

willingness to assist such a scheme, by examining curious examples. Archdeacon Harrison is disposed to look favourably upon the proposal; and some of the Rural Deans have already consented to superintend the matter in their respective deaneries.

Your Council will give full consideration to the project when next they meet; and probably a valuable record may be obtained.

This Report having been adopted, four gentlemen were elected members of the Council, viz., George M. Arnold, Esq., James F. Wadmore, Esq., Wilfred J. Cripps, Esq., and Augustus A. Arnold, Esq.

R. C. Hussey, Esq., and the Rev. Canon Edward Moore were re-elected to be the Auditors for the ensuing year.

Seventeen gentlemen were elected to be members of the Society.

The thanks of the Society were cordially voted to the Honorary Secretary, Canon Scott Robertson, for his unwearied services as Editor and Secretary.

The members then proceeded to visit on foot various portions of the town. At the Coffee Palace, in Week Street, the Town Clerk, Herbert Monckton, Esq., explained that the house had been the manor-house of the manor of Wyke *alias* Week. The Elizabethan mantel-piece and moulded timber ceiling of the dining-room had been discovered recently, when the building was being prepared for use as a Coffee Palace. In an upper room the Directors caused tea and coffee to be served to the members.

In Earl Street, on the south side, the Secretary drew attention to the house of Broughton, one of the regicides who condemned King Charles I., and to the older, Elizabethan, front of a house a few doors west of it. He then led the members into the ancient Hall of the Corpus Christi Brotherhood, or Mercantile Guild, a spacious apartment now occupied as a brewers' cooperage by the Messrs. Fremlin. The Brotherhood was founded early in the reign of King Henry VI. The ancient roof, open from the floor to its ridge; the old transomed windows, each of two lights, with a stone seat on each side of the sill; the three doorways to the kitchen and butteries, with two small arches for windows, one on each side of the central door, at the north end of the hall, are in good preservation. This hall was for two hundred years used as the Grammar School of the town, and some of the members present had therein received education.

Passing through "Fair Meadow," and crossing the newly-erected bridge over the Medway, the company, guided by Mr. Hubert Bensted, visited St. Peter's Church. It had been the chapel of the Early-English Newark Hospital of Saints Peter and Paul, which was suppressed in A.D. 1386, when the College of All Saints was founded.

The Palace was the next object of interest. It had been greatly restored by Cardinal Archbishop Morton, who rebuilt much of the work originally erected by Archbishop Islip. J. W. Menpes, Esq., who occupies the northern moiety of the Palace, courteously permitted the members to enter his garden by a door on the river-front. Thence they viewed the north end of the Palace, in which

remain a few of the windows inserted by Archbishop Morton. On Mr. Menpes's lawn, a description of the Palace was given by Hubert Bensted, Esq., who said that it was much altered by the Astley family after they acquired possession of it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. They retained it as a residence until the time of Queen Anne. Here died the first Baron Astley, a celebrated general of King Charles I. He and his successors in that barony lie buried in Maidstone Church. The Palace was purchased from a cousin of the last Lord Astley, by the first Earl of Romney in A.D. 1719.

Proceeding to the eastern front of the Palace, the members were invited, by Mr. Dorman, to enter through the approach constructed by the Astleys, and inspect the ancient dining-hall. It was panelled by the Astley family during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In one or two upper rooms, to which also the members were kindly admitted, there are panelled ceilings of wood, which may be relics of the restoration made by Archbishop Morton. In the ancient kitchen was seen a stone fireplace and mantel-piece, close to the river-front, which may have been inserted by Archbishop Warham.

In the southern garden, very interesting outbuildings were inspected. They seem to be the most ancient remains of the mediæval Palace. There is a groined chamber of three bays; and, east of it, a building which may have been an early tower, of large area.

The large barn, with outer staircase, east of the Palace and on the other side of the public road, seems to have been built by Archbishop Morton.

The Collegiate Church of All Saints was next visited. Canon Scott Robertson read a paper which will be printed in the 16th volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, and Archdeacon Harrison favoured the company with some interesting remarks upon the edifice.

On the south side of the Church stand remains of the Collegiate buildings erected during the reign of King Richard II. By the courtesy of the Masonic Lodge their chamber in the upper portion of the College Gatehouse was opened to the members, who were much pleased with its admirable restoration and appropriate fittings. The room occupied by the School of Art, on the ground-floor of the Gatehouse, was likewise inspected.

By kindly permission of Mr. Jordan, his house, now called the Priory, but formerly known as Digons, was visited under the guidance of Mr. Hubert Bensted, who pointed out the ancient portions.

Passing on to the top of Gabriel's Hill, at its western corner, in the High Street, the company descended to the vaulted cellar beneath the shop of Mr. Bolland, fishmonger and fly-proprietor. It is an interesting relic of the fourteenth century.

Dinner was served in the Corn Exchange, at 4.30. Sir Edmund Filmer, M.P., presided, and was supported right and left by the Earl Amherst, Archdeacon Harrison, Colonel Hartley, Canon Elwyn, Robert Furley, Esq., Charles Powell, Esq., G. E. Hannam, Esq., W. F. Mercer, Esq., Mrs. Thomas, Sen., and R. J. De Visme

Thomas, Esq., E. Tasker, Esq., Rev. J. Langhorne, Canon Scott Robertson, and 127 members and friends.

The Evening Meeting was held in the Maidstone Museum, at 7 o'clock, the Mayor of Maidstone kindly presiding, in the drawing-room. E. P. LORTUS BROOK, Esq., F.S.A. (Secretary of the British Archæological Association), read a paper on *Christianity in Britain during Roman Times*; it is printed in this volume. GEORGE PAYNE, Jun., Esq., F.S.A., next spoke for some time, describing the *Roman and Saxon Antiquities to be seen in Maidstone Museum*. The company then descended to the old Hall of Chillington House (the Museum), where tea and coffee were served.

Afterwards they adjourned to the Fine Arts Room in the west wing, where Archdeacon Dealtry, Vicar of All Saints, Maidstone, took the chair. F. C. J. SPURRELL, Esq., read a paper upon *Palæolithic Flint Implements recently found in West Kent*; it will be found printed in this volume. W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, Esq., followed with a *Description of the Site and History of Langdon Abbey*, near Dover, which he had recently excavated. His paper, illustrated by a plan, will be found in this volume. The last paper was read by F. R. SURTEES, Esq., on *Boxley Abbey*, where his own residence now occupies the site (as he believes) of the Abbot's house. He mentioned that among the fourteenth-century relics of the old Abbey, now existing, are the arches leading to his kitchen; two corbels bearing coats of arms; a mask which formed the return of a hood moulding; scraps of cusps and other parts of windows; two massive spandrels of an arch, each carved with a quatrefoil; and the collar-beam roof of the tithe-barn. There is, on the lawn, a stone sepulchral slab rudely carved with a cross, of the twelfth century; and in one very thick portion of a wall of the house can be traced, on the outside, three lancet windows, blocked up. The brick archway leading to the Abbey is said to have been built about the time of Henry VII. Mr. Surtees quoted the memorandum made by Richard Baxter, the celebrated Puritan Divine, respecting his visit here:—"It did me good, when Mrs. Wyatt invited me to see Boxley Abbey in Kent, to see upon the old stone wall, in the garden, a summer-house with this inscription in great golden letters, *In this place Mr. George Sandys, after his travels over the world, retired himself for his poetry and contemplations.*" Sandys died at Boxley Abbey in 1643. Mr. Surtees possesses an engraving, printed about 1809-11, which seems to indicate, upon the terrace, a spot where the summer-house formerly stood. The shell of the fifteenth-century fabric of St. Andrew's Chapel, with its chaplain's two rooms, still remains near the outer gate of the Abbey; it is now used as a cottage.

Mr. Surtees believes that the sites of the Abbey's chapter-house, slype, and day-room, are now occupied by a raised bank; that a high terrace of masonry, leading from that bank, occupies the site of the Abbey Church; and that the old cloister-court is now a green lawn.

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Thursday, August 3rd, 1882. On this day the members assembled at Maidstone in large numbers, and were conveyed to Leeds Church, which was admirably described by Mr. Gordon Hills, the architect who conducted the work of its restoration. He drew attention to the spacious low Norman tower with its grand peal of ten bells, which were rung in honour of the Society's visit. The fine wooden screen, which extends across all three aisles continuously, was much admired. Upon it Mr. Gordon Hills suspended plans and sections of various acoustic jars found built into the walls of many churches, English and foreign, as illustrating the purpose for which similar jars (now preserved in the Maidstone Museum) were inserted in the top courses of the nave walls of this Church. Mr. Hills's paper has already been printed in the *Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects*.

From Leeds Church the company walked across a meadow to Battle Hall, where, by Mrs. Farmer's kind permission, the members saw the "Decorated" cistern and lavatory of carved stone which stood at the entrance of the ancient dining-hall. The face of the cistern is carved into the shape of two circular towers, from both of which water could flow, through taps, into the trough or lavatory in which those about to go to dinner could wash their hands before sitting down at the table. The old wall (now used as a kitchen) had arched groining ribs of stone. These are gone; but the corbels and springers of the arched ribs remain in the walls. In the upper part of the house there is, over a mantel-piece, a remarkable fresco, well painted in oil-colour. It depicts the Blessed Virgin, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Agnes, St. Andrew, and others. Possibly it may have come from the suppressed Abbey of Leeds.

From Battle Hall carriages conveyed the company to the Park-gate Tavern, where 220 ladies and gentlemen took luncheon in a large tent. Many others of the company lunched elsewhere.

As there were nearly 400 persons present, desirous of going through Leeds Castle, a division of forces was made immediately after luncheon. One moiety of the company went first to Lenham Church, where the Vicar, the Rev. C. E. Nepean, read a paper prepared by Canon Scott Robertson, which will be printed in a future volume. The other moiety went direct to Leeds Castle, where the widowed Mrs. Philip Wykeham-Martin graciously received them. In the great hall of the residence, Canon Scott Robertson read his paper (which will be printed in a future volume), describing the history and architecture of the Castle. He then divided those present into two divisions, with about 100 persons in each. One division was guided through the Castle by Mr. Tom Burgess and Mr. Loftus Brock; the other division was led by Canon Scott Robertson. As soon as these two divisions had again united, after perambulating the Castle, they mounted their carriages and drove to Lenham Church. Their places were almost immediately occupied by about 200 other members and friends who had already been to Lenham Church. To this second detachment, also, Canon Scott Robertson read his paper in the great hall of the Castle; and

then, separating the company into two divisions, he led one of them through the Castle, while Mr. Tom Burgess conducted the other. When they met again, grateful thanks were voted to Mrs. Philip Wykeham-Martin for her kindly courtesy, and loud ringing cheers were given in her honour.

Thus terminated the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society. Among those who attended it were Earl Amherst, Major Ross, M.P., Archdeacon Harrison, Archdeacon Dealtry, Rev. the Hon. Arnald de Grey, Canon Bailey, Canon Elwyn, Canon Colson, Canon Wright, Canon Scott Robertson, General Dixon, Major Parker, Major Horrocks, Lionel Fletcher, J.P., Granville Leveson-Gower, J.P., C. R. C. Petley, J.P., Charles Powell, J.P., G. E. Hannam, J.P., H. B. Mackeson, J.P., R. J. De Visme Thomas, J.P., J. T. Rogers, J.P., Robert Furley, J.P., Colonel Hartley, J.P., E. Barrow Smith, J.P., Josiah Hall, J.P., The Chamberlain of London (Benj. Scott, Esq.), The Clerk of the Peace for Kent (Fras. Russell, Esq.), E. P. Loftus Brock (Secretary of the British Archæological Association), Rev. W. Powell (Secretary of the Sussex Archæological Society), Rev. W. Bazeley (Secretary of the Gloucestershire Archæological Society), W. H. St. John Hope (Editor for the Derbyshire Archæological Society), E. J. Wells (Secretary of St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society), Harrison Weir, Esq., Revs. Dr. Reyner, W. Benham, J. Hughes Hallett, Foster Elliott, H. J. Boys, J. Langhorne, A. G. Hellicar, E. J. Selwyn, J. A. Boodle, W. Bramston, L. Hawes, B. St. John Tyrwhitt, M. T. Pearman, H. W. O. Polhill, W. Gardner Waterman, V. S. Vickers, A. T. Browne, H. Collis, R. J. F. Thorpe, W. H. Dyson, E. H. Lee, R. S. Hunt, E. H. Maclachlan, H. G. Rolt, Sandford Bayley, A. Wigan, T. Briggs, A. Collett, J. Polehampton, Dr. Haslewood, F. Haslewood, J. E. Brenan, J. R. Little, T. S. Frampton, J. Walter, J. Williamson, E. M. Muriel, H. F. Woolrych, Messrs. J. F. Wadmore, B. J. Scott, G. Dowker, G. Payne, F. C. J. Spurrell, W. T. Neve, Chas. Neve, F. Slater, J. H. Oylor, E. Elliott, W. E. Hughes, W. J. Mercer, W. F. Mercer, E. Furley, M.D., F. Simms, M.D., W. H. Tayler, M.D., F. E. Wilkinson, M.D., F. Grayling, M.D., J. T. Hillier, F. F. Giraud, W. C. Fooks, J. Copland, J. D. Norwood, J. T. Perry, D. Prosser, J. R. Stillwell, C. E. Keyser, S. Fuller, A. P. Southee, G. Clinch, Jno. Kennett, F. G. Gibson, B. H. Collins, A. R. Boissier, E. Bottle, J. Bolton, R. G. Hobbes, W. C. Stunt, W. M. Bywater, G. Lambert, J. Moore, Jun., J. D. Kiddell, E. Peterson, J. Langston, M.D., Geo. Simmons, J. G. Ware, H. Monckton, J. H. Turner, B. Nathan, J. Corner, T. Bullard, W. P. Shirley, R. S. Daniel Bainbridge, F. Bunyard, C. E. Home-wood, P. Sankey, G. Gibson, J. Rock, J. L. Roget, J. Harris, J. Harvey, T. S. Stokes, R. J. Fremlin, J. M. Russell, A. Hudson, G. Meadway, T. H. Cockcroft, M.D., J. T. Noakes, H. W. Joy, E. Hinds, R. A. C. Loader, J. Richardson, T. Blake, R. Bubb, C. Bullard, Thos. Grant, A. Latham, G. Barber, E. Norwood, C. H. Cleggett, Jesse Pullen, J. Ll. Curtis, Wm. Bros, W. Coleman, R. Hovenden, J. Peake, R. W. Cradock, W. J. Homewood, E. W.