

ANNUAL EXCURSION

1929.

On Friday, June 28th, the annual excursion was held in particularly pleasant weather. Although the place of meeting was just outside the county—Thame—it had no effect in diminishing the number of members who attended ; among them were Major and Mrs. Disraeli and Miss Calverley, the Vicar of Buckingham and Mrs. Bale, the Rev. F. J. Winterton, Lieut.-Col. Wyness, Major L. W. Kentish, the Rev. C. Martin, Sir James Berry, Mrs. and Miss Stewart, Mrs. Stewart-Liberty, Miss O. Liberty, Dr. L. West, Dr. H. Rose, Dr. E. Corner, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Bingley, Mrs. Ross Todd, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. J. E. Forbes, etc.

The Society was met at Thame Church by the Rev. G. C. Bowring, who kindly drew attention to various points in his beautiful thirteenth century church, such as the very early screen in the north transept, the Quartermain tombs and brasses (14th century), the interesting fragment of mural painting on the south side of the chancel arch (? 15th century), and the fine altar tomb to Lord Williams of the 16th century. He was also kind enough to produce the communion plate, some of which is Elizabethan.

After leaving the church members visited the extremely interesting 15th century house known as the "Birdcage" Inn, and great interest was taken in the wonderfully preserved timber structure which remains untouched beneath additions of plaster, and the erection of external walls and interior partitions.

An excellent lunch was eaten at the "Spread Eagle," and afterwards a visit was paid to The Prebendal, where Mr. W. Wallace Seymour kindly showed the 13th century chapel, with its splendid 3-light window, with rear arches supported by graceful detached shafts (somewhat similar to those in the south aisle of Princes Risborough Church). The building ascribed to Adrian de Barwis (Prebend from 1480) was also examined, and the fine king-post roof-trusses were much admired.

From Thame the Society went to Nether Winchendon and examined the church, the 15th century brasses, the early 17th century pulpit, the early 16th century seats, and the later box-pews, all proved of interest ; in particular, a charming window (late 15th century) in the south-west corner of the nave, containing a piece of contemporary glass which portrayed St. Peter, attracted attention.

From the church members walked to The Priory, where the following paper was read:—

" The house which we are about to have the privilege of entering is of such importance that it is proposed to speak at somewhat greater length than usual. Our host, in the first place, is the representative of two families distinguished in the history of Bucks—the Goodwyns and the Tyringhams ; his Bernard ancestry, whilst no less prominent, is less directly and continuously associated with the county. When you come across a saltire engrailed (as you will) you will know that it represents his Tyringham descent, whilst the bear rampant sable with muzzle or is a cant upon Bernard. The Goodwyns were of Wooburn, in the south of the county, where you may see a brass to John Godwyn (so it is spelt) and Pernell his wife, ' first founders of the Stepull of Obourne Deyncourt,' dated 1488.

" Some 70 years later William Goodwyn bought the Manor of Nether Winchendon from the Earl of Bedford, a grantee after the dissolution of Notley Abbey, to which it had belonged before the

dissolution of the Monasteries. Here it may be said that it was a kind of manor house attached to the Abbey, and was never a Priory, strictly speaking. John, son of William, had purchased Over Winchendon and Waddesdon, and was succeeded there by his son, Sir John, whose sister Petronilla married Thomas Tyringham, of Tyringham, in the north of the county; William Goodwyn then made over Nether Winchendon to Thomas Tyringham, who about the same time acquired the Manor of Cuddington. Although it is not known that Thomas lived at Nether Winchendon, his son Thomas presided over the Manor Court there in 1587. Sir John Goodwin, of Over Winchendon, had a son, Sir Francis, who was M.P. for the County, and his son Arthur was Member for Wycombe, Aylesbury, and for the County (with Hampden for his colleague) successively; Sir Francis married Elizabeth, daughter of Arthur, 14th Lord Grey de Wilton. These dry facts are necessary because you will see presently an extremely interesting picture, which contains a family group, consisting of Lady Goodwin and her four children, with two more portraits on the wall of Sir John, father of Sir Francis, and of Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton. We will end the Goodwyn family by mentioning that, Arthur's daughter Jane married Philip, the 4th and Puritanical Lord Wharton, who left the bequest for Bibles, which still exists, and was mother of the 5th and by no means Puritanical Lord who was eventually made a Marquess, and attained equal fame as a sportsman 'an electioneering manager, and author of my Uncle Toby's favourite air, 'Lillibullero.' His son, the second Marquess, became a Duke, but his wild extravagances involved him in such difficulties that he went abroad, and died in Spain, indicted for high treason, having mixed himself up with the Pretender's cause.

"The Tyringhams continued in the male line at Nether Winchendon until 1735, when Jane Tyringham, who had married a Beresford held the estate, which she left to Francis Bernard, her cousin by the fact that both their mothers were Winlowes. This Francis Bernard was appointed Governor of New Jersey, one of the smallest American colonies and afterwards was made Governor of Massachusetts, a position he held right through the unhappy times—Stamp Acts, etc. He was made a baronet, 1768, and was recalled the following year. Three of his sons succeeded to the baronetcy, and two of his grandsons, so that there were six holders in three generations: the 6th and last, was our host's grandfather. It was Sir Thomas, the third baronet, who made philanthropy a hobby, and left a diary, which has recently been published under the title of **Pleasure and Pain**.

"To turn from matters genealogical to the house, it must be explained that it was leased by Sir John Dauncey from Notley Abbey in 1528; Dauncey held many court appointments, and his son married Sir Thomas More's daughter. In the dining hall we shall find his name carved above a four-centred doorway with foliated spandrels. The stone fireplace in that room is of the same date, possibly of Italian origin. There are said to be similar mantelpieces at Loosley, Artington, Surrey, built by Sir Thomas More in 1563. The panelling in that room is of later date, the original panelling, which was painted, having decayed; the present panelling was brought from Tyringham Hall, Cuddington. The magnificent linenfold (or scroll) panelling in the drawing room, however, may be Dauncey's work, as 'J.D.' is carved upon it.

"It was Sir Scrope Bernard-Morland (he assumed this additional name after marriage), the 4th baronet, who made some attempt to apply a kind of 'Strawberry Hill Gothic' to the house, which we may not altogether look upon as an

improvement to-day ; however, the damage, if it can be called such, which he did is only external, and Colonel Bernard has done much to ex-pose the older work within. Possibly at the close of the 18th century there was inserted in the windows a good deal of 17th century coloured glass—it is of foreign origin and has no connection with the house ; though there is some glass in the dining room with family arms quartered on it. One foreign fragment has the cipher of Thomas á Becket and the date 1449.

The south-west front of the house has, in the upper storey, two bay-windows, with original moulded wood frames and mullions. On the south-east side you will notice two original chimney stacks with separate shafts, ornamented with twist, double twist, fretty, etc., in moulded brick ; these have been very cleverly imitated recently by shafts of similar pattern.

" It was when Thomas (the 5th and political wire-puller) succeeded to Over Winchendon that the Goodwyn and Wharton portraits were brought here—so at least thought our host's mother, Mrs. Napier Higgins, to whose family history these notes chiefly owe whatever they may have of interest."

At the conclusion of the above paper, members walked through the house and admired the gardens, which border the Thame for a considerable distance. Mrs. Bernard very kindly provided tea on the lawns, and so concluded a charming close to a very successful excursion.