

# The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archaeological Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1888.

THE Annual Excursion in connection with the Society took place on Monday, July the 9th, when there was a goodly gathering of members. The route taken was somewhat in the direction of that chosen last year, although other places in the south of the county were visited. Several members started from Aylesbury by the Great Western Railway, and on arriving at High Wycombe the party was joined by a number of other members, and the journey was continued by road. Proceeding by way of Hughenden, the first halt was made at the Abbey, Great Missenden, where the members were welcomed by Mrs. Carrington. In the billiard-room a paper was read by Mr. John Parker, F.S.A., one of the Hon. Secs. of the Society, on the history of the Abbey, which will appear in THE RECORDS.

At the conclusion of the paper, Mrs. Carrington stated that in the present building there were few remaining traces of the old house. There were, however, two walls, and towards the kitchen were traces of arches. In that locality they once found a stone coffin. Upstairs were the arches of the refectory. In the gardens they knew was a cemetery, because if they dug about four and a half feet they came upon incised stones. Recently they had discovered several encaustic tiles. These were displayed on the table in the billiard-room.

The Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A., pointed out some of the features of the tiles. He thought they might have been part of the Hermitage Chapel connected with this Abbey, and were removed here. Some of the tiles were very interesting.

The members were then conducted to the top of the house, and viewed the refectory arches referred to by Mrs. Carrington.

From the Abbey the visitors proceeded to the Parish Church, where it had been arranged that Mr. Evelyn White should read a paper on this Church. Time, however, did not permit the reading of this paper, which will appear in due course in THE RECORDS.

From Great Missenden the members journeyed to Little Missenden Church, where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Holfiott. He explained that the Church was supposed to be one of the oldest in the diocese, and dated from the middle of the twelfth century. The tower was built in the fifteenth century. In the year 1740 the south aisle was added, and the south wall was pierced to make it correspond with the arches of the opposite wall. In 1887 gates were placed in the churchyard wall immediately in front of the Church doors. Many relatives of William Penn are buried in the chancel. The Vicar directed attention to the Norman arches and roof, and to the interesting font, and exhibited the key of the Church, of twelfth century date. The Early English east window, with its detached shafts, was much admired. The two bells were said to have been the gift of King John. The ancient communion plate was displayed, and also the old parish register, dating from 1559, which was found, especially in the case of the earliest entries, to be in a good state of preservation, and easily legible.

A halt was next made at Chesham Bois Church, where a paper was read, outside the porch, by Mr. Evelyn White. This paper appears in this number of *THE RECORDS*.

The members entered the Church, which has been recently to a great extent rebuilt, and inspected the various objects of interest of the ancient parts of the edifice which still remain.

At Latimer, the seat of Lord Chesham, a cordial reception was given by his Lordship to the members, where they were entertained at lunch. At the conclusion of which the Annual Meeting took place, the Chairman being the Archdeacon of Buckingham.

In giving his report as one of the Honorary Secretaries, Mr. Parker said the Society was not in a very flourishing financial position, owing to the liabilities of past years; the present number of members, however, was eminently satisfactory. He had forwarded to various gentlemen a copy of his preface to the last number of *THE RECORDS*, and this had resulted in a very good accession of new members, amongst whom he might mention the Earl of Rosebery, the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, and Dr. Warre, Head Master of Eton. In sending the communication to Eton, he ventured to remind the authorities that, as a seat of learning, Eton should support their county's Society. There were now several of the Masters on the list of members. With regard to *THE RECORDS*, he hoped that every member had received a copy. It had been his endeavour to confine the papers to subjects connected with the county, and he hoped and believed that these papers sustained the reputation of the Society, and would add important materials to the history of Buckinghamshire. There was one work which, perhaps, was not so much appreciated as it deserved, viz., the *Bibliotheca Buckinghamiensis*, compiled by Mr. Gough. He could not say how invaluable the work would be when completed, as its references in connection with the county extended very widely. Their meetings would be more frequent if they could induce their Aylesbury friends to restore the Museum. It was from thence that the Society's work should proceed. If they could have an improved Museum, they could hold their meetings in it, and there would be room for the gathering in of different objects of interest. He hoped there would be such an archaeological spirit raised in the county town as would be the means of restoring the Museum, so that a centre of usefulness might be added to the Society. Perhaps he was not the person to say so, but he thought *THE RECORDS* an important feature, it was a publication which was adding day by day to the history of a very historic county.

The following were elected members, viz.:—Lord Chesham, the Revs. C. E. Boulbee, Myres, W. F. Woods, J. Mathews, R. M. Russell, E. Goddard, and Messrs. E. Mawer and C. H. Hunt.

The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lord Chesham for the hospitality he had displayed to the Society, observed that it was of great importance that those who held high position in the county should extend their countenance to the Society. They not only thanked Lord Chesham for his hospitality, but for the encouragement he had given them. He quite agreed with Mr. Parker in what he had said as to *THE RECORDS*, and he wished they could be distributed broadcast over the county. One great reason why the Society did not meet with that support which they might expect was that it was not sufficiently known. He knew that was the case in the south of Bucks. Publicity was their first point; and then he thought they crowded too much into one day. It was far better to do a little thoroughly well than to do a great deal. If those two points were attended to, he thought it would add to the credit of this ancient and honourable institution.

The Rev. R. H. Pigott proposed his Lordship as a Vice-President. The cordiality he had shown was what the Society now and then required. It

was all very well to say that the Society might do more, but he thought it remarkable, that with so little help they did so much. The Society was doing a great deal towards the foundation of a county history; and they were very grateful to the county gentlemen who invited them to visit their seats on the occasion of their annual holiday.

Lord Chesham, in response, expressed his pride and pleasure at welcoming the Society, and accepted the proffered post, and added that he should be pleased to assist the Society in any way in his power.

The valuable paintings and other art treasures at Latimer were then inspected by the visitors.

The last parish visited was Chenies, the burial place of the Russell family, where the Rev. F. Shann received the party at the Church, and read the following paper:—

“The village of Chenies, formerly called Isehampsted Cheney, to distinguish it from Isehampstead Latimer, stands on a ridge of the Chiltern Hills in the county of Bucks. There is a curious diversity in the spelling of the name, as there is in the name of the family from which it derives its name. I find at least seven different spellings in the parish register since 1628, and six others are mentioned, besides thirteen variations of the Cheyne family. This was entirely a matter of taste or chance. The Manor House, and the Mausoleum of the Bedford family, are the chief objects of interest. The present Manor House apparently dates at the earliest from the reign of Henry VIII. Leland seems to say that the present building was largely built out of the materials of an older mansion standing there. ‘The old house of Cheynes is so translated by my Lord Russell, that hath his house in right of his wife, that little or nothing of it remaineth untranslated, and a great deal of the house is even newly set up, and made of bricks and timbers.’ It is said to have been originally a royal palace, and to have been given by Edward III. to Thomas Cheyne. Queen Elizabeth visited it in 1570. The beautiful chimneys, with varied designs, form the chief feature of the present buildings.

“In the Church are some brasses, with inscriptions, which are in fair preservation. The font is a fine specimen of Early Norman work, and there are two worked corbels now in the chancel which evidently belonged to a Church of the same period as the font. The names of Rectors are recorded from the year 1232, when John de Chednuit was presented by Alexander de Chednuit, who is mentioned as Lord of the place in 1165. There are several effigies and inscriptions in the Church. One reads:—‘Pray for the soule of Sir Nich’as Smythe, late Person of Iatomars, whiche decessed the vij day of September the yere of our lord m’v’xvij. o’ whose soule ihu haue m’cy.’ An effigy of a lady with a long veil:—

“Spes mea in d . . . . in deo est

Leff rectoris Ao. dni m’cxxx . . . us. Amen.

A figure of a female with flowing hair:—‘. . . . daughter of Mayster John Broughton, Esquyer, which Elizabeth dep’tyd the seon’de day of July yn the yere of our lord god m’v’ and xxiiij, on whose soule Jhu’ have mercy. amen.’ Figure of a priest:—‘Hic jacet dn’s Newlandi Ricardus quod’m Rector isti ecclie, qui obiit xvij. die Februarii Ao. dni. millio cccclxxxiiij. cujus animo propiciet’ Des. ame.’ A brass with female figure holding a heart, from which issue two scrolls:—‘Hic jacet Dna. Anna Phelip vidua quonda uxor David Phelip, militis domina de Therno in Com. Northampton et Iseh’mstede Cheyne in Com. Buk., que obiit primo die Augusti Anno Dni m’cxxx decimo cujus animo p’piciet deus, ame.’ Figure of a man in a gown between two females:—‘Hic jacet Johes Waliston quod’m faber istius ville’ qui obiit vj. die. . . . cccclxix X Isabella et Johanna uxores ejus quos animabus p’pie.’ Effigies, male and female, under a canopy:—‘Hic jacet dna Agnes Cheyne quod’m uxor dni. Johis Cheyne, militis q’

obiit . . . die . . . A. dni m' . . . Et Edmund Molynux Armiger, secund' marit' p'dicte dne q'. obiit xxjo die Januar' An dni m'cccc'lxiiiij. q' siabs p'priet.'

"The Mausoleum was built, as is recorded on a stone at the exterior of the east end, in Anno Domini 1556:—'Thys chappel ys built by Anne Countesse of Bedforde, wife to John Erle of Bedforde according to ye last will of the sayd Erle.' The most remarkable tombs are those at the east end—three gorgeous altar tombs of finely worked alabaster set with stones. They are (1) John, first Earl of Bedford, born Jan. 11, 1506. When Philip, Archduke of Austria, and his wife Joanna, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, were driven into Weymouth by stress of weather, Mr. John Russell acted as interpreter. Philip, when he afterwards visited Windsor, recommended Mr. John Russell to the King, Henry VIII. He attended Henry VIII. in the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Afterwards (1522), in fighting in France, at the siege of Morlaix, he lost an eye by an arrow. (In the figure the right eye appears with the lid hanging over.) He was knighted for his bravery, and at the birth of Prince Edward was created Baron. It was at his house in the Strand that the celebrated Conference on the Eucharist was held. For putting down the Cornish rebellion in 1549 he was created Earl of Bedford by Edward VI. He assisted at the marriage of Queen Mary. He died in 1555. There is also a monument to his wife, Lady Anne, as Froude says she was named, not Lady Elizabeth, as on the tomb. She died in the reign of Queen Mary, and in her will says she bequeathed her soul 'to God, trusting only by the death and passion of His dear Son Jesus Christ, to be saved.' (2), Francis, 2nd Earl of Bedford. He was a staunch friend of the Reformation, and died in 1585. (3), Anne, Countess of Warwick, daughter of the 2nd Earl (Francis). The next in age is a monument in the centre of the chapel of black marble to Lady Francis Bouchier (niece of Anne). On the south side, against the wall, is an alabaster monument to Lord Russell, of Thornborough, 4th Earl, who died 1641. On the north side—Lady Frances Chandos, died 1623, grandmother to the 5th Earl. At the west end is a large monument to William, 5th Earl and 1st Duke. He sided with the Parliament against the impeachment of Lord Kimbolton and five members of the Commons by Charles. He helped in the Restoration of Charles II. In 1683, Lord William Russell, his son, was tried for treason in connection with the Rye House plot, and condemned. After the Revolution, the 5th Earl was created Duke. He died 1700. The female figure by his side may be his countess, but more probably Lady Rachel Russell, whose coffin is in the vault, and who died 1723. She was the wife of Lord William Russell, and acted as his secretary when he was denied help at his trial by Judge Jeffreys. On the south side—Wriothesley, 2nd Duke of Bedford, son of Lord William (monument by Chambers). He died 1711. The latest addition is a tomb in black marble to Lord John Russell. It has an inscription:—'John Russell, first Earl Russell. Born 18th August, 1792; died 28th May, 1878. Buried at Cheney's. Twice Prime Minister of England.' There are also two ancient recumbent figures, one of a man in armour and the other of a lady. These were formerly in arches in the north wall, and they are supposed to belong to the Cheyne family. They are not connected with each other, one being of considerably later date than the other."

The members, after leaving the Church, went through the old Manor House, which stands near the church, and this concluded the proceedings.