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The
Kent Archaeological Society.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1901.

The Annual Meeting commenced at Maidstone on Tuesday, the 30th of July 1901. The Preliminary Meeting for the despatch of business was held in the ancient Palace by kindly permission of the Trustees. The Earl Stanhope occupied the Chair, being supported by J. J. Oliver, Esq., Mayor of Maidstone, and several Members of the Council. After His Worship had welcomed the Society to the county town, the Honorary Secretary read the Forty-Fourth Annual Report as follows:—

REPORT, 1901.

The Council has much satisfaction in presenting its Forty-Fourth Annual Report, as the Society is still in a most flourishing condition, and many of its more prominent members are steadily and continuously engaged in the great work for which the Society was founded.

In assembling at Maidstone for the third time, after a lapse of nineteen years, the Council feels confident that a very instructive and pleasant time will be spent by those participating in the proceedings.

During the past twelve months several valued members have been removed by death and other causes. A short time before our last meeting one of our most distinguished archaeologists passed away in the person of the Rev. Francis Haslewood, F.S.A., who was from the year 1874 a life member of our Society, rendering valuable service at the meetings held at Cranbrook and Tenterden in 1873 and 1880. Mr. Haslewood contributed several Papers to our *Archæologia*, and also issued "Memorials of Smarden"; "The Parish of Chislet: its Monuments, Vicars, and Parish Officers"; "The Parish of Benenden: its Monuments, Vicars, and Persons of Note"; and lastly, "The Parish of Pluckley: Monumental Inscriptions in the Church and Churchyard." From the curacy of Benenden he was preferred by Lord Chancellor Selborne to the Rectory of St. Matthew, Ipswich, in 1875. Two years later he became the Secretary of the

Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, which office he held for a period of ten years. Mr. Haslewood contributed nearly forty Papers to the Suffolk Proceedings, and issued four illustrated works on the genealogy of the various branches of his family. By his early death the Kent and Suffolk Societies have lost an accomplished and faithful associate.

We have also to deplore the loss of Mr. Samuel Mercer, a member of the well-known banking firm of Wigan, Mercer, Tasker and Co., at Maidstone. Mr. Mercer was an original member of our Society, and served on the Council from 1886 until his decease. He presided at the Council Meeting in March, and was then elected on the Local Committee formed for the purpose of carrying out the arrangements connected with this meeting; it is therefore especially sad that he was not spared to take part in this gathering, to which he was looking forward with so much interest. Mr. Mercer was one of this Society's greatest supporters, and was always ready to assist by subscribing to any special work undertaken. His loss to us as a body, and to very many of us individually, is great, but to the town of Maidstone it is irreparable. For a long period of years no important scheme connected with the welfare of the county town was carried out without his aid, the Museum especially receiving a large share of his support and bounty. It is gratifying to know that the portrait of this good and useful man was recently painted by subscription and found a fitting place in that institution, together with other worthy men of whom Maidstone may feel justly proud.

Mr. Gerard Norman of Bromley, who joined our ranks in 1886, we regret to say is no longer with us. He was a member of a well-known family which has been associated with our Society for a number of years, rendering it valuable services at various times. Mr. Norman died only a few weeks ago. He was a retired Indian civilian, and of late years was always present with Mrs. Norman at our gatherings, and presided over us at the Annual Dinner at Bromley in 1899.

During the past year thirty-two new members have been added to our ranks, while twenty-four await election at your hands to-day.

Since the last meeting the twenty-fourth volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* has been issued. It is a valuable addition to our Transactions, and contains the second part of Mr. St. John Hope's learned and exhaustive treatise on "The Architectural History of the Cathedral Church and Monastery of St. Andrew at Rochester." The cost of this volume has been defrayed, leaving a balance at the Bankers, inclusive of the deposit account, of £635 7s. 8d.

The Council has noted with much satisfaction the praiseworthy efforts of Mr. E. D. Till of Eynsford, one of our members, in preserving the remaining walls of Eynsford Castle. Mr. Till has not only purchased the lease of the Castle, but has expended a large sum of money in buttressing the tottering walls of the fabric. The same laudable desire to preserve the monuments of antiquity in our county has prompted the Marquis Camden to carry out the sorely needed reparation of the magnificent ruins of Bayham Abbey; and likewise Mr. Falche, who has caused judicious repairs to be done at Allington Castle.

The Council embraces this opportunity of referring to the great public spirit shewn by Mr. F. S. W. Cornwallis, late M.P. for this Borough, in recently

purchasing the ancient college at Maidstone at a cost of £3800, for the sole purpose of preventing it being acquired for commercial uses or threatened with destruction. Mr. Cornwallis has already received a special vote of thanks from the Council in recognition of his liberal act of conservatism, which, however, demands also the gratitude of all archaeologists throughout the country.

The Council is taking steps towards completing the inventory of "Kentish Church Plate," commenced some years since by the late Canon Scott Robertson. It is hoped that the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, Rector of Otterden, who has kindly undertaken to collect the returns, will receive the prompt assistance of those clergy with whom he has already communicated.

At the last meeting of the Council at the house of the Noble President in Grosvenor Place, a sum of £50 was unanimously voted towards the important excavations now being carried on in St. Augustine's Field, Canterbury, and we may anticipate that this liberal grant will help to enable the operators to reveal matters of the highest historic interest.

In the last volume of our *Archæologia* a Paper was contributed by the Rev. G. M. Livett on the remains of an Early-Norman building existing between the west end of All Saints Church and the Palace at Maidstone. It is necessary to draw the special attention of the trustees of the Palace to this, the earliest masonry at present known to exist in the town. This we shall see to-day, and all will regret that the time-honoured walls, which have stood there for eight hundred years, should be allowed to become a prey to that destructive enemy the ivy. The utter annihilation of that deadly plant, and a little judicious repair under the eye of an expert, would ensure this valuable memorial of the history of Maidstone being handed down to posterity intact for centuries yet to come.

It was moved by the Rev. A. J. Pearman, seconded by Cumberland H. Woodruff, Esq., F.S.A., and carried unanimously, "That the Report as read be adopted."

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Haslewood, seconded by Richard Cooke, Esq., and carried, "That the retiring Auditors be re-elected for the ensuing year."

It was moved by Charles Cotton, Esq., F.R.C.P., seconded by F. G. Gibson, Esq., and carried, "That the six retiring Members of Council be re-elected."

The following were then elected to membership: J. B. Walton, Esq., Mrs. Henry Kingsley, H. Strahan, Esq., A. Mapletoft Curteis, Esq., Rev. R. J. E. Boggis, Rev. W. Cedric Thomas, C. B. Hutchinson, Esq., J. H. Dover, Esq., J. Morris, Esq., R. Parkes, Esq., H. Hamilton, Esq., H. Thompson, Esq., A. E. Lacy, Esq., E. Ballard, Esq., Jas. Barron, Esq., Lt.-Col. A. C. Borton, Rev. W. G. Southey, S. Kilworth Keyes, Esq., Douglas Falche, Esq., Robt. Hoar, Esq., Rev. J. G. Easton, A. E.

Coombe, Esq., J. Palmer, Esq., M.R.C.S., Col. S. B. Bevington, G. H. J. Rogers, Esq., G. Sharlaud, Esq., Dr. Sangster, Rev. R. C. Johnston, J. Jarman, Esq., C. Wright, Esq., J. S. Oliver, Esq., Rev. A. F. C. Owen.

The proposed alteration of Rules 2 and 3, brought forward by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff and approved at the June Meeting, was submitted to the General Meeting and carried.

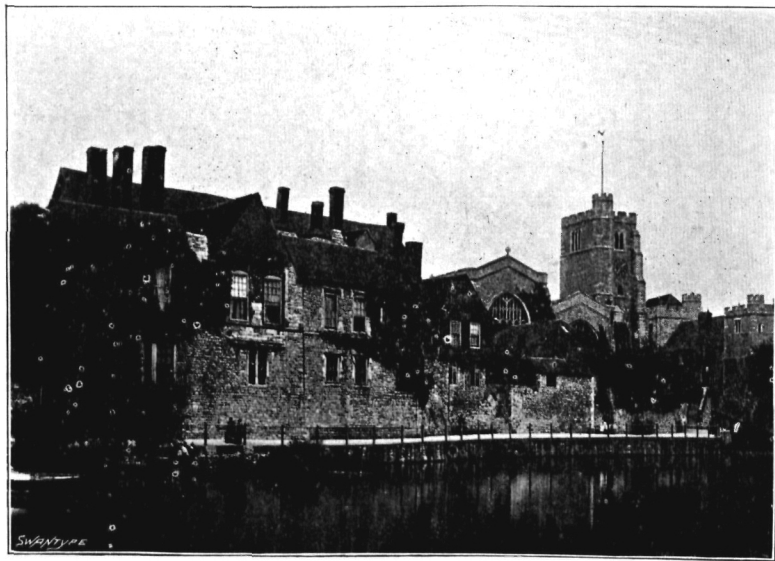
Dr. Cotton brought forward the suggestion that the Annual Meetings should in future extend over three days; this was seconded by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff. The Honorary Secretary was more in favour of a single extra day at some other time for the special study of one or more objects of interest. It was agreed that the Council should consider both suggestions. This concluded the Business Meeting. Hubert Bensted, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., then read a brief history of the Palace, and conducted the company over the building. An adjournment was then made to the College for light luncheon, hospitably provided by some members of the Local Committee, for which those who had been so kindly entertained expressed their gratitude.

After this pleasant repast the large company proceeded to the Parish Church of All Saints, where the Curate, the Rev. F. C. Joy, read the following unpublished Paper written by the late Canon Scott Robertson :—

MAIDSTONE CHURCH.

This handsome Church was founded by Archbishop Courtenay, who obtained from Richard II. authority to pull down the Parish Church of St. Mary, and to substitute for it this Collegiate Church of All Saints. The Royal Licence was dated from Leeds Castle, where the King was staying for a few days, on the 2nd of August 1395. The Archbishop died on the last day of the following July.

Certain coats of arms carved upon the stall-seats in the chancel indicate that the Archbishop was assisted with money for the work by his nephew and godson Richard Courtenay, by another member of the Courtenay family, and by a wealthy and powerful foreigner named Guy de Mone, whom the Archbishop collated to the rectory of Maidstone in October 1390. This rectory was then a rich benefice sought for as a sinecure by powerful foreigners, but Guy de Mone was warmly attached to Archbishop Courtenay and to Maidstone, as well as to John Wootton, the first Master of the College here. These two friends were active executors of that Primate's



MAIDSTONE CHURCH AND THE ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE.

will, and both of them evinced a lively interest in the erection and completion of this Church.

The death of the founder may have interfered with the completion of the architect's plans. When the chancel's southern walls were commenced, the architect intended to place a groined roof over the south chancel. He carried the vaulting shafts up to a considerable height in the south wall, but they still remain unfinished. Some stones, which had been cut for the completion of those vaulting shafts, were afterwards slightly altered and used in a jamb of the eastern window of the north aisle. These facts indicate that the builders began with the south-eastern portion of the edifice. Further intimations of difficulties, caused probably by lack of funds after Archbishop Courtenay's death, occur in the clerestory windows. Mr. Whichcord found that their heads and mullions are worked out of different kinds of stone, and bear evidence of hurry in completion.

The internal decoration was not finished until several years after the death of Primate Courtenay. This fact we learn from an examination of the elaborately canopied *sedilia* on the south side of the chancel. The stones of which their carved work is composed run completely through, and are common both to the *sedilia* and to the tomb of Wootton, first Master of the College, who died in 1417. The slab of his tomb also supports some of the vertical stones of the *sedilia*. This tomb was built between 1407 and 1414 while Archbishop Arundel was Primate, during the lifetime of Wootton, but after the death of Guy de Mone. The Church was in full use for some years before the *sedilia* were inserted.

The dimensions of this Church are remarkable. Internally, greater uniformity of design and better light are found in All Saints, Maidstone, than were usual in Mediæval churches. This arises from its having been originally well designed, and upon so spacious a plan that it has never required to be enlarged. It is an admirable example of the early period of the Perpendicular style of architecture. The noble arcades are continuous from east to west, having six bays in the nave and three in the chancel. The windows are 24 in number and contain 101 lights; they at first sight seem to be all alike, yet there are points in which this uniformity is broken. The most remarkable change is found in the north aisle of the chancel, where the westernmost window has a more pointed arch, a lower sill, and less vertical tracery than any other window in the Church, while its stone-work is of sandstone, not of the Caen

stone in which all the other window-cases are wrought. One reason for this might be that when the old Church of St. Mary was destroyed this was a new window, which had been placed in that Church only ten or fifteen years before it was taken down, and therefore it was preserved. Under any circumstances its peculiarities are very remarkable. Other breaks in uniformity are these: the width of the aisles is less on the south than on the north, and in the nave this contraction of width is found to run continuously across the church, so that the north aisle is wider than the nave itself, and the nave is wider than the south aisle; all the windows in the north walls are rendered more ornate than those in the south by an additional row of panels in their upper tracery. The singular position of the tower further breaks uniformity. It stands on the south side of the Church, outside the south aisle, against the second bay from the west end. There is no lofty arch opening from the nave into the tower, but simply a large low doorway. The tower encroaches much upon the bays east and west of it, so that the windows in those bays are of two lights only, while all other windows in the side walls are of four lights (in the nave aisles) or of five lights (in the chancel). An analogous break in uniformity is caused in the south chancel by a parvise over the vestry, which occupies the middle bay, where a window would otherwise have appeared. Recently stone tracery, like that of a window, has been inserted there.

Upon the whole it must be acknowledged that very few churches exist of such size as this, or in which the shafts, piers, and abutments are so little obtrusive, and where the masonry so little obstructs either sight or sound. The continuous character and elegance of the mouldings around all the arches should be especially noticed. This distinguishing feature of the Perpendicular style is very prominent here. The absence of capitals is remarkable; it increases the light and elegant appearance of the arcades, but personally I doubt whether the design is not too uniform and too elegantly light. The eye becomes conscious of a longing for something that would break the uniformity.

Justice to the original designer, however, requires that we should remember that several important accessories of his work have been destroyed: the roof and ceiling which he designed are quite gone; the rood-screen, with its panels brightly coloured, is also gone. The architect made much use of his rood-screen, placing it in the nave one bay westward from the chancel, and

carrying it completely across the Church as at Leeds and at East-church in Sheppey. We see the door of entrance to the rood-loft stairs still remaining in the north wall, and we know that he inserted the rood staircase as an external turret, which occupies the place and does the work of a buttress to the north wall. The upper door, which gave access from this turret to the rood-loft itself, is now blocked up and plastered over.

The rood-screen, thus placed, enclosed spaces for two small chapels, one at the east end of each aisle of the nave. Within each enclosure an altar stood beneath the east window of the aisle. In the south wall the square-headed niche of the piscina still remains. It is said that there, in the south aisle, stood the altar of St. Katherine, and that at it a chantry priest served, who should daily pray for the soul of Robert Vinter. This chantry was founded by his executors in the old Church of St. Mary in 1369, and was endowed with lands called Goulds and Shepway.

The altar against the east wall of the north aisle may have been dedicated to St. Mary. Outside the east end of this aisle, in the angle formed by two buttresses which meet at its north-east corner, there is a canopied niche, in which a statue of St. Mary is said to have stood.

Another lost feature of the original plan is the illuminated screen-work, which undoubtedly divided the high chancel from the side chancels. A fragment of it, which remains in the north-eastern bay of the arcade, enables us to understand how effective an adjunct this screen-work must have been when it was continued down the entire length of the chancel from east to west. It gave a finished and complete appearance to the fine range of chancel stalls, and probably such screen-work was placed symmetrically on both sides of the high chancel.

This screen-work separated the side altar spaces from the high altar. It is believed that the north chancel contained an altar dedicated in the sacred name of Jesus our Lord, and that the chaplain of the Corpus Christi Brotherhood, founded in 1441, officiated there daily. The high altar was dedicated to All Saints.

The altar in the south chancel was called that of St. Thomas the Martyr. Of this we are assured by the will of John Wootton, the first Master of the College. He directed that he should be interred "before the altar of St Thomas the Martyr in the south aisle." There, as we see, his tomb stills remains. There, also, a chantry priest had previously been endowed by Archbishop Arundel in

1406 (July 4), to celebrate daily at the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr.

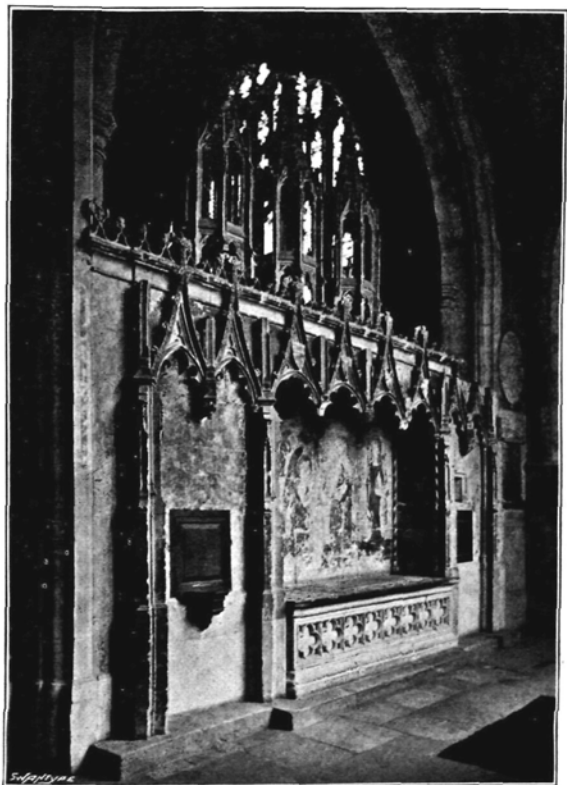
The tomb of John Wootton has lost very much of the beautiful colouring with which it was adorned, but some of it still remains. On the large slab which forms the table of the altar-tomb there was a fine monumental brass bearing Wootton's effigy, but the brass has been gone for centuries. On the north wall above the slab is depicted a scene which the artist supposed to occur when the good John Wootton, habited in pure and spotless white raiment, entered the heavenly home. He is represented as being of very small stature compared with the saints to whom he is introduced. An angel presents him to the Virgin Mary, who is seated; behind her stands St. Katherine with her wheel. On the other side, behind the angel, stands another female saint, who may be St. Mary Magdalene. At the east end of the tomb Archbishop Courtenay, patron of Wootton and founder of this Church, is represented in full pontificals. Opposite to him, on the western panel, is the figure of a bishop, and much speculation has been caused by the question, whom can this figure commemorate.

I cannot myself doubt who it is. The only person, outside Courtenay's own family, who is honoured with a benefactor's memorial in the carvings on the stall-seats was his executor Guy de Mone, Rector of Maidstone from 1390 to 1394. He was a great friend of John Wootton, his coadjutor both in administering the Archbishop's will and in practically establishing the College. He became Bishop of St. David's in 1397, and he died at Charlton-by-Woolwich in 1407. By his will Bishop Mone bequeathed to this Church a great missal and a great portifory, which had been written for him by one Wennoen Chamberleyn, clerk.

While the tomb was being built by John Wootton, I believe that Bishop Mone died, and that Wootton commemorated him opposite their friend and patron Archbishop Courtenay, who had in life made Mone the seneschal of all his lands. Possibly Bishop Mone had contributed towards the erection of the *sedilia*, which may have been a memorial of Archbishop Courtenay. They were evidently erected by Wootton, together with his tomb.

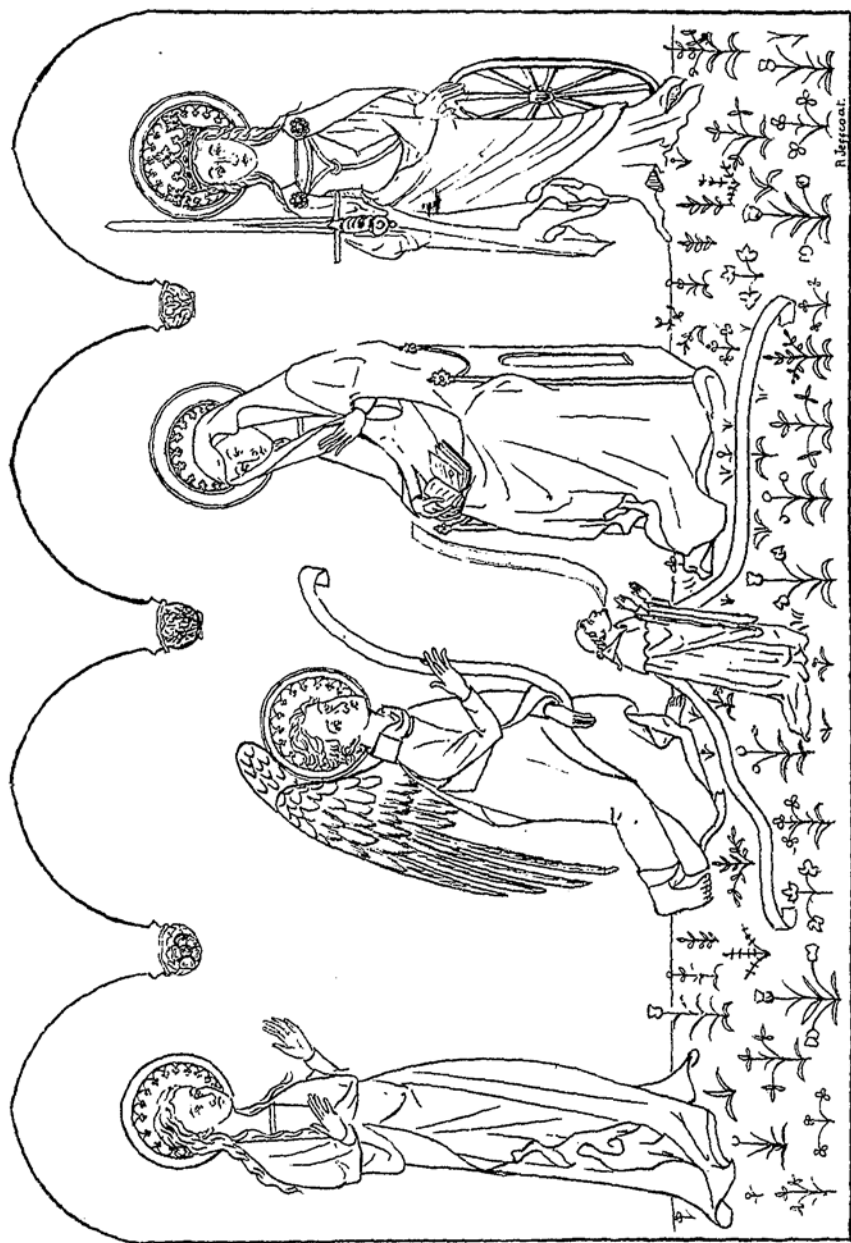
East of Wootton's tomb there is a squint or hagioscope upon a high level, which enabled the priest at St. Thomas's altar to see when the host was elevated at the high altar.

John Wootton himself directed that when his body was brought here five tapers, each containing five pounds of wax, should be lighted



TOMB OF JOHN WOOTTON, 1417.

From a Photograph by E. C. YOUNG.



PAINTING ON THE TOMB OF JOHN WOOTTON IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MAIDSTONE.

around him in honour of the five wounds of our Blessed Lord. One of the tapers was to be placed by his heart to designate that his mind was Godward, and the other four were to be placed at his head, feet, and sides, thus forming a cross. He bequeathed to the Church, for use at this altar of St. Thomas, two missals (one great and one small), two chalices of silver, a paxbread, two silver phials, a silver-gilt image of St. Thomas, and his entire suit of vestments, which he had devoted for use at this altar. John Wootton was a distinguished man, who had been Rector of Frindsbury and Rector of Staplehurst.

The *sedilia* were originally more handsome than any others in Kent. They comprised four canopied stalls, and attached to the easternmost was either a credence table or a fifth seat higher than the rest. At present the monuments of the Astley family greatly obscure the seats, and to accommodate those monuments the cusping of the lower tabernacle work of the canopies was much mutilated. The canopies of the three central stalls of the *sedilia* are surmounted by three octagonal open turrets, each formed of two tiers of arches with miniature buttresses, crocketed canopies, and a crocketed spire. The entire work is elaborate and elegant, beyond anything to be expected in the collegiate church of an ordinary town. The frequent presence of the Archbishop at service here no doubt accounts for the beauty of these *sedilia*. The Primates often used this Church for ordinations and other ceremonies of importance. For instance, Archbishop Arundel held one ordination here in December (22) 1403, three ordinations here in 1407 (one in March, one in May, and a third in September), one in 1408, another in 1409, and so on. Thus in All Saints, Maidstone, many of the distinguished prelates and dignitaries of the Middle Ages received their Orders of Priesthood or of the Diaconate. Archbishop Kemp, who successively held the See of York and the See of Canterbury, received Priest's Orders here; and at the same ordination in this Church Deacon's Orders were conferred upon Philip Morgan, who became at first Bishop of Worcester and then Bishop of Ely. Many such instances might be mentioned.

This frequent use of All Saints' Church by the Archbishops for ceremonies of great pomp and importance likewise accounts for the large number of stalls in the chancel. At the west end there are eight, facing eastward. These alone were sufficient to accommodate the Master and Fellows of the College as we find them in 1511.

Twenty more stalls however are here, ten on each side (facing north or south) ; these would accommodate dignified personages from the Palace who attended the Pontifical services here. The carvings beneath the seats of twenty of the stalls remain in their original state ; eight other seats have been replaced by fixed boards, uncarved. In addition to the armorial coats of members of the Courtenay family and of Guy de Mone, there are carvings of foliage, two or three grotesque heads, and one curious figure of a scullion or cook with a basting ladle in his left hand. The carvings are all well executed. The floor of the high chancel, in which these stalls stand, is elevated two feet or more above that of the nave, rendering necessary an ascent of four or five steps.

When Archbishop Warham held his Visitation of the College in 1511 it was carried out for him by Dr. Cuthbert Tunstall, who held his Court for the purpose "in a vestibule within this Collegiate Church." Whether the present vestry was that vestibule or not we cannot tell. Hither he summoned the Master William Grocyn, Bachelor in Theology, Giles Rede, the Submaster, and five other Fellows, viz., Thomas Nicholls (a chaplain), Robert Ward (a chaplain), David Knowdisley, the steward who was Rector of Crundale, Thomas Hauson (a chaplain), and John Cotyn (a chaplain).

The vestibule in which Cuthbert Tunstall held the Archbishop's Visitation Court in 1511 may have been that in which the Archbishop's Official or Commissary usually sat to receive proof of wills throughout the fifteenth century. As in the old Church of St. Mary, so in the Collegiate Church of All Saints, there was some chapel or vestibule devoted to the purposes of what we should call a Probate Court. All the wills of persons residing in Maidstone and its neighbourhood were proved here for several centuries.

Possibly the vestry is that vestibule wherein the Probate Court was held. At present you will find in this vestry a series of engraved portraits of the Archbishops, a portrait of the Archdeacon of Maidstone, and portraits of four or five Vicars of Maidstone. The font is remarkable as being of antique octagonal form, and yet dating only from the time of King James I. Upon its sides are carved the arms of the Astley family (who probably presented this font to the Church), and the arms of France, Scotland, and Ireland quarterly, without the arms of England. It is very singular that so remarkable an insult to the English nation should



LEEDS CASTLE.

From a Photograph by E. M. YOUNG.

have been allowed to be set up in any English Church. The first quarter and the fourth are both occupied by the lilies of France.

[An account of the monumental inscriptions and various alterations made in the fittings of the Church during the nineteenth century followed, but as these are described more fully in the late Mr. Cave-Browne's History of the Church, it is not necessary to reprint them here.]

Progress was then made to Leeds Castle, where the members were most cordially received by C. P. Wykeham-Martin, Esq., and Mrs. Wykeham-Martin. In the hall Mr. F. V. James, Curator of the Maidstone Museum, read the following descriptive account of the chief architectural features of the Castle:—

LEEDS CASTLE.*

I do not propose to engage your attention with particulars of the many persons (of more or less celebrity) who have been owners or occupiers of this Castle in bygone times, but I shall treat the Castle as an illustrative example of the military architecture of the Middle Ages.

First, to speak of the Castle generally. It stands upon three rocky knolls, of which two are islands in a lake of about 15 acres in extent, and the third occupies the central part of the artificial bank by which the waters are or were retained. The central and larger island is surrounded by a wall strongly revetted, rising to a height of about 15 feet out of the water, and furnished with semi-circular bastions or flanking towers having flat inner faces and conical roofs. There is evidence also of the existence of a chamber with a fireplace and garderobe in one of these towers, which in all probability were loopholed. The surrounding wall formed the boundary of the outer ward or bailey. About 40 feet inside this, and concentric with it, was the wall of the inner bailey, of which indications only remain; it was about 8 feet thick and 20 feet high. On the late Mr. Charles Wykeham-Martin's plan this is termed, in accordance with fortification phraseology, the "enceinte wall." Connecting the two walls at each end of the island were the gatehouses, of which that on the south remains. The oldest recognizable part of this is a doorway of the time of

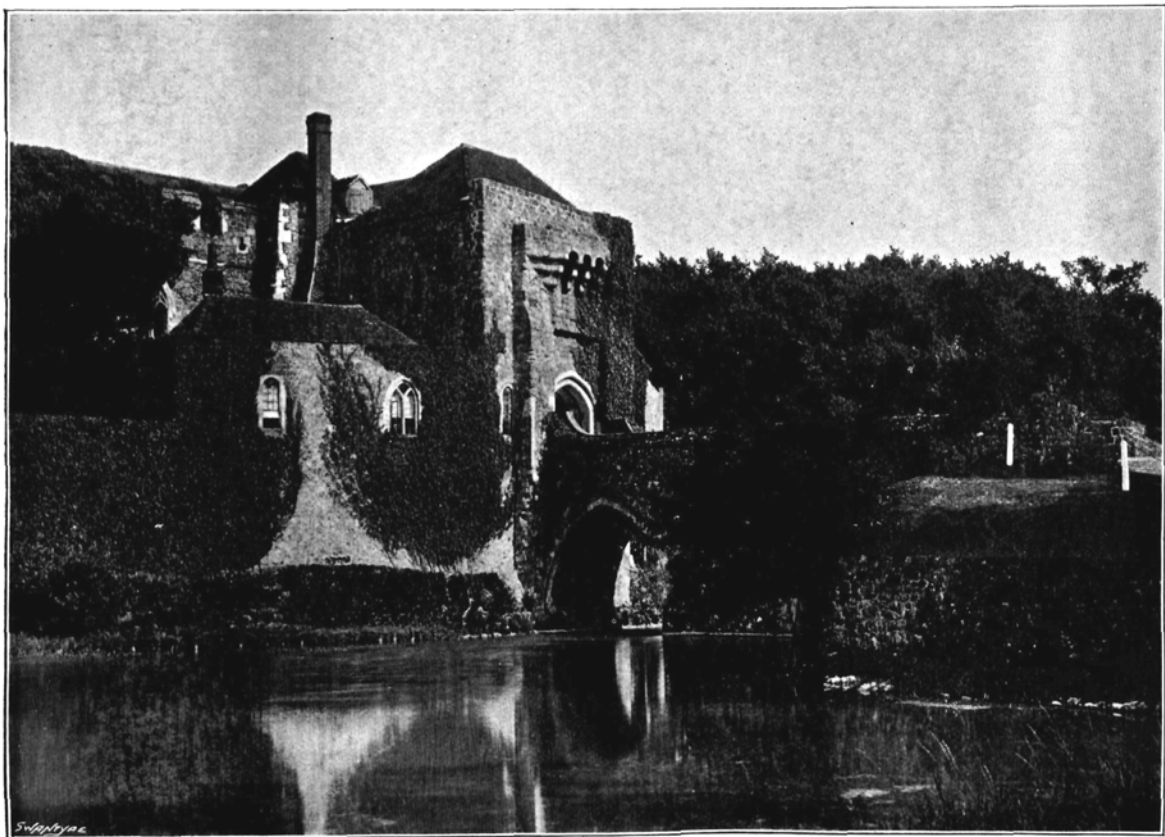
* A Paper on Leeds Castle, by the late Canon Scott Robertson, accompanied by a ground-plan, is printed in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XV., pp. 148—151. Mr. James kindly prepared a ground-plan of the Castle, copies of which were distributed amongst the Members.

Henry III., although the gatehouse itself has been sometimes described as Norman work. Here was the constable's room, with apartments for the guards and others.

A modern house erected in 1822 stands on the site of the original domestic buildings which occupied the northern part of the island, the only exception being a Late-Norman vaulted cellar beneath the present entrance hall, the masonry of which is the oldest in the place. Near the Maiden's Tower (a building of Henry VIIIth's time and long posterior to the parts now under review) is a water tower with a very remarkable bath, constructed for the use of Edward I. in 1291-2. It communicated with the lake by means of a passage in which are still seen the grooves for the portcullis. The water appears to have been excluded or retained by means of an ingenious arrangement of flush-boards or sluices, which allowed of the cleaning of the bath without letting off the water of the moat. In his work on Leeds Castle the late Mr. Wykeham-Martin gives an account of his investigations into the accounts (of Queen Eleanor's executors, A.D. 1291-3) relating to this peculiar structure, from which it appears that the area of the chamber equals that of the hundred Reigate stones 2 feet square, specified therein as being obtained for use in its construction.

So far as we have gone it will be seen that this Castle is, or has been, a concentric structure, a plan much in use in the latter half of the reign of Henry III. and throughout that of Edward I.

There yet remains the keep or glorie, which is worthy of particular attention. The walls here rise from the deep surrounding water to a considerable height, and contain apartments arranged round a central court after the manner of Norman shell keeps. Within the walls of the keep are the chapel, kitchen, and other work of a date at least as early as the days of Edward I., but there is a great deal more relating to the period of Henry VIII., and even of recent date. This island is thought to have been the site of an earlier stronghold; tradition, which is always forthcoming, stating that such existed as early as A.D. 857, perhaps a Saxon house of timber. The windows of the chapel are filled with geometrical tracery, and resemble those in the chancel at Chartham. There is also a low-side window opening 17 feet above the water, probably inserted in the time of Richard II. Close by is a postern or sally-port at the level of the water. The doorway stands at the head of some steps which go below the present level of the water of the moat, which seems to indicate that the moat was formerly



LEEDS CASTLE : THE GATEHOUSE.

From a Photograph by E. M. YOUNG.

at a lower level, but to what extent is not apparent. Before leaving the keep it should be observed that it is connected with the larger island by means of a two-storied bridge supported by two arches; this was originally a drawbridge, the pit being contained between the side walls and dropping into the water.

Now we come to the third great division of the Castle, the Barbican or *Tête-de-Pont*. This was an outer fortification or advanced work before the gate of a castle or fortified town. The term is usually applied to the outwork intended to defend the drawbridges. A narrow entrance was deemed a great protection to castles, and a barbican at the head of it must have been an important impediment to any kind of assault. It would command the ditch at its weakest part, and thus impede the attack of assailants in the fosse. In the case of Leeds Castle the fortress was of sufficient importance to possess a barbican with ditches and drawbridges of its own. In passing, it should be mentioned that in castles where there was no barbican in advance, palisades and barriers were placed before the gates. The outwork here is placed upon the counterscarp of the lake, here only 50 feet wide, and at the outer end of the bridge which carries the road to the great island. It is composed of three parts, which were isolated by three wet ditches, of which one is the River Len, and had three entrances, one from each wing of the dam, and a central one from the south. Each approach had its drawbridge, gateway, and portcullis, and the three ways met upon a central plot open towards the fortress, and which was reached by means of the bridge leading up to the great gateway. The bridge has two arches, the inner of which was open between parapets for the pit of the drawbridge. Each drawbridge had a gate and portcullis.

The date assigned to the building of the barbican is the second half of the thirteenth century. The gatehouse reached from the barbican deserves especial attention. The material is Caen stone. The grooves for the portcullis can still be seen.

Above the gateway may be seen the stone supports, formed at the tops of castles and fortifications for setting the parapet out on corbels so as to project beyond the face of the wall, the intervals between the corbels being left open to allow of missiles being thrown down on assailants. A bretasche or hoarding of stout oak existed in 1314, but the present corbels upon which the timber rested appear to be of the age of Richard II., and probably date from A.D. 1386,

One building I have purposely omitted to mention, viz., the Maiden's Tower. Its date is not very clear, and although another building may have been standing in its place, there is no evidence to shew that it was included as part of the fortress in times anterior to those of Henry VIII. Most of it is certainly more recent. Tradition supposes it to have been built for the maids of honour. A later conception is that the appellation is a corruption of the word *main* or principal tower.

Now for a brief chronological statement, beginning with the parts supposed to be the earliest:—

SAXON PERIOD.—Like many Saxon strongholds Leeds Castle is thought to date from the ninth century. The keep is believed to have originally belonged to this period. Its construction at that time, in accordance with others of like character, was a large truncated conical mound surrounded by a deep ditch, upon the inner edge of which a stout palisade of squared timber was placed strongly bound together, equal in defence to a wall, and strengthened by turrets or towers.

NORMAN PERIOD.—The Normans took the Saxon forts as they found them, and the “Norman Shell Keep” changed Saxon buildings of wood into fabrics of stone. The earliest masonry in the Castle, probably represented by the vaulted cellar, is believed to be the work of Robert de Crevecœur, who founded Leeds Priory in 1119.

JOHN and HENRY III.—A doorway in the gatehouse having chamfer stops, the barbican and its wings, and the minor wall of *enceinte* it is thought were all designed at one time. They were portions of a definite plan, which when once adopted was deliberately carried out until finished.

EDWARD I. and EDWARD II.—The lower portion of the old Castle, and the chapel with its windows of geometrical tracery, are assigned to this period.

RICHARD II.—The bretasche over the gateway is of this date, and replaced an earlier one inserted by Edward I. and repaired later by Edward II.

HENRY VIII.—Extensive alterations were made at this period, when the upper storey of the old Castle, the Maiden's Tower, and other minor details were erected.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.—Whilst in the possession of the Smith family, ancestors of the Lords Strangford, a Jacobean mansion was erected in the seventeenth century at the north end of the large island.

NINETEENTH CENTURY.—In 1822 the present mansion was erected, during which many remains of the earlier structures were recovered.

The party then divided into sections and were conducted over the Castle by the courteous owner, his daughter, and the Honorary Secretary. On leaving, the Noble President cordially thanked Mr. and Mrs. Wykeham-Martin for their kindness, and Mr. F. V. James for his Paper.

Leeds Church was next visited under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev. A. P. Morris, and the Honorary Secretary.* Afterwards the Earl Stanhope and a dozen others were kindly permitted by Miss Farmer to see the ancient dining-room, with its fourteenth-century lavatory, at Battle Hall, and the interesting painting in a room upstairs, which is described in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XV., p. xlii. Miss Farmer hospitably offered tea to her visitors. After thanks had been given to her for her kindness the carriages were regained, when all returned to Maidstone.

The Dinner took place in the Town Hall, by permission of the Mayor. About eighty sat down, the Earl Stanhope occupying the Chair, supported by the Mayor, Mr. and Mrs. Burch Rosher, the Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Woodruff, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland H. Woodruff, the Rev. W. Gardner Waterman, and Mr. and Mrs. George Payne. The usual loyal and other toasts were proposed and responded to by the Noble President, Canon Beck, Mr. Burch Rosher, and Mr. Robert Hoar. In the evening the Mayor held a brilliant reception at the Museum, to which all the members staying in Maidstone were kindly invited. Every part of the building was thrown open, and much interest was taken in the splendid collections to be seen there. During the evening F. V. James, Esq., the Curator, contributed a Paper on "The Museum and the Collections contained therein," and Hubert Bensted, Esq., one on "The Houses of Old Maidstone." The Honorary Secretary also described at intervals the antiquities in the Society's apartments.

On Wednesday, the 31st of July, a large party started early to see the interesting excavations made at Boxley Abbey by the

* For a description of Leeds Church see a Paper by the late Rev. J. Cave-Browne, printed in the forty-ninth volume of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 1893.

Honorary Secretary for Major Best. R. A. H. Seymour, Esq., courteously allowed the members to perambulate the gardens and buildings, where they saw, under Mr. George Payne's guidance, all that remains of the Abbey, and listened to his account of the discovery of the foundations of the Norman Church and its south aisle, hidden away in the great garden terrace.

After partaking of refreshments, most kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, cordial thanks were given to them for their hospitality and courtesy, and to Major Best for so liberally defraying the cost of these researches. Mr. Seymour and Major Best having replied in a few well-chosen words, the company returned to Maidstone to join the main body coming by train. When all were seated in the carriages progress was made to Sutton Valence, where luncheon was served in a marquee in the Recreation Ground which overlooks the magnificent scenery of the Weald. After the repast Harold Sands, Esq., read a Paper on "The Sutton Castle," which is printed in the present Volume. Time could not be allowed to view the scanty remains of the stronghold, as it is difficult of access. After thanks had been given to Mr. Sands the company proceeded to East Sutton Place, the seat of Sir Robert Filmer, Bart. By the kind permission of R. H. B. Marsham, Esq., the present tenant, the members were able to inspect this interesting Jacobean house, under the guidance of Mr. H. Ward and the Honorary Secretary, who gave a brief account of the descent of the manor and of the Filmer family.

EAST SUTTON CHURCH.

From East Sutton Place the members proceeded to the Church, where the following Paper, written by Mr. T. G. Oyler, was, in the much regretted absence of that gentleman through illness, read by Mr. E. J. Wells:—"Although there was a Church at East Sutton at the time of the Domesday Survey, the oldest portions of the present building can hardly be dated earlier than the fourteenth century."* Probably the original Church consisted of a nave with low short aisles and a small chancel, which was afterwards lengthened and the north and south chapels added. The nave aisles and tower were erected during the Perpendicular period. The latter is of three stages, and is surmounted by a vane carrying

* Mr. Cave-Browne, in his work on this Church, states that the foundation of substantial outer walls, running along the lines of the present arcades, was discovered on the restoration of the Church.



EAST SUTTON PLACE.



EAST SUTTON CHURCH, NORTH CHAPEL.

the crest of the Filmer family—a falcon rising. The roof of the north aisle is divided into four compartments by good moulded beams; the weathering of the earlier and much lower roof can be seen at the east end. The windows in this and the south aisle have three cinquefoiled lights, the mullions being ornamented with a rather peculiar moulding, consisting of a groove leaving a projecting square rib. The hood-moulding falls on elegant jamb shafts, having octagonal capitals and bell-shaped bases on stilted octagonal plinths. A handsome arch divides the north aisle of the nave from the north chapel, with its very beautiful decorated east window, consisting of three cinquefoiled lights all doubly feathered, with upper tracery of sexfoils and quatrefoils. In the jambs are two slender shafts with richly-moulded capitals and bases; from the former spring small cinquefoiled arches with ogee heads. In the upper part of the cinquefoiled lights are the remains of the stained glass with which the window was doubtless once filled. We can distinguish the following escutcheons: “Azure, fretty argent, a chief or,” for ST. LEGER. Quarterly: 1 and 4, “Or, a maunche gules,” for HASTINGS; 2 and 3, “Barry argent and azure, within an orle of martlets gules,” for DE VALENCE.* The mullions and tracery of this fine window are unfortunately much decayed on the exterior, but the Vicar and Churchwardens hope shortly to be able to effect some careful repairs. The window in the north wall of this chapel is also a good one, but it suffers by its proximity to its more beautiful neighbour; it has been so often “restored” that it is doubtful if any of the original tracery remains. The east window of the chancel is a modern copy of a window in Merton College Chapel at Oxford, and was inserted in place of a poor one, which was not the original, by Mr. Henry Brenchley, a former resident in the parish. In the south chapel the present east window occupies the place of one which was probably the counterpart of the beautiful one already mentioned in the north chapel, portions of the original mullions, jambs, and arch-stones being still visible. In the stained glass of this window are the arms of Richard, Duke of York, father of King Edward IV., and a half-length figure of the Blessed Virgin, bearing round the nimbus the legend “*Ecce Ancilla domini.*” There are also two heads of angels with long flowing hair and wings of a

* On the death of Aymer de Valence in 1323 his lands were divided among his three sisters, of whom Isabel, married to John de Hastings, received Sutton. Their grandson, Laurence de Hastings, married Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer, and she, being left a widow, held this manor in dower. I am disposed to give her credit for building this chapel.

rich golden colour, wearing round the neck embroidered amices; a cross patée rises from the head of each. A shield set diagonally within a garter is that of Sir Henry Guldeford.* Another small shield bears the arms of Mortimer. The south window in this chapel also contains a few small shields in stained glass, bearing the arms of Filmer, Scott, and Argall; also a lozenge bearing, "On a chevron three talbots gules."†

The nave is divided from the aisles by four arches supported on octagonal piers; on the easternmost two stone brackets mark the position of the ancient rood-loft, the upper doorway of which may be seen in the north wall of the aisle.‡ There is no chancel arch. The king-posts and tie-beams of the roof are good, the spandrels containing some excellent carving. The lofty and graceful tower arch has its inner member carried on long circular shafts, while the outer members are continuous. The mouldings of the west doorway§ terminate on small bell-shaped bases, and the hood finishes with heads wearing mitres, which are much mutilated. Above is a good Perpendicular window having four lights, and containing some old stained glass; two of the figures probably represent SS. Peter and Paul, to whom the Church is dedicated.||

The Church contains several memorials to members of the Filmer family, the most noteworthy being the fine sixteenth-century brass to Sir Edward Filmer¶ and his wife. The plates measure 7 feet by 3 feet 8 inches. Sir Edward is clad in breastplate, paldrons, cotes,

* Sir Henry Guldeford, Comptroller of the Household to King Henry VIII., held the manor of East Sutton for a few years only; he died 1531-2.

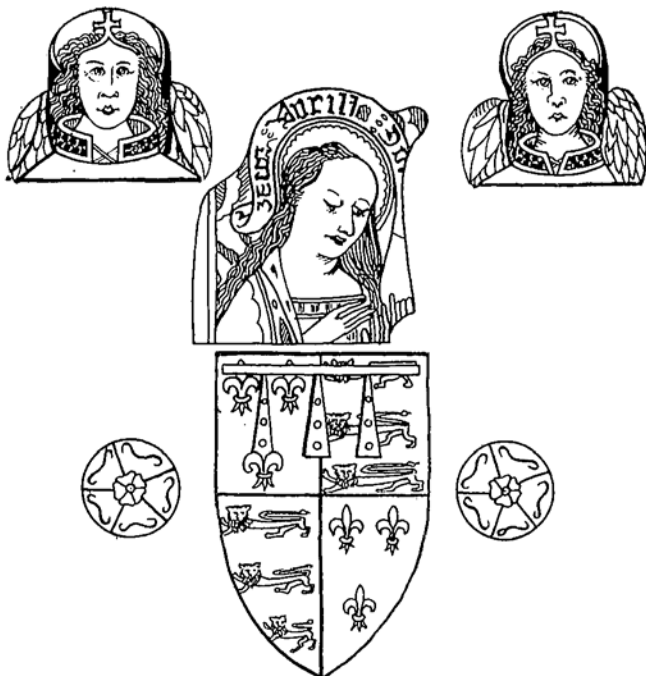
† (?) "Argent, on a chevron gules three talbots of the first," for MARTYN.—EDITORS.

‡ 27 July 1643. "Cornet May came to search East Sutton Belfry for arms there; he tore the surplice with his own hands, took the Bible and service book out of the Church, and broke down the Screen and the painted glass windows." . . . (Anne Heaton's Diary, preserved at East Sutton Place.)

§ A will proved in the Archidiaconal Court of Canterbury enables us to date his doorway with some certainty. John Church of East Sutton, who made his will, proved 1464, made the following bequest: "*Item lego pro facturâ novi hostii occidentalis in Ecclesiâ parochiali de Est Sutton xxvj^s viij^d.*"—EDITORS.

|| The Church is 75 feet in length and 56 in breadth. The dimensions of the Filmer Chapel are 36 feet by 18, and of the north chapel 20 feet by 10.

¶ Sir Edward Filmer purchased the manor of East Sutton from his brother-in-law John Argall in 1610. He had previously resided at Little Charlton in the same parish, whither his father Robert Filmer, one of the prothonotaries of the Common Pleas in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, had migrated from the ancestral seat of the family at Herst in the parish of Otterden. Robert Filmer died 1585, and was buried at East Sutton. He was the eldest son of James Filmer of Otterden, whose will, proved 1571 (A., xli. 29), mentions the following children: sons Robert, George, Reginald, Isaac, William, and John; daughters Agnes, Bennett, and Margaret.—EDITORS.



STAINED GLASS IN THE EAST WINDOW OF SOUTH CHAPEL,
EAST SUTTON CHURCH.



BRASS OF SIR EDWARD FILMER.

and skirt of taces with ornamental borders. The sword-hilt and belt are also richly ornamented. He has high boots with spurs, and around his neck is a large ruff over which falls his beard and long hair. His wife is attired in a long gown and large cap, from the back of which falls an ample veil. Beneath are the effigies of their eighteen children—nine sons and nine daughters; the former wear tunics with slashed sleeves, the eldest in addition wears armour. A skull above the head of No. 4 denotes that he died during his father's lifetime. The marginal inscription is as follows: "Under this rest, in certain hope of the resurrection, the bodies of Sir Edward Filmer, Knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Richard Argall, Esq^{re}. They lived together fortie foure yeares and had issue eighteene children, viz., nine sonnes and nine daughters. He departed this life ye second of November Anno d'ni 1629. She died the 9th of August Anno d'ni 1638."

The Filmer arms are also engraved on the plate, viz., "Sable, three bars and as many cinquefoils in chief or." On the edge of the plate is the name of the artist, Edward Marshall. A tablet in the south chapel has the following inscription: "Richard Argall of East Sutton in the County of Kent, Esquier, deceased Anno domini 1588, leaving five sonnes and six daughters living. Mary his second wife, one of the daughters of Sir Reynald Scott of Scott's Hall in the County of Kent, Knight, marryed ye second tyme to Lawrence Washington, Esquier, dyed in anno 1604.* Thomas Argall, eldest sonne of ye sayd Richard and Mary, dyed in anno 1605." Several shields, both on tablets and in the windows, bear the arms of the Scott family, "Argent, three Catherine-wheels sable, a bordure engrailed gules."

Another inscription commemorates "M^{rs} Dorothy Filmer, wife of Beversham Filmer, Esq^r, and second daughter of William Henley, Esq^{re}, of Gore Court in this county . . . She died Oct. 14th, 1793, aged 57 years." The arms are FILMER impaling HENDLEY, "Paly bendy azure and gules eight mullets or." There are memorials to this family in Otham Church.

Mr. Wells further gave a description of the ancient heraldic glass in the windows of the Church.

* Lawrence Washington, Registrar of the Court of Chancery, died 1619 and was buried in Maidstone Church. He may have belonged to the family from which the celebrated George Washington was descended, but the most careful researches of American genealogists have been unable to trace the lineage of their great patriot beyond his great-grandfather John Washington, who settled in Virginia in 1657.—EDITORS.

Ulcombe Church was next reached, where the Rector, Lord Theobald Butler, welcomed the Society. The Rev. G. M. Livett, Vicar of Wateringbury, had kindly written a Paper on the Architectural History of the Church, which, in his unavoidable absence, was read by Mr. Walker of Ulcombe.* After cordial thanks to his Lordship, Mr. Livett, and Mr. Walker, the party returned to Maidstone in good time for the trains, thus bringing to a close a most successful meeting.

* We hope to print Mr. Livett's Paper in a subsequent Volume.