

only by Kentish antiquaries but by great libraries at home and abroad. Since the last Annual Meeting the entrance fee has been given and the Annual Subscription paid by the Bodleian Library at Oxford and by the Sydney Free Library in Australia.

The number of new Members who have joined the Society since last July is considerably above the average. Sixty-two have already been elected, and sixteen await election at your hands to-day.

Interesting discoveries of foundations containing Roman masonry have been recently made at St. Pancras ruins, in the cemetery of the ancient Abbey of St. Augustine, outside the city of Canterbury. These will be shown by the Society to-day. Other discoveries have been made near Canterbury and Wingham by Mr. Dowker, who will explain them this evening and to-morrow. The fruits of other discoveries made at Faversham and Canterbury will be seen in the temporary museum, where they have been placed by Mr. Brent and Mr. Sheppard. At the Roman castrum of Reculver, the demolition of certain wooden outbuildings has exposed to view a portion of the core of the Roman wall, not before seen. Owing to a slight landslip, this masonry needs to be underpinned. The Admiralty had resolved to underpin it and to face it with new brickwork. Your Secretary having represented the state of the case to Colonel Pasley, the Director of Works, who is a member of our Society, that gentleman has most kindly ordered that instead of a complete masking wall, nothing more than piers necessary for support shall be placed over the old wall-core. At the same time he expressed his pleasure in being able to comply with the wishes of your Council.

The retiring Members of Council were re-elected; Mr. R. C. Hussey and the Rev. Canon E. Moore were again reappointed as Auditors; and the Rev. H. G. Rolt was elected Honorary Local Secretary for Canterbury, in place of Canon E. Moore (who is leaving Canterbury), to whom the thanks of the Society were accorded for his kindly services.

Sixteen gentlemen were elected Members of the Society.

The crypt of Eastbridge Hospital, the groining piers of which have round abacuses, of about A.D. 1180, was then inspected; and Mr. James Neale, F.S.A., described a good fresco (of about the same date) discovered last year when a modern fireplace and chimney, within the lower hall of the Hospital, were removed.

St. Martin's Church was visited under the guidance of Canon Routledge, whose paper (printed in this volume) was supplemented by some remarks from Mr. Loftus Brock, F.S.A., Secretary of the British Archæological Association. At the ruins of St. Pancras Chapel, within the grounds of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canon Routledge described the Roman foundations of the walls of the western porch, nave, and south-western chantry. His paper is printed in this volume. Mr. Loftus Brock drew attention to the base of a Roman column in situ, first noticed by him this morning, in the southern pier of the chancel arch. The Rev. E. R. Oger drew attention to a mound (south of St. Pancras) on which he said the campanile had stood. The high-way once ran between it and St. Pancras. Passing into the garden immediately behind the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the Members inspected the Norman north wall of the north aisle of the Church of St. Augustine's Abbey. The Rev. E. R. Oger (lately Sub-warden of St. Augustine's College) and the Rev. Canon Bailey (lately Warden of that College) described the ruins of the Abbey Church, of which there remain

much of one moiety of the western walls, and the base of the north-west tower (called Ethelbert's). The Rev. E. F. Taylor and some students of the College had dug away the soil, and exposed to view an original tiled floor of the north aisle; the tiles being of the fifteenth century probably.

Passing through a doorway in the north wall forming the base of Ethelbert's tower, the company entered the Courtyard of the Missionary College of St. Augustine. There on the eastern terrace Mr. Orger gave a vivid description of the ancient Abbey. Subsequently he led the Members up the ancient staircase to inspect the old Guesten Chapel (now restored and enlarged as the Chapel of the College), and to the antique Guesten Hall, on the opposite side of the staircase, which has been restored and is now used as the College Dining Hall. Thence Mr. Orger led them down another staircase into the ancient gateway built by Abbot Fyndon *circa* A.D. 1308.

From St. Augustine's Gateway the Members passed directly across Lady Wootton's Green to the postern gate (of the precincts) in the ancient city wall. Through the kindly arrangements of Archdeacon Harrison and his nephew Mr. Thornton the Society's progress was thus greatly facilitated. On the bowling-green of the Chapter, which is bounded by the city wall and one of its towers (fitted up as a dove-cot), Archdeacon Harrison delivered a discourse upon the ancient history of the spot, and thence conducted a large party to the Cathedral Church entering by the south-west door. The Rev. Canon J. C. Robertson kindly received another party upon the lawn of his Canonical house, where he pointed out the mound upon which formerly stood the campanile of Christ Church directly south of the central tower. Emerging from his garden, Canon Robertson courteously guided his party to the south-west gate of the cloisters, and having described the scene of Becket's murder, led them through the Cathedral Church, explaining the various points of interest in the able manner so characteristic of him.

A third party was led by Canon Scott Robertson to the north-east door of the Crypt. Upon their entrance the Crypt was at once illuminated by gas jets, which the Dean and Chapter had, through their able and active Surveyor, Mr. H. G. Austin, caused to be inserted specially for the visit of the Society. The entire Crypt was inspected, including the French Church and the Black Prince's Chantry. Canon Scott Robertson drew attention to the westernmost wall of the Crypt, scraped clear of plaister and white-wash specially for this visit, and stated Mr. James Parker's belief that in the rubble wall thus exposed to view some part of Augustine's original building may remain. Attention was likewise drawn to the huge masonry of two coigns north and south of the crypt, about seven feet from the same west wall. The difference between the masonry of these coigns, and all the other masonry of the Crypt, was discovered last year by Canon Scott Robertson, who first called attention to the matter in the Preface to his History of this

Crypt, pages v, vi, and in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XIII, p. 25, note, and on the plate opposite thereto representing a plan of this part of the Crypt.

At three o'clock there was Divine Service in the Choir, which was attended by a large number of the Members and their friends.

The dinner was provided in the Music Hall, St. Margaret's Street, at 4.15 P.M. The Earl Amherst presided, and was supported by the Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. Watkin, Lady Oakeley, Sir Walter Stirling, Archdeacon Harrison, Canons Bailey, Colson, Routledge, Griffin, and Jenkins, Generals Dixon and MacQueen, Colonel Hartley, Major Parker, Captains Tylden-Pattenson and Hatfeild, Canon Scott Robertson, Robert Furley, Esq., Dr. Furley, etc., etc., the company numbering about 250.

After dinner the Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. Payne Smith hospitably received the Members at a garden party, refreshments being served in the large dining-room, the walls of which are hung with portraits of former Archbishops and Deans. A large number of ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Dean's courtesy for inspecting the city walls which bound his garden, and examining the pictures within the Deanery.

The Evening Meeting was held within the Library of the Dean and Chapter, which had been temporarily lighted with gas for the occasion. The thanks of the Society were especially due to Mr. H. G. Austin, the Chapter's surveyor, for the very skilful and ingenious manner in which this temporary introduction of gas-pipes was so rapidly and effectively carried out. A temporary museum of very great interest had been arranged in the Library, under the courteous superintendence of Canon James C. Robertson, by Mr. J. Brigstocke Sheppard and Mr. John Brent, F.S.A., ably assisted by Mr. J. Russell Hall.

Amidst the bright accessories of this museum the Evening Meeting was held under the presidency of the Dean of Canterbury. Canon Jenkins enunciated an opinion that close-jointed masonry was introduced into England by Archbishop Lanfranc. His arguments were met by others advanced by Mr. Loftus Brock and Mr. Wadmore, Archdeacon Harrison, and others, who took an opposite view.

Mr. James Neale, F.S.A., then read a long paper upon the wall paintings in the Cathedral, referring to the various copies of them made by himself, which were displayed in the room.

Mr. George Dowker, F.G.S., described a camp found by him in Fish Pond Wood, east of Canterbury, and drew attention to a Roman villa at Wingham, of which he had uncovered the fragment of a bath-wall encrusted with mosaic of black and white tesserae.

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On Thursday, July 28th, the Society left Canterbury in the morning and proceeded to Ickham Rectory, where they were most hospitably received by the Rev. Edward and Mrs. Gilder, who had

provided coffee and light refreshments for the company on their lawn. The ancient portion of the Rectory-house was inspected. It consists of two storeys, each containing one large room. The lower room, now used as a kitchen, has a good square-headed window, of three lights, with shafted stone mullions of about the time of King Henry VII. The ceiling shews a large number of moulded joists and beams of similar age. The upper room, Mrs. Gilder's nursery, has a window of still earlier character. This fragment of the ancient manse is complete in itself, but is now flanked and enclosed by more modern portions of the house.

Ickham Church was described by the Rector, the Rev. E. Gilder. A paper thereon is printed in this volume.

At Wingham Church Canon Scott Robertson read a paper, which has been crowded out of the present volume, but it is intended to print it in the next volume. Walking south-west from the Church to a field on Mr. Robinson's farm, the members inspected Mr. Dowker's discovery of a Roman wall encrusted with mosaic work. A paper descriptive of the results of further excavations here will be found in this volume.

Two old houses formerly inhabited by Canons of Wingham were visited before luncheon was obtained in the garden of one of them, now occupied as an inn, The Red Lion. A sketch of these old houses, with a history of them, will be found three pages hence (pp. l-lij).

From Wingham the Society went to Adisham Church, where the Rev. H. M. Villiers welcoming the Members to his Church begged them all to kneel and say with him the Lord's Prayer, before he described the building. This was reverently done. Mr. Villiers' paper descriptive of his Church is printed in this volume.

Proceeding to Bifrons, the seat of the Marquess Conyngham, the Society was welcomed there by the Vicar, the Rev. F. T. Vine, and by Lord Conyngham's worthy steward, Mr. Robert Smith. The house (named from its having two handsome fronts) is not yet a century old, but in its side hall there is a fine collection of Saxon antiquities which were excavated from a Saxon cemetery in the Park a few years ago. After inspecting them the Members walked through the dining-room, the drawing-room, and the conservatory. The pictures by Holbein, Rembrandt, and Watteau, and many curious examples of Flemish art and Venetian furniture were duly seen and admired. Through the garden access was obtained to Patricksbourne Church, which was described by the Rev. F. T. Vine. A paper thereon is printed in this volume.

After a charming drive through Bifrons Park, Bridge, and Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne Church was reached. The Rev. T. Hirst kindly exhibited the Parish Register, signed at the foot of many a page by the "judicious" Richard Hooker. The autographs were examined with great interest by many, but by none with greater zest than by Master Richard Hooker, the young son of Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew, who, with Lady Hooker, had accompanied the Society to this scene of the great Hooker's labours and death

His mural monument on the south wall of the chancel was pointed out. Its inscription is often misunderstood; but it correctly states that Hooker died in A.D. 1600. The tablet itself was not erected until 1633, when William Cowper, Esq., was at the cost of placing it here. The Church was restored under the superintendence of the late Rector, Dr. Sandford, who is now Bishop of Gibraltar. In the tower, the west window has been filled with stained glass by Dr. Sandford's pupils, as a memorial of their regard.

In Bishopsbourne Rectory Mr. and Mrs. Hirst kindly admitted the Members to their dining-room, which was Hooker's study in which he died. The ceiling (decorated under Dr. Sandford's auspices) is of similar character to that seen in the morning at Ickham Rectory; but this at Bishopsbourne is of later date, and its beams are rather more elaborately moulded. In the Rectory-garden Mrs. Hirst gave tea and coffee to her visitors, at a table placed beside a thick hedge of yew which had been planted by the "judicious" Hooker little less than three centuries ago.

This was the last place visited by the Society, and on leaving, the Members, incited by Mr. Robert Furley, gave three hearty cheers for Canon Scott Robertson and Messrs. Payne, Spurrell, and Thornton, who had successfully conducted the Society's two days' excursions to a happy termination.

In the museum arranged in the Chapter Library at Canterbury by Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Brent, was seen the large collection of miscellaneous articles brought home from the Continent of Europe in the reign of Charles II by Prebendary Bargrave, and bequeathed by him to the Dean and Chapter. A large and varied collection of Manuscript Illuminations of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was arranged by Mr. Sheppard; Roman and Saxon antiquities were contributed by Mr. John Brent and others; and a large number of prints and pictures illustrative of ancient Canterbury and its Cathedral added much to the interest of the museum.

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The Council met on the 30th August, 1881, at Maidstone, in the Society's Rooms. Earl Amherst presided, and six Members of Council were in attendance.

Thanks were voted to Mr. J. B. Sheppard, for his untiring services in issuing the tickets, arranging the museum, and facilitating the proceedings in various ways; to the Dean of Canterbury, the Rev. E. Gilder, and the Rev. Thos. Hirst, for kindly hospitality; to Canon J. C. Robertson and Archdeacon Harrison, for much help in various matters; to the Chapter, for the use of the Library; to Canon Routledge, the Rev. H. M. Villiers, the Rev. F. T. Vine, and Lord Conyngham, for admitting the Society to their Churches and to Bifrons; to Mr. Geo. Payne, Mr. Spurrell, Mr. H. Thornton, Mr. J. R. Hall, and Mr. George Dowker, for their kindly help.