

munion. Item, we, &c., for being a contentious person, striking and fighting in the churchyard of some of his parishioners, miscalling and abusing them, with brawling base and unbecoming language; and much given to law-suits, for so much, that he scarce dare stir out side of doors. Item, for that he put in a parish clerk a person so nasty and full of old ulcers that are so unsavoury, that gives a very great offence to all that sit near him in the Church." The Rector added to this extract the following note:—"According to a minute in the old parish book, dated January, 1678, £2 9s. 3d. is ordered to be paid by the parish to the Churchwarden for the expenses of a journey to Norwich, made by himself and others, no doubt in connection with these charges against the character of my predecessor; and in the same year I find that an order was made to the Churchwarden and Overseers to provide a habitation for Mr. Welbank to the 'Wallew' of fifty shillings a-year, or three pounds at the most, at the charge of the parish." As regarded others, Mr. Woolley said he found that Robert Debnam, of Bergholt, was one of a party of four, who, from pious zeal, travelled from Dedham to Dovercourt, and took from that parish church a famous crucifix and burnt it. For this offence he was indicted for felony and hung in chains upon Cattawade Causeway.

The old parish book from which Dr. Woolley quoted is beautifully written, and contains many entries illustrating the daily life of the period over which it extends.

Leaving East Bergholt a pleasant drive brought the Suffolk party to the border town of DEDHAM, where the two divisions rejoined at the church. Dedham Church, St. Mary, is a fine but late Perpendicular building; the tower is the finest feature, rising to a height of 131 feet. A curious opening occupying the usual position of the piscina has lately been discovered in the chancel. This opening is oven shaped with a flue carried up in the thickness of the wall. Mr. King said that Sir Gilbert Scott's opinion was that this cavity was once an oven for baking the wafers for the altar, an office which used to be performed by the priest. There was a similar example, he added, in the Rochford Hundred, where in the inventory he (Mr. King) found included two wafer irons.

At half-past one the members sat down to luncheon in the dining hall of the Grammar School. To the Rev. the Head Master, Dr. Lermitt, the thanks of the Societies are due for kindly in the midst of his duties undertaking and most efficiently carrying out the arrangements which were necessary to make such a meeting successful.

After luncheon the members proceeded to STRATFORD St. Mary, where they were met by the incumbent, the Rev. H. Golding. The chancel of this church is of late Decorated work, the nave and aisles being Perpendicular. Below the windows of the south aisle occurs the following inscription in flint and stone work, recording the name and date of the builder

Praye | for | the | soulys | of | Edward | Mors | and | alys | hys | wyffe | and |
 so[]lys | a | .nn | o | do | mini |

When Martin visited the church the inscription was more perfect, and ran thus:—"Pray for the soulys of Edward Mors and alys hys wyffe and all crysten sowlys anno Domini 1530. Orate p̄ animabus - - - me mors et Magarete uxoris." Martin adds: "At the bottom of the west side of the porch this—dn̄i mccccxxxviii." The font is modern, a good specimen of delicate carving. The parish register dates from 1563, and contains some curious historical notices; among others of the deaths of Charles I., of Oliver Cromwell, and of Gustavus Adolphus at Lutzen. One of the bells bears the inscription, "In multis annis recinet campana Johannis," another has "Sancte Gregore ora pro nobis."

Leaving Stratford the party drove to LITTLE WENHAM HALL, stopping for a few minutes *en route* at GREAT WENHAM, where the small church, dedicated to St. John, has been lately restored. At the Hall, which stands on a slight rise a short distance to the south of Little Wenham Church, the Rev. G. F. Lermitt kindly acted as cicerone. Mr. Lermitt commenced by pointing out that the visitors had before them a most interesting specimen of the domestic architecture of the Middle Ages, and one which was in an excellent state of preservation. Archæologists were not agreed exactly as to the date of the building, but it appeared to be about 1260. It was hardly necessary to say that the domestic arrangements of that period were of the simplest kind;

a house usually consisted of one large room or hall. In this the whole family including the servants not only took their meals but passed the night sleeping upon the floor. In this instance there was more than this, there being a basement story for the servants, the cooking being carried on outdoors, as there is no fireplace in the basement. The plan of the building is a parallelogram with a square tower at one angle, and the scroll moulding outside being used as a string and continued all round shows that the house is entire as originally built. At one angle some additional building seems to have been erected at a latter date but afterwards removed. Of this additional building there remains a doorway, above which is the inscription, "Cecy fait a l'aide de Dieu l'an de grace 1569," showing that that was the date of the building in question. The material of which the building is composed is principally brick, with occasional courses of stone and flints interposed between them, the bricks being Flemish, and this is probably the oldest building now existing in which such bricks were used. The room on the ground floor is vaulted with a groined vault of brick with stone ribs, carried on semi-octagon shafts with plainly moulded capitals. The windows are small lancets widely splayed internally. Access to the first floor is gained by a newel staircase in a turret, and there was in ancient days also an outside staircase. The roof of the upper room or hall is of timber. The fire-place has been blocked up. Near the door is a recess of Perpendicular date. In the tower is the chapel, a very beautiful specimen of the architecture of the time, and the carving of the stone remaining as sharp as the day it was cut. The chapel is vaulted, and has an east window of three lights, with foliated circles in the head of Early English character. Above the chapel is the private chamber, and the newel staircase also leads to the roof of the tower, which like that of the main building is covered with lead, and has brick battlements all round with a coping of moulded bricks, some being the original tiles and others of the 16th century. A notice of this interesting building is given in the second volume of the *Proceedings* of the Suffolk Archæological Society, also one with plans and views in the first volume of Hudson Turner's *Domestic Architecture*. The accompanying illustrations of this chapel are taken by kind permission from original drawings by the Rev. W. Francis.

At the church of Little Wenham—*All Saints*—Dr. Lermitt again acted as guide. He commenced by drawing attention to the base of the rood screen, which is about five feet high, of rubble work faced with fine plaster. No doubt a heavy oak screen had been placed upon it, and the rood loft was above it. The remains of the arch leading to the staircase could just be traced. Another feature was the low-side window, just below the north window, but divided from it and closed with a shutter. A third feature of interest was the frescoes on the east wall, which had been recently uncovered. They were not in sufficiently good preservation to enable him to say with confidence what were the subjects. There was one curious point about them. The face and hands of one or two of the figures had been covered with some black pigment before the whitewash had been put on. This was perhaps done by some person to preserve them from the whitewash, or it might be with a less benevolent reason and the more effectually to deface them. The group on the north side, he thought, was probably the Virgin Mary, and Joseph with his staff in flower. This might be an illustration of the legend about the Virgin Mary and Joseph, which was that Mary had other suitors than Joseph, and in order to decide which should be favoured, she directed them to lay their wands by in the chamber. In the morning Joseph's was found budding, and Joseph was thereupon accepted. On the right hand (south) side he could trace the figure of St. Catherine by the wheel, but all the figures could not be traced. The east window has three lights with geometric tracery. A peculiarity is that the cusping stands clear of the glass. The sedilia, which was originally handsome, were removed in the 16th century to make room for a tomb of one of the Brews family then seated in the parish. Some of the fragments of the sedilia were found behind the tomb broken up, and with them one seat had been restored.

A short discussion followed upon the subject of low-side windows, in which Colonel Chester, Mr. King, and Mr. Dewing took part, and then the whole party returned to Manningtree Station, regretting that time would not allow the programme to be completed by visiting the interesting Early Decorated church of Raydon St. Mary.



ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL, AT WENHAM HALL: