



Communications.

ON AN OLD ARMORIAL PANEL PAINTING,

EXHIBITED BY

MR. J. HARRIS GIBSON, 20TH FEB., 1879.

TO MR. CHARLES T. GATTY,
Hon. Secretary,

DEAR SIR,

In the thirty-first volume of the *Transactions* of the Society, page 111, there is the following note of the curious armorial panel painting, which Mr. Gibson exhibited, and which then occupied the attention of the meeting and created considerable interest:—

“An old wooden panel blazoned *az.* a seated figure *or.*, with orb, sword, and radiated nimbus, impaling TREVOR; per bend sinister *ermine* and *ermine*s a lion rampant *Or.*”

Although the arms here described are borne by families of the name of Trevor, they are also borne by certain families named Davies, Davis, Dymock (granted 1581), Dymoke, Edwards, Hosier, Jones, Mawson, Lloyd, Mostyn, Pennant, Yonge, and Wynne, many of them being descendants of Tudor Trevor, lord of Hereford, &c., the founder of the tribe of the Marches, who, according to tradition, bore these arms.

The dexter half of the shield contains the well-known coat of the see of Chichester, and the sinister side is occupied by the family arms of a bishop of Chichester. As only one bishop of

that see bore the arms *per bend sinister ermine and ermines a lion rampant or*, there is no difficulty in assigning them to Matthias Mawson, who occupied the see from 1740 to 1754.

The arms appear upon his monument in Ely cathedral and in a window there; they are also given as appertaining to him in Bentham's *History of Ely*. (Bedford's *Blazon of Episcopacy*.)

Matthias Mawson was of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, M.A. 1708, S.T.B. 1716. He held the offices of Taxor and Vice-Chancellor of the University, and was for many years Master of Corpus. He was consecrated Bishop of Llandaff in 1739, Bishop of Chichester in 1740, and Bishop of Ely 1770. (Le Neve's *Fasti*.) He died 23rd November, 1770, leaving £6000 to Corpus to found scholarships, and £3000 for rebuilding the college. (*Annual Register* and *Gentleman's Magazine*.) He does not seem to have committed anything to the press except sermons, which were printed 1732 to 1750. (Allibone.)

Regarding the arms of the see of Chichester, as there has long been a very ridiculous blazon used for them, I wish to call the attention of those members of this Society who are interested in heraldry to the remarks of the Rev. John Woodward in his introduction to the *Arms of the Bishops*, illuminated by Mr. Albert H. Warren. Mr. Woodward informs us that the old blazon was *Azure a Prester John seated on a tombstone, in his left hand a mound, and his right hand extended, or, with a linen mitre on his head, and in his mouth a sword, all proper!* and that there can be little doubt that instead of Prester John the figure represents our Saviour, and is a direct allusion to Rev. i, 16; ii, 12-16; xix, 15-21. Mr. Woodward, writing of the old blazon, says:—"This extraordinary piece of nonsense was, until now, the authoritative blazoning, even of the officers of the College of Arms! One heraldic writer copied it from another, without troubling about its incongruity and absurdity."

I am, DEAR SIR,

Faithfully yours,

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

13th December, 1879.