

of which may still be traced; the practice of commencing the proceedings of the Courts of the Lord of the Manor within these old walls was continued up to the last generation.

After luncheon a visit was paid to the Museum, which had been arranged in the Working Men's Reading-room by the Rev. J. D. Gedge and James Read, Esq. Here Mr. H. Prigg read the paper upon the tumuli of Warren Hill, which has been printed at page 287.

Lord John Hervey, the President, now took the opportunity of moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Prigg for his paper, to Mr. Paine for his kind reception of the Society at Wamhill, and especially to the Rev. J. D. Gedge and James Read, Esq., who had made all the excellent arrangements of the day.

A visit to the Church, where Mr. Gedge continued his paper pointing out the leading features of the building, concluded the meeting.

Space does not permit us to enumerate all the interesting objects which formed the Museum; we can only name a few:—

Mr. Read exhibited early maps of Herringswell (1726), Isleham, and Wicken. A map of Mildenhall showing the islands during the early fen period, was exhibited by the Rev. J. D. Gedge. Mr. Read brought Court Rolls of the Manors of Barton Parva, of Isleham, (one as early as 1408), and of Wicken of the reign of Elizabeth.

The same gentleman exhibited the diary of William Coe, a person possessing some property in Mildenhall, and a farmer evidently in a superior condition of life. The diary commences June 5, 1680: "I fell from a horse at Bury & was taken up dead by one Clem Simpson." An interpolation made at a much later date adds: "I was then a school boy." The last entry is May 25, 1728: "Whit Sunday. I received the blessed Sacrament of the body & blood of my Dear Redeemer, renewed my vows & resolutions of better obedience to God's holy will." The Parish Register records the burial of "William Coe, gent. Sept., 1729."

The diary is written in a small 16mo. book, bound in calf. It lays bare the inner life of the man; gives in detail his falling away, vows of amendment soon to be broken and again renewed, his prayers and thanks for preservation from numerous accidents, all recorded under the head of "Mercies received."

Scattered throughout are quotations from the Latin; extracts from Seneca, S. Austin, and S. Bernard. Short sentences in Greek occur, and the word Hallelujah is given in the Hebrew. A few English authors are made to contribute, Dr. Cradock's book of Knowledge and Practice being apparently the favourite. But the pages are chiefly filled with a diary relating how he had passed the Sunday; the reception of the Holy Communion is regularly recorded, and very often the writer enters that "he was at Church twice, but drowsy and sleepy there, and spent the rest of the day idly and vainly" Not unfrequently he tells how he sat up until the small hours at play, a promise of amendment always completing the entry. Before the end of his life the entries breathe a more earnest spirit, and short quotations—extracts from S. Austin and S. Bernard—appear. In other parts of the book prayers for various occasions are written, one being taken out of a book called "Dr. Patrick's Devotions"; one page contains "Good Rules to be observed." Unfortunately there are but few entries illustrating the general manners of the period; the following are amusing: "1708, Oct. 27. I was att y^e Cock w^h Sr Tho. Hanmer* Sr Hen. Bunbury & others where there was a great bowl of punch & though I had my freedom to drink ale & drank but one glass of punch & severall full glasses of ale, yett I was very ill for a little time & almost fuddled worse than I had been for many yeares before." "1720, Dec. 19. As I was bringing my wife home behind me & going through the Church yard in at the little gate by Mr. Howlet's her petticoats or Gown hung upon the post & pulled her down from behind me, but God be prayed she got not hurt." "1724. My Sister Davies & daughter Anne returned from Holm & as they were ab^t Wangford Grange they were pursued by a foot-padd & were forced to gallop almost to Eriswell to escape. Sister Davies was behind her man & Daughter Nanny single & nobody able to assist them; he pursued them till they came near 2 shepherds; they had been robbed if not stripped or murdered."

From Icklingham, Lakenheath, and the Fens came numerous implements of the Palæolithic and Neolithic periods, exhibited by the Rev. R. Gwilt, Mr. George Isaacson, the Rev. J. D. Gedge, and Mr. S. Fenton; the polished implements belonging to Mr. Fenton being choice specimens.

Some Roman sepulchral urns were exhibited by Mr. S. Fenton, besides fibulæ and other relics of that period. Mr. Read and Mr. Fox each sent a fine example of Durobrivian ware; the vase exhibited by Mr. Fox was ploughed up in 1869, at West Row, Mildenhall; Mr. Read's vase was found at Icklingham; the colour of these vessels is bluish, with a white scroll ornament in relief. The remains of the Roman potteries at Caistor, the ancient Durobrivæ, were discovered by the late Mr. Artis, in 1844; Mr. Artis's account of his discoveries is quoted in "*The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*," Chap. VII., and in the

* Speaker of the House of Commons, 1712.

"*Collectanea Antiqua*," Vol. VI., p. 173. The method by which the Roman potters coloured their wares, Mr. Artis explains thus, "the blue and slate-coloured vessels were coloured by suffocating the fire of the kiln, at the time when its contents had acquired a degree of heat sufficient to insure uniformity of colour." The dark colour cannot be attributed to the use of any metallic oxide; Mr. Artis proved this by experiment, and the conclusion he arrived at (concurred in by Mr. Roach Smith) is further proved by the fact that the colour is so fugitive that it is entirely expelled by submitting the pottery to the action of an open fire. Mr. Artis describes the process by which the Durobrivian ware was ornamented: the vessel, after being thrown upon the wheel, would be allowed to become somewhat firm; a thick slip of the same body would then be procured, and the workman would proceed by dipping the thumb, or a round instrument, into the slip. The vessels, on which are displayed representations of fish scrolls, or hunting subjects, were all glazed after the figures were laid on; but where the decorations are white, the vessels were glazed before the ornaments were added. There seems to have been no re-touching after the slip trailed from the instrument by which the ornamentation was effected. The spirit and fidelity with which these representations are done is excellent, especially when the simple and off-hand process of the manufacture is taken into consideration. The Upchurch ware is found more or less in almost all Roman sites, but that manufactured at Durobrivæ is not so common. A kiln with urns placed as if for burning was found at Caistor, near Norwich, ("*Archæologia*," Vol. XXII.); and other potteries have been discovered in the Römsey Marshes, in Lincolnshire, in Yorkshire, &c. In the neighbouring county of Norfolk three examples of Romano-British potteries have been found; one at Caistor, near Norwich, in 1822 ("*Archæologia*," Vol. XXII.); another at Weyborne, near Holt ("*Norfolk and Norwich Arch. Trans.*," Vol. V.); and the third at Hedenham, near Bungay ("*Norfolk and Norwich Arch. Trans.* Vol. VI.)

Various exhibitors showed collections of Roman, British (gold), Saxon, and English coins.

Mr Read sent a painting made in 1690, of the old Manor-house at Isleham, a building which no longer exists. The same gentleman sent an interesting collection of caricatures and other prints by Bunbury.