

pew in Sampson's chapel, as it is called, with some elaborately painted panels, representations of kings or saints; the conclusion arrived at was that these panels belonged to a rood screen, which had been cut down, and its lower part used for the side of this pew. There are still to be seen two brasses partly covered by one of the pews, evidently representing the children of a person, the brass of whom, if it exists, is underneath the pew. The next place to visit was the Priory, but as dinner had been ordered at the White Lion, Hadleigh, for 3 p.m., after some consultation it was decided to leave out the Priory. A general meeting of the members was afterwards held, at the close of which most of the members took the opportunity of viewing the church of St. Mary, the history of which, written by the late Rev. Hugh Pigot, formed Part I. of the third volume of the Society's 'Proceedings.' It is a large and handsome structure, with a lofty nave and aisles. The altar window has seven principal lights filled with fine stained glass; the window at the east end of the chancel is in memory of the wife of a late rector, by whom the chancel was restored and re-seated in 1859. It is by Hedgeland, from a painting by Overbeck, representing Christ blessing little children. Some of the members expressed very strongly their sense of the incongruity of the gaudy texts at the west end of the nave. They have only been placed there quite recently, and are decidedly out of harmony with the rest of the building. After this the party broke up, expressing their great pleasure at the success of the excursion, and congratulating Mr. F. Machell Smith on his able discharge of the arduous duties of leader.

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GENERAL MEETING.—CHIPPENHAM, LANDWADE,  
AND SNAILWELL. *June 6, 1884.*

Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the weather, which proved as bad in reality as the gloomiest imagination could have anticipated, there was a very good muster of members, most of whom left Bury St. Edmund's for Kennett station by the 11.30 train. Conveyances were in waiting at Kennett station, and a start was made for Kentford church. The short journey of half a mile crossed the boundary between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. No arrangements had been made for a prolonged stay at this point, and the excursionists made but a cursory inspection of the church. The building does not, in fact, present many features of interest. It dates from the 14th century, and is a combination of Decorated and Perpendicular work; the only feature attracting attention was a rose window, of five lights, filled with stained glass, and placed in the tower; a gargoyle over the porch also caught the eye, but the roof of the church is hidden, the interior is whitewashed, and there is nothing calling for special notice. A start was then made for Chippenham Park, and the drive to the entrance was pleasant and enjoyable. On the way an ancient tumulus was pointed out, and the party crossed the old coach-road from London to

Norwich, where there is a grand avenue of trees, which continues for some miles. About this time the rain commenced falling in earnest, and thenceforth the excursion was continued beneath a whole series of drenching showers with thunder and lightning at intervals. At the park gates a guide awaited the party, and he showed the way—and a very rough one it was for vehicles—to the site of an old cemetery. There was no “storied urn or monumental bust” to suggest the fact to ordinary observers. It appeared to be nothing more than a very uninteresting gravel pit. Mr. H. Prigg said that the particular spot at which they were standing was, a somewhat recent addition to the park. It was called the “half moon,” and was at one time heath and open field. In the latter part of last year, a pit was opened for gravel, and in the course of the excavations a number of skeletons were unearthed. Hearing of the discovery, he went over, and had since watched the operations very closely, in the hope that something definite might be ascertained as to the date and character of these interments. Unfortunately, however, the works had been delayed, and it was hardly possible to state the full character of the discovery. However, it was necessary to say, in the first place, that the ground upon which they were standing was very near indeed upon the intersection of two ancient roads—one of them known as the Peddar Way and the other as the Suffolk Way. Here some dozen skeletons had up to the present time been found, and the question they had then to consider was the relative ages of the interments and of the people who were there buried. These people had evidently been put into the ground in a very barbarous fashion. A shallow trench, deeper on one side than on the other, had been made, and into this the body had been thrust, with the back to one side of the trench, and the head and legs doubled together in what appeared to be a very ignominious and hasty fashion. No relics had been found with the remains, and the probability was that they were put into the ground naked. Certainly there was no christian burial; they were a rude, and no doubt a heathen people. The complete remains of only three or four had been recovered, and they represented individuals not more than 5ft. 5in. in height—scarcely that. Their formation of head was strikingly peculiar. It was that of the dolichocephalic, or long-headed race, who presented characteristics that were not usually found in the ancient cemeteries of the district. He had made a series of measurements of these skulls, in order to obtain some little idea of the race of the people whose remains had thus been found. The skulls were remarkably alike, showing that the persons must have been of the same race, and that nearly a pure race, and not a mixed people. Where remains were unaccompanied by relics, it was only by comparison that they could obtain an idea as to the character of the people interred. In this case, the cephalic index (to use a scientific phrase) was 71 2-3rds, and this corresponded very closely with the measurement of skulls of the long-headed race which had been found in Yorkshire and a portion of Lancashire, but not in this immediate district.

At that point they were on the edge of the fen, and it was just possible that the skeletons found might be those of persons who had made an incursion into the country of the short-headed race, and remained there. In the trenches there had been found a few animal bones and some fragments of the finer Roman pottery; also a piece of metal, which seemed to be part of an armlet, although it was of more solid make than was usually found in connection with Roman remains. Mr. Prigg added some interesting particulars with reference to the roads converging almost at that point, one of which had, it seemed, been the old boundary between the counties of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. That there had at one time been a road through the park at this point was evident from a break in the trees near the wall, and, standing on the spot, Mr. Prigg's remarks could be followed with interest. It had been arranged that the party should walk through the park and around the house, but this part of the programme was abandoned. The rain came down in torrents, and archæological inquiry was pretty well washed out. This was the more to be regretted because the house has an interesting history. Charles I. once paid a visit there, while other facts connect it, by way of contrast, with the fortunes of Oliver Cromwell and his family. But the whole place was seen at a disadvantage, and it was with a sense of relief that the party were at length brought to

#### CHIPPENHAM CHURCH.

It had been announced that a paper would here be read by the Rev. Kenelm H. Smith, one of the local secretaries of the Society of Antiquaries of London for the county of Cambridge and Isle of Ely. Mr. Smith, as a Cambridgeshire man, bade the visitors a hearty and graceful welcome to the county. From his account some particulars of general interest may be gathered. The manor of the parish was given in 1184 to the Society of Knights Hospitallers, who had a chapel on or near the site of the church. After passing through various hands, it went at the dissolution to Lord North (who secured a good deal, it was added, in those times); from him it went to Sir Thomas Revet and the Montgomeries, and at last to the Thorpe family, who are the present holders. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret. It is believed to have been built between 1272 and 1377, and the character of the work is late Decorated, with Perpendicular portions. Owing to the fact that it is largely constructed of the stone of the district, the building is now in a somewhat dilapidated condition, but a restoration is contemplated. On the wall of the north aisle, the remains of a fresco painting may be seen, but it has been so much affected by the damp that the subject could scarcely be made out; apparently it was a representation of our Lord's Resurrection, and there is but little hope of saving it from complete destruction. Close by is a curious painting on wood, bearing no name or any indication of the reason why it was placed there. Some discussion took place as to the character of the piers, which are on the north alternately octagonal and circular, and on the south