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The
Gent Archæological Society.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1903—1905.

August 10th, 1903.—The postponed Council Meeting of July 27th took place this day at 20 Grosvenor Place, Earl Stanhope in the Chair. Eleven members were present.

After some discussion it was arranged that the Accounts of the Society, duly audited by Messrs. King the Accountants, be presented to the Finance Committee fourteen days before the December Council Meeting fixed for the 10th of that month.

It was unanimously agreed that T. C. Colyer-Fergusson, Esq., of Wombwell Hall, Gravesend, be asked to act as Honorary Treasurer to the Society.

September 24th, 1903.—The Council met this day at the Bridge Chamber at Rochester. Seven members were present, presided over by the Rev. A. J. Pearman, M.A.

After discussion it was decided that the next Annual Meeting should be held at Romney.

It was resolved that in future that not less than seven days' clear notice be given of the Council Meetings.

It was resolved that no alteration of the date of the Quarterly Meetings be made without the consent of the President.

It was proposed to invite the Rev. Dr. Tancock to become a Member of the Council.

It was resolved that a report be made to the Council at each Quarterly Meeting, stating the amount of Life Compositions received during the last Quarter.

Mr. W. Braxton Sinclair, of Lynton, Parkhurst Road, Bexley, was elected a member.

December 10th, 1903.—The Council met this day, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, in the Treasury, Canterbury

Cathedral. There were ten members present, Canon Routledge in the Chair.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff reported that Mr. George Payne was unable to be present, and that Mr. Payne had asked him to act as Secretary during the Meeting.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff then read the Minutes, which were approved, together with the Report of the Finance Committee.

Permission was given to the Rev. Dr. Magrath, Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, to reprint from *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XI., etc., some extracts from the "Expense Book" of James Master.

The following persons were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Miss Day and the Rev. Canon W. W. Capes.

January 13th, 1904.—A Special Meeting of the Council, called by the Noble President, was held this day at 20 Grosvenor Place. There were nine members present, presided over by Lord Stanhope.

The Minutes of the last Council Meeting were read and approved.

It was unanimously resolved that the following resolution be sent to Mr. G. Payne by the President: "That, as there has not been any proper Balance Sheet of the Accounts audited by Mr. King (the Chartered Accountant appointed by the Council), and as the Business of the Society has fallen into arrear through Mr. Payne's illness and pressure of other work, this Council now invites Mr. George Payne to resign his office as Secretary and Curator to the Society by the 1st March next."

March 11th, 1904.—The Council met this day at Lord Stanhope's house, 20 Grosvenor Place. There were twelve members present, Lord Stanhope in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and approved.

Lord Stanhope reported that he had received a letter from Mr. G. Payne, in which he signified his willingness to resign his offices as Secretary and Curator to the Society.

The Council unanimously resolved to accept Mr. Payne's resignation. It was resolved that the President be asked to write to Mr. Payne calling upon him to forward to 20 Grosvenor Place books, papers, and all other property of the Society before the 25th day of March next following.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff was appointed Acting Secretary *pro tempore*, with authority to sign cheques. Mr. Woodruff was

directed to communicate with the Local Secretaries with a view to receiving recommendations in connection with the appointment of an Honorary Secretary. Mr. Woodruff was also requested to make enquiries with the object of finding a gentleman capable of acting as Curator of the Society's collections at Maidstone.

Mr. C. W. Powell of Speldhurst was appointed Hon. Treasurer in the place of Mr. T. Colyer-Fergusson, resigned.

The programme of the Romney Meeting was submitted and, after some discussion, was approved by the Council.

The following persons were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Mr. H. F. Boxley, Mr. Mortimer de Brent, Mr. A. D. Cheney, Mr. C. Fletcher, Mr. E. Goodwin, Mr. Walter Cozens, Rev. W. Arnold Carr, Rev. T. M. Pearman.

June 14th, 1904.—The Council met this day at Lord Stanhope's house, 20 Grosvenor Place. There were seventeen members present, Lord Stanhope in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed, and the Minutes of the two previous Meetings were approved and signed.

The Report of Messrs. King and Son, the Auditors, was read by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff and considered.

It was proposed by Mr. A. A. Arnold, seconded by Canon Routledge, "That Messrs. King's further Report and all Accounts be referred to the Finance Committee, to report to the Council before July 26th." Carried.

It was proposed by Canon Routledge and seconded by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, "That Mr. Sebastian Evans, Jun., be recommended as Honorary Secretary." This was agreed to unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. C. E. Woodruff for his services as Acting Honorary Secretary was proposed by Mr. Burch Rosher and carried unanimously.

A letter from Mr. King, the Auditor, was read, and it was agreed that his fee be approved after examination of his further Report by the Finance Committee.

A letter from Lord Amherst was read, and his proposal that a separate volume be published for Church Plate in Kent was discussed, but no resolution passed.

It was resolved that Messrs. Mitchell Hughes and Clarke be requested to send out the volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* to the members direct instead of through the Local Secretaries.

A letter was read from Dr. Cotton, and it was resolved that the subscription to the Index of Archæological Papers be continued and paid for at the rate of £5 per annum.

It was proposed by Mr. Cumberland Woodruff and seconded by Lord Northbourne, "That the sum of £100 be withdrawn from the Deposit Account and placed to a separate account for the purpose of forming a Research Fund." Carried.

A grant of £30 out of the Research Fund was made towards the Excavations of St. Augustine's Abbey.

Mr. H. Elgar was appointed Clerk to the Society and Curator of the Society's collection at Maidstone at a salary of £40 per annum payable quarterly, and that his full duties be formulated by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff and recorded in the Minutes.

The following persons were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Mr. F. W. Franks, Mr. Walter Prentis, Mr. H. E. Gregory, Mr. W. Leach Lewis, J.P., Rev. A. A. Carré, Rev. J. A. Miller, Mr. Humphrey Golding, Miss M^cGill, Mr. Eric A. Goddard Jones, Mr. J. C. Anderson, Mr. Robert M. Sebag Montefiore, Mr. Roger Abbot Raven, B.A., Mrs. Samuel Hill, Mr. E. C. Swindells, Mr. R. S. Jones, M.A., Mr. H. W. Stringer, B.A., Mr. A. T. Williamson, Rev. Seymour Henry Rendall, M.A.

July 26th, 1904.—The Council met this day at the Town Hall, New Romney. There were thirteen members present, Lord Stanhope in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Acting Honorary Secretary then read the Report of the Finance Committee with regard to Arrears of Subscriptions, Investments of Life Compositions, etc., which was adopted.

After some discussion on a motion by Mr. Cooke, that the Annual Meeting should extend over three days, the Council adjourned.

The Annual Meeting commenced at the ancient Cinque Port town of New Romney on Tuesday, July 26th, 1904. The President, Earl Stanhope, was, with the members of the Society, welcomed in the old Town Hall by the Mayor of New Romney, Colonel H. C. Wilson. After a few words from his Worship wishing success to the Society, to which Lord Stanhope replied, the usual business was proceeded with.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff read the following Report :—

REPORT, 1904.

Your Council have much pleasure in presenting their Forty-Seventh Annual Report in the ancient Cinque Port town of Romney after an interval of twenty-five years. It is hardly to be expected that much fresh material can be added to that which was so exhaustively illustrated by the late Canon Scott Robertson and others in 1879; but a new generation has arisen to which Romney Marsh is untrodden ground, and the kindly interest and co-operation shewn by some of the leading residents and authorities in our Proceedings encourage the hope that the Meeting will prove both attractive and useful.

The Council regret the loss of several of our members, whose services to County Archæology have been eminent in past years. Among these Mr. Matthew Bell, who died on the 24th of December 1903, was an original member, and for forty years one of the Society's trustees; Mr. John Dobree Norwood, who died four days later, had in past years rendered valuable service; and Mr. J. Humphrey, who passed away little more than a month ago, for many years ably represented the Society in Romney Marsh; whilst among members of wider celebrity the loss of Mr. Wilfred Joseph Cripps, the great authority on old English Plate, will be generally felt.

To the regret of the Council Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., Honorary Secretary and Curator of the Society's collections at Maidstone, has resigned his offices. Mr. Payne's services as Curator and afterwards as Secretary extended over a period of fifteen years, and for a much longer time he had been widely known throughout the county as an energetic explorer and exponent of its primæval and Romano-British antiquities, and especially of the archæology of the Sittingbourne district.

The question of recommending to the Society a capable successor is one that has caused the Council considerable anxiety. After mature deliberation they have been fortunate in meeting with a gentleman whom they believe well qualified to undertake the duties. Mr. Sebastian Evans of Canterbury, a nephew of the eminent archæologist Sir John Evans, has kindly consented to allow himself to be nominated. To the office of Clerk and Curator of the Society's collections at Maidstone the Council have appointed Mr. Herbert Elgar Assistant Curator of the Maidstone Museum at a salary of £40 a year. The Council hope that by Mr. Elgar's constant attendance at the Museum the Society's collections will be rendered more accessible in the future than in past years.

Volume XXVI. of *Archæologia Cantiana* was issued in April. The Council trust that the standard of former volumes has been maintained, and they feel that any success in this respect is in a large measure due to the able architectural papers of the Rev. G. M. Livett, F.S.A.

Under the auspices of the South Eastern Scientific Societies, the Annual Congress of which was held at Maidstone in June last, a Photographic Survey, including both Archæology and Natural Science, was inaugurated. At the Preliminary Meeting the Council were represented by the Rev. W. Gardner-Waterman and the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, who expressed the hope that our

Society would warmly co-operate in so desirable an undertaking. Information respecting the proposed Survey may be obtained from Mr. H. F. Wingent of Rochester, the Honorary Secretary.

The past year has produced no striking archæological discoveries within the county. Progress, however, has been made with the excavations at St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, which are gradually elucidating the ground plan of this ancient Benedictine house. The Society has made a further grant of £30 towards the work, but a much larger sum than we are in a position to contribute is urgently needed, and Canon Routledge will be glad to receive subscriptions or donations.

Balance Sheets shewing the financial position of the Society have been prepared by Messrs. King, Accountants, of Gravesend.

For some time past a sum of £400, representing the accumulations of many past years, has been standing on deposit at the Society's Bankers. The Council have decided that £100, part thereof, be set apart as a Research Fund, out of which grants for excavations and other special objects may be made from time to time. The Income of the Society is so little in excess of its Ordinary Expenditure that it is impossible to provide adequate assistance to research out of this source without interfering with the regular issue of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

Although the roll of our members is still a long one compared with similar bodies, the Council feel that in these days of increasing intelligent interest in the study of the past it might be largely extended, and they trust that during the coming year a considerable accession of recruits to its ranks will aid in stimulating the activity and augmenting the usefulness of our Society.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff proposed, and the Rev. G. M. Livett seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That Mr. Sebastian Evans be elected Honorary Secretary in place of Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., resigned." Mr. Evans having thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, the retiring Members of the Council, the Rev. J. A. Boodle, Colonel Copeland, Mr. F. F. Giraud, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, Mr. W. H. Burch Rosher, and the Rev. Canon Routledge, were re-elected.

The Rev. C. H. Wilkie, Vicar of Kingston, Mr. G. E. Cockayne of the Heralds' College, and Mr. Hubert Bensted of Bearsted were elected Members of Council.

The retiring Honorary Auditors, Captain Hooper and Mr. H. Hordern, were re-elected.

The following persons were then elected Ordinary Members of the Society: R. H. Fremlin, Esq., Harry Leney, Esq., the Rev. Julian Guise, M.A., Hugh Leney, Esq., the Rev. Herbert Smith, M.A., the Hon. H. Hannen, Captain Read, Thomas Pledge, Esq., Walter

Day, Esq., the Rev. G. O. Hardy, M.A., the Rev. Hugh South, B.A., the Rev. J. Miller, B.D., Lieut.-Colonel A. Pennefather, E. Finn, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Wilson, W. F. G. Nicholls, Esq., Dr. Herbert H. Oliver, the Rev. Hankin Martin, Miss Anna Hussy, Miss MacKay, Miss Alston.

The members then inspected the interesting collection of antiquities displayed in the temporary museum arranged in the Town Hall. These included the Corporation maces and insignia, and several of the earliest Charters of the Port. An interesting series of maps of the Marsh and its coast from 1588 to 1799, and other documents relating to the history of the district, were lent by Dr. Cock, who had very kindly forwarded for distribution a number of facsimiles of "The Carde of the Beacons in Kent," from W. Lambarde's second edition of his "Perambulation of the County," and a portrait of William Harvey. Other objects of interest were lent by the Rev. R. M. South, Messrs. Arthur Finn, H. W. Stringer, W. Whitehead, T. Brand, G. B. Anderson, A. Masey, A. Barnes, and Miss Buss.

After luncheon the members proceeded to the Church of St. Nicholas, where they were welcomed by the Rev. Hugh South, and the various points of architectural interest were pointed out by the Rev. G. M. Livett. The original Church, Mr. Livett thought, had a nave of five bays, with a fairly long square-ended chancel without chapels. The present fine tower was probably built somewhat later even in its lower portions. There had been some alteration of the Church in the thirteenth century, but its extent could not be accurately traced. In the fourteenth century, however, considerable enlargements had been made, the new portion being built round the old Church, which was disturbed as little as possible.

The party then drove to the Church of All Saints, Lydd, where the members were received by the Rev. G. O. Hardy, the Rector. Here also Mr. Livett acted as guide. Especial attention was called to the remains of the eighth-century Saxon Church, which now forms the western corner of the north aisle, and the gradual growth of the main portion of the Church was explained in detail. We hope to print Mr. Livett's paper on this fine Church in a subsequent volume. Mr. Arthur Finn then briefly described the monuments and brasses.

From Lydd progress was made to the Church of St. Augustine, Brookland, where the Vicar, the Rev. N. L. Batson, welcomed the party and displayed for their inspection the early Register Books.

Mr. J. Oldrid Scott, F.S.A., described the Church, its interesting detached campanile of timber-work, and fine late-Norman font of lead.

On the return journey to Romney a halt was made at the Church of St. Clement, Old Romney, which was briefly described by the Rev. G. M. Livett and the Rev. J. Wilkinson, the Rector.

Upon the return of the members to New Romney the Annual Dinner was held in the Assembly Rooms. Lord Stanhope presided, supported by the Mayor, Alderman Edwin Finn, Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, Mr. Arthur Finn, the Rev. G. M. and Mrs. Livett, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland Woodruff, the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, and about sixty others.

The Evening Meeting was held at the National School Room, under the Presidency of Lieut.-Colonel N. Pennefather.

Mr. Arthur Finn, the Local Secretary for New Romney, read an interesting paper, "Notes and Extracts from Lydd Records," which was much appreciated by all present, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him at the close.

A paper was also read by the Rev. G. M. Livett on "Leaden Fonts," which was well illustrated by lantern slides, and a hearty vote of thanks to this gentleman brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

On Wednesday the 27th the company partook of luncheon and proceeded in carriages to St. Mary's in the Marsh, where some delay was caused by a heavy thunderstorm. The members were received by the Rector, the Rev. E. W. Woolatt, and the Church was described by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff. Ivychurch was next visited, where the Rector, the Rev. J. A. Miller, described the fine Church, to the fabric of which some extensive and much needed repairs are in course of execution.

At Ruckinge, which was also visited, the members were welcomed by the Rev. R. Hamer, and the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was described by Mr. J. Oldrid Scott.

Owing to delays caused by the wet weather it was decided to omit the visit to Bilsington Church and to proceed at once to the Priory, where, after tea, kindly provided for the members of the Society by Mr. and Mrs. W. Stonebridge, Mr. Cumberland Woodruff read the following paper on the remains of the Augustinian Priory:—

BILSINGTON PRIORY.

The Priory of Bilsington was founded in 1253 by John Mansell, Provost of Beverley, and dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine.



BILSINGTON PRIORY, W.



BILSINGTON PRIORY, E.

The founder, a man of note in Henry the Third's reign, and described by Matthew Paris as "prudent, circumspect, and rich," stood high in the King's favour, and received so many preferments at his hands that he is generally spoken of as "the great pluralist." Ecclesiastic, lawyer, soldier, diplomatist—John Mansell may indeed be described as a man who in his time played many parts.

Bilsington is mentioned in Domesday as held by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and on his forfeiture came into the hands of the Earls of Arundel, being held in grand serjeanty by the service of presenting the King's Cup on his coronation. On the death of Hugh, Earl of Arundel, in 1243, the manor was divided amongst his four sisters as coheiresses, and Upper Bilsington, or Bilsington Priory as it was afterwards called, became a distinct manor from Lower Bilsington, which included the Church and Court Lodge. A vestige of the original tenure remained. In the third year of Edward I. the Prior of Bilsington is described as having part of a serjeanty, holding this portion of the manor by serving the King with his cup on Whit Sunday.

Upon a commanding eminence of the clay hills, surrounded by woodland, much of which remains to this day, and overlooking Romney Marsh, the Priory, thus founded and endowed with the manor which afterwards bore its name, together with other lands, was built during the years succeeding the date of the foundation charter; the existing remains indicate about the third quarter of the thirteenth century.

The common seal of the Priory is affixed to the acknowledgment of supremacy amongst the Augmentation Office documents in the Public Record Office. It represents a king and queen seated under a rich Gothic canopy, and beneath them is a congregation in prayer. The legend is: SIGILLV[M] COMVNE . ECCLIE . BE . MARIE . DE BILSINGTONE.

The Priory shared the suppression of the lesser religious houses in 1535, the Prior and Convent signing their resignation on February 28th in that year, with those of Langdon, Folkestone, and Dover. Its possessions were then valued at £69 8s. clear annual revenue. The last Prior, John Moyse *alias* Tenterden, received a pension of £10 a year. The number of Canons at this time does not appear to have exceeded five or six. Two years after the surrender the site of the Priory was leased to Anthony St. Leger, Esq., of Ulcombe, and afterwards, in the twenty-ninth year of Henry VIII., the freehold was granted in exchange for

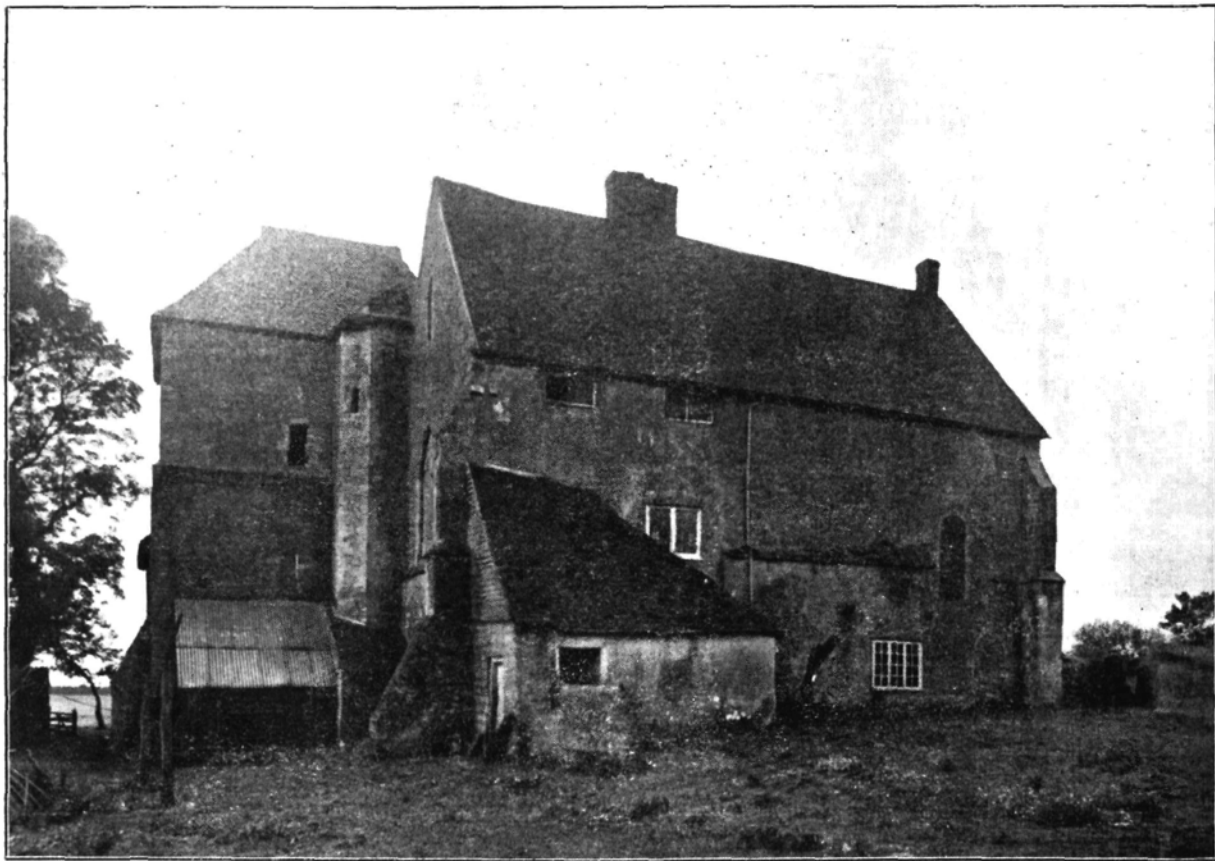
other lands to Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. The deed of exchange is amongst the Augmentation Office documents.

The existing remains of Bilsington Priory, although not extensive, are, I think, specially interesting as examples of the domestic architecture of the latter half of the thirteenth century, remains of which are very rare in our county. The buildings consist of a large hall 51 feet in length by 27 feet wide, forming the present farmhouse. At the south-east corner of this, and projecting about 19 feet eastward, is a rectangular building, originally of three stories, and communicating with the large hall by a spiral stone staircase in the angle. Southward of this tower-like structure, and carried on in a line with its eastern face, is a lower narrower building of two stories, measuring 22 feet by 17 feet 6 inches.

I should not like to speak with confidence; until excavations can be undertaken we cannot restore the ground plan of the Priory, but I think it is very possible that these are the infirmary hall and buildings. The plan bears a considerable general resemblance to that of the infirmary buildings at West Langdon, excavated by Mr. St. John Hope. On the other hand, if the traces of foundations shewn on the north side of the large building be those of cloisters, this hall may be the frater or refectory.

I fear our time will not permit of more than a cursory description of the remains. The walls are of rubble, 3 feet in thickness, and plastered. The coins and windows are of finely-jointed ashlar of admirable workmanship. The treacherous nature of the clay soil is recognized by the number of buttresses, and the danger of external enemies, owing to the nearness of the coast, by the small size and height from the ground of the windows.

The large hall building is divided into two stories by massive transverse beams, measuring $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 13 inches, the lower portion of the beams being 7 feet 6 inches from the ground. The walls are slightly recessed on the upper floor, a string-course running round just below the windows. These are of two lights, with quatrefoil above, of uniform design, the east and west windows with three on the south side remaining. There is a seat on one side of the east window. In the east gable is a small lancet window. Passing into the large chamber to the south-east we find that the floor between the ground-level room and the one above has been destroyed. The first-floor room has a doorway at the east end of the south wall, windows on the north and east sides, and in the south wall to the west of the doorway. At the north-west



BILSINGTON PRIORY, N.

corner the wall is cut away to give direct access to the hall. The ceiling is divided into four panels by cross beams finely moulded, resting on twelve stone corbels. Under the cornice runs a plaster frieze 8 inches deep, shewing roses and foliage well executed. Ascending the newel staircase we come upon a room of the same area above. There are windows on each side of this, two doors, and a fireplace on the south side, of which the chimney may be seen from the exterior corbelled out of the south wall.

The fine moulding of the beams in this upper chamber should be noticed, due regard being had to the condition of the flooring, which appears to be barely self-supporting, and wholly unequal to sustain the additional weight of our Society. The upper room of the two-storied building to the south of the tower has two doorways on its north side, and a window on the east.

The north side of the hall shews the communications with other portions of the Priory. There is a blocked doorway in the west end of the wall on the ground floor, and another slightly to the east above. Four stone brackets remain, which may have supported a pentice. About one hundred yards north-west of the Priory are two large fishponds. There is also a pond close to the buildings on the south side.

It is hoped that at some future time it may be possible to make excavations to determine the plan of the Priory. The Black Canons were not their own masons, and great variety of plan is seen in their house. I do not think plans have been recovered of any of the other houses of Austin Canons in Kent, viz., Leeds, Tunbridge, Cumbwell, and Westwood in Lesnes, and in some cases it would be impossible to do so now. Remains of the Church and other buildings probably exist in the broken ground to the north of the present house, and as the site is not, as in many other cases, covered with later buildings, a comparatively slight disturbance of the soil might lead to an interesting addition to our knowledge of a Kentish priory.

After votes of thanks had been passed to all those who had contributed to the entertainment of the members, the party once more took carriages and drove to Ham Street Station, bringing to a conclusion a very successful Meeting, in spite of the inclement weather on the second day.

Among those present during the two days (in addition to those mentioned above) were Mr. and Mrs. Burch Rosher, Mr. Mapleton

Chapman, Dr. Hick, Mr. R. H. Daglish, Mr. B. Bannon, Mr. R. Clout, Mr. L. Fawell, Mr. R. Hinds, Mr. G. B. Anderson, Mr. Hills, Mr. Essington Hughes, Mr. G. Wickham, the Hon. Marsham Townshend, the Rev. A. J. Pearman, Major Aitkin Roberts, Mr. R. S. Jones, Mr. R. Cooke, Mr. J. Broad, Mr. E. J. Wells, the Rev. A. A. Carré, Rev. D. Mackinnon, Mr. G. Saunders, Mr. W. T. Vincent, Mr. W. F. Nicholls, Colonel Cavanagh, Miss Hampden Hobart, Mr. W. J. Mercer, Mr. J. Stokes, Mr. E. C. Youens (Hon. Photographer), and many others.

September 13th, 1904.—The Council met this day at the Bridge Chamber, Rochester. There were ten members present, Mr. F. F. Giraud in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and approved.

The election of an Honorary Secretary for the Rochester and Bromley districts was postponed till the December Meeting.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to Mr. B. Wadmore expressing the regret of the Council at his resignation of the Local Secretaryship for the Tonbridge district, and to write to Dr. Tancock, asking him to undertake the duties.

The question of Local Secretary for Sandwich and Westerham was deferred.

It was resolved to send a copy of Vol. XXVI. to Miss Bateman of Cambridge, at the instance of the Historical Society of Berlin.

It was resolved to continue the subscription to the Pipe Roll Society.

It was resolved to defer exchanging publications with the Thoresby Society for a year, and not to subscribe to the Official Year Book of Scientific Societies.

A letter was read from Mr. Chamberlain with regard to the preservation of the old Tilt Yard and Gateway at Eltham Palace, and it was resolved that the letter be sent to Lord Stanhope, who could probably bring his influence to bear on the subject.

After some discussion it was resolved that the next Annual Meeting be held at Gravesend.

The accounts of the New Romney Meeting were passed.

Votes of thanks were accorded to: The Local Committee at New Romney, coupled with the name of Mr. Arthur Finn; the Mayor and Corporation of New Romney; the Mayor and Cor-

poration of Lydd; the Clergy of the various Churches visited; Mr. Gardner Waterman; Dr. Cock.

It was resolved that the Honorary Secretary should keep an account of his personal expenses.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to give an order on the Bank for the Insurance Premiums on the Society's collections at Maidstone.

The following were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: D. G. Carman, Esq., Rev. George Norwood, Sir George Donaldson, H. J. Ward, Esq., Col. George Malcolm Fox, Mrs. Marian Jane Fox, Herbert Rowe Leatham, Esq., Mr. A. Crocker, Miss Isabella Margaret Fletcher, Lord Curzon of Kedleston.

Mr. Burch Rosher agreed to write to Lord Curzon that, according to Rule 15, he had been placed on the list of Vice-Presidents.

December 8th, 1904.—The Council met this day, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, in the Cathedral Treasury, Canterbury. There were eleven members present, Mr. G. M. Arnold in the Chair.

Before the business of the Meeting commenced, the Chairman referred in feeling terms to the loss the Society has sustained by the death of the Rev. Canon C. F. Routledge and Mr. Cumberland Woodruff, and the Honorary Secretary was directed to write letters of condolence to Mrs. Routledge and Mrs. Woodruff.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and approved.

The Honorary Secretary then reported on the arrears question, and it was decided that the accounts should be submitted to Messrs. King and Son, the Auditors, and that they should be asked to finally report on them at the next Meeting of the Council.

Mr. E. Farley Cobb was appointed Local Secretary for Rochester and Rochester district. The Honorary Secretary was directed to furnish Mr. Cobb with a list of Subscribers in his district.

Mr. R. Wingate of Hildenborough and Mr. Alfred Henry Gardner of Folkestone were appointed Honorary Secretaries for Tonbridge and Folkestone districts respectively.

The Honorary Local Secretaries for Westerham and Sandwich having resigned, the Honorary Secretary was asked to undertake those duties *pro tem*.

It was resolved unanimously to cancel the appointment of Mr. Adam Walker as Honorary Local Secretary for the Bromley district, under Rule 18. The question of a successor was deferred

till the next Meeting. Gravesend was decided upon as the place for the next Annual Meeting.

A small Committee, consisting of Mr. G. M. Arnold, Mr. A. A. Arnold, and the Honorary Secretary, was appointed to arrange the details of the Meeting.

It was decided to exchange publications with the Thoresby Society.

A letter was read from Mr. John Stokes of Margate on the subject of holding Meetings in the winter, with the object of inducing people to become members of the Society; and the Honorary Secretary was directed to write, saying that the subject had already been before the Council, and that it was the intention of the Council to consider the matter.

On a letter from the Kent Photographic Survey Society being read, the Honorary Secretary was directed to write to the Secretary offering some negatives in the possession of the Kent Archæological Society, which it was thought would be of use.

Mr. A. A. Arnold read a letter from Mr. Colyer-Fergusson with reference to the Weldon Tomb; it was unanimously resolved to give £5 towards its restoration.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Mapleton Chapman for his gift to the Society of "The Cathedral Builders," and to Mr. E. C. Youens for a collection of photographs illustrating the Meeting of the Society at Rochester.

The Honorary Secretary was also requested to write to Mrs. Scott Robertson, thanking her for her gifts.

Mr. Woodruff read a letter from Mr. R. H. E. Hill on the subject of quarterly publications, but the Council decided not to take any action.

The Honorary Secretary was requested to send out cards with the dates of the Council Meetings for next year.

The following were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Mrs. Routledge, Mr. David Davies, Mr. T. A. Hodges, Rev. H. E. T. Cruso, Mr. Arthur Barton.

March 9th, 1905.—The Council met this day at the Society's Rooms, Maidstone. There were eleven members present, the Rev. A. J. Pearman in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and approved.

Letters of thanks were then read from Mrs. Routledge and Mrs. Woodruff.

Letters from Lord Stanhope suggesting July 25th and 26th as dates for the Annual Meeting, and fixing June 7th for the next Council Meeting, were also read.

The Rev. C. E. Woodruff read a letter from Mr. Ernest Hill asking for the loan of the wood block of St. John's, Sutton at Hone, which was granted.

The Auditor, Mr. King, was then called in and read his report on the arrears and accounts for 1904. The report was approved.

It was resolved, "That these figures be put upon record and a full statement made in the next Volume by the Honorary Secretary with the assistance of Mr. Arnold and Mr. Woodruff."

Mr. Burch Rosher proposed and Mr. Giraud seconded, "That all Subscriptions, Entrance Fees, and Life Compositions received from time to time by any of the Honorary Local Secretaries shall be paid by them to one of the Society's Bankers on or before the first days of June and November in each year, to enable the Pass Books to be made up ready for presentation at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Council by the Honorary Treasurers or Honorary Secretary; and at the same time the Honorary Local Secretaries shall forward the corresponding Publishers' delivery orders for Volumes to the Honorary Secretary of the Society." After some discussion this was carried.

It was resolved that Mr. L. M. Biden be asked to carry out the duties of Honorary Local Secretary for the Bromley district.

The dates of the Annual Meeting at Gravesend were fixed for July 25th and 26th.

Mr. Colyer-Fergusson's name was added to the small Committee appointed to arrange the details of the Annual Meeting.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. Benjamin Austen of Walmer for his gift to the Society of his privately printed works: *The Vanished Gates of the City of Canterbury* and *The Gates of the Cinque Port and Borough of Sandwich*. It was also decided that Mr. Austen be granted the privilege of using the Society's library for the purpose of investigation and research.

It was agreed to subscribe £10 towards repairing and binding the Bishops' Registers, Act Books, etc., in the Diocesan Registry at Rochester.

It was agreed to exchange publications with the Essex Society, and to allow the Oxford Historical Society to become Subscribers to the Kent Archæological Society without payment of entrance fee.

On a letter being read from Mr. Harold Sands with reference to Lympne Castle, the Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the owner asking that Mr. Sands should represent the Society for the purpose of making a plan of the Castle.

The Society's gold ornaments were placed before the Members of the Council, and the Honorary Secretary was requested to insure them for £500, to provide for their safe keeping, and have them placed in a proper case.

The following were elected Ordinary Members of the Society: Henry Gould, Esq., M.R.C.S., D. Montgomerie, Esq., the Rev. A. B. Littlewood, Joseph Stanley Roper, Esq., Miss Routledge, the Rev. S. York, Percy J. Baker, Esq., the Rev. F. Partridge, Rev. H. L. Beardmore, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Cumberland Woodruff.

May 11th, 1905.—A Special Meeting of the Council was held at the Society's Room, Maidstone. Fourteen members were present, Mr. G. M. Arnold in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, and with the following addition were approved: "That the Society's Collections be insured against burglary as well as fire, and that the gold ornaments be kept in the strong room at the Maidstone Museum, except in case of emergency."

The Chairman alluded in feeling terms to the death of Lord Stanhope, and it was resolved that a special letter of condolence be sent to Lady Stanhope.

It was also decided that a portrait of Lord Stanhope be acquired from Messrs. Walton and Co., of Shaftesbury Avenue, framed, and hung in the Society's Rooms.

After some discussion it was decided that the Council should recommend to the general body of members that Lord Northbourne be asked to accept the post of President of the Society, a Special General Meeting for this purpose to be held on Wednesday, June 7th, in the Cathedral Library at Canterbury.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. J. A. Boodle for his present to the Society's Library of a volume of the Early English Text Society, *The Mediæval Records*.

The following were made Ordinary Members of the Society: Mrs. Scott Robertson, the Dean of Rochester, J. H. Bridge, Esq., Lewis Haynes, Esq.

June 7th, 1905.—A Special General Meeting was held this day, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, at the Cathedral

Library, Canterbury, at 12 o'clock. Sixteen members were present, Mr. G. M. Arnold occupying the Chair.

The Honorary Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Chairman proposed that Lord Northbourne should be elected President of the Society. He pointed out the interest Lord Northbourne took in Archæology, how he was one of the Trustees of the St. Augustine's Abbey Fund, to which he had given substantial assistance. The proposal was seconded by Mr. H. Mapleton Chapman, who likewise pointed out the fitness of Lord Northbourne for the post. The election was unanimous.

At the request of the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary read a letter of thanks for their sympathy from the present Lord Stanhope; and it was ordered that the letter be recorded on the Minutes.

[*Copy of Letter.*]

Chevening, Sevenoaks.

May 14th, 1905.

Sir,

Would you be so good as to convey from my mother (Lady Stanhope) and us all our deep thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Kent Archæological Society for their most kind and touching resolution of sympathy and condolence.

My dear Father took so keen an interest in this Society that it is an additional source of gratification to us to realize how fully this feeling was appreciated by its Members.

Trusting that you will be so good as to convey to the Council our gratitude for their kindness,

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

STANHOPE.

On behalf of us all I write also to thank you for your kind personal message of condolence.

The Hon. Sec., Kent Archæological Society.

This closed the business, and the Meeting resolved itself into the usual June Council Meeting. There were ten members present, presided over by Mr. G. M. Arnold.

The Minutes of the last Council Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman rose and made some feeling allusion to the death of Mr. Burch Rosher of Walmer, and moved that a letter of condolence should be sent to Mrs. Burch Rosher. This was carried unanimously. The proposed programme of the forthcoming Gravesend Meeting was approved, subject to an alteration in the route on the second day, it being considered desirable to visit Northfleet, Stone, and Darenth Churches.

The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Burch Rosher on the Fordwich Town Trust was filled by the appointment of Mr. Chapman.

A letter from Mr. Robert Hoar of Maidstone, with regard to the proposed demolition of the old Gate House at the entrance of the Palace Gardens, was read by the Honorary Secretary, and Mr. Livett told the Council that he had been present with a deputation to the Corporation to protest against its destruction. He had pointed out that the building was certainly old, being fourteenth-century work, that any objection to its present ugliness could easily be put right, and that the objection as to its interfering with a view of the Church would not hold good, as it was the fault of the trees. It was resolved that the Honorary Secretary write to the General Purposes Committee, saying that the Council of the Kent Archaeological Society, while fully appreciating the good work done in the neighbourhood of the Palace, earnestly deprecated the demolition of the ancient gatehouse.

The following were elected members of the Society: Messrs. E. J. Holden, Jesse Lamhily Thomas, A. G. Little, Mrs. Ashley Dodd, Mrs. Gascoyne.

The Annual Meeting was held at the town of Gravesend on Tuesday, July 25th, 1905.

The Noble President, Lord Northbourne, was with the members of the Society met by the Mayor, G. M. Arnold, Esq., D.L., F.S.A., and Corporation at the Town Hall, and welcomed in a few well chosen words, to which Lord Northbourne cordially replied.

The General Meeting was then proceeded with.

Lord Northbourne called upon the Secretary to read the Report, which was adopted on the motion of the Noble Lord, seconded by the Mayor, Mr. G. M. Arnold.

Dr. Charles Cotton of Ramsgate was unanimously elected a member of the Council.

The six retiring members of the Council, Messrs. A. A. Arnold, Leland L. Duncan, Arthur Finn, J. Oldrid Scott, the Rev. T. S. Frampton, and the Hon. Robert Marsham-Townshend, were unanimously re-elected.

Mr. Arnold proposed, Mr. Chapman seconded, and it was carried unanimously, "That the retiring Auditors, Messrs. Herbert Hordern and C. F. Hooper, be re-elected."

On the proposal of the Rev. C. E. Woodruff, seconded by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Meadows Cowper, F.S.A., was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

The following Ordinary Members were elected: Spencer Borden, Esq., Interlaken, Fall River, Mass., U.S.A., the Rev. H. D. Dale, M.A., Hythe Vicarage, Kent, Martin Miller, Esq., Waterfield, Scotts Lane, Shortlands.

This concluded the Business Meeting, and the company, which consisted of over 200 members and their friends, proceeded in carriages to the residence of the Mayor at Milton Hall, where they were entertained at luncheon in a spacious marquee near the entrance to the Park.

At the conclusion of the repast Lord Northbourne said it was impossible for the company to separate without thanking Mr. G. M. Arnold for the entertainment that he had afforded them, and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Arnold many years of health in which to enjoy their demesne among such beautiful surroundings.

A move was then made for the brakes, and after a pleasant drive a visit was made to Shorne Church, where the members of the Society were welcomed by the Rev. A. L. Coates, M.A., who gave an interesting historical account of the Church.

The party then drove on to Cobham Church through beautiful scenery, and on arrival were received by the Rev. A. Berger, M.A. The Rev. A. A. Arnold read a paper dealing with the architectural beauties of the Church, and minutely explained the magnificent brasses. A leaflet kindly drawn up by Mr. Arnold shewing the exact position of the brasses with their names and dates was presented to each member of the Society. The Rev. A. Berger also added some interesting remarks.

It was intended to visit Cobham College, but as the time was so short and the company most anxious to get to Cobham Hall, this was omitted, and from the Church the party proceeded at once to the ancestral home of the Earl of Daruley, who gave a hearty welcome to the Society on behalf of the Countess and himself.

Lord Darnley suggested that the party should be divided into three for the sake of convenience, and this being done enabled all to visit the mansion and grounds and partake of tea. The Earl and Countess personally conducted the various parties through the rooms and corridors, explaining the various valuable oil paintings by the great masters.

Great interest was taken in the room built for Queen Elizabeth, who twice stayed at the Hall. A small British encampment in the Park, of which a large part of the defences was plainly visible, was visited under the guidance of the Honorary Secretary.

Reassembling on the lawn, Lord Northbourne said he was sure that it was the wish of everyone that he should cordially thank Lord and Lady Darnley for the kind entertainment that they had provided for them in allowing them to view their beautiful and historic place. Lord Darnley replied that nothing afforded Lady Darnley and himself so much pleasure as meeting their friends and taking them round their old home. He only regretted that the company had not more time to spend. Hearty cheers were given for Lord and Lady Darnley, and the party then drove back to Gravesend.

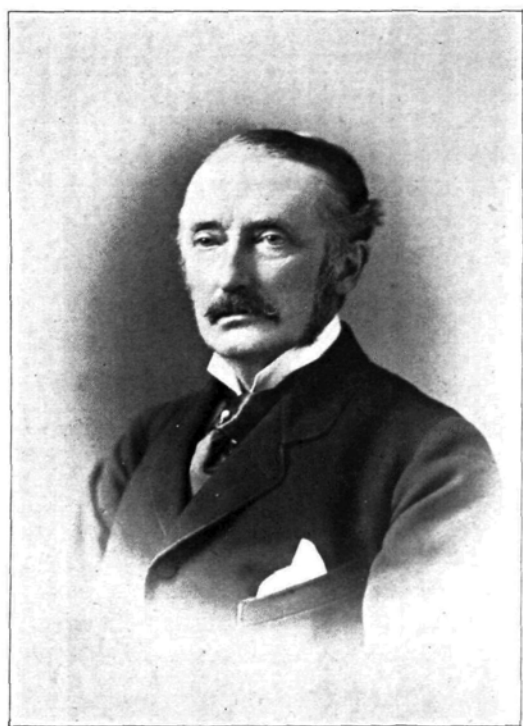
The Annual Dinner took place at the Clarendon Hotel, Lord Northbourne, the President, in the Chair. He was supported by the Dean of Rochester, the Mayor (Mr. G. M. Arnold), Dr. Firth, the Rev. G. M. Livett, Mrs. Livett, Mrs. Routledge, Mr. W. E. Hughes, and about sixty others.

The Evening Meeting was held at the Town Hall, when the Mayor gave an able address on Gravesend from the earliest times to the present day, which was much appreciated by the small number of members who attended.

On Wednesday, July 26th, the members took luncheon at the Clarendon Hotel, and proceeded in carriages to St. Botolph's Church, Northfleet, where they were received by the Vicar, the Rev. W. F. W. Forre, M.A. The architectural beauties of the Church were explained by the Rev. G. M. Livett.

Stone Church was next visited, where the Rev. Canon Murray received the party and gave a short address, which was supplemented by the Rev. G. M. Livett, who pointed out that some parts of the Church bore a great resemblance to work in Westminster Abbey, and were probably by the same architect.

Proceeding onwards the party visited Darenth Church, where the Rev. H. B. Stevens gave an interesting explanation of the



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architecture of the Church, and the Rev. G. M. Livett again kindly added a few remarks on some portions of the building, about which some controversy exists.

The party then returned to Gravesend, and brought to a conclusion a pleasant and successful Meeting.

Obituary Notices.

EARL STANHOPE, F.S.A.*

Lord Stanhope, the genial President of our Society for nearly fifteen years, passed away on Wednesday, April 19th, deeply regretted by all who had been brought into contact with him during his useful and strenuous life. Arthur Philip Stanhope was born in 1838, the eldest son of the 5th Earl, the distinguished historian and sometime President of the Society of Antiquaries. After serving for some years in the Grenadier Guards he entered the House of Commons in 1869 as one of the representatives for Leominster. He subsequently sat for East Suffolk, and was one of the Junior Lords of the Treasury from 1874 to 1876. "In this office" (says the "Times") "as in his public services in other directions in after life, his courtesy and sound good sense were seen to great advantage, and commanded the respect of friends and opponents alike." As Lord-Lieutenant of Kent since 1890 he was always ready to bring the influence of his position to the assistance of every good work throughout the county, and for many years he took an important part in the work of the Ecclesiastical Commission, to which he acted as First Estates Commissioner since 1878. Notwithstanding the manifold calls upon his time and energy in other directions, our late President took a very active interest in the proceedings of the Kent Archæological Society; he was scarcely ever absent from the Annual Excursions, and for many years the hospitality of his London house was open to the Members of Council during their June Meeting.

* The portrait is from a photograph lent by Messrs. Elliott and Fry of 55 Baker Street.