

Kent Archaeological Society -- second annual meeting --
Rochester, 3--4 Aug 1859

Archaeologia Cantiana, 2 (1859), xxxiii--xlv

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The
Kent Archaeological Society.

The introductory pages of this, our second Volume, are purposely compressed into as small a compass as the necessary Report of our proceedings since our last publication will allow.

Narratives of periodical gatherings and festivities are more suited to the columns of a newspaper than to a work devoted to Archaeological records and antiquarian research. For these we require all the space which our pages can afford.

If, therefore, our acknowledgments of the hearty welcome with which our Society was received at Rochester, by the Cathedral Chapter, the Corporation, and inhabitants of that ancient city, be brief, they are not the less gratefully offered; nor shall we be accused of insufficiently appreciating the munificent hospitalities of Cobham, and Cowling, and the Deanery, if we confine ourselves to a simple expression of cordial thanks. With these acknowledgments, then, pass we at once to a brief record of this the principal event that has occurred since our last publication, viz. the Second Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at Rochester, on the 3rd of August, 1859.

It was attended by, -- The Marquess Camden, K.G., President; The Earl and Countess Stanhope; The Earl and Countess Am-

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herst; The Earl and Countess of Darnley; The Earl of Brecknock; Lady Frances Pratt; Lady Caroline Pratt; A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, Esq., and Lady Mildred Hope; Lady Caroline Nevill; Lady Augusta Mostyn; Lady Isabel Bligh; The Hon. Ralph Nevill; The Hon. T. Lloyd Mostyn; The Hon. James Byng; The Hon. Mrs. Byng; Sir Percival Hart Dyke, Bart.; Lady Dyke; Lieutenant-Colonel Bingham; Sir Walter James, Bart.; Sir Walter Stirling, Bart.; Sir Charles Locock, Bart., and party; Sir Brook Bridges, Bart.; Admiral Jones Marsham and party; The Rev. The Provost of Oriel and Mrs. Hawkins; The Rev. Canon Robertson and party; The Mayor of Rochester

(William Manclark, Esq.); The Recorder of Rochester (J. 'Es-
pinasse, Esq.); James Whatman, Esq., Mrs. Whatman, and
party; G. W. Norman, Esq., and party; C. Wykeham Martin,
Esq.; J. Savage, Esq., Mrs. Savage, and party; J. Crosby,
Esq., F.S.A., and Miss Crosby; Lancaster Lucas, Esq., and
party; J. G. Talbot, Esq.; Rev. J. Riddell; Rev. C. Hawley;
Rev. T. Hugo; Rev. Joshua Stratton; Rev. H. Stevens and
party; Rev. Jacob Marsham; Rev. C. Randolph; Rev. Beale
Poste and party; Rev. J. F. Cobb; Rev. W. A. Keith; Rev.
R. P. Coates; Rev. J. P. Russell; Rev. E. Trollope; Rev. J.
Woodruffe; Rev. W. Horne and party; G. B. Acworth, Esq.,
and party; W. Brown, Esq., and party; J. Thurston, Esq.;
Dr. Plomley and party; W. W. Hayward, Esq., Mrs. Hayward,
and party; Major Luard, Mrs. Luard, and party; M. Bell, Esq.;
Captain Cator; Peter Cator, Esq., and party; W. Norwood,
Esq.; Major Munn; S. Steele, Esq., and party; H. Farrar,
Esq.; Colonel Stanton, Mrs. Stanton, and party; Captain and
Mrs. Cheere; R. Thomas, Esq., and party; T. H. Day, Esq.,
and party; Jesse Thomas, Esq., and party; Humphrey Wick-
ham, Esq., and party; G. R. Corner, Esq.; C. Roach Smith,
Esq.; F. Fry, Esq.; W. H. Bensted, Esq.; H. Wickham, Esq.;
E. Pretty, Esq., F.S.A.; Arthur Ashpitel, Esq., F.S.A.; Richard
Hussey, Esq., F.S.A.; H. B. Mackeson, Esq.; W. Clayton,
Esq., and party; A. J. Dunkin, Esq., and party; Rev. L. B.
Larking; and above three hundred others, whose names we
could not obtain.

The Marquess Camden, K.G., President of the So-
ciety, took the Chair, in the Corn Exchange, at twelve

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o'clock, and commenced the business of the day by
calling on the Honorary Secretary to read --

The Report.

"The Report of the state and progress of our Society which I
have this day the pleasure of presenting, is one on which we may
well congratulate ourselves. . . ."

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The thanks of the Society were then voted --

To the Mayor and Corporation of Rochester, and to J. Lewis,
Esq., the Town Clerk, for the facilities afforded to the Society
in the inspection of the archives of the city; in allowing the
use of the Corn Exchange; and for the welcome given to the
Society;

To the Dean of Rochester, for the hospitality kindly tendered

to the Society and their friends at the Deanery, and for allowing the formation of a temporary museum there;

To the Dean and Chapter, for their kindness in throwing open the Cathedral and the adjoining monastic remains to the free inspection of the Society, and to G. Essell, Esq., the Chapter Clerk, for the kind facilities rendered to them in their survey, and in the inspection of ancient Records;

To E. Hayward, Esq., for his courtesy in giving free access to the Castle, and in allowing the dinner-tent to be erected in his garden;

To the Directors and Managers of the South-eastern Railway, for the liberal accommodation rendered to the Society in conveying the members to and from the meeting.

After voting the thanks of the meeting to their noble Chairman, the party adjourned to the Cathedral, where Richard Hussey, Esq., explained the peculiarities of the structure, and pointed out the periods at which its different portions were erected.

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The Rev. the Provost of Oriel conducted the members over the remains of the conventual buildings, giving descriptions of their various uses as he passed along.

The company then divided,

A. Ashpitel, Esq., gratifying one party with a most interesting lecture on the Castle and its various chambers, and on the origin, rise, and uses of Norman castles in general;

The Rev. Beale Poste and S. Steele, Esq., leading other parties round the ancient walls, and delivering learned dissertations on the remains thereof.

Soon after three o'clock, afternoon service was performed in the Cathedral, which was thronged throughout; and the choir, assisted by members of the choirs of Windsor and the Temple,

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under the superintendence of the Rev. R. Sorsbie, the Precentor, furnished an exquisite choral service, selected from Kentish composers.

At five o'clock, dinner was served, in a marquee in the Castle garden, to a party of about two hundred and fifty; the Marquess Camden occupying the chair.

After dinner, the party adjourned to the Deanery, where they were hospitably entertained by the Rev. H. Stevens and his sisters; the Dean himself, to the regret of all, being compelled by his infirmities to absent himself.

He had kindly permitted the Society the use of one of the apartments on the ground-floor of the Deanery for the reception of exhibitions, and the Rev. R. P. Coates very obligingly acted on the occasion as Curator. The result of his exertions, and the

good feeling of several members and their friends, was a large collection, chiefly consisting of local antiquities, which completely filled the room. The attendance here at the appointed hour, eight o'clock, was very numerous.

THE EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUITIES AT THE DEANERY.

Mr. Roach Smith undertook the explanation of the various collections, which were arranged in groups as exhibited by the several proprietors.

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Mr. Humphrey Wickham exhibited his collection of Roman and Saxon remains discovered on the Temple estate, adjoining Strood, some years since. It consists of sepulchral vessels, personal ornaments, coins, and weapons, the last being Saxon. The whole of these were brought to light by excavations for brick earth, which laid open a very extensive Roman and Saxon

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cemetery, for it appears the Saxons had interred their dead alongside of their predecessors. Among the ornaments exhibited were some *armillae*, in what is called Kimmeridge shale, an inferior kind of jet; and a *bullæ*, in pure jet, bearing a well-executed representation of Medusa's head. Upwards of six hundred coins were found./1

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/1 A detailed and illustrated account of the discovery is printed in the first volume of the 'Collectanea Antiqua.'

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A most enjoyable day was concluded by a full choral service in the Cathedral, at ten o'clock, P.M.

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4th August, 1859.

At ten o'clock, A.M., a large party assembled in the Corn Exchange, where the Marquess Camden again presided. Very interesting and learned papers were read by --

Rev. Thomas Hugo, -- On Bishops Gundulph and Ernulph, and their works in the Cathedral and Castle.

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A paper on the siege of Rochester Castle, by King John, kindly prepared by G. R. Corner, Esq., was deferred for want of time; the excursions to Cowling Cliff, Cobham, etc., requiring an early departure.

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Thus ended the second and last day of our Second Annual Meeting, which may well be pronounced to have been most gratifying and satisfactory.

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The limits of our Volume preclude the possibility of our printing at one time all the learned and interesting papers which were read at Rochester, yet our readers must not be deprived of the gratification of seeing them on record. We therefore purpose, with the kind consent of the writers, to print them consecutively in our future Volumes, commencing this year with that of Mr. Beale Poste on the Walls of Rochester.

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Gentleman's Magazine, Sep 1859, 270-80

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MEETING OF THE KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT ROCHESTER.

Aug. 3, 4. The second annual general meeting, or congress, was held at Rochester. As this Society does not hold any public meetings during the year, the members have only the annual gathering to rely upon for information as to the proceedings of the year, the researches made, and the general prospects of the Society. We therefore give greater space than usual to an account of the proceedings, and all the more willingly because the Society appears to be conducted on

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a broader and sounder basis than characterises too many similar Societies. As the members amount to about 800, the meeting, as might have been expected, was numerously attended. The decision of the managing Committee not to charge for Congress tickets, is, moreover, sure to secure numbers. Thus, it was estimated that the number altogether attending this meeting could not have been far short of 500. When the British Archaeological Association held a Congress upon

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the same ground, a few years since, it was said that scarcely half a dozen tickets were sold in Rochester; but other causes, besides the price of the tickets, were assigned for that failure.

The members assembled at the Corn Exchange, the Chair being taken by the Marquess Camden, the President.

The Rev. L. B. Larking, Hon. Sec., read the annual report; and after some further routine business, the assembly proceeded to the cathedral and castle under

the guidance of Richard Hussey, Esq., F.S.A., and Arthur Ashpitel, Esq., F.S.A.; Beresford Hope, Esq., also assisting in the examining of the cathedral.

Mr. Hope explained the various styles of architecture observable, and the difference of the styles in the north and south transepts, which were clearly erected at two separate periods. The general subject of the building was afterwards taken up by G. R. Corner, Esq., who accompanied the party through the remainder of the building and the extensive crypts beneath, the whole of which were lucidly described, and excited great attention. This portion of the proceedings having been accomplished, the Rev. Dr. Hawkins, Provost of Oriel, kindly conducted the company over the interesting remains of the adjacent conventual buildings of the Priory of St. Andrew.

Mr. Hussey entered into a history of the structure, with which every archaeologist must be so perfectly familiar that a repetition may possibly be excused on the present occasion. Mr. Hussey, however, made some remarks that had an original character about them deserving of notice. He said they had to judge of the age of the cathedral by its architecture, and it was probable Gundulph had seen but a small portion of the present building. The probability was that Ernulph, who succeeded him, raised the nave, and the style of that portion of the cathedral did not agree with that portion of the work known to be Gundulph's. After conducting the company through the cathedral, pointing out the various objects of interest, Mr. Hussey led them into the handsome crypt, where he pointed out the supposed Saxon portion of it, which is clearly distinguishable in its columns from the later and undoubtedly Norman portion. On their return, other parts of the cathedral were inspected, and among others the chapter-room, which has an arched entrance, supposed to be the handsomest in the kingdom, from its ingenious

design and elaborate workmanship. The room also contains a valuable collection of rare works. The several points of in-

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terest connected with this part of the building were explained by the Rev. Dr. Hawkins (Provost of Oriel), who also pointed out the remains of the monastic buildings, in what may be termed the cloisters.

In conducting a large body of the members and visitors over the castle, Mr. Ashpitel observed that as the time was so short, he would condense as much as possible the remarks he had to make on the noble and interesting ruin now before them. They would be divided into two heads -- the consideration of the peculiarities of plan and design of the Norman castle, and a short sketch of the history of the building under consideration. In this last division his labours would be much shortened, as a paper would be read on the life of its founder, the great and good Bishop Gundulph, and another on one of the most stirring incidents of its history, the siege in the reign of King John.

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Mr. Ashpitel then gave a sketch of the history of the castle; and he supposed that when it was said its construction cost Gundulph £60, a sum considered totally inadequate to complete such a work even in those days, may be a misapprehension. The wages of a mason were then one penny a day, represented now by five shillings, or sixty times as much. If pounds sterling were meant, the cost would be only £3,600 of our present money. But the pound sterling was not in general use till the time of King John. He supposed, therefore, the pound weight of silver was meant, which at the present rate

would represent a sum of £13,000, which, considering the proximity of the material, would not be so much out of the way.

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During this proceeding, another party had put themselves under the guidance of the Rev. Beale Poste and Mr. Steele, who conducted them round the boundaries of the ancient city, pointing out the course of the old city walls, the site of the four gates, and the water-gate, which once formed a portion of them.

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Shortly after the conclusion of the Cathedral service, the members and visitors, numbering about 250, sat down to dinner in a tent which had been erected (by the permission of Edward Hayward, Esq.), in the castle gardens.

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After the dinner the company proceeded to the Deanery, where, in the absence of the Very Rev. the Dean, they were very hospitably received by the Rev. Henry Stevens and Miss Stevens. A museum had been formed in the library of the Deanery, to which access was given to the members at both gates. The exhibitions were more strictly of a local character than is usual on such occasions, and therefore the more valuable.

At the evening meeting Mr. Roach Smith, after congratulating the Society on the numerous valuable collections of local antiquities brought before the meeting, forming the most novel and legitimate, if not the most striking, feature in the day's proceedings, said, . . .

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The extensive Hartlip villa, which supplied a large case of Roman remains, was conjectured to have been the residence of some person who probably held office

under the governor of the southern province of Britain. The objects collected from its ruins consisted of ornaments and implements of the toilette, glass and pottery, keys, knives, and weed-hooks; a small folding balance for weighing gold and other small precious objects was one of the most enrious of the minor articles. This villa lay not far from the great military road which, proceeding in a straight line from Durovernum (Canterbury), where roads from the three Kentish ports united, passed by Durolenum, a *mansio*, a great public inn, passed through the town which in Saxon times took the name of "Rochester" along the edge of what is now Cobham Park, by Springhead (Vagniacae), direct to Londinium, having upon it two stations between Rochester and London, both of a subordinate kind, without enclosing walls, Rochester being one of the towns surrounded by a strong wall, a portion of which is yet standing opposite the esplanade by the side of the river.

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On the side of the great military road,

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a little to the west of the site of the town of Strood, lay one of the cemeteries of Roman Rochester, which was laid open a few years since, for clay for brickmaking. Here were found the Roman sepulchral urns and ornaments exhibited by Mr. H. Wickham, together with some hundreds of coins. Alongside of the Roman burial-places were the graves of the Saxons. Mr. Roach Smith pointed to this fact, as one worthy of consideration in the investigation of that very obscure period of the history of Britain which intervened from the departure of the Romans and the settlement of the Teutonic tribes, which in our popular histories is usually represented as a period of slaughter and extermination.

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The arrangement of the museum de-

volved chiefly upon the Rev. R. T. Coates and Mr. Pretty. By a blunder in the programme, Mr. Roach Smith was not announced to lecture on the local anti-

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quities, but he was set down to speak on the archives!

Aug. 4. A meeting for the reading of papers was held this morning, the Provost of Oriel, and afterwards the President, in the Chair.

The Rev. Thomas Hugo, F.S.A., read a memoir of Bishops Gundulf and Ernulf, the former the builder of the cathedral and the castle, the latter of the chapter-house and the reputed compiler of the *Textus Roffensis*. He solicited the indulgence of his audience for the difficulty under which he lay, in having already written and published a memoir of these prelates, but added that, although he was sensible that a twice-told tale rarely finds favour, he had obeyed the invitation of the Council in preference to selecting another subject for the exercise of his labours. It is needless, however, to add that the memoir presented to the Society was a new composition, although the subject had previously engaged the author's attention and his pen.

He commenced by giving the details of the life of each, from the time that they were students at the Abbey of Bec, until the period of their accession to the episcopal throne of Rochester. We have not space for a complete analysis of the memoir, which will be published in the Society's Transactions, and shall please ourselves the most, and we trust our readers also, by letting the writer speak for himself on two of the most important points with which the memoir abounds. After describing the various architectural works of Gundulf, especially his cathedral church, which he completely finished, Mr. Hugo continued: -- "It has, however, appeared to some that a portion of Rochester Cathe-

dral, especially the west front, is the work of another and later hand. It will not, I am sure, be considered out of place if I give to this opinion a moment's consideration. The reason alleged is the ornamental character of that in question, and its consequent similarity to the front of the chapter-house, which is known to be the work of Bishop Ernulf. Now I must be bold to say that the reason adduced is, in my humble opinion, wholly inadequate to support and substantiate that which it desires. It labours under several insuperable objections. Give me leave to enter into one or two of them. The interior of the nave, which is allowed to be by Gundulf, is about as ornamental a specimen of Norman building as may easily be found. The ornamental character, therefore, of the west front would seem to be a *prima facie* evidence of the same authorship rather than of another. But still further.

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The lovely Abbey of Malling, confessedly the work of Gundulf, is so similar to this disputed west front, that the hand which guided the construction of both may fairly be admitted to be the same. Nor must it be forgotten that, whereas the works of Ernulf at Canterbury and Rochester are most minutely recorded, not a word is said of his being the author of this portion of the cathedral church. On the other hand, tradition and every chronicler who has written on the matter assign it to Gundulf, and to him alone. These are four reasons against the attempt to alienate from Gundulf that which he may justly claim. If all this array of proof, both in his favour and in disfavour of any one but him, be not accepted as conclusive, I shall be curious to know what line of argument, or rather what concurrent series of arguments, shall be allowed to be so."

Mr. Hugo then gave a minute account of the circumstances which introduced the building of Rochester Castle; and after

some considerable detail of the life and character of Gundulf, public, private, and personal, entered upon the history of his last sickness and death, . . .

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Mr. Roach Smith stated that his friend Mr. Corner, who had been compelled to leave, had placed in his hands a paper on the siege of Rochester Castle by King John. As the time assigned to the reading of papers had expired, he would withdraw this paper for the present, presuming that if it should not be read, it would be printed in the Society's proceedings.

At the breaking up of the meeting, which many regretted was of such short duration, Mr. Roach Smith repeated his remarks on the local antiquities in the Deanery to those who did not join in the excursions. Carriages were in attendance, under the arrangement of Mr. Thomas, and a large number of the members proceeded to Cowling Castle, to Cliffe, and to Cobham Hall.

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The meeting was altogether a very agreeable one; and everything seemed to give satisfaction. The great drawback was the very brief time allotted to papers and to lectures, and the passing over of many objects of local interest. Nearly four hours were consumed at the dinner table, the speeches at which were considered so tedious, that many left the table for the beautiful scenery around the castle and for the venerable pile itself.

The programme was pretty closely followed, the only omission being the investigation, or rather the exposition, of the archives of Rochester, and this on the ground of want of time. It occurred to

us that it would have been acceptable to the people of Rochester had a committee of the society remained to give an abstract of the civic archives, and also to examine other matters of antiquarian interest, which, on account of the brief space of time allotted to business, could not be examined. We beg to suggest to the zealous and learned managers of the Society whether the time devoted to the dinner-table might not be abridged, or whether some portions of the time might not be devoted to preparing the meeting for the more legitimate and probably equally pleasurable business of the congress; whether the labours of the Society during the past year might not be mentioned, as well as its prospects. Thus the festive board would be deprived of a little of the tediousness which many complained of at the Rochester banquet.

South Eastern Gazette, Tu 9 Aug 1859, 6

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society, which, although it has been formed only a comparatively short period, is already in a very flourishing and prosperous state, was held this year in the city of Rochester, which, together with the surrounding neighbourhood, is exceedingly rich in subjects of antiquarian interest.

For some time before the hour named for the commencement of the proceedings, an uninterrupted stream of visitors arrived in the city, and in addition to gentlemen immediately connected with the town the following noblemen and gentlemen were present during the days of meeting: --

The Marquis Camden, Earl and Countess Amherst, the Earl and Countess Stanhope, the Earl and Countess of Darnley, Earl of Brecknock, Lady Frances Pratt, Lady Augusta Mortyer, Lady Caroline Pratt, Lady Isabel Bligh, Lord Pelham, Hon. Ralph Neville, Hon. and Rev. E. Bligh, Hon. James Byng and Mrs. Byng, Lady Caroline Neville, the Mayor of Rochester, J. 'Espinasse, Esq., Recorder of Rochester, Hon. Mrs. Boscawen, A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, Esq., Sir Walter G. Stirling, Bart., the Provost of Oriel and Mrs. Hawkins, Sir Brook Bridges, Bart., M.P., Sir Charles Locock, Bart., C. W. Martin, Esq., Sir Percival H. Dyke, Bart., Sir Joseph H. Hawley, Bart., Lady Dyke, C. Roach Smith, Esq., Rev. T. Hugo, Rev. Beale Poste, Mr. W. H. Bensted, Rev. L. Larking, &c. &c.

The members and friends of the society assembled at the Corn Exchange at twelve o'clock, under the presidency of the Marquis Camden, K.G.

The proceedings commenced by the Rev. Lambert B. Larking reading the annual report. . . .

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The remaining officers of the society having been elected,

Earl Amherst moved a vote of thanks to the mayor and corporation for the use of the Corn Exchange, and the Mayor acknowledged the compliment.

The Hon. Mr. Bing moved a vote of thanks to the Dean of Rochester, for his kindness in having a museum opened at his residence, and a vote of thanks was proposed and passed to the Dean and Chapter for permitting the society to inspect the cathedral.

The meeting also passed votes of thanks to Mr. G. Essell, chapter clerk, for allowing the inspection of many ancient documents in his custody connected with the city and the ancient bridge; also to the Town-clerk, for allowing the ancient city records to be inspected; and to Mr. E. Hayward, for grant-

ing permission for the society's dinner to be held in the Castle grounds.

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The visitors then proceeded to the cathedral, where Mr. Hussey, architect, proceeded to give a history of the structure. He said Bishop Gundulph, who was supposed to be intimately connected with the building of the present cathedral, was appointed Bishop of Rochester in or about the year 1007, by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury. The establishment that existed on the same spot as that now occupied by the cathedral was in a deplorable state of ruin. The canons were, however, got rid of, and the monks put in their places; the old buildings were swept away, and certain property held by Lanfranc was made over to the see of Rochester. Lanfranc, there was no doubt, found a great portion of the funds, and the present structure was commenced; he, it appeared, having almost the entire control over the expenditure. Gundulph died about 1107. They had to judge of the age of the cathedral by its architecture, and this, therefore, led him to the conclusion that Gundulph never saw any portion of the present edifice. The probability was that Bishop Ernulph, who succeeded Gundulph, raised the nave, as the architecture of that portion of the cathedral answered to the date in which he lived, and the style of that portion of the cathedral did not agree with the other works known to have been executed by Gundulph. Whether Ernulph ever completed the outside of the cathedral was not clearly known. Mr. Hussey then conducted the party down into the crypt, where he pointed out what appeared to be the Saxon portion of the cathedral, after which the choir, chapels, and other portions of the interior were inspected, the Rev. Dr Hawkins and Mr. Hussey explaining the several points of interest examined. After the visitors had been conducted through the cathedral, Mr. Beresford Hope delivered an exceedingly interesting address in the nave, on the history of the Cathedral and the several points of interest which it contained.

After leaving the cathedral the next objects of antiquity visited were the ancient city walls, considerable portions of which are still visible, especially the part which bounds the Deanery gardens, in the Vines. This party was under the direction of the Rev. Beale Poste and Mr. S. Steele, who traced the ancient boundary of the city, with the defences, and also explained the sites of the Ancient "gates."

The cathedral service in the afternoon was crowded; additional interest being felt in this portion of the arrangements from the fact that the choral portion of the service was selected exclusively from the works of Kentish composers.

At the conclusion of the service, the visitors, who now numbered several hundreds, proceeded to visit the castle, the magni-

ificent keep of which presents such a striking appearance from Rochester bridge and the Medway. Every portion of the building was minutely inspected and a paper read on its history by Mr. Aspital.

THE DINNER

took place in a large marquee erected in the Castle-gardens, immediately beneath the ancient pile. The dinner was provided by Mr. Deane, of the City Coffee House. The number of guests present was about 250, including nearly the whole of the visitors who had attended the various proceedings during the day.

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This brought the proceedings to a termination, after which the visitors adjourned to the Deanery, where a museum of Roman, Saxon, Norman, and other antiquities had been formed under the superintendence of the Rev. R. P. Coates and Mr. C. Roach Smith, F.S.A. Some ancient archives relating to the district were also exhibited. The several articles were explained by Mr. C. R. Smith, and tea, coffee, and other refreshments were handed round to the visitors.

The proceedings of the second day (Thursday), although not possessing the attractions of Wednesday, were of a highly interesting character. At ten o'clock the members and friends assembled in the Corn Exchange, the chair being again occupied by the Marquis Camden, K.G. Papers were read by the Rev. T. Hugo, F.S.A., and other gentlemen, on the various anti-quarian objects of interest in the neighbourhood. After the reading had concluded a large number of the members proceeded in carriages to Cooling Castle, the ancient church of St. Helen at Cliffe, Higham church, Cobham Hall (which had been kindly thrown open by the Earl of Darnley), and Cobham church, all of which interesting places were inspected.

The party then returned to Rochester, and the proceedings of the society, which had been of an agreeable character, terminated.