

date 1771.; also a water coloured sketch of "the departure of Captain Poole, from St. Edm'ds Bury," in a balloon, 15th October, 1785.

Mr. Fenton, Bury, a portrait of Mr. Kynnesman, late head master of the Bury Grammar School.

Mr. Alfred Wainwright exhibited a map of the Great Level, and a book on drainage of Fens.

Mr. Charles Scott Kilner a Chinese implement for self-inflicted torture.

Miss Lathbury lent an old family box, bound in brass, and bearing the letters I.G.

Mr. Prigg exhibited a collection of articles illustrative of his paper, and several flint implements found in and about Bury S. Edmund's, from the valley deposit and high loam, &c., of the river Lark. Also a collection of flint arrow heads from West Stow and Icklingham.

Mr. J. S. Corder, of Ipswich, showed some admirable sketches executed by himself, of the old houses at Bury S. Edmund's, and some pen and ink sketches of Lavenham.

Mrs. Pead sent an ancient Atlas, entitled *The world described, or a new and correct sett of maps*, published by John Bowles, London, folio, n.d.

Mr. A. M. Clarke, 45, Crown Street, family wills, over 400 years old.

Mr. G. A. Partridge, original pardon of Col. Disbrowe and translation.

Mr. E. Sparke, Cornhill, old parchment of rates of S. James', Bury, 1706.

Mr. Smythe shewed Lord Byron's card case, and flask.

The Corporation plate was exhibited on a table placed in a conspicuous position. It included the Silver Punch-bowl, the Gold Maces (inscribed "1729 Wm. Allen Ald."), the sword and scabbard, the chain and badge, the latter bearing head of King George III., and the motto, "Quo fonte derivatus honor;" and the two silver loving cups.

The first paper read was that of Mr. H. Prigg, who gave an account of some excavations upon the site of a Roman Cemetery, at Icklingham.

Mr. Edward M. Beloe, of King's Lynn, contributed a few remarks upon

AN ABSOLUTION CROSS FOUND AT BURY S. EDMUND'S.

He illustrated his remarks by exhibiting the cross, which was, according to tradition, found at Bury S. Edmund's. He said that he found in the *Bury Post* newspaper of November 16th, 1791, mention of the discovery of two stone coffins in the *Cemeterium Fratrum* of the Abbey. It said "in each of them was found a leaden crucifix inscribed on one side, *Cru x xti triumphat*, and on the reverse, *Cru x xti pellit hostem*," this inscription being the same as that upon the cross referred to by the speaker, confirmed the tradition of its having been found at Bury. The crosses were found on the breasts of the deceased. The speaker was informed by Mr. St. John Hope that notices of similar crosses were to be found in the *Archæologia*, Vol. xxxv., p. 299,

and Vol. xxxvii., and in the Lincoln Volume of the Archæological Institute, as to an English one found at Lincoln. A notice of Leaden crosses found at Perigueux and at Bouteilles, near Dieppe, in Normandy, by Emanuel Delorme in the Bulletin de la Société Archæologique du midi, reviewed in the *Revue Chretienne, Lille*, 1889. The cross exhibited belonged to Mr. Reeve, Curator of the Norwich Museum.

Lord John Hervey read the following paper on

“EARLY WILLS RELATING TO BURY.”

Few people, I suppose, give their minds entirely to the incidents of their own lives, the work and play, religion, business and politics, in which we must all engage, and which have, no doubt, the first claim upon our attention; most people like to be able to compare the life they know by experience with something different; some for this purpose betake themselves to the *idealities* of poetry and fiction; others, of whom I will not say that they are wiser, but only that their tastes lie in another direction, find an interest in the *actualities* of the past made known to us by historical study and antiquarian research.

For to-night, at any rate, you and I, ladies and gentlemen, will be, looking backward, not by projecting ourselves a century or two into the future, and then, under the guidance of an imaginative writer, whose book we have all been reading lately, looking to see if we can guess what social changes the future may have in store for our great-grandchildren, but we shall be looking backward to see if we can learn something *real* about the lives our forefathers lived in this land many hundreds of years ago.

When I was asked to read a paper to you this evening, my first thought was that I did not know what I could say that would interest you, but it happens that lately I have been transcribing from *Kemble's Codex Diplomaticus* and other sources, all the documents I could find about Suffolk before the Norman Conquest; among them were several wills, which relate in part to the early history of the town over which the Mayor, who offers us his kind hospitality this evening, now so worthily presides.

These, I thought, would surely prove of interest to a gathering of Bury people; and I thought I would try to render the old English, in which the wills were written, into such English as should be intelligible to modern ears, while keeping as closely as possible to the words, the construction, and the style of the originals.

If I had known when I said I would read a paper that all the wills I meant to choose had already been done into modern English by Thorpe, in his “Diplomaterium,” and if I had remembered that one of them had been printed with a translation by Gage, in his “History of Thingoe,” one of the best books, I may remark, if not the best book of the kind that has ever been written, I might have declined the task; as it is, I said, yes; and so I have done my best, though it is right I should tell you that in Anglo-Saxon studies I am a mere beginner.