

Archaeological Institute -- annual meeting -- Rochester, 1863

Archaeological Journal, 20 (1863), 379--407.

379

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1863,

Held at Rochester, July 28 to August 4.

The Annual Meeting was held under the patronage of His Grace the Lord Primate, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Bishop of Rochester, the Earl Stanhope, President of the Society of Antiquaries, and other influential Kentish noblemen. The proceedings commenced in the Guildhall at two o'clock. Shortly before that hour Lord Talbot de Malahide, accompanied by some leading members of the Institute and influential promoters of the Meeting, received, in the Council Chamber, the Marquess Camden, K. G., President elect, with the Earl of Darnley, the Earl Amherst, the Recorder of Rochester, and other members of the Kent Archaeological Society, attending as a deputation to offer welcome on behalf of that body. On proceeding into the Guildhall, where the Mayor with the members of the Corporation, the Town Clerk and civic officers, and also a numerous assembly of members of the Institute, had already congregated, Lord Talbot expressed to the Meeting the regret of the President of the previous year, Lord Lyttelton, that public business in Worcestershire prevented his taking part in the Meeting at Rochester. In his absence Lord Talbot then invited the noble Marquess, under whose auspices the Kentish archaeologists had successfully prosecuted a purpose kindred to that for which the Institute had been organised, to take the chair.

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380

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The Town Clerk, at the Mayor's request, then read the following address: --

"To the most Noble the Marquess Camden, K. G. (President of the Meeting), and to the members of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

"My Lord Marquess, Ladies, and Gentlemen --

"We the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the ancient City of Rochester, in Council assembled, beg to be permitted to offer you our cordial welcome on this your first visit to our ancient city.

"We received with feelings of the greatest pleasure the intimation of the wish of the Institute to make our city this year the place of its annual meeting, and we have been most desirous to afford you every proof of our welcome.

"Not only does the city of Rochester possess within it especial objects of archaeological attraction, among which the Cathedral and ancient Castle

may be particularly mentioned, but there are also in its immediate vicinity many subjects, situated amidst the beautiful scenery for which the county of Kent is justly famed, well worthy of your attention.

"We highly appreciate the value of the investigations of the Institute, and congratulate ourselves if we have been in the least degree instrumental in bringing you amongst us; and we trust that while to our citizens and the inhabitants of the county generally, your researches into subjects of so great interest to them cannot but be productive of much pleasure and advantage, the result will afford a material and useful addition to the interesting and valuable fund of information which the labors of the Institute have been the means of bringing to light.

"We again tender you our hearty welcome, and hope that your visit may be a pleasant and agreeable one to the members attending your congress."

The Noble President expressed, on behalf of the Institute, hearty appreciation of this friendly welcome from the Mayor and Corporate authorities, and of their kindness in affording every facility in the use of the Guildhall and other public buildings, which had proved of essential advantage in the arrangements for the meeting.

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The Earl of Darnley, on behalf of the Kent Archaeological Society, expressed the pleasure with which that Society regarded this visit: they had the greatest satisfaction in welcoming the Institute to Kent. In coming to that county the Institute had entered upon a most interesting field of archaeological and historical inquiry. Rochester must rank second only to Canterbury in archaeological riches, possessing, if not one of the

381

most magnificent, one of the most interesting cathedrals in regard to its architectural history, its peculiarities and many instructive details; Rochester presents also a noble castle. The Institute had as President, that day, the President of their own local society. He congratulated the Noble President on the progress of the county society; though only five years old, thanks to the exertions of some of its members -- especially of Mr. Larking whose absence through serious indisposition they must all regret -- it already possessed nearly a thousand members and has published four volumes of highly interesting transactions. In the name of the Archaeologists of Kent, Lord Darnley desired to tender to the Institute a hearty welcome, and expressed his earnest hope that the members would carry away agreeable recollections of their visit to Rochester and of their explorations of the varied and remarkable vestiges of every period which its neighbourhood presented to their examination.

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The Provost of Oriel College, as Canon in residence, expressed, in the absence of the Dean who was precluded by the infirmities of age from taking part in the meeting, the sincere welcome of the Chapter and their desire to promote in any manner the gratification of their learned visitors, especially in the full investigation of that very remarkable architectural example, upon which, twenty years previously, he (Dr. Hawkins) had the

pleasure of hearing a discourse from Professor Willis. He anticipated with gratification the results of the Professor's matured conclusions upon a structure full of interest, -- a cathedral occupying the hallowed site of the second church erected in this country in Anglo-Saxon times. The fact might well claim consideration that amongst the possessions of the Church of Rochester is still found the "Priest Field," given by Ethelbert in the days of St. Augustine and of the earliest Christian establishment on the banks of the Medway.

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382

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The meeting then dispersed. A large party assembled in the High Street to inspect, under the obliging guidance of Mr. S. Steele, the remains of the city walls, the ancient houses, the crypts under the Crown Inn and elsewhere, the Bridge Chapel, Boley Hill and the site of the residence of the benevolent Richard Watts in which he received Queen Elizabeth; the "Restoration House," where Charles II. was entertained on his journey to London in 1660; the sites of the city gates, and other points of local interest. The circuit of inspection terminated at the remarkable accumulation of piles from the old Rochester Bridge, now heaped up in a field near

383

the Medway in the occupation of Messrs. Foord, by whom the difficult operation of removing the bridge was undertaken. The mass of timber, chiefly of elm, presented a most striking appearance; the iron-shod piles, many of which were during 500 years in the bed of the river, are found to be in sound condition and were drawn out with no slight difficulty. In constructing the new bridge considerable traces of a submerged forest were also noticed. At the close of the tour of exploration thanks were tendered to Mr. Steele, by the Bishop of Rochester and the Rev. E. Hill, for his kind services and the curious local information which he had imparted.

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384

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Wednesday, July 29.

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386

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At the Evening Meeting in the County Court the Chair was taken by the Very Rev. the Dean of Chichester, and the following memoirs were

read: --

Visits to Rochester and Chatham by Royal and distinguished Personages, English and Foreign, between the years 1300 and 1783; by W. B. Rye, Esq., Assistant-Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum.

On a hitherto unpublished Passage in the Life of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester; by the Rev. James Lee Warner.

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389

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Friday, July 31.

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The following Memoirs were then read: --

The Life and Times of Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester; by the Very Rev. the Dean of Chichester, D.D., F.R.S. At the close of this discourse, which was received with deep attention, the Bishop of Oxford proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Hook, and he took occasion with graceful pleasantry to compare certain incidents in the career of that distinguished writer of Ecclesiastical Biography with those which the Dean had so ably brought before them in the history of Gundulph.

The Buildings of Bishop Gundulph; by J. H. Parker, Esq., F.S.A./6

The Textus Roffensis; by W. H. Black, Esq., F.S.A. That invaluable record was brought to the Guildhall by permission of the Chapter, and through the kindness of George Essell, Esq., the Chapter Clerk, to be placed before the meeting during the delivery of Mr. Black's discourse.

The last memoir included in the proceedings of the morning was, The Architectural History of Rochester Cathedral and of the Conventual Buildings; by the Rev. Professor Willis, F.R.S. This important dis-

/6 Printed in Gent. Mag. Sept. 1863, p. 255.

390

course is reserved for future publication. At the close of the afternoon service, the Professor accompanied his large audience in a minute examination of the Cathedral and of its structural peculiarities.

In the evening the Marquess Camden presided at a meeting at the County Court; the following Memoirs were read: --

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On Old Rochester Bridge, and ancient remains adjacent to its site; by John Ross Foord, Esq. In the course of Mr. Foord's address, showing intimate practical knowledge of a subject of great local interest which he kindly undertook to bring forward, illustrated by photographs and numerous very curious diagrams, he observed that the old bridge had been constructed at the cost of one liberal individual, Sir Robert Knolles, about

the year 1392. The cost of such a bridge would now exceed £70,000. Few, perhaps, who passed over the old structure thought of the generous founder; as few now appreciate the advantages accruing from estates given for the support of the bridge; the new construction had involved an outlay of £150,000; it had been carried out and would be maintained by funds arising from those estates. As no statement was on record how the foundations of the old bridge had been laid, it might be acceptable to the members of the Institute to receive some information on the subject. They were constructed by driving piles, mostly of elm shod with Swedish iron, into the bed of the Medway, here chiefly of chalk. These piles were 20ft. in length, driven close together, and forming platforms about 45ft. in length by 20ft. in width. Mr. Foord described also the construction of the starlings outside these platforms, with half-timber piles ingeniously secured by ties, enclosing a space about 95ft. by 40ft. the intervening cavities being filled with chalk, the top and sides planked over with elm. A course of flat-bedded stones of Kentish rag was laid over the platform, and on that the solid masonry was built, the mortar being nearly as hard as the stone. The number of piles removed under Mr. Foord's direction, an operation which presented unusual difficulties, was upwards of 10,000; the quantity of timber about 250,000 cubic feet. A vast accumulation of piles chiefly, as before observed, of elm, with some of oak, still lay near the river side below the present bridge, on Mr. Foord's premises; and it was inspected by many visitors during the meeting. Mr. Foord gave also an account of discoveries made in preparing the foundation of the new inn near the ancient hostelry of The Crown. Foundations of buildings had been found, with indications apparently of a water-gate near the corner of the present street; Samian ware and other Roman relics had been also collected, which Mr. Foord sent to the Museum of the Institute; and he exhibited a vertebral bone of a large whale found in the sand at a depth of 9ft.; he stated the grounds of his belief that the huge fish had been cast ashore and perished on the banks of the Medway at some remote period.

The Monumental Remains in Rochester Cathedral; by M. Holbeche Bloxam, Esq., F.S.A.

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392

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Monday, August 3.

A meeting was held at the Guildhall; the Marquess Camden, K.G., in the Chair. The Lord Primate, the Bishop of Rochester, the Bishop of Gibraltar, the Earl and Countess Darnley, Lord Talbot, Lord Neaves, M. Maury, Mr. Beresford Hope, and many other persons of note, were present.

The Rev. Edward Venables, in the absence of Edward Hawkins, Esq., Treasurer of the Institute, read the following communication from him

relating to the Mint at Rochester.

"There is very little to be said about the Rochester Mint, either royal or episcopal. Ruding has told all that was known in his time, and all the knowledge we have acquired, since his work was published, is gleaned from a few coins which have come to our knowledge. The earliest fact respecting the establishment of a Mint at Rochester is derived from the *Leges Anglo-Saxonicae*, by which we learn that Æthelstan had two moneyers in this city, but the only specimen of that monarch's coinage is one which was discovered in the South of Ireland, and was made known to the public by Mr. Lindsay in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, vol. ii. p. 35, and reads, as legend, HVNGAR MO ROF CIVIT. See Lindsay's *Coinage of the Heptarchy*, pl. 4, no. 108.

A coin of Eadgar in the British Museum is the only one known, it reads SIDEMAN ON ROF.

Of Æthelred II. several coins are known. The names of moneyers which occur upon specimens preserved in the British Museum are EDSIGE, GOLDWINE, LEOFRIC, SIDEWINE.

Cnut is recorded to have struck coins here, but I cannot quote a specimen.

393

Of Harold I. the British Museum possesses the only specimen which I am able to mention; none were known to Ruding or Lindsay. It reads GODVUN ON ROC.

The moneyers known of Edward the Confessor are AEDWINE, GODWINE, ULCATEL.

Of Harold II. the British Museum possesses perhaps the only known specimen, it reads, LEOFSTAN ON ROFI.

It is somewhat remarkable that in *Domesday Book* there is not any mention of a Mint in Rochester, although coins are known to have been struck there by William I.; and, as it is not quite easy to separate the coins of one from the other of these monarchs, the names of the moneyers which occur upon either in the British Museum are here given together, AELSTAN, GVÖRIED, LIFSTAN, LIEWINE, HORN, OEÖGRIM, WULFWINE.

The valuable record, the *Textus Roffensis*, mentions Goldwine and Rodbert as moneyers in the reign of Henry I., and also states that Goldwine granted a house &c., to Bishop Ernulph, who held the See for nine years, from Christmas 1115 to March 1124, and to the monks of St. Andrew, on condition that he should be received as a monk into that house.

In Henry II.'s reign we have, on coins still existing, two moneyers, Alisandre and Humfrei. Of John no coins are now known to exist, though in 1208 sixteen moneyers from various towns, Rochester amongst the number, were commanded to appear before the king, at Westminster, and to bring with them all their dies. By this it would appear not only that a Mint existed at Rochester, but that it had been actually in operation. Coins were struck here in the reign of Henry III., but after this time there is not any trace of a Rochester coinage.

Of the Episcopal Mint the information is extremely scanty. From the *Registrum Roffense* it appears that Æthelstan granted to Kyneferd and the

monks of St. Andrew a moneyer, but no episcopal coins have been discovered, nor does there appear to be any other notice of this Mint, either of its operation or termination."

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397

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The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne then read a memoir on Rochester Castle. (Printed in this volume, p. 205.) At the close of the meeting he accompanied the Lord Primate and a numerous party in a short examination of the structure.

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399

Tuesday, August 4.

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403

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At ten o'clock the Marquess Camden took the chair in the Guildhall, and the following memoirs were read:

The Ancient Connection of the Sees of Canterbury and Rochester; by the Rev. W. Stubbs, M.A., Librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Notices of the Archives of Rochester, and of certain documents preserved in the Public Record Office; by Joseph Burtt, Esq., Assistant-Keeper of Public Records.

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404

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The meeting then adjourned, and a large party accompanied the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne to the Castle, in order to make a more detailed examination of its peculiar features than had been practicable in the limited time available on a previous day.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

Rochester Meeting, July 28 -- Aug. 4.

This meeting was held, by permission of the Mayor and Corporation, in the Guildhall at Rochester; a Museum was established in the Corn Exchange: and the Council Chamber, the Court Room of the County Court, the Hall of the Bridge Wardens, and other public buildings were liberally placed at the disposal of the Institute. The company numbered upwards of 300, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Marquis Camden, K.G. (President of the Kent Archaeological Society), the Mayor and Corporation of Rochester, the Earl Amherst, Earl and Countess of Darnley, the Bishops of Oxford, Rochester, and Gibraltar, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Lord Neaves, Sir John P. Boileau, Sir Stephen R. Glynne, Sir R. Kirby, Sir Sibbald Scott, Sir T. M. Wilson, Sir W. Smith Marriott, Sir Walter James, the Master of Caius College, Cambridge, the Provost of Oriel, the Deans of Chichester and Peterborough, Rev. Professors Stanley and Willis, Major Luard, Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., Col. Pinney, M.P., Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, Mr. Mayer (of Liverpool), Mr. Parker (of Oxford), Mr. C. Roach Smith, Dr. Wilson (of Toronto), Mr. A. W. Franks, Mr. Albert Way, Mr. Bloxam, Mr. J. Burtt, and other eminent archaeologists, and a large number of ladies. The section of History had for President the Dean of Chichester; that of Architecture, the Rev. Professor Willis; and that of Early and Mediaeval Antiquities, Lord Talbot de Malahide. The Museum was under the especial care of Mr. Charles Tucker, F.S.A., and the Rev. Edward Hill was Director of the Excursions.

Tuesday, July 28. Opening Meeting. Tour of the City.

The proceedings were opened at the Guildhall at 2 p.m. Lord Talbot de Malahide (in the absence of Lord Lyttelton, President of the Institute) moved that the Marquis Camden should take the chair, which was unanimously agreed to, after which an address of welcome from the Corporation was read, and suitably acknowledged. The noble Marquis said that the Corporation had afforded every facility to the Institute by granting the use of public buildings, &c.; and he begged them to accept the best and most sincere thanks of the members of the Institute.

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The Earl of Darnley then, on behalf of the Kent Archaeological Society, expressed the pleasure that Society felt in this visit: they had the greatest pleasure in welcoming the Institute. In coming to Kent, they had entered upon a most interesting field. Rochester must rank second only to Canterbury in its archaeological riches: it possesses, if

not one of the most magnificent, one of the most interesting cathedrals; and it has also a noble castle. They had in their President that day the President of their own local Society. He congratulated their President on the progress of the county Society: though only five years

300

old, thanks to the exertions of some of its member -- especially those of the Rev. Mr. Larking, whose absence from ill-health they must all regret -- it already possesses nearly a thousand members: and it has already published four volumes of highly interesting transactions.

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The Provost of Oriel (Dr. Hawkins) welcomed the Institute to Rochester on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, and remarked that Rochester Cathedral stood on the site of the second Christian church of the Anglo-Saxon times.

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The meeting then broke up. Some repaired to the Museum, and a large party collected in the High-street to inspect the ancient remains of the city under the guidance of S. Steele, Esq., who had undertaken the task of conductor.

Mr. Steele first led the visitors to the groined apartment under the Crown Inn, now used as a wine-cellar, and which was examined with much interest. Above the cellar or crypt, and on a level with the street, is another ancient vaulted apartment. On leaving the Crown, Mr. Steele shewed portions of the old city walls near the present bridge, some in the Crown-yard. In this yard also is a portion of the ancient inn still standing, ascribed to the time of Elizabeth/d. Here also is some part of the original walls of All Souls' or the Bridge Chapel. This

/d The remains of this ancient hostel are of considerable interest; the cellars are of two periods, the earliest part it of the work of the twelfth century, or the beginning of the thirteenth; the other part may be of the fourteenth or fifteenth. The inn has been one of the half-timber houses so common in Kent, and the finely-moulded timbers indicate that a considerable part of it was of the time of Henry VII. It is much to be regretted that this ancient hostelry is to be entirely destroyed to make way for the improvements of the Bridge Estates Commissioners; about half of it is already pulled down. -- Ed.

301

chapel was situated without the wall of the city; as also was the church of St. Clement, close to the water, on the Rochester side of the present railway bridge. Of old the main route from the bridge was under the archway facing the water by the Bridge-house, through what is now the Crown-yard, and under the arch into the High-street. There was also another access to the bridge by the way that subsequently became the only thoroughfare while the old bridge existed.

Mr. Steele next proceeded to near the entrance to the castle; where he described the course of the castle ditch. He believed the ditch --

now filled up -- was made in the time of the Romans; many Roman coins have been found in it from time to time. Formerly there was a great mound at the spot called Boley Hill; some have ascribed this to the Danes; but Mr. Steele believed it was merely formed of the materials taken from the ditch. He did not touch further on the subject of the castle, as Mr. Hartshorne was subsequently to exhibit and explain that structure.

Leaving the castle entry, the company next proceeded to the cathedral-yard; where Mr. Steele pointed out the ancient "Bishop's Palace." Proceeding to Boley Hill, Mr. Steele observed that the wall beyond the present police-court had once been part of a prison which occupied that spot. On Boley Hill he pointed out the site of Richard Watts's house -- that house in which the worthy citizen entertained Queen Elizabeth; and which was afterwards called "Satis" House, from the Queen, when Watts expressed a hope that her Majesty had been properly accommodated, having said in reply -- "Satis." The present Archbishop of Canterbury was born in Satis House.

Mr. Steele explained that "Boley Hill," now occupied with houses and gardens, had been reduced in height by materials having been taken to fill up the ditch of the castle -- that which now forms the shady walks under the shadow of the keep. By Boley Hill was the south gate of the city. Two years ago some of the foundations were discovered while excavations were being made. This gate was nearly in a line with the existing Prior's Gate, at the end of Minor Canon-row. At the back of the King's School there are some remains of the ancient city walls. In the Vines is a large extent of the city wall, forming the boundary of a garden.

Restoration House, where Charles II. slept on his journey to London in May, 1660, was next visited, by leave of the lady and the clergyman who now occupy the two sections into which the mansion has been divided. The most southerly part of the house is occupied as a ladies' school. The party visited several of the rooms. In that where the pupils were assembled there was finely-carved work over the fireplace. Much of the house, however, has been modernized; and one large apartment has been divided into two. In this house coins or medals have been found with "C. R." and a crown upon them -- nothing more; appearing to indicate that they were struck to commemorate the royal visit.

In the next house, occupied as a boys' school, there is a good deal to interest. The spacious staircase is striking. One of the rooms, much modernized, and now occupied as a dormitory for the pupils, is that in which King Charles II. slept.

Mr. Steele next led the way to Sir Joseph Williamson's School; near the spot where was formerly the East Gate of the city, extending

302

across the street. A representation of it is still to be seen in the oldest view of Rochester -- the print in the British Museum. The gate, which

was pulled down in 1590 or 1600, was on a small scale.

Passing through the Free School, Mr. Steele exhibited the remains of the embattled city wall with the rampart at the rear of the school. When part of the wall was pulled down not long since in order to allow of the extension of the school, a party of Royal Engineers had to tear it to pieces by mining and exploding gunpowder. At the north end of the wall is a circular tower. The wall is in fine preservation: it was built in 1225: it and the tower are seen to great advantage from Free School-lane, down which Mr. Steele led his troop, through the Common, tracing the circuit of the ancient city in this direction: pointing out rows of houses occupying the site of the city ditch, while in some of the houses in the rear of these, small remains of the city wall exist.

Turning up Pump-lane, Mr. Steele pointed out the site of the North Gate, or Cheldergate -- why so called he was not able to explain. From this point there are traces of the wall to the river bank. The gate was pulled down three or four centuries ago.

Opposite to Pump-lane is the College Gate.

The party now journeyed up the High-street, past the Corn Exchange, to the George Inn, where they descended into an extensive vault running under the inn from the street to a considerable depth. The place is now used mainly as a skittle-alley, for which it is lighted with gas. It consists of a long apartment constructed of stone, groined, with bosses at the junctions of the stone ribs. There have been windows at the sides, now bricked up; towards the street, a portion of the apartment is parted off and used as a beer-cellar; and here some interesting details were observed. Towards the street the roof rises in the direction of the entrance. There is a legend that formerly there was a subterranean communication with the castle or other buildings to the south: but there were no strong indications of this having been the case.

Opinions differed as to what this ancient vaulted apartment had formerly been. Mr. Steele considered it the basement of a building -- that the floor was anciently on a level with the street, which, in the course of years, must have been raised some feet; the openings at the side were windows, and that in front the doorway. But other gentlemen held that the apartment had probably been a mere vault or store, belonging to some wealthy merchant -- perhaps to a guild. The sloping roof at the entry was intended to facilitate the reception of goods -- similar stores beneath merchants' houses are found in other localities, with entries like this. The side openings had been cellar windows, open only at the upper part. After a stay of some time in the vault the party set out for the field near the Gas Works, where Messrs. Foord have large quantities of the piles taken up from the foundations of old Rochester Bridge. These piles, -- which are mostly elm, with a few oak, -- many of them 500 years old, are found to be perfectly sound inside, and when cut up make excellent boards. These piles are from the foundations of the old stone bridge: a former bridge of timber existed on the site of the present bridge. Some of the piles have been taken out five years: there was much difficulty in withdrawing them --

the task occupied two years. The piles were capped with iron; and in the course of centuries the iron had become concreted with the

303

chalky soil into which the piles were driven, forming curious masses, which attracted much attention from the visitors. It was stated that in constructing the new bridge, the workmen came into contact with a submerged forest, and hazel nuts were brought up from the bed of the river in a perfect state.

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Wednesday, July 29. Meetings of Sections. Excursion to Cobham.

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311

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At the evening meeting, in the County Court, under the presidency of the Dean of Chichester, a paper was read by Mr. W. B. Rye, Assistant Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, on "Visits to Rochester and Chatham by Royal and Distinguished Personages, English and Foreign, between the years 1300 and 1783." Mr. Rye gave interesting details of the visits of Edward IV., Henry V., Henry VIII., Queen Elizabeth, James I., King Christian IV., Prince Henry, the King of Bohemia, Charles I. and II., Peter the Great, Hogarth, and Dr. Johnson, the last-mentioned of whom spent some time in the city a short period before his death. Some discussion followed, in which the names of other royal and illustrious personages were given as having visited the city prior to the period included in Mr. Rye's paper, after which the Rev. J. L. Warner read a paper on "A hitherto Unpublished Passage in the Life of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester." This prelate, who is remarkable as being one of the very few bishops who held his see both before and after the Commonwealth, was the founder of the college for the widows of the clergy at Bromley, and was a man of most estimable character.

(To be continued.)

442

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

Rochester Meeting, July 28 -- Aug. 4.

(Continued from p. 311.)

Thursday, July 30. Visit to Knoles, the Mote at Ightham, &c.

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447

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Friday, July 31. Meetings of Sections. Prof. Willis's Lecture on the Cathedral.

The Marquis Camden presided at the Guildhall, and among those present was M. A. Maury, specially deputed by the Emperor of the French to attend the congress, his Majesty having directed that distinguished archaeologist to attend the meetings of the Institute for the purpose of hearing the lecture by Dr. Guest, Master of Gonville and Caius College, on "The Landing of Julius Caesar in Britain." That lecture, however, had been delivered before the arrival of M. Maury in this country, but its purport was communicated to him.

The first paper read was by the Very Rev. Dr. Hook, F.R.S., Dean of Chichester, on "The Life and Times of Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester." Dr. Hook traced in ample detail the history of this prelate and his connection with Rochester, the see of which he held from 1077 to 1107, a portion of which period he was, de facto, Archbishop of Canterbury, after the death of his friend and patron Lanfranc. Gundulph, however, is principally known as the builder of the White Tower of London, the Castle at Rochester, and Malling Abbey. The theory of his having built Rochester Cathedral is now abandoned by archaeologists, Dr. Hook being of opinion that he only erected a very small portion of that edifice, -- namely, the crypt, -- while there are no reliable grounds for deeming him the builder of Rochester Castle. This remarkable prelate, more perhaps than any other individual of the time, stamped his character on the age in which he lived. At the close of the paper, the Bishop of Oxford proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Dr. Hook, many of the incidents in whose life his Lordship gracefully compared with those in the life of Gundulph.

The next paper read was by Mr. J. H. Parker, F.S.A., on "The Buildings of Bishop Gundulph," which has already appeared in our pages/g. This was to have been followed by a paper by the Rev. W.

Stubbs, M.A., on "The Early History of the See of Rochester, more particularly in its Relations to that of Canterbury," but in the absence of Mr. Stubbs a paper was read by Mr. W. H. Black, F.S.A., on the *Textus Roffensis*, which is still preserved in the cathedral library at Rochester. Mr. Black's paper exhibited deep research into the history of the work, the authorship of which has given rise to a considerable amount of conjecture, many contending that it was the work of Ernulph, who died in 1124, while others deem that Bishop Ascelin was its author. Mr. Black, however, is disposed to give its authorship to Humphrey, precentor of the cathedral, who lived in the twelfth

/f *Gent. Mag.*, Sept. 1863, p. 307. /g *Ibid.*, pp. 255--268.

448

century, and who was the author of several documents now preserved in the British Museum.

The remaining paper was that by Professor Willis, on "The Architectural History of Rochester Cathedral and Conventual Buildings." This was a most valuable contribution to the Institute, and was looked forward to with considerable interest.

The Professor exhibited a ground-plan, and also a section of the cathedral. He said that there is no doubt that an entire Norman church existed on the present site, but not extending so far eastward; the present crypt retains a portion of the western part of the Norman crypt. The examination of Mr. Ashpitel in 1854 shewed that this church did not terminate with an apse, but was square-ended. The Professor entirely ignores the claim of Gundulph to having erected the present nave, the building itself proving beyond dispute that it was erected at different periods. There is little doubt that the whole cathedral was formerly of the Norman style, but the only portion of Norman now remaining is in the nave, the remainder being of the Early English style. The only portion which he was disposed to attribute to Gundulph was the crypt, and possibly the great lateral tower, but "certainly not another stone." The Norman portion of the nave he was disposed to assign to Ernulph, who built the crypt at Canterbury, as well as a portion of Peterborough Cathedral, when he was abbot, before his removal to Rochester. The documents shew that the choir was erected by William de Hoo, out of the offerings at the shrine of St. William, who was murdered by his servant when on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, being afterwards interred in Rochester Cathedral, and subsequently canonized by the Pope.

Taking the cathedral as it now stands, we have, going from east to west, first, an Early English presbytery, including two transepts; the former, as regards the north and south walls, with piers constructed so as to dispense with exterior buttresses, is well worth examination. This is the earliest specimen of the Early English portion of the cathedral; it appears to have been, with its crypt, the work of Helias, and may be set down at about the year 1200.

The choir between the two sets of transepts was constructed next. On examination, it is evident that this is fitted on to the presbytery, not the presbytery to it; it is therefore later. William de Hoo constructed it out of the offerings to the shrine of St. William, before the year 1227, when the choir was entered.

The remainder of the Early English part of the church to meet the Norman nave, including the south-west transept, the north-west transept and the contiguous work, was finished in time for the whole church to be dedicated in 1240; but the Norman nave was never pulled down, as was perhaps intended.

There were two fires, the last in 1179; but the nave does not seem to have been greatly injured. The pillars are all unlike, except that they are twins, each being like that opposite to it.

Two bishops, St. Paulinus, who came with St. Augustine to England, and Ithamar, the first English Bishop of Rochester, who died in 655, were buried in the cathedral, and their tombs remained in the presbytery down to the time of the Reformation.

After the afternoon service at the cathedral, Professor Willis accompanied a party round the building to explain its more remarkable

449

features. He placed himself under the tower at the north-west corner of the transept, and looking towards the Norman nave, said, --

"You will observe that the piers are not, as at Romsey Abbey, built one after another at following dates, but seem to have been erected all at once: they answer, an already stated, each to that over against it; but otherwise are all dissimilar, so as to give the appearance of a set of patterns, such as is presented in some of our cathedrals where different persons have been suffered to insert memorial windows without any reference to harmony or congruity. The tower outside to the north of the cathedral I am willing to allow may very probably have been built by Gundulph; but any one who scans this nave with an intelligent eye will clearly perceive that the work is of a more refined and advanced character than his times would present, and therefore it must be assigned to a later date -- to a period in the reign of Henry I., after the death of the prelate. The Norman clearstory is, you observe, gone; and the shafts running upwards stop short; the fires which occurred may probably account for much in this part of the church."

The Professor now proceeded to remark upon the eastern or Early English portion of the building. He said: --

"I consider this part of the structure presents many features of interest and beauty; and I would especially advert to the northern façade of the transept at the north-east of the nave (where the stained glass is inserted to the memory of the late Archdeacon King), as presenting a good piece of architectural composition: not that this is by any means one of the earlier parts of the present cathedral; for I consider [here the Professor advanced to the east of the choir, nearly opposite

St. William's Chapel] the presbytery at the extreme east end was clearly the first part that was erected, when in the time of Helias it was determined to supersede the old Norman church by an improved edifice. Here you will observe the late use of the billet-moulding in Early English work. A minute examination of the walls north and south shew where the next portion of the building, viz. the choir, was added and adapted to the existing structure by William de Hoo after no considerable interval of time. The jointure of the walls shews that the westernmost structure is of later date: moreover, the details of the architecture in the triforium and elsewhere exhibit as you advance westward a progressively subsequent age. It is remarkable that the choir is closed from the aisles by solid walls. Beneath the present stall-work I find the original Early English benches which served in place of after arrangements, before misereres were invented. Emerging from the choir beneath the central tower we look to the north transept as the part of the building which comes next in point of date, whereas the south transept exhibits in windows and otherwise a changing style, and what look like mullions."

The Professor next proceeded to the crypt, the westernmost part of which alone is allowed to be Gundulph's; where not only the round arches but the ruder masonry point to his period. Leaving the crypt, the party went out by the south transept door into the garden of the house now occupied by the Master of the Temple, where the remains of the cathedral cloisters are to be seen. Here a pause was made to contemplate Mr. Cottingham's work on the outside face of this transept, and the Professor observed: --

"Mr. Cottingham, in spite of the period at which he lived (and he repaired parts of this cathedral some forty years ago), shewed skill as a constructor: we must consider, before we criticize severely such a work as this outer face of the transept, the ignorance of the artisans who carved the details; for at that time there were no workmen who had had any experience in Gothic mouldings. Whether this will

450

account for that entire want of appreciation of the style which appears in the execution of those mouldings, may perhaps be doubted: at all events, no one can excuse the extreme depression of the gable. It was Mr. Cottingham who mended the figure on the jamb of the chapter-house doorway in the ridiculous manner in which it now appears. It was a female figure representing the Church that was broken; Mr. Cottingham, seeing the flowing robes, imagined it must have been an ecclesiastic, and put on a bishop's head.

"In this cathedral the nature of the ground has caused the cloisters to be erected so as to adjoin the choir in a more easterly situation than is usual: you observe the remains running southward from the eastern part of the church -- they may be traced for some distance; but the monastic remains about the cathedral are too inconsiderable to repay any extended investigation."

The sections re-assembled in the evening at the County Court, when Richard Morris, Esq., read a paper on "The Dialect of Kent in Early Times." . . .

Mr. John Ross Foord next read a paper on "Old Rochester Bridge and the adjacent Site/h." He observed that the bridge had been built at the cost of a single individual, Sir Robert Knolleys, about the year 1392. The cost of such a bridge at the present day would exceed £70,000. Few, he said, who passed over that old bridge thought of the benefit derived from Sir Robert's liberality, and as few reflect on the advantages derived from the estates given by others for the support of that bridge. The new bridge, which had cost £150,000, had been built and would be maintained entirely from the means derived from those estates, without taxing the public. There being no record as to how the foundations of the old bridge had been constructed, it might be acceptable to the members of the Institute to have some information on the subject. The foundations to support the piers, &c., were constructed by driving piles of elm timber, shod with Swedish iron, into the bed of the river, at this part mostly chalk. These piles were about 20 ft. long, driven close together, and forming platforms about 45 ft. in length and 20 ft. wide. Mr. Foord described the construction of the starlings outside the platform, with half-timber piles, secured by ties, enclosing a space of about 95 ft. long by about 40 ft. wide; the space between these piles and those of the platform was filled with chalk, the top and sides of the starlings being covered with elm plank. A course of flat-

/h Remains of what appeared to have been the pilings of a Roman bridge were found by Mr. Ball (contractor for clearing the bed of the river), opposite the main street of Rochester.

451

bedded stones of Kentish rag, about 8 in. thick, was laid over the piled platform, and on that the masonry was built -- a solid mass, the mortar being nearly as hard as the stone. The number of piles removed from the old bridge was about 10,000; the quantity of timber, about 250,000 cubic feet; and the total quantity of dressed stone, rubble and chalk, about 300,000 feet cube.

Having described the structure of the old bridge, Mr. Foord referred to some discoveries made in preparing the site of the new Crown Inn/i, consisting of the foundations of former structures. In various parts of the excavations Roman pottery had been found. He also stated that on excavating the solid sand, at a depth of about 9 ft. from the surface, the vertebrae of a whale had been found; he conjectured that at some period the fish had been cast ashore and died there.

The last paper read was by Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, Esq., on "The Monumental Remains in Rochester Cathedral."

Saturday, Aug. 1. Excursion to Leeds Castle, Maidstone, &c.

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/i Gent. Mag., Sept. 1863, p. 300.

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Monday, Aug. 3. Excursion. Meeting of Sections.

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At ten o'clock the Marquis Camden took the chair at the Guildhall, and was supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rochester, the Bishop of Gibraltar, Lord and Lady Darnley, Lord Neaves, and Mr. Beresford Hope, &c. M. Maury was also present.

Edward Hawkins, Esq., F.S.A., read a paper "On the Mint of Rochester."

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The Rev. C. H. Hartshorne read a paper "On the Architectural History of Rochester Castle." He shewed that the church of St. Andrew in Rochester and the castle were once held by the bishops; the bishops used the castle as a residence. Its position was most important in a military sense, standing on a great road and commanding the river Medway. From the time of Caesar to the Conqueror it was a place of great utility in protecting the kingdom from invasion. He referred to occurrences at the castle when Odo headed a revolt against his brother the Conqueror. William invested the place, which had been fortified by Odo; and the latter surrendered. The castle remained in the possession of the Crown till the time of Henry II. In 1076 Gundulph became Bishop of Rochester. Many buildings have been ascribed to him -- Rochester Castle among them: he is said to have raised the keep, and to have built the White Tower of the Tower of London. Mr. Hartshorne felt that it was difficult to run counter to generally received views; but he disputed that Gundulph built Rochester Keep. Whatever he built at Rochester, the keep could not have been erected by him. It is stated that he built the castle for £60; the present keep could not have been the building alluded to. Rochester Keep is hardly less than that of Dover: that cost £1,085 5s. 6d.; Chilham cost £331 16s. 9d. Rochester Keep could not have been built for £60/l. We know who really built it -- Gervase tells us. It was really erected by William de Corbyl, Archbishop of Canterbury, between 1123 and 1139. Until his time there was no regular fortress or tower. Gundulph had been dead eighteen years. To William de Corbyl is due the credit of this most magnificent work. Mr. Hartshorne had examined the Pipe Rolls of

/l See some observations of Mr. Ashpitel made at the Rochester Meeting of the Kent Archaeological Society in 1859. *Gent. Mag.*, Sept., 1859, p. 273.

the period, the returns of the sheriffs to the Exchequer, shewing what expenditure had been made on Crown lands and buildings, with the issues from the Crown property; he had examined 1,200 or 1,300 of these to see what he could find about Rochester. And by examining these Rolls he thought he had made it all out about the castle. He had in his laborious search also found other things that rewarded him for his trouble. In 1126 there was a grant of the castle to Archbishop William, and then expenditure ceased to be charged in the Pipe Rolls to the Crown for the castle. Subsequently, when the see of Canterbury was at times vacant, there are charges for the repairs of the castle -- the Crown then held it. Among other historical events connected with the castle, Mr. Hartshorne referred to the siege which De Albini stood in the castle on the side of the Barons against John: the King took it, after a long siege, but De Albini's resistance in Rochester Castle had an important influence on the struggle, and we should look with great interest on the keep as a building which had so marked an influence in that contest which laid the foundations for so much of our liberty. After touching upon the subsequent history of the castle, Mr. Hartshorne briefly dwelt upon its architecture. The military architecture of the keep is not different from that of other castles. The "King's Hall," in the grounds of the castle, has been destroyed.

The meeting then broke up, some of the ladies and gentlemen paying a hurried visit to the castle, where Mr. Hartshorne pointed out some of the architectural features of the keep; there was not time to do this fully, as it was close on the hour for the excursion, but this was remedied on the following day.

(To be continued.)

Gentleman's Magazine, Nov 1863, 586--99

586

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

Rochester Meeting, July 28 -- Aug. 4.

(Concluded from p. 455.)

Monday, Aug. 3. Excursion to Dartford, Darenth, &c.

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589

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Tuesday, Aug. 4. Concluding Meeting. Excursion to Cooling and Cliff.

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At 10 o'clock the Marquis Camden took the chair, when three papers were read. The first was by the Rev. W. Stubbs, M.A., Librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, on "The Ancient Connection between the Sees of Canterbury and Rochester." Mr. Stubbs traced the con-

590

nection which from the earliest recorded period always existed between the two sees, Rochester being the see of the first suffragan bishop in England, as well as the see of the first English bishop in the person of Ithamar, who held the see from 644 to 655, and was buried in Rochester Cathedral. Mr. Stubbs also gave many other interesting particulars of the see of Rochester, which for many centuries was always considered next in importance to that of Canterbury, while the bishops of Rochester occasionally assisted as archbishops of Canterbury.

Mr. Burt then read a paper "On the Archives of Rochester." The original charters, the chief of which were exhibited in the museum of the Institute, numbered only three previous to the fifteenth century. The earliest was one granted by Henry III. in the year 1228. This charter had hitherto been assigned to the reign of Henry II., and is said to be of the year 1165 in all the published histories of the place. A charter of the reign of Richard I. (A.D. 1189) is entered upon the Charter Roll in the Public Record Office in London, and it affords evidence of a remarkable privilege granted to the city. It contains a release to the inhabitants of the custom of "Pa-age" (a toll levied upon persons passing through the town) upon all persons bound for the Crusades. Mr. Burt read extracts from the Pipe Rolls of the Ex-

chequer shewing the amounts claimed by the town at several early periods for the remission of the toll in question, and calculated the number of Crusaders passing through Rochester to join the main army in the year 1192 at 84 horsemen and about 520 men on foot; in the following year they were about twice as numerous.

Besides the charters there are no municipal records before the \sphericalanglefifteenth century. These are fullest as regards the expenditure of the mayors, which contain many curious illustrations of the manners and customs of the times, and are remarkable for the contrasts they present between the past and present state of things. Extracts had been given from time to time; and Mr. Burtt contributed others, shewing the expenses for making and gilding the mace in the reign of Elizabeth (the present mace is, as usual, of the time of Charles II.); expenses incurred on the occasion of various royal visits, presentation of the freedom to two musicians in the year 1640 on condition that they "play throughe the citty every mornynge upon theire lowde musicke called the weightes betweene Hollantide and Candlemas as is usually done in the cittyes of London and Canterbury;" expenses of various convivial gatherings, &c.

Mr. Burtt then referred to the Book of the Admiral's Court, which he reported as full of particulars affecting the condition of the river Medway, and the interests involved in the proper execution of its police. Several quotations to this effect were given, including a presentment in the year 1592 of a man found drowned in the channel who "had brassettes on his armes." Two curious indentures of apprenticeship to a sempster and a barber were also given. The sempster's term was fourteen years, at the end of which she was to give her apprentice forty shillings in money and an outfit. The barber's term was nine years, and his apprentice was to be rigged out and provided for at its termination, with "doble apparell, the one for working dayes and a better for holye dayes, two combes, one aperne, one payer of syssers and the case to put them in, instruments fytt and belonginge to one of suche a mysterye." After the oath of the Officers of the Court were these lines -- worthy of Sternhold: --

591

"Lett every man that takes an othe in godly feare observe y/e same
So shall he at the dreadfull day acquyte himself thereof from blame
But he y/t careles, takes an othe, w/thout regard y/e same to kepe
Shall y/t bewayle, but suer to late, when he ys in y/t lake so depe."

The concluding portion of Mr. Burtt's paper was devoted to the collection of documents belonging to the Corporation of the Bridge Wardens. These consist of rolls and books of account relating to the receipt of the bridge revenues and their expenditure in works, and title-deeds of their property, in which appear many curious local particulars; also the title-deeds and accounts of Cobham College, of which the Bridge Wardens are Trustees. The earliest roll of accounts of works at the bridge was of the 16th year of Richard II. (the bridge was built in

the previous reign), and this was the oldest document belonging to the Wardens. In the Record Office, however, is an account of the expenses of working a ferry when the old wooden bridge was broken down, and before the stone bridge was built. This account was kept by the royal command, although, as Mr. Foord afterwards remarked, there must then have been some special circumstances, as the passage of the water in all such cases was granted to the citizens by charter. Mr. Burtt read several extracts from the Bridge Wardens documents.

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After the reading of these papers a party accompanied the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne to the castle, where he gave a more detailed account of the edifice than he had had time to do on the preceding day.

He remarked that probably the "hall" stood in the castle enclosure, with other buildings, now all gone. The whole keep appears to be of one age, except the round tower at the south-east corner. William de Corbyl built the keep between 1126 and 1139 -- about twenty-five years after the time of Gundulph. Dover Keep is rather larger than this of Rochester; the arrangements are the same as at Dover and other places. Dover Keep cost £1,200. The keep at Rochester would have been erected for £1,000, equal to £25,000 in these days. Mr. Hartshorne then rapidly pointed out some of the architectural features of the building. He said that many of the openings in the walls were chimney-openings, not windows. The keep was supplied with water from a well in the centre; the water could be raised to every floor by an opening in the dividing wall of the keep, extending from the ground-floor to the top of the building. The magnificent arcade on the floor containing the state apartments had been partly closed by a stone screen, a portion of which still remains. Considerable changes have been made in the building. On the east side, the top seems to have been knocked down -- probably when King John attacked the castle; there are indications of its having been repaired. No doubt there were a great many buildings in the ballium of the castle (the present garden); many of these were probably of wood. Castles were of course objects of attack; and thus we see them in a ruinous, dilapidated state; while ancient sacred edifices were more respected, and are therefore found in a more complete condition. A certain redness in the upper part of the walls of the

592

keep he ascribed to the oxidation of the stone -- not to fire, as some surmise.

This is the second largest Norman keep in England; Castle Rising is the third. In beauty and grandeur Rochester surpasses all the Norman keeps. He thought the keep was about ninety-five feet high. The building annexed to the keep on the north side might have been the chapel.

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