

British Archaeological Association -- annual meeting -- Rochester and Maidstone, 1853

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British Archaeological Association.

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING,
ROCHESTER AND MAIDSTONE, 1853,
JULY 25TH TO 30TH INCLUSIVE.

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Proceedings of the Congress.

Monday, July 25.

The general and local committees assembled at the Guildhall of Rochester, at one o'clock, P.M., to make the necessary arrangements for the reading of papers, conducting of excursions, etc., preparatory to the opening meeting at two o'clock, when the President, Ralph Bernal, esq., M.A., took the chair, and proceeded to deliver the Inaugural Address (see pp. 201-14 ante.) The thanks of the meeting having been given by acclamation to the President, a paper from Dr. Wm. Beattie, "On the History of Rochester Castle", was read (see pp. 215-30 ante), after which the Association proceeded to examine the Castle. During the course of this examination, Mr. Duesbury made the following observations on the architecture of the building: --

"The space within the walls in mediaeval castles may be generally stated to have been divided into two courts; one surrounded by stables and inferior offices, the other by guard-houses, superior offices, and residences; and, in the highest and least accessible part of the enclosure, a keep, or strong tower of ultimate defence, was erected.

"The remains of Rochester castle wall shew that it was of great height and strength (the portion now standing, to the south-west, being nearly forty feet high), especially towards the river; which swept round the foot, from the bastion, at the south-eastern corner, at the back of the keep, to the sally port, or strong gate, at the north-west angle, which flanked and commanded the ancient bridge. The barbican, or entrance from the land side, was in the curve of the wall, to the north-east; this appears to have had circular bastions at the entrance, with a curtain between -- it is the narrow passage through which we have approached the castle. The space enclosed is about four acres. You have already heard

that from the earliest ages, even in the time of the original Britons, before the coming of the Romans, this was an important place of defence; and very naturally so, since it guards the pass of the only river between the south coast and the heart of the country. Without pretending to give a date to these remains, it is evident some of them are of a very early period, contemporary with the building in which we are, and probably earlier.

"But to proceed to the main object of my paper, viz., a description of

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the ruin in which we are assembled -- the ancient keep of Rochester castle. It stands within a few yards of the south-east angle of the boundary wall, which is the highest portion of the enclosure; it is square on plan, and measures, exclusively of the entrance tower, about seventy feet each way. There are square towers without buttresses to three of the angles; but the fourth, viz., the north-east one, has a circular tower; this, however, being carried up square at the top. The entrance tower, about seventeen feet by thirty, is on the north side. The building has four stories, and is from one hundred and five to one hundred and ten feet high to the top of the towers.

"I will now take you seriatim through the building, beginning at this the lowest story, on a level with the ground, which slopes up to it with a rise of about five feet from the level of the footpath outside the entrance tower; we will call this the ground story. The plan of the building is very simple, it being divided into two rooms all up by a wall across the middle, east and west; each room is about twenty feet by forty-five feet: the middle wall being five feet thick, and the outside walls twelve feet thick. The walls are built of rough or unsquared Kentish rag-stone, with free stone (oolite) dressings and quoins. There is no external entrance to this story; the approach having been down the north-east angle staircase from the floor above. The entrance you came through was not originally a doorway, as is shewn by the semicircular eyelet-hole, or window-head, still remaining at the top of this aperture.

"Under the entrance tower is a vaulted basement, approached by a flight of steps through the doorway next the turret stairs: this chamber, no doubt a store place or cellar, was lighted and ventilated by a slight slip or flue passing diagonally through the thickness of the wall -- the external doorway into this chamber has been recently made. Above this basement is the ground floor of the entrance tower, lighted by two small circular apertures to the north, at the east end of which is an arched aperture now built up. This, no doubt, is original; I do not think it was used as a general entrance, but as a means of bringing in food and heavy stores. I conjecture this place was a pantry; and it communicates with this, the northern room, by a narrow passage next the basement entrance just mentioned. The passage is made very narrow, that it could be easily defended in case of an attacking party effecting an entrance into this chamber or pantry.

"This, the north room, was lighted by three eyelet or loop holes, six inches wide and about fifteen inches long (one at each end, and one in

the north wall, now an entrance); these openings are placed high up in the embrasures, which are stepped in the usual manner, that the loop holes may be approached by the bow-men and men at arms; and there are recesses, or closets, etc., in the thickness of the walls.

"Passing through one of the two arched openings in the division wall

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we enter the southern chamber, which was lighted by five loop holes, similar to those just described. In the south, and also in the west, wall of this chamber is a recess, the termination of a shaft, which ascends, in each case, to the top story of the building in the thickness of the wall. The aperture is four feet three inches long and three feet wide at this level; it so continues to the entrance floor gallery above, and is then divided into two unequal parts; one, the larger, stopping on this floor, the other, about a foot wide, continuing up and tapering till it is nearly square at the top -- the galleries on each floor, all up, communicate with these shafts. These shafts, no doubt, were used for lifts, as at the Reform, and other modern club-houses. There are no fire-places on this story, which is thirteen feet high; and all the openings, which are semi-circular throughout, were finished perfectly plain and square, with free-stone, without any mouldings. The voussoirs of the archivolts being the same length, and forming a continuous ring round the arch. The jamb stones are of unequal length and bonded with the other work. But the most interesting object in this story is the well, in the centre of the division wall: it is circular, two feet nine inches in diameter, and faced with ashlar all the way down. I am told it is about sixty feet deep to the water, and that at the high tides the water is about ten feet deep; the water, it was said, is good, and not the least brackish. The shaft of the well continues all up to the top story of the same size, and is finished in a similar manner. There is an arched aperture, on the north side, in the shaft on every story. The chambers on this ground story may have been used as guard rooms and store rooms, and probably, when the place was full, as sleeping rooms.

"We will now ascend the north-east turret stairs, the only stairs down to this story, to what may be called the entrance story. This story was approached by a flight of steps beginning at the outside of the north-west tower. They appear to have been enclosed in a porch up to the chief entrance on the west side of the entrance tower; as there are the remains of a side-wall, and indications of the passage or porch having been covered over. There are the remains of an arch or doorway at the foot of the steps, without mouldings, but with a plain moulded impost; and there are also, in the north wall of this north-west tower, remains of a blocked-up plain arch, at a higher level, about the level of the chief entrance, as if at one time the entrance had been here, with, probably, the flight of steps extending northward. However, not to now discuss this question, I will proceed to the chief entrance at the top of the present inclined plane.

"It has a single column on each side flush with wall; the cap is plain and of very slight projection; and the impost is a plain face

with a slightly curved hollow at the lower edge. The arch has a chevron bead over the column, with a single moulding, and hollow beyond. The jambs are plain, without any groove for a portcullis or other defence;

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and the inner arch has a similar chevron bead, with a hollowed sort of tongue-moulding outside. The external line of the arch is serrated, following the line of the tongue-like ornament; the chevron being flush with the wall. This arch is straight for some height above the impost. The entrance tower on this story is lighted by three double-light semi-headed windows on the north -- the double lights being enclosed in one plain square arch on the inside. There is a single light by the side of the entrance door; and there appears to have been a double light at the opposite end.

"The doorway into the keep from the entrance tower has single columns at the sides, with a large head cut into four chevrons above; the jambs of the doorway are plain-faced and carried round the arch without impost, there is a groove in the jamb and head of the arch for portcullis or other defensive screen; there is a niche on each side in the remainder of the jamb or thickness of the wall; and the arch on the inside of the wall, in the room, is finished exactly like the outside of the archway into the entrance tower.

"We have now arrived at the room above the one in which we are assembled. There is nothing particular to remark about the architecture of this story, except that there are galleries in the thickness of the walls, with plain voluting plastered; that another staircase in the south-west turret starts from this floor to the top, the north-east stairs being also carried up; that there is a fireplace in each room on this story, the fireplaces not having vertical flues, but funnels, gradually sloping up at an angle of about forty-five degrees to apertures about a foot square in the outside of the walls; that the loopholes, or perhaps we may now call them window-openings, are larger (about eleven inches wide and two feet nine inches high) and square-headed, with stepped embrasures as on grand story: they are over those below. There is a small office or room in the north-west turret, which has a fireplace; this story is about twenty feet high. The openings have all semicircular arches, which is the case throughout the building; and it is to be noticed that they are still perfectly plain, without moulding or impost, except the one described from the entrance tower. I am almost inclined to believe that the walls, up to the top of this story, are of earlier date than the work above; the walls in some places set back, and the perpendicular lines do not all correspond. There is nothing in the style, with the exception of the doorway from the entrance tower and the tower itself, which would preclude the supposition of the work being even of the Roman period; and that it is possible the present entrance is not the original one, is shown by the now blocked-up external archway in the north-west turret. I apprehend these two rooms were guard-rooms, or rooms for servants, the northern one being the hall, and the southern one the cooking-room. I

assume the entrance would most likely be into the generall hall, and the

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southern one is in communication with the lifts before mentioned: probably the small office in the turret would be used by an officer who would keep account of all stores, pay the soldiers, etc.

"Ascending the north-east turret, we step off the staircase into a room over the entrance lobby, which I am much inclined to think might have been a chapel; it stands east and west, has a doorway into it from the lower gallery of the great hall; the eastern end is separated from the rest by an arch, plain, but with an impost, and it is domed over in a rather unusual manner with rag-stone plastered. The windows are plain; but I cannot disguise it from myself, that the inclined stone shoot, which goes at the level of the floor through the wall at the east end, seems to have more to do with some domestic office than a chapel; still it is well situated for a chapel, being east and west. However, not to detain you here any longer, we will ascend to the principal or grand story of the building. The work is here very different in character from that below. The story is thirty-two or thirty-three feet high, and has two tiers of arcades, the lower tier having single columns with moulded arches; the upper tier having columns, imposts, and arches, of exactly the same design and size as those of the entrance-doorway on the story below; as have also the fireplaces, which have columns at the angles of the jambs, with a weathered label moulding above the chimney-breasts. The place of the division-wall on this story is occupied by a beautiful arcade, three of the arches being nearly of the same span, and the fourth, at the east end, being about twice the span of the others. The columns are about four feet diameter, with plain, vertically-fluted, or billeted capitals, and bases with unusually small and delicate mouldings; they are cylindrical, built of rubble, and faced with ashlar in narrow courses. There is an archway built into the western arcade, the impost occurring at rather more than one-third the height of the principal columns; the aperture of the archway is about two-thirds the width of the larger arcade, the spaces between the jambs and the large columns being filled in with rough rag-work for plastering. That this archway was put in after the columns were built is evident; the columns, as can easily be seen, having been finished fair in the first instance, and the arcade or screen built against them: this arcade has certainly extended across the three smaller bays, and I have no doubt the larger one also at the east end; the foundation of the screen-work is still in the smaller bays, and the columns of the large arch, like the rest, have the marks of having been built against to the exact height and thickness of the screen; the arch of the screen is finished exactly like the upper gallery arches on the north side, but has plain recesses at the back or south side. It is to be noticed also with respect to the large arches, although all finished alike on the north side with the usual chevron-bead and outer moulding, that the two eastern ones have merely a bead on edge with a slight sinking

above on the south side, and that the two western ones have the chevron at the back, not flush with the face of the wall, but set back and enclosed by an outer arch of plain ashlar. All this clearly shows that the northern chamber was the principal one, the inner one was evidently screened off to be in some measure private -- a sort of withdrawing room, perhaps with a screen across at the back of the column of the large arch, which is not faced, but left rubble flush with the facing. I think the fireplaces show that both were living rooms.

"With respect to the arches being of an unequal span, I do not think this results from any special object; they would use the same centres for the three smaller ones, and finding the space left not wide enough for two more, it would be thrown into one. The gallery at the back of the large arch is stepped up, so that the abutment might be solid. The window-openings opposite the upper gallery arches are considerably larger on this story. In the top story the division wall is resumed above the arcade. Nearly the eastern half of the southern external wall of this story and the one we have just left, appear to me of a different date from the rest, the arches in it are plain as on the two lower stories, whilst the remainder of the windows on this story are enriched. On the east wall of the southern room of this story, are the remains of half an arch of considerably larger span than the rest, and at a much higher level, and with mouldings differing from any of the rest except one other arch in the south wall, which, like this one, has been built up flush: in both cases plain openings have been formed in the filling-in. The cap of this large eastern arch is of different design from any of the others, it having a scale pattern on the surface. It is difficult to account for this arch of unusual height and size, unless originally there was a chapel at the top of the building, and this its east window. There are fireplaces in these rooms. The centre opening in the west wall of each room is larger than the remaining two, but the springings are level. This story is twelve or thirteen feet high. The walls, battlements, and turrets are the original height, an unusual circumstance; the south-eastern turret, which is circular below, is carried up square at the top, and I imagine, from the appearance of the work, at a subsequent date corresponding with the other turrets. The marks of the gable of the northern compartment are visible, and there are stone shoots through the walls from the gutters: the other roof was probably flat.

"This building has been a ruin for upwards of two hundred years, and a certain sir Walker Weldon, a descendant of sir Anthony Weldon, who lived in the time of James I, sold the stone steps of the staircase to a mason from London; he wanted to sell the whole building as old material, but fortunately it was not worth the expense of pulling down. The floors were all of wood, as were also the roofs; I am told the beams

of the floors were removed in comparatively recent times. I may just

mention, that there is a curious honeycomb-arrangement in the stonework at the top of the north wall, about two feet above the level of the gutter; the holes are one above another with a flat stone between, and about six inches square. I can see no object for this, except to lighten the work.

"Exterior. The exterior is of the simplest possible design, the turrets rise sheer from the battered plinth, of parallel width all up, without stringcourse or moulding: they have re-entering angles, that is, the walls are not produced till they meet at one angle, but they stop short as if a square piece had been cut out of the angle. There are no buttresses, the projections in the middle of each wall being more in the nature of pilasters or piers. The two upper tiers of windows, and the windows in the entrance tower, have columns and moulded arches. The above description applies to the three square turrets only, the fourth, at the south-east angle, is circular on plan; it has two set-offs, at each of which the diameter is diminished, but, as already said, it is finished square at the top like the other turrets. I have very little doubt but that this turret is of earlier date than the remaining three.

"I believe I have now drawn your attention to the points principally worthy of attention, and before I conclude I will say a few words about the probable date of the work. I have, indeed, written a rather detailed paper on the general question as to the probable periods when the works now extant were executed, founded on a review of the state of society in this country from the coming of the Romans to the conquest; but it is too long to read on this occasion.^{/1} The generally received opinion is that Gundulph, the bishop, built the keep; and this impression is founded on the record, that after a long dispute with the king (Rufus), who required the bishop to put it to rights and to keep it in repair, the bishop then having charge of the castle, it was at length agreed that the bishop should spend £60 on the tower of the castle, but with very strict provisos that he should not be answerable for any further repairs. The mistake seems to be, that this bargain between the king and the bishop has been interpreted as a contract on the part of the bishop to 'build' de novo the towers or keep; the absurdly small sum mentioned for the purpose, seems to me to put this supposition entirely out of court, and I believe the £60 was nothing more than the sum agreed upon as the value of the repairs or dilapidation which the bishop, as holder of the castle, was bound to perform; and I think the greater portion of this sum was spent in repairing the outer walls and accessory offices, instead of the main tower or keep. Judging from its present state, it would scarcely want repairing eight hundred years ago. If it had been burnt or gutted, it might have been so; but this was not the case, the wood floor having remained till a recent time.

"Upon the whole, and taking into account that Rochester was a

^{/1} This paper will appear in a future number of the Journal.

stronghold in the time of the aboriginal Britons, that the Romans had an important station here, and from time to time during the four or five

hundred years -- nearly five hundred -- they were masters of Britain, they walled the city, and built and enlarged the castle so as to make it a place of exceeding strength and security; and recollecting that in the Saxon times Rochester was more known as a castle than a city (Bede calls it 'the castle of Kentish men'); and, above all, bearing in mind that at this, the most important pass in Anglia, a very strong fortress would always to a certainty be maintained, -- I have come to the conclusion that Gundulph with his £60 did not build this tower, and that the ruin in which we now are is of Anglo-Roman and Anglo-Saxon workmanship."

The examination having been completed, a discussion took place in relation to several points, stated by Mr. Duesbury, of the castle, and the whole was appropriately terminated by Mr. Ashpitel, who called the attention of the assembly to the accurate manner in which the structure and arrangement of ancient Norman fortresses had been described by sir Walter Scott, particularly in his romance of *Ivanhoe*. . . .

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At six o'clock the Association, to the number of between seventy and eighty, sat down to an ordinary prepared at the Crown Inn, and in the evening again assembled in the Guildhall to continue the reading of the papers, the first of which was by the rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A., F.S.A., Hon. Secretary, being "A Memoir of Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, with Notices of the other Ecclesiastical Founders of that Church and Monastery." (See pp. 231-270 ante.)

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Mr. Henry George Adams, of Rochester, read a paper "On Rochester Bridge", of which the following is an abstract: --

"In Kilburne's Survey of the County of Kent (Lond., 1659, 4to.), it is said, 'there was anciently a very strong timber bridge, with nine arches, over the river of Medway, a little distant, towards the north, from the place where the stone bridge now is, to the maintenance whereof several persons, parishes, and tenements were liable' (p. 229). Respecting the date of the first erection of Rochester bridge, we are left quite in the dark, no record that I am acquainted with having yet been discovered which determines this point. Stowe says that the first mention of a bridge in this place was in the year 1215; but from the testimony of Ernulphus, bishop of Rochester, as quoted by Dr. Thorpe, it must have been in existence long prior to that date. The Saxon bishop who occupied the see of Rochester from 1115 to 1124, does not originate, but merely records, a series of regulations, or statutes, previously in existence, for the maintenance and repair of the different portions of the bridge. Denne, in his History of Rochester, notices the mention made of some persons who disputed part of the contributions demanded of them for this purpose, and thence infers that 'the regulations were ancient at the time Ernulphus collected them; for these disputes might probably arise from certain in-

dulgences on particular occasions, which custom had afterwards confirmed into a law.' We shall not rest too strongly upon this argument, for it might be said, on the other hand, that these regulations, being new, their application had not yet come to be clearly understood, and hence disputes had arisen. But we have to adduce some facts in support of the opinion that the bridge was of much more remote antiquity than Stowe would lead us to infer; and to these, as quoted in his own work, the historian of Rochester might safely have appealed. He tells us (p. 121, ed. 1772), that "when Rufus, who had been the pupil of Lanfranc, ascended the throne, Gundulph and the archbishop obtained many grants in favour of their churches. Lanfranc dying, Gundulph still continued in favour with the king and his successor, Henry I, from whom he obtained many favours for the monks. Among other privileges, king Henry gave them one-fourth of the toll of Rochester bridge, whether the bridge was whole or broken. He also established a fair at Rochester, to last two days, viz. on the festivity of St. Paulinus and the day preceding; for which two days the king granted to the monks the whole toll of the bridge. They and their servants also used the bridge toll free.

"The painstaking Lambarde does not venture upon an opinion as to the probable date of the first erection of this bridge; we may therefore conclude that his researches led to nothing satisfactory on this point. His evidence as to its position is too clear and decisive to admit of much dispute, even if the remains of it discovered during the progress of the present works had not placed the matter beyond a doubt. Lambarde says: 'Now, therefore, am I come to the bridge over Medway, not that which we presently behold, but another also, much more antient in time, though less beautifull in worke, which neither stood on the selfe place, neither very farre from it; for that crossed the water over against Strood hospitall; and this latter is pitched some distance towarde the south, and somewhat nearer to the castle walls, as to a place more fitte, both for the fastnesse of the soile, and for breaking the swiftnesse of the streame, to build a bridge upon.' (Perambulations, p. 344.)

"Much as we may admire the picturesque effect of the present bridge, and regret its demolition, we cannot hesitate to acknowledge that the site occupied by the old one, and on which that now in course of erection will stand, is much the more eligible and convenient.

"It is, however, to the old wooden bridge that our attention must at present be directed. Kilburne calls it 'a very strong timber bridge', and by the ancient records it would appear to have consisted of nine *pila* or piers of stone and earth, on which the wooden superstructure rested; this would give ten intermediate spaces or arches, not nine, as is sometimes stated. The present bridge also has ten, four on the Strood, and five on the Rochester side of the larger central arch, which occupies the space of two, and was formerly so divided. In a print entitled 'The

North-West Prospect of the City of Rochester', bearing date 1738, eleven is the number of arches represented. The length of the old bridge, according to the record before mentioned, was 431 feet, about the present breadth of the river at this place. 'Denne says that the ten divisions, or openings, were each forty-three feet from the centre of one pier to the centre of another, calculating, it may be presumed, that this must be the case in a length of four hundred and thirty-one feet divided by ten.' But in 'a Description and Plan of the Ancient Timber Bridge at Rochester, collected from two MSS. published in Lambarde's *Perambulations of Kent*, by Mr. Essex" (*Archaeologia*, vol. vii), a different account is given. The author of this paper considers that two of the piers mentioned were land abutments, and consequently there were but eight openings. It appears that the number of beams to be provided was twenty-eight, which, according to Denne's theory, were placed three over each of the spaces except the two extreme ones, which had only two. Essex, from the same data, makes out ninety-seven or ninety-eight of these beams or joists, of which he says, "Twenty-eight were provided by those who built the nine piers, the rest by different persons or places in the country". We shall not attempt to reconcile these differences, but merely refer those who desire to pursue this subject, to Lambarde and the article in the *Archaeologia*, where a representation of the old bridge, in accordance with the author's rendering of the records, will be found.

"The statement that the arches of the bridge rested upon piers of earth and stone, seems to be a little contradicted by the discovery of wooden piles, evidently the remains of an old bridge foundation, during the progress of the present works. These piles were, many of them, shod with iron, and driven far down into the bed of the river, out of which they had to be drawn. I am informed by the overseer of the works that as much as six hundred and sixty cubic feet of timber, chiefly oak, was recovered in this way; a great portion of it was perfectly sound, as is shown by a piece which he has had converted into a tea caddy. From the way in which these piles had been placed, it seemed to my informant that they had formed a kind of framework for some heavier material, no doubt the stone and earth of which the piers of the old bridge are said to have been composed; these piers, I should gather from the records, were not many feet above high water mark, and on them rested the beams called *sullivæ*. On these we have now only to place the cross planks, which with the beams the contributory parishes were bound to furnish, and our wooden bridge is complete as far as a sufficient passage way is concerned. I have perhaps improperly spoken of the openings or divisions of the bridge as arches; they were neither elliptical nor hemispherical, they were doubtless square openings between the supporting piers.

"We must now glance for a moment at the curious documents which set forth the provisions made for the maintenance of this bridge. One of

these, 'exemplified', as Lambarde has it, out of an ancient monument of Christ's Church, Canterbury, bears the title *Memorandum de Ponte Roffensi*; the other is that of bishop Ernulphus, in both Saxon and Latin, a quotation or two from which will suffice for our present purpose: --

"This is the bridgewoorke at Rochester. Here be named the landes, for the which men shall woorke. First the bishop of the cittie taketh on that end to woorke the land peere: and three yardes to planke: and three plates to laye: that is, from Borstall, and from Cuckstane, and from Friendsbyry, and Stoke. Then the second peere belongeth to Gyllingham, and to Chetham, and one yarde to planke and three plates to laye.' Nine piers with their contributory parishes are then described, the ninth, belonging to the archbishop, 'that is the land peere at the west ende: to Fleete: and to his cliffe: and to Higham: and to Denton: and to Mylton: and to Ludsdowne: and to Mephram: and to Snodland: and to Berling: and to Paddlesworth: and to all that valley men: and four yardes to planke: and three plates to laye.'

"Lambarde further tells us, that the duty of contributing to the construction and repairs of the bridge 'grew either by tenure, or by custom, or both, and it seemeth according to the quantity and proportion of land to be charged, the carriage was also more or less. For here is expresse mention, not of towns and manors only, but of yokes and acres also, which were contributory to the aide of carrying, patching, and laying of piles, planks, and other great timbers.

"Denne thinks it probable that 'the money for erecting this bridge was raised in the same manner by which it was kept in repair, viz. by a taxation on the adjacent manors, places, and bounds, according to their respective value; these manors, etc., being accustomed, from time immemorial, to elect two men from among themselves to be wardens and overseers of the repairs of the bridge' (*Hist. of Rochester*, p. 45). A reference to the archives and bridge muniments would probably show the latest period at which the lands and parishes enumerated in the records were called on to contribute their quota to this great public work. Now, and for a long time past, there has been certain property appropriated to this purpose, the increasing value of which has enabled the bridge wardens, not only to keep the present stone bridge in repair, but also to furnish the funds for the erection of a new iron one.

"The old bridge (according to Kilburne) had a tower of stone standing upon the same; but about the year 1264, both of them, bridge and tower, were, in the barons' wars, spoiled by fire, as king John, in the year 1215, had attempted to spoil the same.

"We will take these two dates in their proper order, and speak first of 1215, when king John besieged William d'Albini, by whom Rochester

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castle was held for the insurgent barons, and took it after a desperate resistance which lasted for three months. The king, it is said, attempted to burn the bridge, but was prevented by Robert Fitz Walter, the general of the rebel forces, who, says Denne, 'put out the fire and saved it.'

This, however, scarcely agrees with the recorded facts of history; and, indeed, the same author, in his account of Rochester castle, tells us that Fitz Walter, being sent to the relief of the castle by the barons, "found that the king had so secured himself by breaking down the bridges and fortifying the passes, that he could not interrupt his operations, or was afraid to attempt it; for, having marched as far as Dartford, with an army double the number of John's, he turned back, and left the castle (and of course the bridge also) to the mercy of the king (p. 45). Lambarde's testimony is much more concisely given, but to the same effect.

"We next come to 1264, when both bridge and town were, it appears, 'spoiled by fire'. It was Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, who committed this mischief: he, as Lambarde tells us, 'girded the citie about with a mightie siege, and setting on fire the wooden bridge, and a tower of timber that stood thereon, wonne the first gate or ward of the castle by assault, and spoiled the church and abbey.' We are informed by Denne that, on this occasion, the conflagration consumed only the wooden materials of the bridge; but as this comprehended the whole superstructure, we cannot quite understand why he should have used the term 'only'. The piers of earth and stone were, of course, inconsumable, both from the nature of their materials, and their position beneath the water. And here I may remark, as confirmatory of history, that many of the timbers found in the bed of the river appeared to be charred, as if they had been subjected to igneous action.

"The next historical record which we meet with is altogether omitted by Kilburne, and also by Lambarde. Denne gives it, without naming his authority: "In the year 1177, king Edward I commanded the sheriff of Kent to inquire into a complaint lodged against the master and brethren of Strood hospital, who had been distrained for the repair of the head of Rochester bridge next their own house. On inquiry it appeared that bishop Glanville, founder of the hospital, had built a stone quay at the head of the west end of the bridge, and some houses on the quay, with money which he had collected from various places for this purpose. The rents of these houses, and some others near them, he appointed for the repairs of the west end of the bridge, assigning them to the master and brethren of the hospital for that purpose. They had received the rents, and maintained the repairs, until the late siege of Rochester by the earl of Leicester, when several of the bishop's houses were burnt; after which the master and brethren of the hospital applied the remaining materials and stones of the quay to the repairs of their chapel. On these depositions, the master and brethren lost their cause.' (p. 46). Upon this I

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would merely remark, that we have here the first mention made of lands or tenements wholly or especially assigned to the maintenance of the bridge.

"By Kilburne we are told (p. 229), that 'afterwards, in the year 1281, there hapning so great and so long a frost and snow, that people passed on foot over this river from Rochester to Strood, and that frost suddenly

breaking, the remains of the aforesaid old bridge was borne down and carried away by the stream.'

"This makes up the two visitations of fire and flood, or, as Lambarde has it, 'of frost and flame', which sets that worthy old perambulator to thinking that it was 'meete to impart such antiquities as he had found concerning the bridge, lest, as they had already consumed the thing itself, so the canker of time might devour all memory thereof.' So he worthily employed himself in transcribing, for his book, the before mentioned records of the Saxon bishop, Ernulphus, and of the worthy and wise counsellor, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, of Canterbury.

"For a long while after this the bridge appears to have lain in ruins. Harris (*Hist. of Kent*) says that in the year 1293, -- that is, twelve years after, -- 'the bridge was so much broken and out of repair, that people were obliged to go over in boats; and that the wharf at Rochester was so bad that all vessels used the wharf at Strood.'

"Kilburne's next item of intelligence is very succinctly given: "Afterwards another bridge was builded, which (10 Richard II), upon rumour of coming of the French, was beaten down.' The *History of Rochester*, however, furnishes us with a much more detailed account: 'This bridge,' it tells us, 'appears to have lain several years in this ruinous state; but king Edward III, meditating a war with France, was induced to make good this passage, which was so necessary for conveying his army to Dover. An inquisition, therefore, was taken, A.D. 1344, before John Vulstone, the king's escheator for the county of Kent, by the oaths of twelve men, about the repairs of Rochester bridge, who found that the expense was to be defrayed very nearly by the same contributing lands as hath been already related. In this inquiry, mention is made of a drawbridge and barbican, the work of which belonged to the king; they were both on the west side, the barbican, probably, was a guard-house and watch-tower, where a guard was posted for the security of the city; and the drawbridge might be over the west arch of the bridge, to draw up on the approach of an enemy.' This right of leaving a passage through the bridge, up and down the river, seems to have remained with the crown or government of the country, for the admiralty board of the present day make it a condition in the erection of a new bridge, that there shall be a draw or swing bridge, which accordingly there will be at the west or Strood side, as was the drawbridge here mentioned. It was found also,' continues Denne, 'that the master and wardens of Strood hospital

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were to repair the bridge and wharf, from the drawbridge to the west end of it. In consequence of this examination, it is presumed that bishop Glanville collected the money with which he built the wharf and houses. This contribution was principally levied on the inhabitants of Northfleet, Cliff, etc., to whom the west or north pier of the bridge belonged, on condition that the rents of the wharf and tenements should release them from any further taxation.

"In this inquisition mention is made of a small place, about thirty feet

in length, adjoining to the wharf at the east end of the bridge, which seems to have been two small wings, one on each side of the entrance of the bridge, next the city, with wharfs to the north and south; the north side was to be repaired by Friendsbury, and the south by Rochester.

"Soon after this inquiry, it is probable that the bridge was put into so good repair as to admit of men and horses passing over; but after the taking of Calais, in the year 1347, the traffic on this road was so considerable, and the number of carriages and burdens so great, that the wooden bridge appears insufficient to support them with safety' (pp. 47, 48).

"Before quitting the history of this old bridge, I would just allude to the fortification, or tower of timber, built, as the records say, with 'marvellous skill'. Denne states that it was probably near the east end of the bridge, and used as a gate for the defence of the passage; it would consequently be defended by arrows and other missiles from the south-west angle of the castle wall. Mr. Essex, in the plan before alluded to, places it not far from the centre of the bridge, on the third pier from the Rochester side, that is, if we call the first an abutment. It is considered probable that this bridge was not more than ten feet wide: it seems to have had a balustrade; but that this was not very high may be inferred from the fact that it was considered dangerous to pass over it on horseback. According to the *Textus Roffensis*, a rash young noble, named William de Elintune, son of viscount Allford, neglecting the usual precaution of dismounting to lead his horse across, was drowned, by the animal taking fright and leaping with him into the river.

"We have now to turn our attention to the present bridge; which Lambarde speaks of as 'that worke which is to the founder a noble monument, to this citie a beautiful ornament, and to the whole countie a most serviceable commoditie and easement.' (*Perambulations*, p. 353.) In what year the building of this bridge was commenced, we do not learn. Denne conjectures it might have been about 1387. By a statute made for its continual support and repair, it appears to have been completed in 1392. As now, it was originally 'a faire stone bridge', and at the early time of its erection must have been considered indeed a noble structure, second to none in the country, if we except those of London and Westminster. It is described in the *History of Rochester* as above five hundred and sixty feet long, and fourteen broad, with a stone parapet

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on each side strongly coped and crowned with an iron balustrade. It is there also said to have eleven arches, as we see it in the print by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, entitled 'the north-west prospect of the city of Rochester', and bearing date 1738; where it presents, I suppose, the same appearance as it did when Denne wrote the first edition of his history (1772). When the iron balustrades were replaced by the present handsome stone ones I cannot say exactly; but have been informed by those who remember the alteration being made, that the conversion of the central opening, over which was a drawbridge, and the western adjoining arch into the larger arch, as now standing, was effected somewhere about

forty years since, when the bridge was also otherwise much strengthened and improved.

"Sir Robert Knolles, a celebrated general of the time, was the founder of it, and is said to have borne a great part of the expense, building it, as Lambarde says, 'with the spoiles of towns, castles, churches, monasteries, and cities', which he had burnt and destroyed.

"Sir John de Cobham, who was associated with sir Robert Knolles in the erection of the bridge,^{/1} and in obtaining the statute for its maintenance, seems to have borne but a small part of the expense; he, however, built a chapel close upon the east end of it, on the spot now occupied by the bridge-chamber or record-room, in which the muniments of the bridge are deposited. This chapel, of which some remains may yet be traced in the present building, was called *All-solven*, or All Souls, and was designed principally for the use of travellers. No doubt many a foot-weary and sin-burdened pilgrim, journeying to the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, has here rested, and joined in one or more of the three masses which, according to the will of the founder, were said every day; the first, between five and six in the morning; the second, between eight and nine; and the third, between eleven and twelve; that arrangement having been made with a view to their especial accommodation. At each of these masses a collect was recited for all the living and dead benefactors to the bridge and chapel, and particularly for those of the founders, sir Robert Knolles, sir John de Cobham, and their respective ladies. How long a time elapsed before this chapel fell into disuse, we have no direct information that I am acquainted with; but Thorpe tells us that 'In the nineteenth of Elizabeth, the queen's attorney-general sued the wardens of the bridge for the sum of £513, being the amount of £18 per annum (which used to be paid to the chaplains) for twenty-eight and a half years past, which sum was at that time presumed to be forfeited, and due to the queen by the act of 1 Edward VI, for dissolving chantries, etc. But it not appearing to the jury that any service had been performed there, nor stipend paid to any chaplain or chantry priest

^{/1} See Thorpe's *Registrum Roffense*, p. 555.

for officiating there, for five years next before the passing of the act, a verdict was given for the wardens.'

"And who were these wardens? How was the body chosen and constituted which then, and for many centuries previous, did, and now do, manage the affairs of Rochester bridge? -- having a charter of incorporation, and a common seal,^{/1} and being empowered to enforce certain levies and fines, and to plead in courts of law and the like? This is a question which must naturally arise, and it behoves me to answer it as well as my limited opportunities of acquiring the necessary information will allow. I have already alluded to the statement of Denne, who follows Lambarde and the records, that from time immemorial these places, manors, and bounds, which were chargeable with the repairs of the bridge, were

accustomed to elect two men from among themselves to be wardens and overseers of these repairs; 'and in the statute granted at the request of sir Robert Knolles and sir John de Cobham, after the completion of the new bridge, it was set forth very precisely, how many feet and inches of the structure the several parishes, etc., were, according to the ancient statutes, liable for the repair of; it was also enacted, that the custom of choosing two persons annually on each of these divisions should be continued, such persons to be considered as representatives of the community thus charged with the work of reparation, and be styled wardens of the new bridge at Rochester; and to acquire and to hold, as such, property to the amount of £200 per annum, being accountable to certain auditors appointed by the community for their receipts, disbursements, etc.' A new statute, confirming the former acts, was made in the year 1422, and by this the wardens were empowered 'to purchase and receive lands, tenements, and rents of any person whatsoever, and to hold them for ever for the repairs of the new bridge.'

"Notwithstanding all this care and provision for its proper maintenance, it appears that the stone bridge, like its wooden predecessor, got sadly neglected; so that in 1445, the prior and convent of Rochester, out of pity for its dilapidated condition, contributed forty shillings for its repair; but this, it should be mentioned, was toll-money due from them to the wardens. In 1489, again, the Church stepped in to befriend the poor neglected bridge; for at that time, according to sir Robert Mainwood, chief baron of Exchequer, and himself a bridge-warden in 1588, 'John Morton, archbishop of Canterbury, published a remission from purgatory for fifty dayes, for all manner of sins, to such persons as would give anything towards its repair.'

"Then, indeed, as may well be imagined, the bridge was strengthened and restored. The contributions thus raised were not only sufficient for

/1 The seals belonging to the wardens and commonalty of Rochester bridge are engraved in Hasted's *History of Kent*, vol. ii, p. 124, folio edition.

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the more necessary and substantial repairs of the bridge, but also for the adorning of the coping with 'iron bars neatly wrought'. This work, which was commenced by archbishop Warham, who succeeded to the see of Canterbury in 1504, was, however, left unfinished, and remained so until the time of Lambarde, who finished his *Perambulations* in 1570. He affirms that the revenue of the bridge was converted to private uses, and that the county was charged with a toll and a fifteenth to supply this public want; yet the bridge went out of repair, and was threatened with absolute destruction.

"Thus it was when queen Elizabeth made a tour into Kent, and during her tarriance of five days at Rochester, being informed by her principal secretary, sir William Cecil, of the ruinous state of the bridge, commissioned him and divers others, knights and gentlemen of the county, to examine the defects, and find means to remedy them. The result was the statute of the eighteenth of Elizabeth; which nine years after was followed

by another, giving full power to the wardens and assistants to assess the lands liable for the repairs of the bridge, and to distrain in case of a refusal. This and the previous statute enacts, that on the morrow after each general quarter-sessions of the peace in this county, next after Easter, the wardens and commonalty of the contributory lands shall assemble at the castle of Rochester, and choose two persons to be wardens and twelve to be assistants, all of whom must belong to the commonalty, and be resident in the county. A warden elected and refusing to serve, forfeits £10; two householders, at least, from every parish within seven miles of the bridge, are to be chosen on the day of election, which, by a statute passed in the first year of queen Anne, was altered for greater convenience to the Friday next after Easter; the day for auditing the wardens' accounts being Thursday in Whitsun week. No material alteration has, I believe, taken place in these arrangements, and under the excellent management of the bridge-wardens the funds have greatly accumulated. Denne, writing in 1772, says: 'We may indulge a confident hope that the period may arrive, when the surplus of the means will be sufficient to enable them (the wardens) to erect a new bridge on a better plan than the present, and in the place where the old bridge originally stood, which is justly considered, both as to beauty and convenience, as a far more eligible situation.'

"That time has now arrived, and although it will be a source of regret to many that so noble a structure as the present bridge -- associated, too, as it is, with individual recollections and local history -- should be removed, yet must it be borne in mind that the change is necessary, and in accordance with the requirements of the times. That the new bridge will be more convenient, both as regards the navigation of the river and the land traffic, there cannot be a doubt, and in the present day we must be content to sacrifice picturesque beauty for practical utility."

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Tuesday, July 26.

The Association attended the service at the Cathedral, at half-past ten, a.m., after which a meeting was held in the Chapter House, where the rev. Edward Hawkins, D.D., and the rev. John Griffith, D.D., the canons in residence, laid before the assembly their two most celebrated manuscripts, the *Textus Roffensis* and the *Custumale Roffense*.

Mr. W. H. Black then proceeded to an examination of these ancient treasures, and delivered a long and admirable discourse, particularly upon the former, which upwards of twenty years ago he had most minutely investigated. The interest excited by this discourse occasioned the expression of a very general desire on the part of those present that a more complete and satisfactory publication of the MS. should be made, than that which has been handed down to us by the celebrated antiquary, Hearne, who has omitted to print a very large and highly interesting por-

tion of the work. This subject has since been under the consideration of the Council of the Association, and they have communicated with the dean and chapter of Rochester to ascertain their willingness to cooperate with the Association in putting forth, under the editorship of Mr. Black, the complete work, together with a translation of it, and the necessary fac-similes to its proper illustration. The manner in which it is proposed to accomplish this very important object will be as soon as possible communicated to the members and to the public; and it is to be hoped that the necessary means to carry it into effect may be speedily obtained. The MS., contrary to the general expectation of those present, was found to be in a most perfect state of preservation, not at all decayed, or rendered illegible by the accidents to which it had been subjected. -- Upon the conclusion of Mr. Black's discourse, the president returned the thanks of the Association to the canons present, for their courteous reception and the exhibition of the MSS., and took occasion happily to allude to the advantages arising from archaeological visits, in thus bringing forth treasures for examination and public information.

Mr. Ashpitel, F.S.A., having arranged various drawings and diagrams illustrative of Rochester cathedral, proceeded to deliver a lecture on the same, the substance of which will be found at pp. 271-285 ante. Following this discourse, the cathedral was then minutely inspected, and its several peculiarities pointed out by Mr. Ashpitel and other architects present. A visit was then paid to various houses and places in Rochester, Chatham, and Strood, mentioned in Mr. Baily's paper, making examination in particular of Temple-farm, and St. Catherine and St. Bartholomew's hospitals.

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The Association again dined together at the ordinary at the Crown, at six o'clock, and at eight proceeded to the Guildhall to continue the reading of papers.

...
Mr. Stephen Steele, of Strood, gave an account of the discovery of a Roman burial ground at Strood. He commenced thus: --

"As very little is known of the Roman occupation of that part of Kent where the city of Rochester is now situated, any discovery which might throw some light upon it, is doubtless acceptable to the friends of archaeology: I have therefore thought it advisable to communicate to this meeting some discoveries made in Strood, which, as is well known, is in close contiguity to the present city of Rochester, being separated from the supposed site of the Roman castrum only by the Medway. Consequently it may be reasonably inferred, that whatever remains of the Romans here discovered, would bear some testimony to their settlement in Durabrivis.

"I find no mention made in any account of Rochester, of Roman remains being found there, beyond what were discovered in Bolly-hill about a century ago, from the levelling of a large mound on the south side of the ditch surrounding the castle. In this tumulus were dis-

covered Roman urns, paterae, lacrymatoriae, etc., together with a few coins. Extensive sepulchral remains, however, were found about the same time in Chatham, on the Lines, consisting of skeletons of both sexes, swords, spear-heads, and many Roman coins, an account of which has been published by Douglas in his *Nenia Britannica*. So that anything in addition to these evidences may be supposed to have some value, and curiosity was naturally excited when, in 1838 and 1839, the discoveries in Strood were first made known. The site of this ancient cemetery is on the west side of the road to London, adjoining the marshes, near the path to the Temple-farm. Here excavations were made for removing gravel and making bricks, when the workmen found, about four feet from the surface, a number of skeletons, about forty or more, earthen vases, paterae, rings for the fingers, bracelets, ligulae, jet ornaments, glass beads, large iron nails, and a small key. Many of the vases and urns contained burnt human bones, others beads and personal ornaments./1 The earthen vases were mostly of a coarse manufacture, of a dark brown or blackish

/1 Many of these antiquities have been figured by Mr. C. Roach Smith in his *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. i, part 2.

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colour, closely resembling the numerous fragments of pottery of apparently Romano-British manufacture, discovered in great abundance on the east shore of the Medway, between Chatham and Sheerness.

"The most remarkable feature of the discovery was the large number of Roman coins there found, extending from the time of Antonia to Gratianus, now in possession of Mr. H. Wickham of Strood, and myself. The coins of the earlier emperors do not appear to have been much defaced by wear prior to their deposition, scarcely more so than the latest coins of Gratian. The specimens most abundant were those of the era of the Antonines; next to them, those of the time of Constantine. Among them were found those usurpers of the imperial rule in Great Britain, Carausius and Allectus, as well as the Gaulish ruler, Tetricus; many of them were described in the *Numismatic Chronicle* of 1839. They were not found in one heap, but scattered among the pottery and skeletons; and when brought by the labourers, at various times, to Mr. Wickham and myself, they were generally in chronological series; those of the Constantine era at one time, the Antonines and Hadrian at another. The nature of the soil, penetrated by the salt water, appears to have damaged the coins more than the wear. The specimens of pottery, personal ornaments, and the absence of silver among nearly six hundred copper and bronze coins, would show them to have been the property of the lower classes of society.

"Since then, in the early part of this year, another Roman cemetery has been found in this parish, on the north-east side of the London road. While excavating for the foundation of some houses in Cage-lane, the workmen found a number of human skeletons buried in trenches running east and west, accompanied with numerous fragments of pottery, eight specimens of which were obtained entire, together with three Roman

coins. At places, charcoal was found about one foot deep, and oyster shells at the bottom of the trenches; in one of which a Roman quern, of pudding-stone, in good preservation, was discovered. This ground has been but very little examined, as houses were built on it very rapidly, and it is only where pits were sunk about eight or ten feet deep, that these objects were to be seen.

"The inference to be drawn from these two cemeteries being found so near to the Roman station of Durobrivis, together with the coins deposited at different times during three hundred years, is, that the Roman station must have existed here during the whole of that time. From the fact of the cemeteries being found on both sides of the present London road, one might infer that the Roman road took nearly the same direction, towards Cobham and Singlewell."

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Wednesday, July 27.

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Mr. George Naylor, a builder of Rochester, exhibited various antiquities discovered in October 1852, by some workmen who were engaged in digging the foundations for some cottages on Star Hill, at Eastgate. Not less than twenty human skeletons, several of them of large size, and

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having the teeth in a very perfect state, were obtained. Mixed with these human remains were five spear heads, one of which still retains a portion of its wooden handle. There were also various bronze armillae, one of which is represented in plate 32, fig. 1; buckles (fig. 2), rings, large and small, some of which were taken out along with a quantity of dirt in one of the skulls. In the removal of these things, several were broken by the labourers, but fortunately two brooches, one of a square, the other of a circular form, were obtained entire, and are represented in figs. 3 and 4. They are of bronze, and have been gilt; their ornamentation is aided by portions of red coloured glass. Several beads were also found, some coloured, and some, one large one in particular, made of amber. A portion of a vase was also stated to have been met with, but it was not exhibited. The nature of the remains clearly belong to the Saxon period, and a burial ground was doubtless here situated.

...

The evening terminated with the reading of a paper forwarded some time since to the Association by the late Mr. Carlos, upon a brass in St. Margaret's church, Rochester, which had on the previous day been visited by many members of the Association. Rubbings from the brass were exhibited, and it will be found engraved in the Rev. Charles Boutell's Monumental Brasses of England. The brass is of Thomas Cod, vicar of St. Margaret's church, 1465, 5 Edward IV, and is now in a perfect state, having been restored with great care and ability, and fixed against the wall of the church on the left of the altar. Its original situation was on the chancel floor. It represents two demi-figures of the same individual, on the front and back of the plate. The height of the half figures is one foot four inches, and it was not discovered to be so engraved until the year 1810. The brass is usually known as a palimpsest, this term having, according to Mr. Boutell, been first employed by Mr. Albert Way. The term is one commonly applied to manuscripts written on a surface upon which there had been a previous writing, and by the erasure of which the surface was rendered fit to take another subject. The word is derived from <palin>, again, and <psaō>, to rub or efface, and is therefore improperly applied to this brass, inasmuch as no previous engraving has been effaced; the original is still remaining on one side, whilst a later and amended one has been executed upon the other.

From Mr. Carlos's communication, bearing the date of September 9, 1844, the following remarks are extracted:

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"The apparel to the cope on the obverse had been destroyed; this has been restored in accordance with the small fragment which existed, and the many apertures filled up. The orphreys to the cope on both sides are coloured red, and the lining of the hood on the reverse has been filled with white metal. This was rendered necessary for securing and covering one of the fractures.

"The initial capitals to the lines in the inscription will be coloured red, the others blue; the remainder of the letters, as well as the lines of the brass, will be filled in black; the brass will then be fixed with steel catches in a sheet of copper, and the whole enclosed in a wooden frame, and by means of hinges both sides may be seen./1 The corners of the oak panel are to be strengthened by ornamental work, and fixed to the wall of the lower story of the tower now used as a vestry room, and the inscription plate below it. The tower, as will be seen by the inscription, was built by the individual here commemorated; and as the removal from the chancel floor was indispensable, this was the best place which could be chosen. It is the only portion of the old church which has been preserved; the body and chancel have been destroyed, and a huge unsightly structure built on their site, with no pretensions to an ecclesiastical character.

"It has been surmised that both sides of the brass represented the same individual, and that the reason for the second engraving was that

the first had erroneously portrayed the vicar as a canon. I do not think that either surmise has any foundation in reality. The reverse side is evidently of earlier date than the other, and the countenance does not warrant the idea of the two faces belonging to the same individual. But should it be contended that the likeness affords no guide, I should suggest that the second engraving was owing to the circumstance of the vicar having been represented in a hood as a graduate of one of the universities. The other side has no hood, and as no mention is made in the inscription of the vicar having taken a degree, it is probable that this was the error which caused the brass to be recut.^{/3}

Thursday, July 28.

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^{/1} This has been most judiciously effected.

^{/2} The brass was minutely examined, and the Association were quite satisfied that both the figures represented the same person.

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Friday, July 29th.

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Saturday, July 30.

The Association met together this morning at a public breakfast in Rochester, when the titles of various papers were announced and referred to be read at the public meetings in London. These will, therefore, appear in the accounts of future Proceedings.

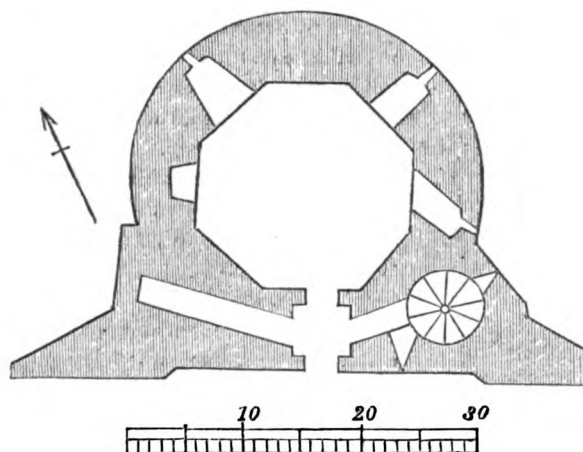
Votes of thanks were then moved, seconded, and passed to those who had offered facilities to the Association in the prosecution of their inquiries; and to individuals for the services they had rendered. These included thanks to the earl Cowper, the lord-lieutenant of the county; and the lord bishop of Rochester, the bishop of the diocese. To the president, Ralph Bernal, esq., M. A; to the vice-presidents; T. J. Pettigrew, esq., the treasurer; to the honorary secretaries; to the dean and chapter, and the clergy of Rochester and Maidstone; to the mayors and corporations of Rochester and Maidstone; to the earl Darnley; C. Wykeham Martin, esq., of Leeds castle; ---- Muston, esq., of Cowling castle; Thos. Charles, esq., of Chillington house, Maidstone; and others who had kindly received the Association; to the town clerks of Rochester and Maidstone, J. Lewis, esq., and J. Monckton, esq., for their assistance; and to the several members of the local committees. A general vote of thanks was also passed to the authors of papers and exhibitors of antiquities during

the Congress, after which the meeting was dissolved, and the members departed, highly satisfied with the investigations that had been pursued, and the results obtained by them.

...
The ancient walls of the city of Rochester have been described somewhat in detail, in the fourth volume of the Journal of the Association for 1848, pp. 30--37; and on occasion of the present Congress, the President and many members of the Association particularly examined the north-east tower, and expressed themselves much pleased with its state of preservation, and the traces of the ancient arrangements of the interior of it still remaining. It is approached from the High-street by a doorway adjoining the Free School. Thence passing through a narrow passage for a short distance the original eastern wall of the city is ascended, and proceeding along the top, by a species of banquette, for about 60 yards, with the battlements at places still perfect on the right hand, the tower is reached; and the interior is entered by a flight of stone steps descending into an arched passage, and small vestibule communicating with it. In this part a fire-place is still remaining, and also three embrasures, or loopholes, represented in Plate 33. (For the general arrangements of the interior, see the accompanying plan). Its walls, at this height from the ground, are about 6 feet thick; and besides the approach

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from the city walls, there was another entrance to it on the south side, as shewn by the plan, through an exterior door-way and the small vestibule before mentioned. From this another vaulted passage, 3 feet wide, and 14 feet 3 inches long, extends to the left. The door-way just noted communicates at present on the level with a piece of garden ground, but the soil here seems to have been raised about seven or eight feet since ancient times.



On the outside of the tower, towards the river, its present height is about 25 or 26 feet; and here two flank walls unite it to the main city walls, filling up the angle of junction. The space so gained is applied, on one side, to give room for the circular stone steps, and on the other

it appears to contain a latima, or sewer. The tower is at present un-roofed, and without its battlements; but a slightly built modern wall, about three feet high, surrounds it at this part.

The same party afterwards, under the able superintendence of the rev. Beale Poste, viewed the city walls and ditch, at a place a little to the south of the former east gate, from a spot in Mr. Jacobs' garden, where they can be examined to great advantage (see Journal, vol. iv. p. 37). The ditch is seen from this place in nearly its original breadth and depth, which is not the case in any other part of the circuit of the walls; and there are here appearances of breaches, which not improbably may have been made in some attacks on the city in medieval times.

. . .

Fig. 1.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 2.



SAXON ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT STAR HILL, ROCHESTER.



NORTH-EAST TOWER OF ROCHESTER WALL.

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BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

July 25. The annual meeting of this Association was opened in the Guildhall at Rochester, where Ralph Bernal, esq. M.P. for that city, took the chair as President; and delivered an address in which he discoursed with considerable eloquence on the advantages of archaeological knowledge, and gave a very complete and comprehensive sketch of the principal antiquities of the neighbourhood. A paper on the history of Rochester castle by Dr. W.

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Beattie was then read, in which its military annals were minutely traced.

At an evening meeting several papers were read: -- 1. Notices of Gundulph and the other Rochester founders: by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, F.S.A. Gundulph, to whom this paper was principally devoted, was bishop of Rochester from 1077 to 1108. He was succeeded by Radulphus, and then by Ernulph, who followed in his steps, and exhibited the same activity in architectural undertakings. The youth of Gundulph gave promise of the future man. He first served in the church of St. Mary at Rouen, and attracted the especial attention of William the Archdeacon, afterwards Archbishop of Rouen. As a monk of the abbey of Bec he was remarkable for his obedience, zeal, and earnest piety. He was also acute in secular matters, and assisted abbat Lanfranc in the government of the abbey of Caen. When, after the conquest of England, Lanfranc was elevated to the see of Canterbury, he took Gundulph with him to England, not only on account of his *sanctissima religio*, but also for his *prudentissima saecularium rerum administratio*, and some years after advanced him to the see of Rochester. He

found that church in ruins, the canons reduced to five in number, the lands of the house alienated, or forcibly withheld by powerful nobles. He first altered the constitution of the house itself. He then turned his attention to the building of his cathedral church, which, according to the *Textus Roffensis*, he built anew from the very foundation. He also built the offices of the priory, and made the whole as complete as possible. Two other ecclesiastical buildings, erected about the same time, (of which, however, very little remains,) claim him for their founder -- viz. the chapel of St. Bartholomew at Chatham, attached to the hospital for lepers, and portions of Malling abbey. He has also the credit of having been the architect of Rochester castle and of the White Tower within the Tower of London.

To this paper succeeded one "On the Houses of our Ancestors in Kent," by Charles Baily, esq. "Of the domestic architecture of the Normans," Mr. Baily observed, "we have no example remaining in or near to Rochester, but houses of this early period do still remain in other parts of the kingdom. There is a Norman house at Minster, in the Isle of Sheppy, which belongs to the twelfth century.

"Manor-houses were for the most part small, and generally somewhat square in form, often two storeys high, the rooms in the lower part being vaulted. Fireplaces were very few in number; sometimes there was but one in the whole building, and

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this was in one of the upper rooms. A great peculiarity of these early houses was the absence of an internal staircase; the approach to the upper rooms was from the outside of the house. In the Bayeux tapestry we find the representation of a Norman house such as I have described, but there is no fireplace nor chimney shown. When fireplaces were introduced, they were often of an ornamental character:

we find one at the Jew's House at Lincoln; and I may perhaps mention the fire-places of the castle in this city. Of the larger Norman houses we have only portions remaining, and it is probable that these partook more of the character of the castle than of the house. Oakham castle, in Rutlandshire, was built in 1180, but the original hall is all that remains of this date. It is divided into three aisles by two rows of columns and arches.

"Of Norman staircases may be mentioned the fine example remaining at Canterbury: each side of this is formed with a screen of ornamental semicircular arches on columns, supporting a roof: it led to what was the strangers' hall of the convent, and beneath which was the treasury; it appears to have been always an external approach. The same sort of plan continued in the thirteenth century, and at the Temple Farm, at Strood, we find the lower vaulted storey of a house of this time remaining. This is a large apartment, now used as a coal-cellar, one bay wide and three in length, and stands lengthways, east and west. The entrance is on the north side of the west bay, and on the south side are still some of the original windows, one of which is quite perfect, very long and narrow, and only ornamented with a narrow splay on the outside edge. It is square-headed, with a small pointed arch above it.

"In the year 1316 one Symond Potyn founded the Hospital of St. Katharine, in the Eastgate at Rochester, and in his will describes himself as 'dwelling in the inne called the Crown, in Saint Clementes parishe of Rochester.' This description, and the general antique character of the Crown Inn, naturally lead one to inquire if there is in it any architecture of an early character remaining? Portions of the ground-floor and basement are of such a character that we may with certainty consider them as being a part of the residence of the said Symond Potyn, and were probably built in the early part of the thir-

teenth century.

"On the eastern side of the Crown Inn yard stand some brick buildings now overgrown with ivy; these contain rooms which are said to be those which were occupied by Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her

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visit to Rochester on Sept. 18th, A.D. 1573, when she took up her abode at the Crown Inn for four days. The present stabling is traditionally called Queen Elizabeth's dining-room. In one of the upper rooms is a chimney-piece carved in the style prevalent in the time of James I., and to which period rather than the days of Elizabeth I should feel inclined to date the building.

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Mr. H. G. Adams read a paper "On Rochester Bridge," giving a description of the ancient timber bridge across the Medway, of which an engraving may be found in the seventh volume of the *Archaeologia*, accompanied by an account collected from two manuscripts, published in Lambarde's *Perambulation of Kent*. The date of its erection is uncertain. Regulations and statutes referring to it were in existence at the time of Bishop Ernulph. A statement that the arches of this bridge rested upon piers of earth and stone, seems to be contradicted by the discovery of wooden piles, evidently the remains of an old bridge foundation, during the progress of the present works, as the new bridge will occupy the site of the ancient one. The piles thus found were many of them shod with iron, and driven far down into the bed of the river, out of which they had to be drawn. The overseer of the works reports that so much as 660 cubic feet of timber, chiefly oak, was removed in this way, a great portion of it being perfectly

sound. Mr. Adams proceeded to notice various documents setting forth provisions for the maintenance of Rochester bridge, and afterwards gave a history of the present bridge, with notices respecting the one in course of formation.

The Association then proceeded to view the ancient buildings in Rochester, Strood, and Chatham, mentioned in Mr. Baily's paper, Temple Farm, St. Katharine and St. Bartholomew's hospitals, &c., and in the evening again assembled to hear several papers, viz. -- 1. by Mr. Essell, on an inscribed stone found in the Medway; 2. by the Rev. Beale Poste, on the attack of the Dutch on the defences of the Medway in 1667; and 3. by Mr. Halliwell, on

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ancient sports, pastimes, and customs of the county of Kent.

Tuesday, July 26. -- After service in the Cathedral, the canons in residence -- the Rev. Dr. Hawkins and the Rev. Mr. Griffith -- exhibited in the chapter-house the celebrated MSS., the Textus Roffensis and the Custumale Roffense, upon which Mr. W. H. Black delivered a highly interesting discourse, detailing very particularly the contents of those important records, and pointing out the necessity of a more accurate publication of them (particularly the Textus) than has hitherto appeared. A proposition for the publication of this MS., agreeably to the opinions expressed by Mr. Black, was proposed at this meeting, and has been referred for the consideration of the council.

The party then attended a lecture, by Mr. Ashpitel, "On the Architecture of the Cathedral," and afterwards minutely inspected the edifice under his guidance. Its erection was commenced by bishop Gundulph, who died in 1108, and completed by bishop Ernulph, who also, according to the Rochester Chronicle and Edmund de Hadenham, built the dormitory, infirmary, and chapter-house. The

fronts of these latter remain, and they partake of the style of the west front of the church, which is attributed to Ernulph, after he had lengthened the nave by one bay. No consecration took place until 1133, when that office was performed by John archbishop of Canterbury, eighteen years after Gundulph's death. The existing nave is clearly that of Gundulph, till within two arches of the transepts. A little to the eastward of the north transept is a fine massive tower, called Gundulph's tower, and this is clearly Norman. In the crypt is found work of two periods, one evidently Early-English, the other consisting of very rude groins, supported by small plain cylindrical shafts, and heavy cushion-like capitals. So early does this work seem that it has often been called Saxon. At its eastern end Mr. Ashpitel suspected the original existence of a circular or octagonal apsis, but, on setting out the lines, and probing the ground with a borer, nothing of the kind was found. However, on proceeding eastward the distance of two bays more, the foundations of a huge rubble wall were found upwards of eight feet thick, which probably formed the straight end of the old church. Reginald, who was prior in 1154, made two bells and placed them in "the large tower," as stated in the Registrum Roffense, a clear evidence that there was two towers. Now, as one tower exists at the side of the church, and as there seem to be marks of a large arch in it, the possibility is, that

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this tower formed part of a species of transept, and that the other tower stood on the north side and matched it, as the two towers stand at Exeter Cathedral. A mistake has crept into some books that prior Silvester built the refectory, the dormitory, and the hostelry, and nothing could show in a stronger light the necessity of going to the fountain-head, and consulting the original documents. Only two words are

omitted, but these make all the difference. Silvester did erect buildings, as stated, but the MS. adds "at Waletune." It goes on, however, to say, "and at Rochester he removed the private house which formerly was attached (*adhaesit*) to the dormitory, and he made two windows in the chapter-house towards the east." A great number of notices are given of presents of windows. We are then told that "Thalebot the sacrist made the whole lavatory, and the great cross with Mary and John, and a great clocca, which to the present day retains the name of the aforesaid Thalebot." Whether by "clocca" is meant a "clock" in our sense of the word, or only a bell, seems uncertain. The annalist always uses the word "campana" to signify the latter. He continues: -- "In 1199 Radulphus, the prior, made the brewery, and the great and less chambers of the prior, and the stone houses in the cemetery, and the hostelry, and the grange in the vineyard, and the grange at Stoke, and the stable; and he caused the great church to be roofed and the greater part covered with lead. Helyas, the prior, leaded the great church, and that part of the cloister next the dormitory; and he made the lavatory and the guests' refectory. Heymeric de Tunebregge, the monk, made the cloister towards the infirmary; Roger de Saunford, monk and cellarer, made the brewhouse of stone and lime and tiles." To return: it has been stated that a strange chance had enabled the monks to receive money enough to rebuild their choir, spite of all their former untoward accidents. It occurred that a baker of Perth, who had attained a character for piety and charity, and who was said to give every tenth loaf to the poor, resolved on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He sold all he had for that purpose, and set off for the continent; passing through Rochester, he stopped there some days, and by his pleasing manners won the good opinion of every one. On his departure, his servant, tempted by the money he

carried, attacked him as soon as he went out of the town, and murdered him. His fate caused great sympathy, and his remains were interred in the cathedral. Shortly after, reports of miracles done at his tomb were spread abroad, and pilgrims

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from all parts of the country flocked to his shrine with offerings. The Rochester Chronicle states three things which seem to be very discrepant; first, that Richard Eastgate built the north aisle opposite the gate of St. William; that Richard de Waletune built the south aisle; that William de Hoo built the whole of the choir. Now, that aisles of such a construction could be built without a choir between them seems impossible. But if we reflect that "ala," in its primitive form signifies a transept, and that transepts are very often called cross-aisles, the matter seems intelligible. Not only so, it explains a thing which has not been done as yet. The two transepts differ in design: one is at least forty years later than the other. Now, if this interpretation be allowed, the whole is clear. Richard Eastgate, the sacrist, began the north aisle, which was finished by Thomas de Meopham, probably another sacrist; and then, after an interval, we can readily conceive how a third sacrist (or probably a fourth, for William de Hoo was sacrist ere he was prior) erected the other transept in a different style at a later period. This also explains the phrase that William de Hoo built the whole choir. This was finished in 1227, sufficiently to commence the performance of divine worship therein. In 1240 the church at Rochester was dedicated by the Lord Richard, its bishop, and the Bishop of Bangor. In 1343 he caused the new tower of the church at Rochester to be raised with stone and timber, and to be covered with lead. He also gave four new bells to place in the same, whose names are Dunstan, Paulinus, Ithamar,

and Lanfranc. In the ensuing year he renovated the shrines of St. Paulinus and Ithamar, at the expense of 200 marks. This is the last mention we have in the chronicles of any buildings at Rochester. Among the works of this prelate are probably the magnificent doorway into the present Chapter-house, and the walls of its lower part; the few Decorated windows there are about the south-west transept, and probably the old Refectory with its internal passage. The work of the Perpendicular period consists of a chapel called by tradition St. Mary's Chapel, the great west window, some alterations at the east window, the windows of the clerestory, of the nave, and some minor matters. It is reported that at the time of the Reformation the Lady Chapel was thrown into the choir, and the new chapel built *in vice ejus*. If this be so it must have been done by Fisher, but there is no record of any such thing being done. The great west window was probably of the time of Henry VII.

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At an evening meeting several papers were read. The first was by Mr. Pettigrew, "On the Leper Houses of Kent, and their establishment in England." The paper was specially devoted to those of St. Bartholomew at Chatham, and St. Katharine of Rochester. The former of these was founded, in 1316, by Simon Potyn; the latter was built, in 1078, by Bishop Gundulph (consequently prior to the emigration of Englishmen for the Crusades). This building is very interesting, the more ancient part of the structure presenting a circular apse, lighted by three circular-headed windows, the centre light being the larger one. These are furnished with zig-zag mouldings. The walls are of rough flint work. On the south side there is a small sedilia, with two very early English columns, with pointed arch, and caps and bases. There

was also a stoup for holy water, which has been removed, and is now built in another part.

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Mr. Stephen Steele, of Rochester, detailed the particulars connected with the discovery of a Roman burial-ground at Strood, and exhibited a variety of drawings and specimens connected with this research.

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Wednesday July 27. This day an excursion was made to Cliffe, Cowling Castle, Shorne, Cobham-hall, Cobham church and college. A dinner was held at Rochester at six o'clock, followed by a conversazione, at which a paper was read "On a Palimpsest Brass in St. Nicholas," at Rochester, of which rubbings were exhibited. This paper was by the late antiquary Mr. Carlos, and was produced from the "Collectanea" of the Association. Many rubbings from interesting brasses were exhibited, and also specimens of various antiquities found in the neighbourhood. Mr. Naylor exhibited some antiquities lately found in a Saxon cemetery on Star Hill, Rochester. These excavations occasioned the discovery of eighteen human skeletons, five spear heads, bronze buckles, rings, armillae, &c. There were also beads of various colours and in amber; and two brooches, one of a square, the other of a circular form, of bronze, with coloured glass inserted.

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ROCHESTER.

Plate XXXIV.

The Saxon ornaments shewn in this plate were found in the spring of last year, with several skeletons and weapons, at the foot of Star hill, in the parish of St. Margaret, Rochester. Unfortunately, but few of the remains were preserved. The most remarkable is a style, or a hair-pin, (fig 3), of bronze, neatly and not inelegantly inlaid with silver; it is apparently of Roman workmanship. Fig. 1, is a fibula in white metal, and has been gilded; it is of a common Kentish type, with some little difference in the details of the ornamentation; fig. 2, of bronze gilt, is precisely similar to fig. 2, pl. xxxvii, vol. ii, in the Canterbury museum; figs, 4 and 5, are in bronze; fig. 6, beads in coloured clay; fig. 7. is of two separate finger rings, in silver, accidentally etched as a single ring. Communicated through Mr. Humphrey Wickham, by Mr. George Naylor, of Rochester.

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---- 209, line 2, from bottom: -- for "George Naylor," read "James Gouge Naylor."

<James Gouge Naylor 1819--1890 "alderman J.P. and twice mayor of this city" buried in St Nicholas's cemetery>

KENT.

PL. XXXIV.



H. W. King del.