

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

BURY, JUNE 8, 1848.—*The Rev. H. Hasted, M.A., in the Chair.*

The first Quarterly General Meeting of the Society took place on Thursday evening, the 8th of June, 1848, and was numerously attended. The Rev. Henry Hasted having been called to the chair, congratulated the members on the formation of such a society, which had long been wanted. Bury was a place rich in antiquities and in objects attractive to those devoted to archaeological pursuits, and the establishment of this Society reflected honour on the town.

The following presents were announced :—

A Roman vase made up from fragments of pottery, found in one of the smaller tumuli at Rougham, opened a few years since by the Rev. Professor Henslow, by whom the fragments had been put together; fragments of vessels from the Rougham tumuli; a variety of Roman coins, found at different times between Pakenham and Rougham; two Roman coins and some pieces of pottery, found on the borders of Dalham and Ousden; a signet ring found in the Abbey Grounds, Bury St. Edmund's; another ring found at Lidgate; a brass medallion of St. Ignatius Loyola, and another of St. Michael and the Dragon; by the Rev. C. H. Bennet.

A bronze celt, found in the county; by H. J. Oakes, Esq.

A variety of gutta percha impressions of seals; by the Rev. C. R. Manning.

A Roman glass unguentarium with unguent therein, found at Stonham Aspal; by the Rev. H. Creed. It is engraved in the *Archæological Journal*, iii. p. 69. The liquid, which half fills the cavity, and is slightly tinged with a pinkish colour, seemed to deposit a whitish sediment. The glass was of a pure white crystalline texture. Stow [London, b. ii. c. 5.] relates that amongst numerous Roman remains, found when the field antiently called Lolesworth, now Spittlefield, was broken up about the year 1576 to make bricks, "there were found divers vials, and other fashioned glasses, some most curiously wrought, and some of chrysell, all which had water in them, nothing differing in clearnesse, taste, or savour, from common spring water, whatever it was at the first. Some of these glasses had oyle in them very thick, and earthy in savour." In the Museum of Antiquities at Rouen, a small glass vial, accounted to be Roman, is preserved, hermetically sealed, and half full of liquid.

Sir H. E. Bunbury, Bart., exhibited a small Roman vase containing a mass of coins, supposed for the payment of troops, found near Holywell Row, Mildenhall; another specimen of a similar vase; two celts of bronze, of different forms, found near Mildenhall; a Roman vase and a dish of Samian ware, found near Ingham; and a spear-head, camp candlestick, and stone shot, found near the Eriswell Lode, Mildenhall.

The Rev. Sir T. G. Cullum, Bart., sent a bronze sword, which was found about 70 years ago in the bed of the river Lark, near Icklingham. It was accompanied by a miniature copy of a large mosaic, discovered at Pompeii about ten years since, of the Battle of Issus, in which swords of a similar form are represented. Mr. S. Tymms observed that this kind of sword was considered by the late Sir S. Meyrick to be of Celtic workmanship. A very similar one is engraved in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. iii, p. 67.

Mr. Porteus Oakes exhibited a beautiful silver-gilt chalice of the 15th century, with enamelled medallions, from Florence.

The Rev. H. Hasted exhibited a British vase with fragments of burnt bones, of birds and animals, found at Eye; and a smaller one found at Melford.

Mr. Donne exhibited an early pedigree of the family of Barnwell, with the arms of the alliances emblazoned.

The Rev. H. Creed exhibited a gold signet ring with the initial I., found some years since in the Abbey Grounds, Bury St. Edmund's; another of silver; and two small sepulchral brasses which had been offered for sale as old brass.

Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, sent a drawing of the monument of Richard Coddington,

with rubbings of the brasses thereon, in Ixworth Church; a rubbing from a stone on the south-east buttress of the tower of the same church, bearing the name of Abbot Schot;* and a variety of articles in bronze, found at Ixworth and Pakenham, including a fibula and ring of Roman workmanship; two iron spurs, and one of bronze, of very beautiful workmanship. The latter is engraved in No. 10 of the Journal of the British Archæological Association. Vol 3 (1848) p. 119 - 1st. cont. A

Mr. Page, of Ampton, exhibited two original deeds relating to the Coket and Croftes families.

A letter was read from Mr. J. B. Armstead, of Clare, pointing out the antiquities worthy of inspection in that town and neighbourhood, in the event of the Institute visiting it, as the writer had been informed was contemplated. The thanks of the Institute were voted to Mr. Armstead, and the letter was referred to the Committee.

The Rev. J. W. Donaldson mentioned that Professor Willis had kindly promised to furnish the Institute with a plan of the Abbatial Church of St. Edmund, with suggestions for the examination of the site in certain spots, to ascertain the existence of the various lateral chapels, &c. Mr. Donaldson likewise suggested that an examination of the Jew's House (used as the Bridewell and Station-house), one of the very few Norman edifices of the kind now remaining, might also prove very interesting.

Mr. S. Tymms read a paper of Notes on the Medical History of Bury, from the time of Abbot Baldwin, who had been physician to St. Edward the Confessor, to the present century, accompanied by brief notices of some of the professors.

It was resolved to hold the December and March Quarterly meetings at Two o'clock in the afternoon, instead of Eight o'clock in the evening, as required by the rules.

CLARE, SEPT. 14, 1848.—*Col. Baker in the Chair.*

The Chairman having briefly stated the order in which the various objects were to be visited, the company proceeded to the Common, where, at the north-east corner, are the agger and fosse of a Roman encampment. The entrenchments are in very good preservation on the north and south sides; and may be clearly traced on the east and west.

The party then walked to the Castle, where Mr. S. Tymms read a paper, reciting the few historical notices of the place, and giving a description of the castrametation as confirmed by some recent excavations, made under the direction of Mr. J. B. Armstead.

The remains of the Augustinian Friary, now the residence of Colonel Baker, was next visited. The house, originally the Prior's lodgings, contains much to interest the visitor. Some early vaultings in the offices appeared to be nearly coeval with the foundation of the house in the latter part of the 13th century; and the dormitory, now and for several centuries used as a barn, but generally known as the chapel, with the cloistered wall, and the ruined priory bridge, were objects of much curiosity, and gave rise to many interesting conjectures.

The members then returned to the town, and having on their way inspected an interesting crypt, of decorated work, in the market place, believed to have been under the original Market Cross; and the curious carved work on several old timbered houses of the 15th century; visited the church, which is a spacious edifice in the perpendicular style, and particularly interesting from the crocketed hood-mouldings to the arches of the nave, and the elaborate frieze between them and the clerestory windows. The south porch has a crypt below and a room above, the latter of which is inaccessible, and a chapel, now used as the priory pew, on the side of it. A brass eagle, lectern, some screen work at the end of the South aisle of the nave, &c., were much noticed. A large gravestone, without inscription, in the Chancel, was pointed out as being traditionally that of Lionel Duke of Clarence; but it was remarked that

* Robert Coote, *alias* Robert de Ixworth, occurs Abbot in 1470, and again in 1473. He was son of Sir John Coote, of Norfolk.—Yates's Hist. Bury Abbey, p. 220.

this was irreconcilable with the fact, related by historians, that the remains of the Prince were interred in the chapel of the Friary.

The company then reassembled in the large room at the Half Moon Inn, the walls of which were covered with drawings, rubbings of brasses, &c. ; and a variety of miscellaneous antiquities, most of which had some reference to the locality, were also arranged on the tables.

The following presents were announced :—

Gage's Histories of the Hundred of Thingoe, and Hengrave, 2 vols. 4to, large paper ; by Sir Thomas R. Gage, Bart.

Ive's select papers relating to English Antiquities, 4to. 1773 ; by Mr. Donne.

Four bronze celts, found with 13 others in a heap in a field on the Poslingford Hall Farm, in or about the year 1844 ; by Mr. Isaacson, in the name of Samuel Ware, Esq., by whom the remainder, several of which were much ornamented and larger in size, had been presented to the British Museum.

A List of the Incumbents of Clare from the year 1307, copied from Bishop Tanner's MSS., with notes of some legacies extracted from Wills in the Bishop's Registry, Norwich ; by J. Kitson, Esq., of Norwich, through Mr. Sams.

A notice of the various modes of emblazoning the arms of Mortimer, with a pedigree shewing the connexion of the De Clares with the Plantagenets, and the origin of the title of Duke of Clarence ; a very accurate and well-executed ground plan of the Corona, or keep of Clare Castle, taken by the Rev. S. L. Harris, of Clare ; and rubbings of the inscriptions on three bells at Ashen Church ; by Mr. J. B. Armstead.

An ancient stone mortar, dug up in a garden at Clare, about eight feet below the surface, when a very old apple tree, which had died from natural decay, was removed, about five years since ; by the Rev. J. Pemberton.

A spur, dug up within the Castle Bailey, Clare ; by the Rev. C. H. Bennet.

Col. Baker exhibited nine views illustrative of the remains of the Priory, and several splendid monumental brasses. One of them, done with the metallic rubber, was a whole-length cross-legged figure of Sir Robert de Bures, who died 1302, and another that of Alice de Bures, his daughter, both from *Acton Church*. He also exhibited a rubbing of the brass of Thomas Martin, his wife, and two daughters, from *Melford Church* ; a most beautiful cross, carved in wood, from the Grecian convent at Constantinople ; and a brass fibula, surmounted by an Earl's coronet, found at Clare Priory.

Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart., exhibited an elevation and ground plan of the recently demolished Elizabethan Hall, at Little Thurlow, the seat of the Soame family.

Mr. P. Benet, M.P., exhibited, by the kindness of Miss Colville, a spur recently dug up near to the tumulus at Eastlow Hill, Rougham, opened some time since by Professor Henslow.

Mr. Sams exhibited a Roman urn, and a fragment of another, with a human jaw bone, found at Melford ; an impression in wax of *Sigillum Johis* : Bastard de Clyfforde, armig. with the arms ; a key found in the Abbey grounds, Bury St. Edmund's ; and the following metallic rubbings of brasses, taken by Mrs. Sams :

From Stoke next Clare Church.—1. Supposed to be the daughter of Sir Giles Allington, and wife of Sir Wm. Clopton, 16th century. 2. Alice Falkaner, widow, ob. 26 Nov., 1605 ; eldest daughter of Robert Allington, son and heir of Sir Giles Allington.

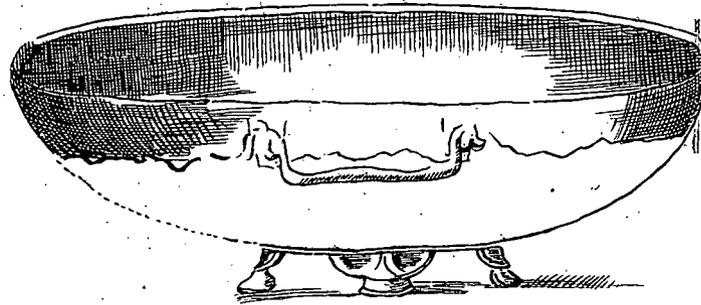
From Ashen Church.—Male and female figures of the early part of the 15th century ; the former being clad in plate armour and having a lion under his feet, the latter attired in a hood and loose dress, a dog lying at her feet.

Mr. Tymms exhibited rubbings of the following nine brasses, taken by Mr. F. Ford, of Bury :

From Redgrave Church.—Mrs. Anne Butts, daughter and co-heir of Henry Bures, Esq. ; widow of Edmund Butts, Esq., and mother of Anne, wife of Sir N. Bacon, kt. She died Dec. 21, 1609.

From St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmund's.—Jankyn Smith and his wife ; Archdeacon Finers ; Inscriptions from pillar in chancel, and east end of south aisle.

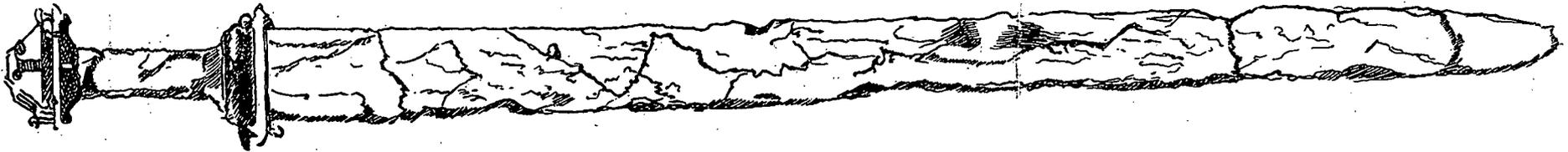
From Hawsted Church.—Ursula Drury ; Sir Wm. Drury with his two wives and children ; Tomb of Roger Drury, Esq. ; Tomb of the first wife of Sir Wm. Drury ; Male and Female Figures.



Frye.

Copper Urn, found at Coombe Kent, in the Collection of M. W. W. Boreham.

Quarter Size.



Frye.

Sword found at Coombe, Kent.

in the Collection of M. W. W. Boreham

Quarter Size.

Mr. W. W. Boreham exhibited a variety of very interesting British Antiquities, obtained a short time since from a Barrow at Coomb, in Kent, about three miles from Richborough Castle. Mr. Boreham said that six feet below an artificial surface of a kind of clay, of about 20 yards diameter, were found in a kistvaen or grave, a copper urn, containing some human bones (burnt), portions of which have been identified as part of the cheekbone or orbit and lower jaw. Beside this urn were found two swords, an iron spear-head, glass and amber beads, and part of a pendant set with garnet or coloured glass; all of which, except one sword, were on the table. The swords are said to have been wrapped in cloth, and a veil of cloth appears to have been placed over the urn, portions of which are still adhering to its edges. The construction of the copper urn is remarkable; the two handles, which are in good preservation, appear to have been soldered on, not riveted; they have both fallen from their position, merely leaving the marks of the places they occupied. The same may be said of the feet or support, the urn itself being soldered on a circular rim of copper, which had three rude feet. The solder with which this rim was fastened to the bottom of the urn has entirely oxidized and decayed, and no longer adheres. The body of the urn is extremely thin, except at the rim, and is much oxidized. The situation where these relics were found is one of peculiar interest, as being near that portion of Britain where the Romans landed, and where their first battles must have been fought with the Britons. That the sword is British Mr. Boreham thought could scarcely admit of a doubt. It was true that the earliest specimens of British swords were made of brass, but it was well known that they were superseded at a very early period by the more useful metal iron. They are generally described as being straight, and sometimes two-handed. One of this description was found about 20 miles from Carlisle, near five feet long, ornamented with silver. The present specimen is about 30 inches in length, and has a transverse guard, and is ornamented with gold, still in excellent preservation. Of the cloth or veil with which the urn was covered, portions are still in good preservation; some still remains in the exact position it was placed by the affectionate hand of the mourning relative. Mr. Boreham had scrupulously left it there. The material itself is of good workmanship, and is woven with a sort of twill, indicating considerable advance in the art of weaving. Probably specimens of linen may have been imported from Egypt into Greece and Italy, and induced the improvement in the Italian manufactures, which were copied in her military settlements. The beads are of the ordinary kind found in early barrows, and formed of glass and amber. The pendant is worthy of notice for its elegance and workmanship. These circumstances—the presence of the swords, beads, spear-head, their rude workmanship, together with the probable tradition that there was a British town near Richborough—clearly point out the origin of the barrow as British, and of about the fourth century. Mr. Boreham also exhibited two celts of stone and bronze; some Kimmeridge coal money; a gold coin of Boadicea, found in a field near Haverhill; bronze human figure; silver and brass rings; piece of loadstone, mounted in silver, supposed to have been used as a mariner's compass; and a pear-shaped watch, by "Eduardus East, Londini," in gold, with catgut chain, chased gold face, and the back of the case glass, to allow of the works being seen.

Mr. Isaacson, of Clare, exhibited a MS. history of the town of Clare, written about forty years since by the late T. Walford, Esq., F.S.A., F.L.S., and now the property of T. Selby, Esq., of Whitley.

Mr. J. B. Armstead exhibited a seal in the possession of Mr. Blackman, of Clare, with the inscription of S. RENAERD VAN HALEN, around a merchant's mark, and copies of the inscriptions on the 7th bell in Clare Church.

Mr. W. H. Howe exhibited a seal with the figure of St. Margaret, with a cross-staff in her hand, standing on a dragon, with this legend—SAVNTIE MARGARET. An impression of a similar seal with the legend slightly varied, SAVNTA MERGGOR, is in the possession of the Institute.

Mr. W. Walford, of Stoke, exhibited a gold coin of Claudius Cæsar; two silver coins of Edward I. and III., taken from a coffin in Cavendish churchyard; and various other coins. A great variety of coins, medals, and tokens in gold, silver, copper, &c., were also exhibited by the Rev. J. Pemberton, Mr. Sams, Mr. W. H. Howe; (including several Clare tokens of much interest); Mr. Perry; Mr. Isaacson; and Mr. Joseph Clark, of Saffron Walden, who also contributed an interesting Romish Missal.

The Bury and West Suffolk Museum exhibited an earthen Roman sacrificial vessel, and a pair of stays, of iron, worn by ladies in the time of Henry VIII., which had been presented to the Museum by Mr. C. Baker, formerly of Ashen Hall, near Clare, in whose family they had been preserved a great many years as local antiquities.

Between forty and fifty gentlemen sat down to a cold collation in the room, Col. Baker in the Chair; after which the following papers were read:—

Col. Baker, on the history of the Priory.

The Rev. Dr. Wightman produced a variety of papers relating to the Castle, Priory, Church, &c., of Clare, a portion of which he read.

Mr. S. Tymms, on the Princess Joanna of Acre, Lady of Clare.

Mr. Almack, on the carved sign outside the Swan Inn, Clare.

Mr. H. P. Oakes, on the various forms of Fonts in different periods, with a special reference to the Norman font in Hawkedon Church, a drawing of which was furnished by Mr. John Darkin. It was hoped that every member of the Institute would send to the Secretary drawings of the fonts in their respective neighbourhoods, with a view to a complete history of this interesting feature of Church furniture in our county.
