happily escaped the general pillage of the sixteenth century. The principal of these, St. Bartholomew's, was founded by Simon de Sandwich, and is situated on the Deal road. Though grievously injured and defaced, the little church of the brotherhood presents features of singular beauty, and would, if faithfully restored, be an excellent model of a fourteenth-century building of this nature. As it is, the pillars and the beautiful arcade on the north wall of the chancel are hidden by woodwork of the meanest character. The small pillars of Bethersden stone are here, as ever, very effective, and harmonize well with the dark altar-tomb which is attributed to Simon de Sandwich, the founder. This tomb is of remarkable beauty in many of its features, and well deserves a close study: the form of the canopy, and the manner in which it dies into the plane, are peculiar. The church is unfortunately buried in a farmyard, the stabling of which is so built up to and into the walls as to endanger their state. An original portion of the church, containing a door and window of richly-carved Early English design, is actually used as a barn, and is so fast yielding to the pressure of age and misfortune, as to threaten the fall of the entire front. Bryan Faussett observes that "the floor of the great chancel is almost covered with old flat stones, whose inscriptions are all gone. They have most of them been inlaid." The same may be said of all the churches of Sandwich. Of the other hospitals little remains worthy of notice. St. Thomas's hospital was said, in a piece of old painting remaining in the hall in Mr. Faussett's time (*circa* 1750), to have been "founded by Thomas Ellis, and Margaret his wife, and children," in the year 1557. A coat of arms was in one of the windows, having England in the first and fourth, and in the second and third, lozengy az. and gules six fleurs-de-lys or.

Of St. John's Hospital Mr. Faussett writes: "I saw nothing remarkable in this hospital but three old bowls, two of them wood, and a brass one, somewhat in the shape of a patera. One of the wooden ones has the following inscription on a plate of gilt silver, round the figure of a man in a long gown, with a staff in one hand and a purse or scrip in the other:—

"*'Orate pro animâ Pyne.'*"

This writing Mr. Faussett describes as in Saxon characters; probably it is rather that kind of Lombardic character which was used as late as the fourteenth century. "This Hospital was also founded by Thomas Ellis and Margaret his wife."

Let us now stand upon the bridge, and look on towards the beautiful meadows studded with trees, which form the site of the perished town of Stonar. Upon that bank did St. Augustine and his missionaries land; the scene of his interview with the King of Kent was there. It is very probable that that interesting church whose foundations were explored by Mr. Reader, marked the meeting-place in which the king, under the open heaven, received the Roman missionaries; for Bede describes their landing-place to have been in the Isle of Thanet and on the bank of the Wantsom, and they were charged to remain in the island until the decision of the king was formed. Now as Sandwich was clearly at this time, and for some centuries after, the only point at which a landing could have been effected, and as here the separation of the Isle of Thanet begins, it is obvious that the site of ancient Stonar could alone fulfil the conditions of the historic narrative. "After some days," writes Bede, "the king came to the island, and, sitting in the open air, desires Augustine and his companions to come to a conference with him there." The king listened and wondered. The beauty of the doctrine enlisted his affections even before it convinced his reason. The missionaries had license to remain, and had a dwelling-place provided for them at Canterbury. Thence they went throughout Kent, and our county became, if I may so term it, the apostle-county of England.

And the scene of this greatest of all conferences that have happened in our land is here before us. The day of conversion was followed by the day of church-building and church-endowment. Sandwich, the scene of the one, became soon after the subject of the others; and we find that the town and port were given at a very early period to the church of Canterbury. There is a re-grant of both to the monks of Christ Church in 966 by King Edgar, reciting that they had been previously taken away and were now restored. Certain tenements which had been formerly bestowed upon the

Church in the town were confirmed to it by this charter.* A subsequent charter of Knut grants the port of Sandwich to Christ Church as a kind of supplement to the more important donations of the arm of St. Bartholomew, a large pall, and a golden crown from his own head. This crown is mentioned in the earliest recorded charters.

These altered conditions bring another picture before us, and Sandwich is still the scene. Christianity had triumphed; kings and queens and nobles had laid down their crowns before it; kings' daughters were among its honourable women: churches and monasteries filled the land. Even the charters and legal instruments of the age are filled with religious precepts and sentiments, and the very mind of the nation flows on into this new and purer channel. But the ecclesiastical soon swallowed up the temporal, and the excessive endowment of the Church led to a rivalry that never could have been prophesied in better days. In Ethelbert and Augustine we see the spectacle of a Christian king and bishop in a perfect union. In Henry and Becket we see the two in bitter disunion and animosity. Recalled in triumph from his temporary exile, here landed that great man,—for great we must call him, whether we view him as the martyr of the Church's liberty, or as the leader of a great clerical rebellion. It was rather a triumph than a return from exile, and the scene which Norman Sandwich presented on this occasion must have been as suggestive in political meaning as it was impressive in outward circumstances, for the archbishop at this moment represented the popular cause as against the king and the great nobility. The Church was popular as the best existing landlord, and as a powerful barrier between the people and the encroaching barons. If the latter were eager to rob it and reduce its influence, the former were equally anxious to sustain and to increase its strength. After a six years' exile in France, a hollow kind of peace had been patched up between the Primate and the King, by which he was enabled to return to his See. As he stood on the French coast preparing for his passage to Sandwich, "the coming event" of the martyrdom seemed to "cast its shadow before." The Count of Boulogne gave him sad and significant warnings. Men were lying in wait for him in England; there was treachery ahead. Even Louis, who had contrived the reconciliation, doubted the stability of his own handiwork. It should have been cemented with the kiss of peace; but the sug-

* It must be observed that both this and the three subsequent charters recorded by Kemble have the mark of questionable genuineness placed upon them. But though they may very probably have received some variations or insertions at a later age, there appears little reason to doubt the authenticity of their main features.

gestion was only met with the ominous words, "Fiat voluntas Dei;" while to the farewell of the Bishop of Paris the dark shadow of this reply deepened into a prophetic reality, "Vado in Angliam mori;" "I enter England to die." With such presentiments the Archbishop approached the port of Sandwich, and came in sight of that solemn old Norman tower, then, probably, as now, the leading feature of the port and town. Here and along his way to Canterbury, "wherever he passed, crowds of poor people, great and small, young and old, met him in continuous masses, some prostrating themselves in the road, others taking off their garments and strawing them on the way, ever and anon exclaiming, 'Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.' The parish clergy, with their parishioners, poured forth to meet him, forming in regular procession, bearing crosses." But presently we read of new demands from the king, and fresh denials; then the solemn excommunication of Nigel de Sackville and Robert de Broc; then the conspiracy of the four nobles, and the last scene of murder and sacrilege. The next year begin the miracles of Becket, and the pilgrimages, and with them the increasing prosperity of Sandwich, through which so many of the Continental pilgrims passed to the favoured shrine, preferring, perhaps, to take the very path of the martyr himself to the scene of his martyrdom.

The old chronicler William de Newburgh, even in that early day, ventured to draw the contrast between those two great landings which attach so much interest to this spot. "It does not become our littleness," he writes, "to judge rashly the acts of so great a man; but I think that the blessed Pope Gregory would himself have dealt more mildly than (the archbishop) when the work of reconciliation with the king was so young and tender."

And now let us advance another stage in our retrospect, and recall a scene not less memorable, and little inferior in its pomp and circumstance, the landing of Richard I. at Sandwich in 1194, which is briefly described in the Chronicle of John de Oxenides. As the king was approaching England, at about two o'clock in the day, "a kind of serene and unwonted splendour, brighter than the sun in its brilliancy, not far distant from it in position, and in breadth and length resembling a human form," appeared in the heavens, which was held by many to be prophetic of the return of the king. The monarch after his landing proceeded immediately to Canterbury, to visit the shrine of St. Thomas. Far different was the arrival of a much earlier prince, the unfortunate Alfred (nephew of Edward the Confessor), of whom we are told,

"E s'en vent de Normandie
A grant force de navie
Au port de Sanwiz arive."

He no sooner reached the shore than he was seized by Godwin and brought before Harold; his eyes were put out, and he died wretchedly at Ely a short time after.

The year 1415 witnessed another arrival at Sandwich, illustrating at once the glories and the miseries of war. After the battle of Agincourt, the "hungry and weary archers" who had contributed to that great victory, having been denied admittance to Calais by the Earl of Warwick, from the fear that they would eat up his scanty supply of provisions, were sent over by the King in pitiful plight to Sandwich and Dover, where they were glad to barter their booty on any terms for bread.* In the following year King Henry V. started from Sandwich on the 4th of September, about midday, attended by a fleet of forty ships, to meet the Emperor of Germany, who had gone before him to Calais.

And now we come to the visit of Queen Elizabeth, which has been so minutely chronicled as to leave us nothing to draw upon our imagination. The two destructions and two rebuildings must have greatly changed the aspect of the town. The sea had all but deserted it; the harbour, partially choked by the sinking in it of a large vessel of war of Pope Paul III., was become all but useless. The inhabitants, impoverished by the failure of their port, and diminished by the ravages of the plague, looked anxiously for the favour and patronage of Elizabeth, and all was prepared to give her such a greeting as would ensure the success of their suit. She came; she heard the voice of the charmer; she received the homage and the hospitality lying in wait for her; and this entertainment, as detailed by its old narrator, could not have been unworthy of the occasion. But the Queen departed and gave no sign, and the hopes of Sandwich departed with her; and though the inhabitants continued to appeal from time to time to royal munificence, their pleas were soon silenced in the troubles of the seventeenth century. Then they had only themselves to look to, and to look closely at the "narrow seas," as they were still termed. Some of the letters of Admiral Blake, written from the fleet in the Downs, will bring this period vividly before you.

And now we stand on the verge of the modern history of Sandwich, and its present state tells its story so well that we cannot affect to be altogether deaf to it. Indeed, the status of all the Cinque Ports is very interesting, both in its contrasts and in its resemblances. We have several ports which the sea has deserted, the decayed members of this ancient confederacy; we have others, again, which the sea has almost washed away, but which have grown yet more vigorous by the very process of destruction,

* *Henrici V. Gesta*, p. 60.

“As if in death were propagation too.”

Sandwich, once wedded to the sea like Venice, and now so strangely divorced from it, is sinking into feebleness and obscurity; while Ramsgate, one of its members, which is being rubbed and washed away by every frost and every tide, gains strength and increase with each corrosion. Hythe, deserted in like manner, sinks into comparative poverty, and leaves Folkestone, a mere member of Dover, to take her place. Rye and Winchelsea sank into a still earlier state of decay; and the popularity of Hastings as a watering-place alone saves it from obscurity. Deal remains a nursery for seamen; and Romney, taking, as it were, reprisals for its desertion, reclaims the land which the sea has left, and becomes a place of pasture, a home of “shepherd-kings.” Dover, the great transit-place of Continental travel and the site of a new harbour of refuge, is the only port which retains its ancient place in the system. Manufactures and shipping have fled to the far north, and the ancient antagonism with France, of which the Cinque Ports were at once the exponent and the result, has passed through the phases of mere correspondence and alliance into that form of solid and intelligent friendship of which we must all say from our hearts, “*Esto perpetua.*”

The members who remained after this interesting lecture were much interested in looking over the temporary museums formed in the two upper rooms of the Town Hall. This was such as can seldom have been collected by any local society, and included the following, among many objects of interest:—

A fine collection of flint implements from the drift, exhibited (through Mr. Dowker) by Mr. Whitaker. Some bronze celts, exhibited by Mr. Gibbs, and the Society's golden armillæ, found in the Medway, as well as a few bronze armillæ, from the Charles Museum. A curious collection of Roman pottery, from Richborough, exhibited by the Society, and by Mr. Reader, of Sandwich, whose fine series of Roman, consular, and imperial coins, formed also a most valuable part of this branch of the collection; some magnificent Roman pottery from Ash was also exhibited by the Rev. H. Gilder. The Saxon period was illustrated by the fine jewellery and other ornaments and implements from the Society's collection, lately found in the cemetery at Sarr, and by many beautiful specimens sent by Mr. Gibbs from his magnificent collection; a beautiful glass cup was also exhibited by a lady, through Mrs. Reader. Mr. Reader sent, too, a very perfect series of English coins, from

William the Conqueror to Victoria, with other mediæval objects of great interest from his collection. Mr. Hussey contributed some drawings of mediæval tiles, a specimen of the writing of Hester Inglis, and a beautiful fragment of MS. illumination. The Mayor and Corporation of Sandwich sent their fine maces, their seals, and their ancient documents, among the latter of which was a very curious collection of Royal Proclamations. Mr. Smallfield contributed a collection of Kentish tradesmen's tokens, and a series of Kentish municipal seals in sulphur. And, with many other miscellaneous objects of great interest, the museum far exceeded any formed by the Society at previous gatherings.

On Friday, August the 5th, the second day of the Meeting, the Society met at St. Mary's Church, in Sandwich, and were with much kindness conducted through this and the other churches of the town, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by the Rev. R. Jenkins, who explained the features of interest in each. Members were then conveyed in carriages to Eastry, where the vicar, the Rev. Carus Wilson, with great courtesy illustrated to them the interesting features of his church. This party proceeded to Betteshanger Park, and was most hospitably received by Sir Walter and Lady James. The little church in Betteshanger Park, lately restored by Sir Walter James, was visited after luncheon, and progress was then made, by way of Wodnesborough and its Mount, to Ash.

Another party had been enjoying the hospitality of Sir Brook Bridges, at Goodnestone Park; and the two divisions met at Ash, and were conducted over the church by Mr. Planché, Rouge Croix Herald, the historian of Ash, whose interesting disquisition on its history was much appreciated.

A smaller party visited Minster Church and its conventual building, where Mr. M. H. Bloxam kindly acted as *cicerone*.

And so ended as successful a congress as the Society has ever held.

THE NEXT Meeting of the Council was held at Maidstone on the 29th of September.

Thanks were voted to Sir Walter and Lady James, and to Sir Brook Bridges, for their kind hospitality to the Society; to the Mayor and Corporation of Sandwich for the use of their

Guildhall, for placing their records, etc., at the disposal of the Society, and for all their facilities afforded to the Meeting; to E. F. S. Reader, Esq., of Sandwich, for great kindness to the Society, as well as for valuable contributions to the local museum; to W. Gibbs, Esq., the Rev. H. Gilder, G. Dowker, Esq., R. E. Hussey, Esq., and Mr. Smallfield, for contributions to the local museum; to Denne Denne, Esq., for leave to excavate at Richborough Castle; and to the Rev. R. Drake, G. Dowker, Esq., and G. E. Hannam, Esq., for superintending the excavations; to the Rev. R. Jenkins, C. Roach Smith, Esq., J. R. Planché, Esq., M. H. Bloxam, Esq., and the Rev. Carus Wilson, for their kind addresses and guidance to the Society; and to the authorities of the South-Eastern Railway, and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, for their facilities to the Meeting; also to J. R. Planché, Esq., for the present of his work, entitled 'A Corner of Kent, Ash-next-Sandwich.'

T. Wright, Esq., F.S.A., was elected an Honorary Member.

A letter was read from the Rev. R. Drake to the Hon. Secretary, detailing his progress at Richborough since the Annual Meeting; and it was agreed to hire the acre of ground on which the Castrum stands for the ensuing year, for the sum asked by the tenant, £15; and the Rev. R. Drake, R. E. Hussey, Esq., G. Dowker, Esq., the Rev. R. Jenkins, and the Hon. Secretary, were requested to form a Committee for superintending further excavations.

A letter was also read from Mr. Brent, expressing his willingness to search for more Saxon graves at Sarr in October; and it was resolved that he be requested to do so.

An offer to the Society from Mr. Randall, one of the trustees of the Charles Museum, of two private rooms in Chillington House, at a rent of £25 per annum, was read to the Council. The Council adjourned to inspect the rooms, and on reassembling requested the Hon. Secretary to enter into negotiations with the Charles trustees for the use of the rooms.

Ten new members were elected.

THE LAST Council Meeting for this year was held at Canterbury on December 9.

Thanks were voted to Lieutenant Clayton for his present of some Roman pottery, sent to his father, the late Mr. Clayton, of Dover, shortly before his death; and to Mr. Swinford,

of Sarr, for much courtesy during this year's excavations there.

A resolution of the Canterbury Town Council was communicated by Mr. Brent, offering accommodation for the Society's collections in the Canterbury Museum. It was resolved that, pending the negotiations with Mr. Randall, the Council did not feel able to consider this liberal proposal.

Mr. Brent exhibited his later discoveries at Sarr, and the Rev. R. Drake some bronze fragments from Richborough.

Seven new members were elected.