

(often a remarkable one) are  
generally of a destructive  
character. I am sending

a copy of this paper  
to the Society for the  
Protection of Ancient  
Buildings as they  
like to be informed of  
all projects of the

Kind I remain  
Yours very truly  
Frederick Ashmole

59, St. John  
Returns record  
in getting a  
lot of money  
they are sure  
to do  
mischiefs

Answered  
L215

CLOUDS,  
SALISBURY.

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1886

Dear Pitt Rivers.

I send you the enclosed  
but you have probably  
already seen it, or  
heard of the matter  
through some other  
channel. It is remarkable  
that the old Church  
had so long escaped

"restoration" so called.

From the report it would appear that some of the people interested in the matter hold sound views and wish the Church to be

not more interfered with than is absolutely necessary.

It seems quite clear that the Church is not wanted for the purposes of holding service in it.

Restoration a repair  
having this end in view

## SHAFTESBURY.

### RESTORATION OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH.—A

large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town-hall, on Thursday evening. The meeting was convened by the Rector and churchwardens to consider the advisability of selling the bells, organ, &c., and of restoring the church. The Rector, who took the chair, explained that there was no idea of pulling down the church. (Applause.) The present condition of the church had been discussed at vestry meetings, and the question was whether something ought not to be done at once, as the church was empty and falling into decay. He went into the church with a friend on Easter Monday, and found a heap of rubbish which had fallen from the roof just inside the door, and another heap near the communion table. He was glad to see such a large meeting. He hoped it would not prove to be a packed meeting, like one held for the same purpose almost exactly six years ago, when nothing was done. At that meeting a committee was appointed, and they got Mr. Crickmay, the diocesan surveyor, to inspect and report on the building, but the repairs which he advised had never been executed. In his report Mr. Crickmay spoke of the church as a picturesque building, which greatly added to the appearance of the town, and he estimated the cost of the restoration of the tower at 400*l.* Although the committee intimated that subscriptions would be received there was nothing (or next to nothing) actually contributed. He (the Rector) thought it would probably cost something like 400*l.* to restore the remainder of the church and the organ, or altogether about 800*l.* to 1000*l.* If that amount were forthcoming, though the living was a poor one and there were no means at present of obtaining a curate, he would be willing to do all in his power by holding alternate services. He read a letter from the Rev. T. Perkins, Head Master of the Grammar School, in which that gentleman said he was not in favour of restoration in the usual sense of the term, as Trinity church was sufficient to meet the requirements of both parishes. He would, however, strongly deprecate any attempt to destroy St. Peter's Church, which was a relic of antiquity and must not be pulled down or allowed to fall into decay. If sufficient money could be obtained for restoring the tower so that the bells could be rung with safety he should favor that being done, but if not, Mr. Perkins was willing to sell the bells, &c., and restore the building so that it might still continue as an ornament to the town. (Hisses.) The building could then be used for various parish meetings of which the writer gave instances. The rector continuing said he did not wish to see a consecrated building used in this way if it could be helped. He had been to Salisbury with Mr. Powell and had seen the Bishop and his secretary, and also Mr. Macdonald. The latter said the question was, what was the feeling of the town of Shaftesbury? (Applause.) If a good majority could be got to favor any proposal he (Mr. Macdonald) would place the plans before the authorities, and an authority to move in the matter could be obtained for about 7*l.* 7*s.* He hoped for some result from this meeting and that the Church would not be allowed to go to ruin for want of funds.—Mr. Buckland said it had been mentioned that on the former occasion only about a guinea was given towards the needed repairs. He was present at that meeting, and he could say there were persons present who at that meeting promised sums up to 5*l.* 5*s.* If the subscription list had been carried round, a large amount would have been forthcoming (applause). But nothing was done outside the meeting.—The Rev. F. Ehlers said of course he was not present at the former meeting, and therefore did not himself know what was promised. (Voices: "60*l.* in the room"). He thought something must have been done outside, or the printed circulars, from which he had quoted, would not have been prepared. (Cries of "We never heard of them.")—Mr. New, as a member of the old committee, made some explanatory remarks.—Dr. Wilkinson said the meeting six years ago was just such a spirited meeting as the present one, and there was an almost unanimous feeling that the old church should not be touched. (Cheers.) Instructions were given to the committee then appointed to ascertain what it would cost to make the tower safe for bell-ringing. Mr. Crickmay inspected the church with the committee, and thought it would cost about 300*l.* to make the tower safe. There was a great difference between that and 800*l.*, which was now mentioned as the sum required.—The Rector said he had mentioned 400*l.* for the tower.—Dr. Wilkinson said there were often little things which did not come to the surface. Mr. Crickmay was invited to dinner with a nice little convivial party, and he (Dr. Wilkinson) thought 300*l.* was nearer his estimate than 400*l.* In a matter of this kind they wanted to do it as economically as they could, and he hoped no tradesman would think of it in any other way. Mr. Perkins had said the church was an ornament to Shaftesbury, and so it was. (Cheers.) Shaftesbury had a brilliant past, and he hoped it would have a brilliant future. (Cheers.) With such a beautiful country, and with people coming to visit the town as a health resort, he hoped in the future as it became more widely known in this capacity, and there were greater facilities for acquiring residences in the neighbourhood, it

The proposition to strip off the lead from the church and to sell the bells seemed to him like robbing an eminent man of his coat, cutting out his tongue, and then sticking him up for an ornament—and a pretty ornament he would be! (Laughter). He thought everyone would be willing to cast in his mite towards restoration. In every church where there were no bells they were trying hard to get them, and they ought not even to talk about selling the lead, bells, &c., of St. Peter's. (Applause).—Mr. Powell said a wrong impression had got about that he was in favour of pulling down the church. He quoted what he had said on previous occasions, and stated that although he had not lived in Shaftesbury so long as some of them, he was as fond of the old church as any of them. If the money could be raised no one would be more delighted. It would be well for them to strengthen the tower and ring the bells, but if this could not be done then the bells might as well be somewhere else as there. (No, no.) He proceeded to complain very bitterly of the treatment to which he had been subjected in this matter, for he had been hissed in the street that day and also on entering the hall that evening. Since coming to Shaftesbury he had striven to improve the trade and increase the market, as well as to start a flower show, a town band, and other things. He had worked and striven for the town many an hour by day and night, and he felt deeply hurt at the way he was treated. If they wanted to quench the zeal and energies of their young men let them treat them as they had treated him. He had never been a party to any proposal to pull down the church and he never would be. Mr. Elsey having inspected the church was of opinion that two-thirds of the tower would require to be rebuilt, and it was explained that Mr. Crickmay's estimate probably implied that he included this.—Dr. Wilkinson, in the course of further remarks, said they must have a good working committee, and the whole of the townspeople, and not only the people of St. Peter's, and must work altogether. He promised 5l. on the last occasion, and would promise 10l. this time, and if necessary would add another 5l. to that.—The Rev. W. H. Whitting, Rural Dean, said he had attended because he knew nothing could be done to alter the character of the building without a faculty. He thought they lost a chance in not soliciting subscriptions from members of the Archaeological Society when they came to Shaftesbury. (Applause.) He gave the mottoes on some of the bells, and advocated setting ladies to work to collect subscriptions. The Rector, later in the evening, said that if the tower were restored the rest of the building should be also, as the principal reason for ringing the bells was to call people to church. A large and representative committee was appointed, and a ladies' committee was also formed. During the evening the handsome sum of 101l. 4s. was promised, including Dr. Wilkinson, 15l.; Dr. Lawson, 10l.; Mr. Powell, 5l. 5l.; Mr. White, 5l.; Mr. Kersey, 5l.; Mr. Morgan, 5l.; Mr. New, 5l.; and many other generous subscriptions.

**ALLEGED SWINE FEVER.**—The Shaftesbury Divisional Committee held an adjourned meeting on Saturday respecting an alleged outbreak of swine fever on the premises of Mr. Fream, of Gillingham, and Mr. Matthew Halliar, at Kington Magna. At the meeting of the committee the previous Thursday it was stated that Fream's pigs were bought about six weeks previously at Marnhull, and that Halliar's were bred on his premises. No *post-mortem* examination had been made, and as there had been no swine fever in that part of the county for a very long time; and Mr. Sampson (from the Clerk of the Peace's office) having called the attention of the committee to the observations of Professor Brown, Privy Council Veterinary Inspector, in which he stated that "swine fever can only be detected with certainty at the commencement of an outbreak by the aid of *post-mortem* examination," the committee decided that Veterinary Inspector Colledge, of Sherborne, should be called in, and adjourned the meeting until his report could be received. Mr. Sampson now produced Inspector Colledge's report, in which it was stated that since Mr. Fream's pigs had been purchased at Marnhull they had been in a sty the sanitary arrangements of which were good, and they had not been in contact with any other animals of the same species. Prior to his examination, one of the animals had been slaughtered for examination by the committee's local inspector, and two were living. In the living pigs there was an irritable condition of the skin, but no skin lesions indicative of swine fever. On making a *post-mortem* examination of the slaughtered pig he found no ulcers or any other evidence suggestive of swine fever. The condition of the stomach was probably due to improper nature of food. The condition of the skin was due to digestive disturbances, and certainly not to swine fever. In the case of Halliar's pigs he found no indications of swine fever, and the death of one of the pigs supposed to have died from the disease, was, in his opinion, due to apoplexy. Upon this report the committee revoked the declarations of the inspector in both cases.