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The
Kent Archaeological Society.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1882-3.

THE Council met at Maidstone, on the 11th of May, 1882, under the presidency of Earl Amherst.

The sum of £5 was granted to W. H. St. John Hope, Esq., towards the cost of excavating the site of the Premonstratensian Abbey at West Langdon, near Dover; and a second grant of £10 was made, to George Dowker, Esq., towards the cost of the excavations conducted by him at Wingham upon the site of the baths and bathrooms of a Roman Villa.

Seven new members were elected.

On the 30th of June, 1882, the Council met in London at the house of the noble President in Grosvenor Square; nine members were present. The programme for the Annual Meeting was discussed and finally settled. Five new members were elected.

The Annual Meeting commenced on Wednesday, the 2nd of August, 1882, with a Meeting for despatch of business held in the Fine Arts Room of the Maidstone Museum. The Earl Amherst presided, and was supported on either hand by Major Ross, M.P. for Maidstone, and by E. Barrow Smith, Esq., Mayor of Maidstone, who cordially welcomed the Society to the town in a few well-chosen words.

Canon Scott Robertson read the Annual Report, as follows:—

Twenty-one years have elapsed since the Society held its meeting in Maidstone, on the 31st of July, 1861. The increased interest in archæology, which has been developed among all classes during that interval, cannot better be demonstrated than by the remarkable changes which have been made in the Maidstone Museum since 1861.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Society is presented at a meeting

held within that building, of which all the Elizabethan portions have been conservatively repaired and restored; to which the ancient Manor House or Court Lodge of Farleigh has been transferred, and re-erected as an adjunct; and wherein there is as valuable a collection, of antiquities gathered from every quarter of the globe; of Kentish curiosities; of natural history specimens; and of geological remains; as can be found in any town of England outside London, Liverpool, and Manchester.

When the Society met last at Maidstone the Third Volume of its *Archæologia* had just been issued by its editor, the Rev. Lambert Larking. Unhappily it was the last volume for which he had sufficient health to undertake those editorial duties, which he was so eminently fitted to fulfil. That volume contained 291 pages, with 19 plates, and cost £320. A prefatory notice stated that members must not in future expect such a profusion of plates.

Your Council have had pleasure in recently issuing the Fourteenth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, containing 416 pages, with 45 plates, at a cost of £420. It is the sixth volume which has been edited for the Society by the present Secretary. Its entire cost has been defrayed. The Society has this year invested £70 in Consols, and has voted sums of money towards the excavation of a Roman Villa at Wingham, and of the remains of Langdon Abbey, near Dover. There are no outstanding liabilities; and the Society has a balance of £205 to its credit at the Bankers. The Council will be able, therefore, to cause Volume XV. to be commenced forthwith.

Discoveries made at St. Martin's Church, in Canterbury, and at Langdon Abbey, near Dover, will be described to you at the evening meeting to-day. A description of three remarkable stone cists, excavated from three adjacent tumuli in a wood, in the parish of Bridge, near Canterbury, have appeared in the newspapers, from the pen of the Rev. F. T. Vine. The cists are very interesting.

Mr. Dowker and the Committee have ceased excavating any further on the site of the Roman Villa at Wingham; but there is some hope that the pavements described and figured in our Fourteenth Volume may be preserved, by erecting some slight building as a roof to them.

The change wrought in the ruins of St. Martin's Priory at Dover since the Society visited it in 1875 is matter for congratulation. The whole of the buildings, which had been turned to servile uses, as barns, cattle-sheds, and domestic offices, have been purchased, and most admirably restored, for the use of Dover College—a capital public school. The refectory is now the schoolroom; and another fine building has been restored, to form a chapel, wherein Dr. Astley (the Society's Local Secretary at Dover) has just placed a new organ. The work reflects great credit upon the people of Dover, and especially upon the Local Secretary of your Society, Dr. Astley.

Large additions being contemplated to the Constable's Gate Tower, in Dover Castle, representations have been made by your Council, through Mr. Beresford-Hope, to the War Office. The Minister for War expresses every wish that the ancient buildings shall not be injured, and he has invited an inspection of the plans on the spot.

Forty-two new members have been elected during the past twelve months, and 17 more await your choice this day. The Society, however, has to mourn the loss of several old members; especially of Canon James Craigie Robertson, of Canterbury, the learned historian of the Christian Church, and of Becket's life. From the Society's commencement, Canon Robertson had been a most helpful member of its Council; his hospitality and his pen had often been placed at our service; and at our last Annual Meeting he conducted one section of our members through the Cathedral. Wherever he was known his recent death is now lamented; your Council feel assured that this Society, for which he did much, shares in the universal regret.

In the diocese of Carlisle, the Archæological Society of Newcastle has gathered complete inventories of all the plate now belonging to every parish church; and these inventories will shortly be published. It is suggested that our Society should set on foot such a record of church plate in the various parishes of Kent. The standard authority upon ancient plate (Mr. Wilfrid Cripps) expresses his

willingness to assist such a scheme, by examining curious examples. Archdeacon Harrison is disposed to look favourably upon the proposal; and some of the Rural Deans have already consented to superintend the matter in their respective deaneries.

Your Council will give full consideration to the project when next they meet; and probably a valuable record may be obtained.

This Report having been adopted, four gentlemen were elected members of the Council, viz., George M. Arnold, Esq., James F. Wadmore, Esq., Wilfred J. Cripps, Esq., and Augustus A. Arnold, Esq.

R. C. Hussey, Esq., and the Rev. Canon Edward Moore were re-elected to be the Auditors for the ensuing year.

Seventeen gentlemen were elected to be members of the Society.

The thanks of the Society were cordially voted to the Honorary Secretary, Canon Scott Robertson, for his unwearied services as Editor and Secretary.

The members then proceeded to visit on foot various portions of the town. At the Coffee Palace, in Week Street, the Town Clerk, Herbert Monckton, Esq., explained that the house had been the manor-house of the manor of Wyke *alias* Week. The Elizabethan mantel-piece and moulded timber ceiling of the dining-room had been discovered recently, when the building was being prepared for use as a Coffee Palace. In an upper room the Directors caused tea and coffee to be served to the members.

In Earl Street, on the south side, the Secretary drew attention to the house of Broughton, one of the regicides who condemned King Charles I., and to the older, Elizabethan, front of a house a few doors west of it. He then led the members into the ancient Hall of the Corpus Christi Brotherhood, or Mercantile Guild, a spacious apartment now occupied as a brewers' cooperage by the Messrs. Fremlin. The Brotherhood was founded early in the reign of King Henry VI. The ancient roof, open from the floor to its ridge; the old transomed windows, each of two lights, with a stone seat on each side of the sill; the three doorways to the kitchen and butteries, with two small arches for windows, one on each side of the central door, at the north end of the hall, are in good preservation. This hall was for two hundred years used as the Grammar School of the town, and some of the members present had therein received education.

Passing through "Fair Meadow," and crossing the newly-erected bridge over the Medway, the company, guided by Mr. Hubert Bensted, visited St. Peter's Church. It had been the chapel of the Early-English Newark Hospital of Saints Peter and Paul, which was suppressed in A.D. 1386, when the College of All Saints was founded.

The Palace was the next object of interest. It had been greatly restored by Cardinal Archbishop Morton, who rebuilt much of the work originally erected by Archbishop Islip. J. W. Menpes, Esq., who occupies the northern moiety of the Palace, courteously permitted the members to enter his garden by a door on the river-front. Thence they viewed the north end of the Palace, in which

remain a few of the windows inserted by Archbishop Morton. On Mr. Menpes's lawn, a description of the Palace was given by Hubert Bensted, Esq., who said that it was much altered by the Astley family after they acquired possession of it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. They retained it as a residence until the time of Queen Anne. Here died the first Baron Astley, a celebrated general of King Charles I. He and his successors in that barony lie buried in Maidstone Church. The Palace was purchased from a cousin of the last Lord Astley, by the first Earl of Romney in A.D. 1719.

Proceeding to the eastern front of the Palace, the members were invited, by Mr. Dorman, to enter through the approach constructed by the Astleys, and inspect the ancient dining-hall. It was panelled by the Astley family during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In one or two upper rooms, to which also the members were kindly admitted, there are panelled ceilings of wood, which may be relics of the restoration made by Archbishop Morton. In the ancient kitchen was seen a stone fireplace and mantel-piece, close to the river-front, which may have been inserted by Archbishop Warham.

In the southern garden, very interesting outbuildings were inspected. They seem to be the most ancient remains of the mediæval Palace. There is a groined chamber of three bays; and, east of it, a building which may have been an early tower, of large area.

The large barn, with outer staircase, east of the Palace and on the other side of the public road, seems to have been built by Archbishop Morton.

The Collegiate Church of All Saints was next visited. Canon Scott Robertson read a paper which will be printed in the 16th volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, and Archdeacon Harrison favoured the company with some interesting remarks upon the edifice.

On the south side of the Church stand remains of the Collegiate buildings erected during the reign of King Richard II. By the courtesy of the Masonic Lodge their chamber in the upper portion of the College Gatehouse was opened to the members, who were much pleased with its admirable restoration and appropriate fittings. The room occupied by the School of Art, on the ground-floor of the Gatehouse, was likewise inspected.

By kindly permission of Mr. Jordan, his house, now called the Priory, but formerly known as Digons, was visited under the guidance of Mr. Hubert Bensted, who pointed out the ancient portions.

Passing on to the top of Gabriel's Hill, at its western corner, in the High Street, the company descended to the vaulted cellar beneath the shop of Mr. Bolland, fishmonger and fly-proprietor. It is an interesting relic of the fourteenth century.

Dinner was served in the Corn Exchange, at 4.30. Sir Edmund Filmer, M.P., presided, and was supported right and left by the Earl Amherst, Archdeacon Harrison, Colonel Hartley, Canon Elwyn, Robert Furley, Esq., Charles Powell, Esq., G. E. Hannam, Esq., W. F. Mercer, Esq., Mrs. Thomas, Sen., and R. J. De Visme

Thomas, Esq., E. Tasker, Esq., Rev. J. Langhorne, Canon Scott Robertson, and 127 members and friends.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Maidstone Museum, at 7 o'clock, the Mayor of Maidstone kindly presiding, in the drawing-room. E. P. LORTUS BROOK, Esq., F.S.A. (Secretary of the British Archæological Association), read a paper on *Christianity in Britain during Roman Times*; it is printed in this volume. GEORGE PAYNE, Jun., Esq., F.S.A., next spoke for some time, describing the *Roman and Saxon Antiquities to be seen in Maidstone Museum*. The company then descended to the old Hall of Chillington House (the Museum), where tea and coffee were served.

Afterwards they adjourned to the Fine Arts Room in the west wing, where Archdeacon Dealtry, Vicar of All Saints, Maidstone, took the chair. F. C. J. SPURRELL, Esq., read a paper upon *Palæolithic Flint Implements recently found in West Kent*; it will be found printed in this volume. W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, Esq., followed with a *Description of the Site and History of Langdon Abbey*, near Dover, which he had recently excavated. His paper, illustrated by a plan, will be found in this volume. The last paper was read by F. R. SURTEES, Esq., on *Boxley Abbey*, where his own residence now occupies the site (as he believes) of the Abbot's house. He mentioned that among the fourteenth-century relics of the old Abbey, now existing, are the arches leading to his kitchen; two corbels bearing coats of arms; a mask which formed the return of a hood moulding; scraps of cusps and other parts of windows; two massive spandrels of an arch, each carved with a quatrefoil; and the collar-beam roof of the tithe-barn. There is, on the lawn, a stone sepulchral slab rudely carved with a cross, of the twelfth century; and in one very thick portion of a wall of the house can be traced, on the outside, three lancet windows, blocked up. The brick archway leading to the Abbey is said to have been built about the time of Henry VII. Mr. Surtees quoted the memorandum made by Richard Baxter, the celebrated Puritan Divine, respecting his visit here:—"It did me good, when Mrs. Wyatt invited me to see Boxley Abbey in Kent, to see upon the old stone wall, in the garden, a summer-house with this inscription in great golden letters, *In this place Mr. George Sandys, after his travels over the world, retired himself for his poetry and contemplations.*" Sandys died at Boxley Abbey in 1643. Mr. Surtees possesses an engraving, printed about 1809-11, which seems to indicate, upon the terrace, a spot where the summer-house formerly stood. The shell of the fifteenth-century fabric of St. Andrew's Chapel, with its chaplain's two rooms, still remains near the outer gate of the Abbey; it is now used as a cottage.

Mr. Surtees believes that the sites of the Abbey's chapter-house, slype, and day-room, are now occupied by a raised bank; that a high terrace of masonry, leading from that bank, occupies the site of the Abbey Church; and that the old cloister-court is now a green lawn.

Thursday, August 3rd, 1882. On this day the members assembled at Maidstone in large numbers, and were conveyed to Leeds Church, which was admirably described by Mr. Gordon Hills, the architect who conducted the work of its restoration. He drew attention to the spacious low Norman tower with its grand peal of ten bells, which were rung in honour of the Society's visit. The fine wooden screen, which extends across all three aisles continuously, was much admired. Upon it Mr. Gordon Hills suspended plans and sections of various acoustic jars found built into the walls of many churches, English and foreign, as illustrating the purpose for which similar jars (now preserved in the Maidstone Museum) were inserted in the top courses of the nave walls of this Church. Mr. Hills's paper has already been printed in the *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects*.

From Leeds Church the company walked across a meadow to Battle Hall, where, by Mrs. Farmer's kind permission, the members saw the "Decorated" cistern and lavatory of carved stone which stood at the entrance of the ancient dining-hall. The face of the cistern is carved into the shape of two circular towers, from both of which water could flow, through taps, into the trough or lavatory in which those about to go to dinner could wash their hands before sitting down at the table. The old wall (now used as a kitchen) had arched groining ribs of stone. These are gone; but the corbels and springers of the arched ribs remain in the walls. In the upper part of the house there is, over a mantel-piece, a remarkable fresco, well painted in oil-colour. It depicts the Blessed Virgin, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Agnes, St. Andrew, and others. Possibly it may have come from the suppressed Abbey of Leeds.

From Battle Hall carriages conveyed the company to the Park-gate Tavern, where 220 ladies and gentlemen took luncheon in a large tent. Many others of the company lunched elsewhere.

As there were nearly 400 persons present, desirous of going through Leeds Castle, a division of forces was made immediately after luncheon. One moiety of the company went first to Lenham Church, where the Vicar, the Rev. C. E. Nepean, read a paper prepared by Canon Scott Robertson, which will be printed in a future volume. The other moiety went direct to Leeds Castle, where the widowed Mrs. Philip Wykeham-Martin graciously received them. In the great hall of the residence, Canon Scott Robertson read his paper (which will be printed in a future volume), describing the history and architecture of the Castle. He then divided those present into two divisions, with about 100 persons in each. One division was guided through the Castle by Mr. Tom Burgess and Mr. Loftus Brock; the other division was led by Canon Scott Robertson. As soon as these two divisions had again united, after perambulating the Castle, they mounted their carriages and drove to Lenham Church. Their places were almost immediately occupied by about 200 other members and friends who had already been to Lenham Church. To this second detachment, also, Canon Scott Robertson read his paper in the great hall of the Castle; and

then, separating the company into two divisions, he led one of them through the Castle, while Mr. Tom Burgess conducted the other. When they met again, grateful thanks were voted to Mrs. Philip Wykeham-Martin for her kindly courtesies, and loud ringing cheers were given in her honour.

Thus terminated the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society. Among those who attended it were Earl Amherst, Major Ross, M.P., Archdeacon Harrison, Archdeacon Dealtry, Rev. the Hon. Arnald de Grey, Canon Bailey, Canon Elwyn, Canon Colson, Canon Wright, Canon Scott Robertson, General Dixon, Major Parker, Major Horrocks, Lionel Fletcher, J.P., Granville Leveson-Gower, J.P., C. R. C. Petley, J.P., Charles Powell, J.P., G. E. Hannam, J.P., H. B. Mackeson, J.P., R. J. De Visme Thomas, J.P., J. T. Rogers, J.P., Robert Furley, J.P., Colonel Hartley, J.P., E. Barrow Smith, J.P., Josiah Hall, J.P., The Chamberlain of London (Benj. Scott, Esq.), The Clerk of the Peace for Kent (Fras. Russell, Esq.), E. P. Loftus Brock (Secretary of the British Archaeological Association), Rev. W. Powell (Secretary of the Sussex Archaeological Society), Rev. W. Bazeley (Secretary of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society), W. H. St. John Hope (Editor for the Derbyshire Archaeological Society), E. J. Wells (Secretary of St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society), Harrison Weir, Esq., Revs. Dr. Reyner, W. Benham, J. Hughes Hallett, Foster Elliott, H. J. Boys, J. Langhorne, A. G. Hellicar, E. J. Selwyn, J. A. Boodle, W. Bramston, L. Hawes, B. St. John Tyrwhitt, M. T. Pearman, H. W. O. Polhill, W. Gardner Waterman, V. S. Vickers, A. T. Browne, H. Collis, R. J. F. Thorpe, W. H. Dyson, E. H. Lee, R. S. Hunt, E. H. MacLachlan, H. G. Rolt, Sandford Bayley, A. Wigan, T. Briggs, A. Collett, J. Polehampton, Dr. Haslewood, F. Haslewood, J. E. Brennan, J. R. Little, T. S. Frampton, J. Walter, J. Williamson, E. M. Muriel, H. F. Woolrych, Messrs. J. F. Wadmore, B. J. Scott, G. Dowker, G. Payne, F. C. J. Spurrell, W. T. Neve, Chas. Neve, F. Slater, J. H. Oyler, E. Elliott, W. E. Hughes, W. J. Mercer, W. F. Mercer, E. Furley, M.D., F. Simms, M.D., W. H. Tayler, M.D., F. E. Wilkinson, M.D., F. Grayling, M.D., J. T. Hillier, F. F. Giraud, W. C. Fooks, J. Copland, J. D. Norwood, J. T. Perry, D. Prosser, J. R. Stillwell, C. E. Keyser, S. Fuller, A. P. Southee, G. Clinch, Jno. Kennett, F. G. Gibson, B. H. Collins, A. R. Boissier, E. Bottle, J. Bolton, R. G. Hobbes, W. C. Stunt, W. M. Bywater, G. Lambert, J. Moore, Jun., J. D. Kiddell, E. Peterson, J. Langston, M.D., Geo. Simmons, J. G. Ware, H. Monckton, J. H. Turner, B. Nathan, J. Corner, T. Bullard, W. P. Shirley, R. S. Daniel Bainbridge, F. Bunyard, C. E. Homewood, P. Sankey, G. Gibson, J. Rock, J. L. Roget, J. Harris, J. Harvey, T. S. Stokes, R. J. Fremlin, J. M. Russell, A. Hudson, G. Meadway, T. H. Cockcroft, M.D., J. T. Noakes, H. W. Joy, E. Hinds, R. A. C. Loader, J. Richardson, T. Blake, R. Bubb, C. Bullard, Thos. Grant, A. Latham, G. Barber, E. Norwood, C. H. Cleggett, Jesse Pullen, J. Ll. Curtis, Wm. Bros, W. Coleman, R. Hovenden, J. Peake, R. W. Cradock, W. J. Homewood, E. W.

Fry, W. W. Wooder, F. J. Cox, M. G. Hills, W. Lawrence, W. M. Fawcett, Miss Dudlow, Miss Price, Miss Twisden, Miss Twigg, Mrs. Moore Hyde, Mrs. W. James, Mrs. F. J. Blair, and many other ladies and gentlemen.

The Council met at Maidstone on the 22nd of September, 1882, the Earl Amherst presided; 10 members were present.

The Secretary reported that, by order of the Secretary of State for War, Major Napier Sturt, of the Royal Engineers, had explained to him all the plans for adding to Constable's Tower, and had conducted him over the existing rooms in that Tower. The officials propose to use the old stone of Sandown Castle in erecting the additional rooms, thus preventing the glaring contrast of old masonry with new. The Secretary was convinced that the War Office desires to destroy nothing old, and to make the new work as consistent with the old as possible. He has written a detailed criticism upon the plans, which has been transmitted to the Secretary of State.

After discussion respecting Kentish Church Plate, it was resolved that an effort should be made to obtain returns, from every parish, of the communion plate in Kent, in order that a complete description of the whole may be printed by the Society.

Votes of thanks for kindly help given and courtesy shewn to the Society at its Annual Meeting were voted to Mrs. Philip Wykeham-Martin, the Mayor of Maidstone, Messrs. Gordon Hills, Hubert Bensted, Herbert Monckton, Loftus Brock, Geo. Payne, F. C. J. Spurrell, W. H. St. John Hope, F. R. Surtees, French, Fremlin, Menpes, Dorman, Jordan, Morris, Nepean, W. F. Mercer, and F. Bunyard; Archdeacon Dealtry, and Mrs. Farmer.

Three new members were elected.

On February 22nd, 1883, the Council met at Canterbury, in the Cathedral Library (by the kind courtesy of the Dean and Chapter). The Earl Amherst presided; and there were present Viscount Holmesdale, the Bishop of Dover, the Dean of Canterbury, and eleven other Members.

The Secretary reported that the British Archæological Association will meet at Dover in August, and that he had assured its Council that our Society would do whatever it could to welcome and assist the Association.

It was resolved that our Society's Annual Meeting shall this year be held at Ashford.

The Secretary reported that in November last he had issued a very full circular to the incumbent of every parish in Kent asking for a description of the communion plate belonging to the church.

About two hundred had responded already, but from more than half the parishes no reply has yet been received. The Council, with the expressed sanction of the Archdeacons, directed that as soon as Canon Scott Robertson thought it needful, a second circular should be issued, begging that complete returns should be made of the communion plate, even though it be modern, and not old. It was also agreed that when the returns are printed it will be well to arrange the parishes in alphabetical order—not in ruri-decanal groups.

The Council resolved to express to the new Archbishop of Canterbury the Society's welcome to Kent, and their hope that he will become the principal Vice-President.

Nineteen new members were elected.

On the 20th of June, 1883, the Council met in London, by the kindly invitation of the President at his house in Grosvenor Square. Fourteen members were present.

The Secretary reported respecting the arrangements made for shewing the mutual sympathy existing between this Society and the British Archaeological Association, on the occasion of the Association's Meeting at Dover in August.

Two letters from Mr. Bartlett, our Curator, who asks for an increase of salary, having been read and discussed, it was resolved that the final consideration of their contents should be postponed until the Council meets at Maidstone, where the Curator is.

The programme of the Annual Meeting was finally settled for Wednesday, August 1, and Thursday, August 2.

William Tanner Neve, Esq., of Cranbrook, was elected to fill the place in our Council vacated by the death of the Rev. R. P. Coates, and to act as Honorary Local Secretary at Cranbrook in the place of Mr. Dennett, whose health compels him to resign the office. The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Dennett for his kindly services.

Eight new members were elected.

The Annual Meeting commenced at Ashford on Wednesday, August 1st, 1883. The Preliminary Meeting was held in the old Grammar Schoolroom, beside the churchyard, by kind permission of Dr. Wilks. Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., presided there and throughout the day. The Rev. Canon Alcock having spoken a few words of welcome to the Society, the Twenty-sixth Annual Report was read by Canon Scott Robertson.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Our Society now meets in the good town of Ashford for the second time. Seventeen years have elapsed since our former visit in 1866, and some of our members can mark with satisfaction the improvements which have been effected

during that interval. Especially will they rejoice to see how much has been accomplished under the auspices of Canon Alcock within the walls of the grand old Parish Church, which Archbishop Sumner used to call his second Cathedral. The removal of the Grammar School to new premises of larger extent outside the town, enables our Preliminary Meeting to be held in the ancient Schoolroom, kindly placed at our disposal by its present proprietors.

The Council can once more congratulate the members upon the satisfactory condition of their Society. The Fifteenth Volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* is in a forward state, more than three parts of it are printed, and a large portion of its cost has already been defrayed. It will be ready for issue in the Autumn.

The sum of £297 5s. 4d. stands to the credit of the Society in its Bankers' books at this moment. Since our last Meeting £35 has been invested in Consols, having been received in payment of Compositions for Life Membership. Among the Compounders for Life Membership we are glad to welcome the new Primate of All England. With cheerful cordiality his grace accepted the position of principal Vice-President of our Society, and the Archbishop would have been present with us to-day if previous engagements had not rendered it impossible. Forty-six new members have joined the Society during the past twelve months, and fifteen others seek election at your hands to-day.

The Council having resolved, with the approbation of the Archdeacons, to undertake the task of obtaining particulars of all the Church Plate in Kent, both ancient and modern, a circular letter of enquiry, drawn up with the valuable assistance of Mr. Wilfred Cripps, has been issued to all the incumbents of churches. In response thereto, and through the kindly aid of the Rev. J. A. Boodle, who has personally visited several parishes whence no response had been made, the Council have already received particulars of 220 sets of Communion Plate in the county. Among these are found no less than fifty Communion cups, made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and three curious stoups or flagons, which have been in use for more than three centuries. One tall covered cup of great beauty, made later by the renowned silversmiths of Nuremberg, is in use at Westerham, and there are others at Linton, and Charing, of similar character and beauty, but of English workmanship. Instances have been discovered of gifts of plate made to at least three parishes during the period of the Commonwealth. Incumbents of parishes which possess nothing but modern plate have in many cases refrained from sending particulars thereof, but it is hoped that they will ultimately see the benefit of making the return as complete as possible, for the sake of those who come after us.

Our Society's enquiry has already had the effect of reclaiming from the melting pot some old-fashioned plate which had been thereto condemned. It came just too late, however, to save one historical Communion Service which was bequeathed two centuries ago, by the will of an English bishop to his native parish in Kent.

No startling discoveries have been made during the past year, but a well-preserved hoard of 850 Roman coins, chiefly small brass of the reigns of Magnentius and Constans, has been discovered in Cobham Park, not far from the Earl of Daruley's house. These coins are now being classified by Mr. Roach Smith, whose report will be printed in the forthcoming volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

In the chancel of Frindsbury Church small blocked-up Norman windows have unexpectedly been found, on the jambs of which are painted single figures of saints. They are interesting and well preserved; and it is hoped that copies of them will appear in a future volume of our *Archæologia*.

Sir Francis Geary is causing some of his old woods to be grubbed, and in course of this work, in the parish of West Peckham, urns and ashes have been discovered indicative of Roman or Saxon interments. Near the top of a hill a bronze vessel of large size was discovered. The workmen's tools destroyed its body, but two massive ring handles have been preserved, and are in the possession of Mrs. Dalison, of Hamptons.

Some bronze armlets and other relics supposed to be Roman have been found at Dover, near St. Martin's Priory. These and all such discoveries will, no

doubt, receive attention at the Congress of the British Archæological Association to be held at Dover from the 20th to the 25th of August. Our Society will cordially welcome that Association to this county. Members of our Kent Society, at Dover and elsewhere, are doing all in their power to make the Association's Dover Congress successful. The Earl Granville (one of our Vice-Presidents) will preside; another member of our Society, who is Mayor of Dover, will entertain the whole body of the Association at dinner; and a third member of our body is cordially acting as Honorary Local Secretary for their Congress.

May their Congress at Dover, and our Meeting here, be alike crowned with the greatest success.

The Report as read was adopted.

H. B. Mackeson, Esq., was added to the Council, and the retiring members were re-elected.

R. C. Hussey, Esq., and the Rev. Canon Moore were re-elected Auditors of the Society's Accounts.

Fifteen new members were elected.

The Rev. A. J. Pearman then read a paper describing the History of the old Grammar School, in which the preliminary meeting was held.

Mounting carriages then in waiting, the company proceeded to the railway station to pick up members who could not catch the earlier trains, and thence drove to Hinxhill Church, which was described by the Rev. J. Philpott the Vicar, who most hospitably invited the members to take refreshment upon the lawn at his vicarage, where his daughter Miss Philpott, and his son-in-law Mr. Chalmers of Edinburgh, who has restored Hinxhill Church, dispensed most acceptable hospitality.

At Brook Church the Rev. J. Philpott again received our members, but the Church was described by Canon Scott Robertson. The Norman Tower, with its upper chamber containing a fresco, created great interest; but traces of mural decoration throughout the chancel and nave excited most attention.

Driving through the town of Wye, without halting, the company came to Boughton Aluph Church, where they were welcomed by the Rev. G. Nottidge. The Church was described by Canon Scott Robertson.

Up the hilly road, north-west of the Church, many of the company walked to the gate of Eastwell Park, into which the members were admitted by the gracious courtesy of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. For the purpose of shooting fawns the deer were being driven, and appeared in large herds. At the mansion a visit was paid to the gardens, and attention was drawn to a Greek carving, in stone, brought from Cyprus.

Driving thence through the beautiful park, the members next visited Kennington Church, where they were received by the Rev. Canon Weldon, who described the building. Mr. Loftus Brock drew attention to the octagonal font, curiously adorned with carvings like the tracery of decorated windows.

Dinner was served in the Assembly Room at 6 p.m., Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., presiding.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Saracen's Head Hotel,

Sir Walter Stirling in the chair. ROBERT FURLEY, Esq., F.S.A., read a paper upon the *Early History of Ashford*; the Rev. Canon JENKINS followed with a discourse on *Heraldry in its relation to Architecture*; and Mr. LOFTUS BROCK, F.S.A., read a third paper on *The Characteristics of Kentish Churches*.

THURSDAY, the 2nd of AUGUST, 1883.

On this day the grand old Collegiate Church of Ashford was the first object visited. It was described by the Rev. A. J. Pearman (son-in-law of the vicar, and formerly curate of Ashford), in an able paper.

From the Church the members drove to the railway station to meet others who could not arrive earlier, and then proceeded to Eastwell Church, which was described by the Rev. Gorges E. Gwynne, the Rector.

By permission of the Duke of Edinburgh the carriages traversed Eastwell Park, beside the old Pilgrims' way, and thus approached Westwell Church. There the Rev. H. H. D'Ombraïn (Vicar) and the Churchwardens welcomed the Society to the Church, which was stripped of its roof and fittings, in the course of restoration. A paper descriptive of the Church was read by Canon SCOTT ROBERTSON; and another written by Mr. FURLEY was read by Mr. D'OMBRAIN. Mr. Loftus Brock called attention to the weathering and two circular windows visible within the nave upon the eastern wall of the tower, above the Early English tower arch, and pronounced that wall to be of Saxon work. Mr. Lambert said that the silver-gilt Communion Flagons, made in 1594 and 1597, were the finest examples he had ever seen.

At Charing, luncheon was served under a large tent in a field west of the High Street soon after 2 P.M.

After luncheon the Secretary arranged that a large number of those present should go forward, after leaving Charing, so as to catch an early train at Pluckley station—they visited hurriedly all the places *en route* (except Newland), under the guidance of Mr. George Payne.

Charing Church was visited under the able guidance of John Sayer, Esq., of Pett Place, who read a paper descriptive of its history. He also kindly conducted the members to the remains of the manor-house of the Archbishops, and in the barn, supposed to have been the great hall, he read a paper describing the ruins.

A few members were able to look into Pierse House, and admire its panelled room, with its Jacobean mantel-piece, and the porch, which may be as old as the time of Henry VIII.

From Charing progress was made to Newland Farm, the barn of which was formerly a chapel. The north doorway of the nave remains, and is of late Norman style. Its mouldings are very remarkable, their banded features are seen in the ancient lavatory or water-tower on the north side of Canterbury Cathedral, and in the slype at St. Albans Abbey. On the south side of the chapel

there seems to have been an aisle, which is gone. The piers of a Norman arcade between it and the nave can still be traced both on the exterior and inside. The chancel, which is very small, has a niche, with credence shelf in the south-east corner, and two original windows can be traced high up in the walls.

Canon Scott Robertson described the place. Newland, of old, was estimated at one-twentieth part of a knight's fee, within the Archbishop's manor of Charing, and in June, 1729, Thomas de Bendinges did homage for it, within Archbishop Peckham's chamber at Charing, at the foot of his grace's bed. During the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II. there were esquires who took their name from this place. From 1364 to 1379 one named Roger Newland was patron of the advowson of Pette Church. In 1374 John de Newland of Charing received from the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury (during a vacancy of the Primacy), their license permitting him to hear divine service within a private oratory. Probably this chapel was the oratory which he used. Ultimately the chapel was made over to Leeds Priory. In 1502-3 a complaint was made to Archbishop Dene that no priest attended to do service in Newland Chapel, although lands had been left as an endowment to provide for perpetual service therein. Those lands were held by the Prior and Convent of Leeds. In reply, the Prior agreed to find a chaplain, who should perform divine service in the chapel. Nevertheless about nine years later complaint was made to Archbishop Warham that "no priest singeth service" here, although the Prior and Convent of Leeds had the lands. The matter was remitted to the special consideration of the Archbishop himself.

Proceeding to Little Chart Church, the members were received by the Rev. R. S. Oldham, and entered the north (Darell) aisle. Canon Scott Robertson read a paper descriptive of the church and its monuments.

Thence progress was made to Pluckley Church, where the south chancel, or Dering Chapel, was open for inspection, and from its floor, by the kindness of Sir Edward Dering, the fixed carpet had been removed to display four monumental brasses remaining in the floor at the east end. Five other brasses in the nave had likewise been uncovered for our benefit. The church was described by Canon Scott Robertson.

By the courtesy of Sir Edward Dering and Mr. Ashley Dod the Society drove through the grand avenue of Surrenden Park, and up to the house; through the stable-yard, and into the Park. Thus the members reached the Ashford road, and skirting the park of Lord Hothfield returned to the town, whence they separated, until another year.

Among those who attended the Annual Meeting were Sir Walter Stirling, Archdeacon Harrison, Canon Alcock, Canon Jenkins, Canon Welldon, Canon Scott Robertson, Charles Powell, J.P., John Sayer, J.P., Robert Furley, J.P., H. C. Wildash, J.P., G. E. Hannam, J.P., Major Kirkpatrick, J.P., H. B. Mackeson, J.P., Josiah Hall, J.P., Colonel Hartley, J.P., Rev. C. Hope and Mrs.

Robertson with the Hon. Miss Knatchbull-Hugessen; Rev. G. B. Perry-Ayscough and the Hon. Mrs. Perry-Ayscough; General Dixon; Colonel Knatchbull; Major Horrocks; Major Parker; Capt. Hatfeild; W. T. Neve; Revs. A. J. Pearman, J. A. Boodle, Beauchamp St. John Tyrwhitt, W. Bramston, C. A. Molony, W. H. Gibbons, Leslie Goodwin, E. R. Orger, J. B. Harrison, E. M. Muriel, J. Walter, A. T. Browne, W. Gardner Waterman, V. S. Vickers, F. T. Scott, C. H. Wilkie, F. E. Tuke, F. Haslewood, and G. Gwynne; Messrs. J. F. Wadmore, G. Payne, F. C. J. Spurrell, D. Chalmers, G. Simmons, A. R. Boissier, W. P. Shirley, F. Grayling, W. M. Bywater, G. Clinch, W. E. Hughes, R. Bubbe, H. Hinds, J. H. Turner, R. J. Fremlin, J. E. Mace, F. Bunyard, G. L. Elliott, H. T. Claypole, A. P. Southee, J. Moore, C. E. Homewood, J. Copland, D. Prosser, E. W. Brabrook, W. J. Homewood, R. W. Cradock, J. D. Kiddell, J. Corner, R. Hovenden, J. Dove, E. A. Lang, F. J. Cox, W. W. Wooder, B. H. Collins, T. S. Stokes, John Wood, A. Cave, J. Pullen, J. T. Noakes, C. Bullard, P. Redpath, T. Pearne, E. W. Oliver, A. Hudson, T. Dorman, J. L. Roget, J. Broad, E. W. Fry, E. J. Wells, T. H. Oyler, E. Bottle, G. Barber, W. C. Stunt, W. Burch Rosher, W. C. Fooks, G. Meadway, W. Brown, B. Nathan, W. Tarbutt, J. A. Redbrook, A. Latham, E. C. Collins, M. Pepper, J. C. Robertson, J. Fraser, H. G. Hewlett, R. H. Jones, E. C. Musson, Stuart Knell, R. Elliott, Dr. Furley, Dr. Wilkinson, Miss Twigg, Mrs. Edwards, Miss Price, Mrs. Betts, and a large number of ladies.

On the 27th of September, 1883, the Council met at Maidstone; the Earl Amherst presided, and nine members of Council attended.

Thanks for kindly help and courtesy to the Society at the Annual Meeting were voted to the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Edward Dering, Canon Alcock, Canon Jenkins, Canon Welldon, Robert Furley, Esq., John Sayer, Esq., J. D. Norwood, Esq., Revs. J. Philpott, G. Notidge, G. Gwynne, H. H. D'Ombraïn, and R. S. Oldham, Dr. Wilks, and George Payne, Esq.

With reference to a resolution of the Council, at their meeting in June (p. xlv) a letter was read from Mr. Bartlett, the Society's Curator, dated August 8, 1883, respectfully placing his resignation in their hands. It was unanimously resolved to accept it.

The Honorary Secretary was empowered to fill up the post; and during the same afternoon, upon the urgent recommendation of the Museum Committee of the Corporation of Maidstone, Mr. T. Edward James (their Assistant Curator) was appointed to succeed Mr. Bartlett as Clerk and Curator, for our Society, at Maidstone.

For the next Annual Meeting Sevenoaks was suggested as a centre. Excursions to Brasted and Westerham might be made on the first day; and on the second day Shoreham, Otford, Lullingstone, Eynsford, Farningham, and Horton Kirby might be visited. This suggestion commended itself to general approval.

Nine new members were elected.