

THE SANDLING.

BY VINCENT BURROUGH REDSTONE.

“The title of Sandling is given peculiarly to the country south of the line of Woodbridge and Orford where a large extent of poor and even blowing sands is found.”—*Young's Agriculture of Suffolk*, p. 12.

The title of Sandling is now little known to the natives of Suffolk; to many it is but a bare expanse of heath and heather, which would be of little worth if reclaimed, being, as an old Survey states, “good land for the rearing of conies.”* The soil is known as *hungry* soil, a farm in the neighbourhood to which is attached many an acre of sand is named “*Hungary Farm*,” a local variant of “*Hungry Farm*.”

If the district lying between the Deben and the River Ore is of little value to the agriculturist, to the antiquarian and archæologist it is of deep interest; it affords also favourable hunting grounds for both naturalist and geologist. Here the earliest settlers of Britain have left indelible foot-prints, the river Deben with its tributaries, the Fynn, Naverne and Kem, and the River Ore retain names which the Celts bestowed upon them. The Deben, or Clear Waters, tis by some writers called “*The Thredling*” on account of its winding stream. The Kem takes its name from a similar reason. Complete specimens of well-wrought flint axes and arrow heads are frequently found upon the heath. A finely polished axe-head was discovered six feet below the surface of apparently undisturbed ground.

* Norden's Survey 1601.

† Camden's Brit.

The coralline crag pits and coprolite beds are peculiar to the Sandling and neighbourhood; thence have been removed the fossil remains of antediluvian creatures, and according to Professor Owen the bones of the first British hog that fed upon the mast of primeval forests were discovered in this district.

It is not possible to assert definitely whether the mounds or tumuli, now perforated by rabbit burrows, are the burial places of early Britons, or the camping grounds of Saxon and Danes. Some of these mounds are known as Barrows, some as Burghs, and others as Hoos or Haughs. As the navigator sails up the Deben he will be struck by the diverse character of the land on either side. On the low shelving right bank will be seen here and there lines of trees which mark the proximity of the *Woodland District* of Suffolk, famous in the days of the Stuarts for the timber it supplied to the Royal Dockyard at Deptford. The opposite shore is steep, and the surface of the adjacent fields, with their *swales* and undulations, is most striking and picturesque. These undulations gradually rise higher and higher until a culminating point is reached between Sutton Ferry and Wilford Hollows. Upon the summit of this high ground is a cluster of mounds like those seen in other parts of Suffolk, and called "Seven Hills." As a matter of fact in no case is seven the exact number of mounds; there may be as at Sutton Haugh seven prominent mounds, but there are also smaller ones in close proximity.

Since the name Haugh has for centuries been the term applied to the Sutton mounds, and as they stand upon a most conspicuous spot from which an outlook might be obtained for miles round, and are near to a creek once navigable by vessels of many tons burden, it is probable that hither the Danish marauders returned to winter quarters from their excursions inland. The site afforded them a hasty retreat to their ships whence they might escape seaward.

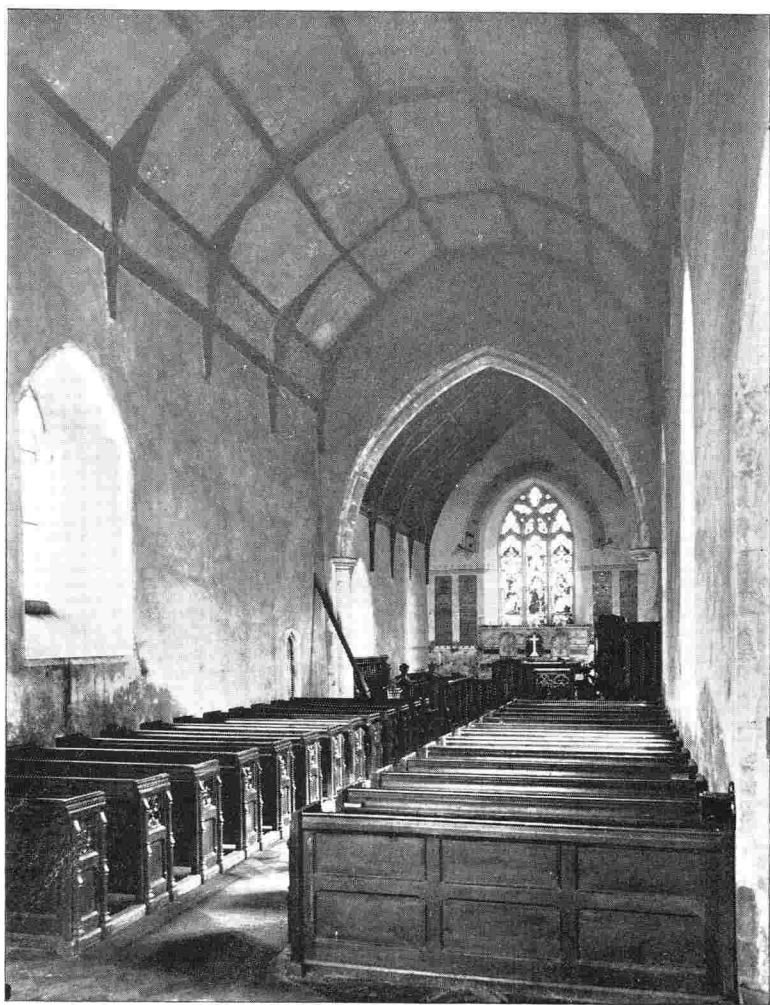
Upon the heath have been found many Roman coins, and from the survey of 1601 which marks the existence of

a "waye from Orford to Woodbridge before Wilford Bridge was buylded," *i.e.*, circa 1530, it will not be unreasonable to conclude that the Romans having a settlement at Burgh, and an outpost at Woodbridge, made a wooden causeway across the Deben, and thence a road to the coast. It is my purpose to take the reader along this road, giving like Chaucer's pilgrims three stories "by the way," first endeavouring to depict the growth and development of village life by narrating the facts which belong to the history of Sutton; then striving to bring to view something of interest attached to the monastic pile standing in the next village, that of Butley, through which the road passed; and lastly, to give some account of the Castle belonging to once famous borough of Orford. By so doing a review may be made of the history of the three classes into which the nation was in medieval days divided—Barons, Clergy, and Commons.

I. SUTTON.

The village of Sutton, lying in the Wilford (Wil—a stream) Hundred, has an extensive boundary of thirteen and a half miles, four miles of which lie in the mid-channel of the Deben. It was formerly the most populous village in its Hundred, and contained several manors. Sutton, as its name implies, lay south of the abode of Redwald, King of East Anglia, who held his court at Rendlesham. Naunton or North-ton Hall stood upon the site now occupied by the ruins of Rendlesham Hall, lately destroyed by fire, May 9th, 1898.

Between Sutton and Shottisham is Stanburgh Hill, which may have been named from the cairn marking the burial place of a British chief. The presence of the Danes in the neighbourhood is seen by the frequent occurrence of the word Toft (often changed to Croft) as in Hundistoft, Eleynstoft, Guyldestoft. But there is no record of the existence of the Saxon "ton" prior to the entries



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in Domesday, which states that the seventy freemen residing in Sutton held six hundred acres of arable land, and twenty acres of pasture under Eric the Grim. They possessed thirty teams of oxen, and as each team consisted of six oxen there was a greater quantity of cattle in Sutton in Saxon days than may be now seen. These lands were bestowed upon Robert Malet and Earl Alan, and subsequently formed the various manors of Sutton Hall, Talvas, Fenhall, Campsey, Petistreen, Colville, and Stokerland. There are also manors of Campsey and Petistree in the neighbourhood of Wickham Market.

At the time of the Domesday there was a church at Sutton. Robert Malet, the founder of the Priory of Eye, endowed it with the church and tithes of Sutton.* The freemen of Sutton at the Conquest only changed lords; once serfs and bondsmen they became subsequently the villans and slaves of a Norman master. They remained attached to the soil, and bore names which marked their Saxon origin, and at the same time the dominion of a Norman lord. Whilst in most Suffolk villages the generality of names were compounds formed by the use of "Atte" (at the) or "at," the Sutton families were denominated by the use of the French article "Dil" (de-ille) or "Dyl," "Atte" being seldom used. The names of the most frequent occurrence were—Dil Green, dyl Hoo, dyl Fen, dil Mershe, dyl Wood, dil Ham, names showing the character of the soil. The Mershe family became so numerous that it was necessary to denominate one branch "John dyll Mersshe dil Boorden Gate," whilst a Wood family was known as "John dyll Wood de Ham." A new comer to the settlement was known as the Frenchman.

"On the morrow of S. Andrew, 1182, a final concord was made in the King's Court at Westminster, between Michael Filius Ogeri and Sara his wife on one part, and Ogerus Filius Ogeri, and Amia his wife on the other part in regard to land of William de Shelfleg, the father of Sara and Amia in Sutton, in Suffolk, for debts due by her father, among which was ten marks which he owed to *William le Fraunceys*."

* Dug. Monas. Vol. III., p. 401.

The subjection of the Saxon labourer to French or Norman over-lord is strangely marked by the utter ignorance among labourers of the nomenclature of the weed *groundsel*, and the knowledge of it only by the French word *seneçon*. In the terms denoting the division of lands Saxon words were used. A piece of heath land when first cleared for purpose of cultivation was called a "Went," as *Plumtree Went*, *Saffron pits Wente*, but if the land were enclosed for the cultivation of cereals it contained so many acres *ware* (A.S. wær, an enclosure). Collective parcels of land were known as *tenements* or *closes*, separate divisions of which were termed *Doles* (A.S. dœlan to divide). Love abounded in Sutton during the early period of its existence, judging from the Bringlove, Spendlove, Talklove, Trewlove, and other Love families that resided in the village.

Upon the disgrace of Malet, 2 Henry I. his lands in Sutton became the property of the Bigods, Peytons, and Glanvils, and subsequently of the Uffords from whom it descended to the Brewses and Wingfields.*

31 *Edward i.* Richard de Brewosa and Alianora his wife *v.* William Roscelyn in Wyngefeld, Stradebroke, Fresingfeld, Sutton and Esham.

32 *Edward ii.* Robert de Alnellers *v.* Nicholas Glaunvill and Cristiana de Anellers in Schattesham, Sutton, Ramesholt, and advowson of Schattesham Church.

17 *Edward iii.* Richard Glaunvill and Elen his wife *v.* Richard de Westhorp, parson of Sutton church, and Robert Hothot, parson of Schattesham church of the manor of Schatesham, with appurtenances and advowson of the church in Schatesham, Ramesholt, Holesle and Sutton.

34 *Edward iii.* John, parson of Wilbegh church, John, parson of Shatysham church, and William, parson of Sutton church *v.* George le Glaunvyl of the manors of Shattisham, Sutton, and Caldwell with appurtenances and advowson of Shatesham church.

3 *Richard ii.* Nicholas Gernoun, Chevalier, Roger Boys, Chevalier, John Pieshale, clerk, Roger de Wolfreton, Robert Hothot, and John de Stoneham *v.* George Glaunville and Matilda his wife in Sutton and the advowson of the church.

* Feets of Fines.

The first court of Robert Wingfield, son and heir of Robert Wingfield, was held 9 Henry v. He was succeeded as lord of the manor by his two sons, Robert and Richard, in 30 Henry vi. Sir John Wingfield, the son of Richard, held his first court the Saturday next after the feast of S. Luke the Evangelist, 14 Henry vii. The manor was subsequently held by Sir John Wingfield, the eldest son of Sir John, and then by Sir Antony Wingfield, who was conspicuous for his bravery at the battle of Spurs, 1515. Sir Antony Wingfield sold the manor to William Ferneley, citizen and mercer of London, whose elder daughter Jane was the wife of Sir Nicholas Bacon, his younger daughter became the wife of Sir Thomas Gresham. Miles Ferneley held Sutton manor in 1655, and in 1675 William Ferneley sold the estate of Sutton Hall, Sutton Campsey, otherwise Woodhall, Stockerland and Talvas to Sir Nicholas Bacon for £4000, who bequeathed the property to his son Nicholas. Upon the death of the latter in 1768 the Rev. John Bacon, his son, of Shrubland Hall, became owner, and upon his death in 1788 his brother, the Rev. Nicholas Bacon, became possessor, and sold the estate in 1789.

The serfs retained possession of the lands of the forefathers for the purpose of agriculture, and also paid the dues, services and fealty, of Saxon days. The rents paid in kind were many and various; some presented honey clarified of wax, others wax without honey; some cultivated for their lord saffron or cummin, an herb then in great request as a medicine; one tenant provided yearly a barrel of oysters for his master's table, others sent wheat, poultry and eggs, five eggs always accompanied the hen, never the male bird; growing trees, too, formed part of the rent paid for holdings. Money as a medium of exchange was scarce, even so late as the year 1512 a Sutton farm was sold for thirty-one comb of barley, and thirty-one comb of mixtillion. The rent of one "byrdbolte" yearly has been paid within the memory of the present generation.

The manorial Court Rolls give the names of the slave

families or "nativi de sanguine," viz., the Hoberd, Joye, Mersshe, Sarle, and Myles families, names of purely Saxon origin. These bondmen having full faith in the motto,—

"Every bondmen in his own hand bears
The power to cancel his captivity." *

—sought to evade the services and fines which burdened their estate by dwelling without the manor.

2 *Hen. iv.* John Lyberd natus dñi de sanġie dat dño de fine p liceñ heñd comorand exa domiñ dñi hoc anno viz. in villa de Dedham. fine xld." †

In 8 *Hen. iv.* Robert Hoberd sought to remain outside the demesne lands.

"sine licence et preest ipm attachiañ p corpus etc."

Four other villans guilty of the same offence were likewise seized, and fined one shilling each. The nativi connived at the escape of their fellow bondmen. Nicholas Mersshe as bailiff or *warryner* failed to seize a messuage with two and a half acres called Hawkescrofte, in Dedham, which Robert Hoberd alias Michell held since 21 Richard II. This same Mersshe permitted his nephew Thomas and his daughter Margaret to marry without the licence of his lord.

19 *Hen. vi.* "Thomas filius de John Mersshe natus dominorum de sanguine marit se sine licence John ips in mia ut in capite 6s. 8d." †

The fine imposed upon Margaret Mersshe was doubled, 13s. 4d., probably because she was a widow, she had paid a fine of one shilling for permission to marry three years previous. The "*mercheta mulierum*?" was increased upon each subsequent marriage, but the increment does not appear to have been a fixed one, unless it were that the fine, which was levied according to the wealth possessed by the family, was doubled, trebled, and so forth.

16 *Edward iv.* Isabella Mersshe for licence to marry John Myles paid a fine of 3s. 4d.

18 *Henry vii.* Isabella Myles, late wife of John Myles, for licence to marry a second time paid as fine 6s. 8d.

This greater fine may have been imposed because that *both* parties were "nativi de sanguine."

* Julius Cæsar Act I., Sc. 3. † Court Rolls. ‡ Court Rolls.

The fines paid by Alice Mersshe upon the three occasions of her marriage were one shilling, two shillings, and three shillings successively, but then she probably belonged to the poorer family of Mersshes, who paid a fine of only threepence, and not of one shilling, to remain without the manor. Families of bondsmen living without the demesne lands were subject to a like fine.

26 *Henry vi.* Joan late daughter of John Hobert, alias Michell, for licence to marry a certain John Mery of Dedham *hac vice* 6s. 8d.

An incident almost peculiar to copyhold lands is that of heriots. The following instance of the enactment of a heriot, arising from the widowhood of Alice Tokelove, daughter of John Mersshe, marks the poverty of the family.

19 *Edward iv.* "post cujus moŕt dñs debet hēre melioŕ best p̄dict Alice noiē h̄iett juŕ p̄sent qd non h̄int best. Et ideo dat dño i tunicā p̄cii vi^d noie heriētt etc."

Gradually the presence of "nativi de sanguine" within the bounds of the manor failed, and it was difficult to trace them. The families were known as nativi in 1629, but they paid no fines as such.

22 *Henry vii.* Dicunt quod Wittius Mersshe nā dñi de sanguine qui obiit per duos annos elapsos qui mañ in Beldyng Magna in Essex, et dicunt qd hēt unum filium et duas mulieres sed ubi mañ juŕ ignodf̄ Ideo p̄est melius inquir̄ erga prox curia."

No result arose from this enquiry; the last serf of Sutton Manor, mentioned in the Manor Court Rolls, was Richard Flynt of Bucklesham, *temp.* Edward vi. Although subject to many base services certain of the *nativi* were men of property. To Thomas Mersshe the lord of the manor granted for life lands and tenements free from all customary *gemal* and *estmal*, for a yearly rental of £6, the said Thomas to maintain at his own expense two granges, a stable, and four houses for hay. He had, moreover, to plough one day in autumn.

The division of the common fields and land reclaimed from the heath, by ridges of earth of no great height, caused the frequent destruction of growing crops by cattle which

wandered about untended. The impounding of straying animals did not check the evil. Bye-laws enacted, that "no cattle were to be permitted to wander in the fields except between the end of Autumn and the Feast of All Saints, under a penalty of threepence for each beast found straying; and no pig was to be allowed to roam any time of the year, unless it was rung (inanulat), nor without a halter." As the mischief still continued it was further enacted that any animal found wandering in the fields during Autumn time, or any pig found halterless until "hemp fresshings," could only be reclaimed upon the owner paying a fine of three shillings and four pence.

Of the few trees to be found in the district the principal were "The Burnt Oak" and "The White Thorn," conspicuous objects which marked the bounds of the manors of *Petistreen* as trees of S. Peter; elms, called *pollyngs* or *stallyngs* because they were polled, and a few poplars still known by the name *popylls*, from the Latin word *Populus*. A cluster of alders near a brook or pool formed an *Alnet*, *Aldercarre*, or *Aldhouse fen*. The suffix, "*net*," appears to have been in familiar use for marsh lands, as in *Horsfordnet*, *Sonynet*. *Broxted* is a corruption of *Brook's-head-yard*, and the field called *Conysgleyland*, was probably so called from the number of rabbits which sported about within it.

There is little cause for surprise that, in a district where game was so plentiful, numerous disputes should arise between landlord and tenants with respect to the right to catch hares and rabbits. Whether the several vicars who were brought before the manor court for poaching carried out the practice to support the rights of their parishioners, or to provide sustenance for their own table it is not possible to state. From various coincidences it is more than probable that the poaching vicar who was frightened by "John Adroyns in the devyl's apparel," was Robert Latham, vicar of Sutton, 14 Edward IV.

"It fortun'd in a *market town* of *Suffolk* there was a stage play, in which play one call'd John Adroyns, which dwelt in another village

two miles from thence, played the devil. And when the play was done this John Adroyns in the evening departed from the said market town to go to his own house. Because he had no change of clothing he went forth in his devyll's apparel, which in the way coming homeward came through a warren of cony's, belonging to a gentleman of the village where he himself dwelt. At which time it fortun'd a priest, a vicar of a church thereby, with two or three other unthrifty fellows had brought with them a horse, a hey (net), and a ferret to the intent there to get conys. And when the ferret was in the earth and the hey set over the pathway where this John Adroyns should come, this priest and the other fellows saw him come in the devil's raiment. Considering that they were in the devil's service, and supposing it to have been the devil indeed, for fear, they ran away."*

The conclusion of the "Mery Tale" is that Adroyns mounts the vicar's horse laden with conies, and proceeds to the house of the lord of the manor, who, with his servants, is also frightened at the apparition.

Sutton is a village *two miles* from the market town of Woodbridge, where the monks among other plays performed that of S. George and the Dragon. Robert Lathum was fined for poaching 14 Edward IV. (A C. Mery Talys was first published in 1526.)

"Intravit garenñ dñi ìbm et cepit cuniculos cum canibus et lepores et fregit sepes tenenñ dñi sine licence Ideo ip̄e in miã etc. xs.

Idem Robertus fregit p̄cum dñi de uno equo inste impeato ad sect pt ptuus fact in blad et pastuñ Katherine Hayll vidue et aliorum tenenñ dñi Ideo in miã iiii. ivd."

The village pound was known as "Robin Hood's Pound" by countrymen who were followers of the practices of this outlaw. Nicholas, vicar of Sutton in 9 Henry IV. broke into the pound, and took therefrom thirteen sheep which had been impounded for trespass. In 12 Henry IV., the same vicar assaulted (*fecit recussum*) the bailiff and William Joye, who had seized his horses and cows to place them within the pincfold. John Harineles, chaplain of Sutton, broke into the pound to release his horse, 2 Henry V.

A subsequent vicar, Thomas Robyns, together with his servants, and one Robert Blomvyll, was fined for hunting rabbits with ferrets and dogs, 22 Henry VI.

* A C. Mery Talys, ed. by W. C. Hazlitt, p. 14.

The following year a great disturbance arose in the parish through an attempt made by the wives of the leading tenants to support their rights. The vicar had let at various times part of the Church close to his parishioners, his successor claimed a right to the whole field. Katherine, the wife of John Harwer, and Johanna, wife of Richard Sarle, broke down the hedges of the close, and drove their cattle into it. For this offence they were fined. The fences were repaired, but Margaret Cody, Margaret, the wife of John Jcok, Katherine Hayll, Matilda, wife of John Fathar, Alice, wife of Thomas Reve, and Alice, wife of John Bregge, pulled down the hedges, and invaded the close with their cattle. Their husbands sat upon the jury, which inflicted a fine upon the supporters of women's rights for trespass and damage.* The sheep followed the shepherd.

10 *Henry iv.* "John pstude, et John Smythe, taillors, vi et arm̄ intraverunt claūs et domos d̄mi infra dōm̄ ībm̄ et .iiii oz uln panni lanei ībm̄ Innent ceperunt et asportaverunt īm̄ vi^s. viiia.

The following extracts from the Court Rolls will help the reader to form some idea of the village life in Sutton in pre-Reformation days.

2 *Henry iv.* Robert Fathar, Stephen Feete, Roger Sarle, John Colte, Thomas Mershe, William Joye, John Folkard, Thomas Sarle, John de Woode, Richard Skott, Richard Jcok, Roger Honestoft, jurors, swear that John Mersshe had not performed his office of messor, fine 1^d.

John Colte for contempt of court in presence of steward, fine 40a.

6 *Henry iv.* Nicholas Fest had broken up the land of the lord without licence (? turned pasture into arable land) fine 3^d.

Roger Sarle, Margaret Kirkewalle, Thomas Champeneys, Richard Jcok, had-neglected to perform the service of plough due from them, viz. to sow for the lord in one year half an acre of winter wheat, and in the following year half an acre of barley, fine 6^d. each.

Thomas Goneswall, senior, swore fealty for a *toft newly erected*.

9 *Henry iv.* The lord conceded to Thomas Bone and Cecily his wife a piece of land called Tudmanstoft and Jcokyslond 6 ac. 11 pls. in Sutton, to be held for the usual term of years; rent 10s., and *una petilio called a Birdbolte* at Christmas.

During this year several tenements were let to new tenants for which birdbolts or blunt arrows formed part of the yearly rent.

* Thus we see "there is nothing new under the sun," for the upholders of women's rights existed in the 15th. Century as they do now in the present age.

10 *Henry iv.* Thomas Sarle surrendered half a rod of tenement to the use of Nicholas Sarle, vicar of Sutton, and John Sarle his younger son, rent 2s.

[It appears to have been the custom not to grant the use of land to the vicar alone, it was necessary for him to have a co-tenant.]

12 *Henry iv.* Wm. Halysworthe late prior of the church and Convent of the Blessed Mary of Butley held upon the day of his death a certain close called Mellecroft in Capel by Knight's service and twopence ward per annum. William Randeworth is now prior.

9 *Henry v.* First Court of Robert Wingfield son and heir of Robert Wingfield knt.

6 *Henry vi.* Thomas Duniswalle was granted a day at the next court, to support his case by the presence of five witnesses that he did not owe Roger Hill, 6s. 8d. [cum quinta manu—the custom of laying a hand upon the Holy Scriptures, or of holding it aloft, or of bringing five witnesses to substantiate an oath, was symbolical of the five wounds of our Lord.]

Thomas Myles did damage to the growing corn of the lord at Brokeshed with his sheep to the loss of two bushels of barley of the value of 10d.

William Hakon complained that John Harwere owed him 12d., and that he John Harwere had taken eight sheaves of corn of the value of 12d.

15 *Henry vi.* The tenement Marchis of "four acre ware" in the hands of John Harware elected for the performance of the office of "prepositus," and the tenement Grymes, of "4 acre ware" in the hands of the lord for the performance of the office of "messor." [The tenements so elected were usually four acres in area.]

William Miles, John Hode, and John Hareware for damage done to the wheat of the lord to the extent of one quarter of wheat fined one quarter of wheat.

19 *Henry vi.* The expenditure of the lords upon holding these court, and of their steward, and all other officers reckoned together in pence, together with the hiring of horses, 12d. Calculation is made up to 21 *Henry vi.*, i.e. for 20 mths. [Considering that the horses were hired at Woodbridge, and that several officers attended upon the lords, Robert and Richard Wingfield, the steward managed the affairs very economically. The next extract names this steward.]

23 *Henry vi.* Complaint is made by Richard Koe, Chaplain, steward of the lords, that Richard Jkoc cut down two ash trees without licence.

24 *Henry vi.* — By, of London, Jencianan (sic) 40s.; John Waller of Ramsholt, gentleman, 40s.; John Goodale, servant of Robert Martyn, armiger, 20s.; Arnold Ewen 3s. 4d.; John Spryngolde, 20d.; and John Fookes, 20d., hunted within the warren of the lord to take hares without licence. [The fines appear to have been levied according to status in society.]

29 *Henry vi.* The jurors asserted that Matilda Bone wilfully destroyed two plates, one kettle, and other utensils which the bailiff had seized for the non-performance of the service of ploughing.

30 *Henry vi.* John Wright, of Alderton, hanged and suspended in chains for divers felonies, held of the lord upon the day on which he was hanged two pieces of land in Alderton. . . . which upon account of his execution after the lapse of a year and a day should fall into the lord's hands. The bailiff was ordered to seize these lands.

31 *Henry vi.* The lord conceded to John Breggs two pieces of 'one rodeware' of tenement Marches in Sutton—rent 3d. per annum and one day's work in Autumn.

The church of Sutton, dedicated to All Saints, is an unpretentious village church, hidden among trees. At first sight it appears to be of little interest, and architecturally there is little to claim our attention, beyond its waggon-roofed ceiling, its window within a deep recess, marking an unusual thickness of wall, its small door in the north wall once the entrance to the rood-loft, and its divided aumbry within the chancel, which was perfect before the destruction of the building by fire in 1616.

"Collection for a Church burnt in Lent, at Sutton 16s." Woodbridge Churchwardens' Books.

This calamity caused the ruin of the square tower, which stood at the south entrance of the church, according to the survey of the parish in 1629; the "steeple" collapsed in 1642.* The bell now hangs from a frame erected within the churchyard.

The font is of exquisite workmanship, the figures upon it being well executed, and all, except those of the eight servitors at High Mass, have been but slightly mutilated, probably because the William Dowsing, single man, who married Bridget Hamande, widow, 17 April, 1630,† was a kinsman of the iconoclast. Upon the panels of the octagonal font are representations of the Evangelists, and between these four panels are represented, God the Father, (?) God the Son, an Angel, and the Virgin Mary. Beneath, at each of the corners, are the orders of priesthood, neophyte, monk, abbot, and cardinal; and the various orders of nuns. Between each of these figures it

* Archdeacon's Visitation Book 1670.

† Parish Register.



FONT, SUTTON.

will be seen from the illustration that the utensils, used in the ancient services, chalice, censer, paten, holy-water vat, dispenser, "ship," are sculptured, Upon the shaft are the following ministrants employed during the most solemn service of the church.

1. Man with albe & amice—Processional Cross.
2. Master of the Ceremonies—with albe and cross stole.
3. Acolyte in Cassock and Surplice.
4. Boy in Surplice and Amice, with Censer.
5. Acolyte in Cassock and Surplice.
6. Deacon in Dalmatic, 2 cross bars, with opened Gospel.
7. Chasuble Priest.
8. Sub deacon in tunicle, 1 cross bar.

The order of the procession joined in by the celebrants of High Mass would be—

1		
2		
3	4	5
6	7	8

In 34 Edward III. William, parson of Sutton Church, disputed with George le Glanvyll the right to the manor of Sutton, and the advowson of Sutton church.* The right to the advowson was again a matter of dispute in 3 Richard II. Roger de Wolfreston, of Culpho, one of the claimants, and John Stanton, bestowed the Rectory and advowson upon the Nuns of Bruisyard.† By a strange coincidence, nearly three hundred years later, a Roger Wolfreston, vicar, was buried at Sutton, 1676. The parish registers, commencing 1558, yield no record of importance connected with the parish history. There appears to have been a custom to charge all persons, not natives, with a mortuary fee upon the occasion of their burial.

1638. Lancelot Scotson, buried 15th March, and paid for his mortuary 5 shillings.

1639. William Myles, buried 4th May, and paid for his mortuary 6 shillings and sixpence.

1648. Mary Marsh of Hollesley, buried 21st October, and paid for her burial 9 pence.

* Feet of Fines.

† Escaet. Suff., 14 Ric. 2, Tanners' Monasticon, p. 531.

1715. Marke Blake murther'd in his own house 28th June, buried 30th June.

This Mark Blake was an aged man, living with his grand-daughter, Mary, aged 14 years.

EXTRACTS FROM SUTTON WILLS IN THE DISTRICT REGISTRY OFFICE, IPSWICH.

Jeffrey Jeney, 1443, "to the emendation of the bells, forsooth to the making of the bells, £10." To wife Petronel, 20 marks to be obtained from Sir Robert Wingfield. To son, Peter, 10 marks. To repair the church Porch at Letheringham. Executors Sir Robert Wingfield and Thomas Falstolf of Gippelbrow.

John Hayll, 27 Feb., 1499. To the high altar 40d. ; to the repair of the church 6s. 8d. ; to the poor of Sutton 10d.

John Heyward, 1450. To repair of church 2 qrs. "brasii" and $\frac{1}{2}$ qr. "frumenti"; to son William and daughter Alice, sheep, cows, and farm produce.

Alice Fathar, 1451. To the picture of the Crucifixion on the Candelbeam, 20d. ; to the poor at her burial 6d.

Alice Myles, 1459. To the picture of the Crucifixion 6s.

Margaret Cary, 1460. Numerous tunics "de doseo panno"; to the Vicar "unam lodicē."

Dionysius Smith, 1462. "Unam ollam vocat le posonet."

John Grey, 1491. Towards the making of a new canopy for the high altar. "Goods to be sold for the welfare of my sowle and especially towards a bell in the parish church of Sutton according to the bellys in the stepyl there. I will that my son John continue with John Cade to school at Waldringfield by the space of 6 years next following." Supervisor Sir Edmund Bukley, Vicar of Sutton.

John Hakyn, 1525. "I will that Alice my sister-in-law have her dwellinge for her terme of lyfe in my son's tenement called Sky-gos-Kachyn or else in my house called the stabyll with the chambre and soller thereto pertaining and one load of faggots."

The present owner of Sutton Hall estates and manor is W. N. Waller, Esq., nephew of old Squire Thomas Waller, of whose vagaries the villagers have many stories to tell. The Wallers have been connected with Sutton from its earliest days, and by family ties are closely connected with the Nauntons.

II. STAVERTON AND BUTLEY GATEWAY.

Midway between Sutton and Orford stand two most interesting features of antiquity, an ancient park and monastic ruins. Unfortunately these objects of interest are very little known even to the ardent archæologists of Suffolk, on account of their lying in a remote district. They are truly worthy of a visit. The old antique oaks, which have weathered the storms of centuries, patriarchs in their epoch of decay, have witnessed many an unwritten page of history. They saw the fierce strife between Angles and Wends in the tenth century, when the tumuli were reared over the fallen heroes. The tumuli, which exist as vast mole-mounds, probably gave the name of Wantisden to the adjacent dene whence they rise. It may be the fierce conflict gave the name of Staverton (A.S. *steorfa*, slaughter) to the parish and park, a name common to other villages in the centre and south of England. Country-folk speak of the Park as Stavenger or Stavender, a name supported by the Court Rolls, of 1683. "A way called the Millway leading towards *Stavender* end."

The Domesday speaks of Staverton as a large parish under the name of Staureton; the adjacent parish of Eyke was not then in existence. Staverton lies next to Bromeswell, and the manors of the two parishes became united and form as such the manor of Staverton-cum-Bromeswell. In the bounds of Staverton parish was a "wood for 30 hogs," which may have been the original of the existing park. In the survey of the lands belonging to Sir Michael Stanhope, made by Norden in 1601, the park is charted as a circular belt of trees, with a wide belt passing diametrically through it. The intervening spaces are marked as marsh lands, and extensive fens drained by the Butley River, or "Run," enclose the wood to the north, east, and south. The stream was deviated in its

course to form three *retting* pits wherein to steep the flax cultivated in the fields lying westward. Wantisden Hall represented with a four gabled front, and a lofty wall surrounding numerous farm buildings, occupied the site of the present hall. Staverton Hall is pictured as a small farm standing more remote from the park than Wantisden Hall.

The Saxon "ton" or settlement may probably have been planted upon a spot protected by impassable fens and dense woods, but the Normans feeling themselves secure from the attacks of marauding Danes may have removed the dwellings to a more salubrious and fertile district. The Saxon church of Staverton fell into decay, and one of Norman architecture was erected in the new village of Eyke, circa. 1150. There is one connecting link between the old parish and the new. Upon the south wall of Eyke Church is a brass, without any inscription, which once marked the burial place of John Staverton, Baron of the Exchequer, in the days of Richard II. and Henry v.* I shall have occasion to refer to this judge later on.

The many standing oaks within the park have the form of pollards, for during their growth they have been subjected to frequent "stowing," a term used by the Suffolk peasantry for "lopping." The "wattle-sticks" or "stallons" cut from them were used to form the woven walls plastered with mud wherewith the early huts and hovels were constructed. Trees so polled are called "stallyngs." The constant polling of these oaks caused many to decay, and within the heads of the trees has accumulated sufficient soil to secure the growth of other trees. Upon the summits of several oaks, the silver birch and the sombre holly grow luxuriantly. One birch which rises out of an oak has flourished for at least eighty years.

The manor of Staverton formed one of the numerous manors bestowed by the Conqueror upon Robert Malet, upon his disgrace it became the property of Earl Bigot.

* Monumental Brasses, Add. m.s. 92484, f. 40, and 32490, s. 41.

In 1200 Hubert de Munkanesi,* or Montchansey, claimed possession of the manor of Staverton by right of his wife, Muriell, the daughter of Peter de Valoignes. The right of ownership was again a matter of dispute in 1225, between William of York, præpositus of Beverley, and William de Munkanesi, the son of Hubert, who, with his family, was killed by the fall of his castle in Wales.† The provosts of Beverley, of whom Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was the fifth, and the aforesaid William of York the eleventh, held an office which was instituted by Thomas, first Archbishop of York. The præpositi had neither voice in the Chapter, nor stall in the Quire.

A John Beverle was one of the jurors for the Hundred of Loes,‡ who sat at the trial of William Bernard, of Copdock, for inciting the rioters who destroyed the house of John Staverton, in 1381. The followers of John Wraw seized the person of William Fraunceys in Ipswich and beheaded him. Bartholomew Fraunceys was a collector of the subsidy granted 22 Edward III. On the following day, Sunday, the mob, headed by John de Batisford, parson of Bucklesham, marched through Woodbridge, attacked and laid waste the house of Fraunceys at Melton, and then divided into two parties. One company remained to ransack the ruins, and the other, led by William Bernard, marched to the house of John Staverton at Eyke which they plundered, carrying away goods to the value of 100 shillings.

William Fraunceys, who held great possessions in the County of Suffolk, was probably son of Adam Fraunceys, Mayor of the Staple, temp. Richard II., and collector of taxes. The family had been settled in Sutton and neighbourhood from the time of the Conquest.

The son of William le Fraunceys (mentioned on page 59) was Adam Fraunceys, whose son William had a son Adam living in 1286.

It may be that the enclosure of a footpath at Rendle-

* Feet of Fines.

† Dugdale's Monasticon I., p. 171, pub. 1692.

‡ Powell's Rising in East Anglia, p. 128.

sham by John Staverton* was the reason for the attack upon his house at Eyke, 1381. The house of George Glanvyll was attacked by the rioters, as was also the manor house of William of Ufford,† at Hollesley. In this district the spirit of discontent remained smouldering for a long period. Two years later in 1383,

“Roger Powel of Eyk endeavoured to raised a new insurrection, and collected a body of some 100 or so men attacked the house of George Glanvyll of Hollesley and compelled him and Matilda his wife to pay a fine of 10*l.*, besides looting their premises.”‡

The inmates of the religious houses of Butley and Woodbridge appear to have been unmolested. §William of Ufford held the manors of Hollesley, Staverton, Hoo and Donyngworth, 42 Edward III.

Staverton Park was sold 1529 to the Prior and Convent of Butley, by Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. The possessions of the Priory were given at the suppression of the house to William Forthe, of Hadleigh. In 1601 the Park was the property of Sir Michael Stanhope, and passed upon his death to George, Lord Berkely,|| by right of his wife Elizabeth, youngest daughter and co-heir of Sir Michael Stanhope. Sir Henry Wood, Bart., held his first Court as Lord of Staverton-cum-Bromeswell Manor, 21 Ap. 1669. The first Court of “the most noble Henry Duke of S. *Albans, Dm. Camerar, Regie Majestatis Hospitii; the most noble Henry, Lord Arlington, Principal Secretary of State; the Rev. Father-in-Christ Thomas (Wood) Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; Sir Thomas Clifford, Treasurer; Lady Mary Chester, widow; Cæsar Wood, alias Cranmer, armiger; and John Gardiner of the Inner Temple,” was held 3 May, 1672. The first court of Thomas, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was held 2 Aug. 1681.

Staverton Park, together with the manor of Staverton, cum-Bromeswell, now belongs to Colonel Nathaniel Barnadiston, J.L., D.L., the Ryes, Sudbury.

* Fosbroke's Lives of the Judges, Vol. iv., p. 208.

† Powell's Rising in East Anglia, c. 1381, p. 25. ‡ Rymer's Fœdera, July 18, 1381.

§ Feet of Fines.

|| Court Rolls, 1678.



GATEWAY, BUTLEY PRIORY.

One ancient custom of the manor was that land was measured by a rod of 18 instead of $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet.*

An embowered walk with lofty elms, copper-beech, and fir trees on either side stretches, from the glades of Staverton park continuously to a pleasant lane, the exit of which suddenly opens upon an expansive green sward, whereon stands an imposing building, which formed the gateway of Butley Priory. Besides this gateway the only remains now standing of the once extensive buildings, which formerly covered an area of over thirteen acres, are the ruins of the east walls. The materials of the monastery, save what constitute the massive walls of the barn belonging to an adjacent farm-stead, have entirely disappeared. A stone coffin, standing against the ivy covered wall, is the only silent memento of the hallowed ground, wherein the body of Robert Brommer, who, distracted by the cares of office, "shuffled off his mortal coil," was not allowed to find a resting place. The sacred ground, once God's acre, and the burial-place of the suicide near the cross-roads, are now alike both unknown.

The grandeur of the past is however visible in the shields which adorn the old gateway. The shields have been enumerated by Tanner, Davy, Fitch, and other antiquarians, but these writers apparently had not an accurate description of the bearings such as the illustration affords the reader. Consequently many details were passed over by them, so that the pointed leaf of the cinquefoil (D. 2) was thought to be the depressed leaf of the *six* petal rose, the escallops of (E. 6) were considered to be roundlets, and the bend of (B. 2) was thought to be cotised.

The question which first arises upon the sight of this display of armorial bearings is,—Why did the monks, dwelling in so secluded a spot, adorn their gateway with these armorial bearings? Benefactors, whether merchants or nobles, had the glories of their house portrayed in the west window of the monastic churches, or in the long-drawn

* Norden's Survey 1601.

aisles and fretted vaults, but of the many shields on the Butley gateway, only one or two were borne by benefactors. Nor are the shields those of the illustrious dead (Michael de la Pole and others), who found a quiet tomb within the abbey walls. To my mind they were fixed in the 14th century for the same reason that inn-signs, drawn from the badges of the nobility, marked either the patronage under which a hostelry flourished, or the politics of its proprietor.

No monarch made such frequent journeys to Suffolk to visit its ports and flourishing towns, as Edward I. Ipswich, Bury St. Edmund's, Dunwich and Orford, were all favoured by the presence of the English Justinian; nor can it be conceived as possible that the Convent of Butley, to whom he made a special appeal on behalf of a grant for his daughter's marriage,* never saw his face within their walls. The uppermost row of shields, except (A 7) which by its character appears to have replaced a former shield, contains the arms with which the devoted king embellished the tomb of his first wife, Eleanor of Castile, in Westminster Abbey; the same heraldic ornaments adorn the tomb of Edmund Plantagenet, at King's Langley, 1402.

To mark the date and history of the time were fixed the Eagle of Frederick II. of Germany, (A 1), and the Lilies of Louis IX., the sainted King of France, (A 2) which take inferior positions to the shield of the Anglian King, and Martyr, St. Edmund (A 3). This latter shield, like that upon the tomb of Edmund Plantagenet, is without the arrows which usually pierce the crown. The banner of St. Edmund was borne by Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, in the battle of Fornham, 1173,† an honour claimed by the Earl of Clare and Thomas of Mendham. Edmund Mortimer bore the arms of the German Empire in 1304. The presence of the shield of ancient France appears to establish the fact that the first row of shields was fixed before the year 1406,‡ in which year Henry IV. substituted the three lilies of Charles VI. for the older shield. The

* Rymer's *Fœdera*. † Jocelin de Brakelond. ‡ Boutell, p. 73.

place of honour is rightly given to the emblems of the Crucifixion (A. 4), firstly, through holy reverence for the Passion and death of our Lord, and secondly, it may be to mark the visit of Edward I. and his consort to the Holy Land. The arms of England (A. 5) precede those of Castile and Leon (A. 6) assumed by John of Gaunt when he took the title of King of Spain in 1368. This latter shield (A 6) is fixed upon the monument of Edward I's. Queen as the shield of her father alternately with that of England (A 5) and Ponthieu.* The claim of the English monarchs to the title of King of Spain appears in a political poem on Edward IV.

" Re Anglicee et Franciae y roy
Hit is thine owne, why saist thou nay,
And so is Spayn that faire contrey
Edward Dei gratia."†

The apparently more recently affixed shield (A 7) borne by the families of Hursthelve and Denardston, occupies an unexpectedly exalted position.

The second and subsequent rows of shields illustrate the view of a modern historian with respect to the home policy of the Plantagenet Kings.

" Edward I. had shewn by the marriages of his daughters to the Earls of Gloucester (B 7) and Hereford (B 2) and by the lawyer-like settlement by which he laid hold on the Bigod inheritance, a clear perception of the fact that the English princes must henceforth be used to strengthen the power of the royal house at home as well as abroad, and even Edward II. had acted on the same principle. Edward III. married his children with an eye to such a scheme."‡

The shield of the Veres, Earls of Oxford (B 1), may be that of Thomas de Vere, 8th Earl of Oxford, husband of Maud, daughter and heir of Sir Ralph Ufford (D 5), and Maud Plantagenet. Their son, Robert, the 9th Earl, Duke of Ireland, quartered the arms of St. Edmund with those of the Veres.§ The next shield (B 2) is stated by previous writers to be that of Bohun, Earl of Hereford, but the *cotised* bend of the Bohun shield is not visible,

* Boutell, p. 308.

† Archæologia xxix., p. 130.

‡ Stubb's Constitutional History, Vol. II., 427. § Yorke's Union of Honour, p. 234.

and mullets (in the illustration *five*, on the ordinary shield *three*) of the arms of the Bohuns, Earls of Northampton, are distinctly visible. It is difficult to recognise the animals, as "*lions passant gardant*," but taking the shield in connection with others in the same row, it may be ascribed to William de Bohun, fourth son of Humphrey de Bohun, the 8th Earl of Hereford, or to Thomas Woodstock (? B 6), Duke of Gloucester (B 7), Earl of Northampton (B 2).* The well-known shield of Warwick (B 3) is probably that of Thomas Beauchamp, 14th Earl of Warwick, who married Katherine, daughter of Roger Mortimer (C 4). The shield of England for a Plantagenet Prince (B 4) is in juxtaposition with that of the bold Earl of Warrenne and Surrey (B 5), who, with Warwick (B 3), Gloucester (B 7), and Norfolk (C 5), took up arms against Edward I., 1288. The following shield, *England, a border argent*, (B 4) was borne by Henry Plantagenet of Lancaster, and by Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, 1321, husband of Margaret, sister and heir of Thomas, Lord Wake (C 3). He received support from the inhabitants of Norfolk and Suffolk in his insurrection, 1330, for which he was executed. The King ordered John de Loudham (E 1), Thomas de Hindringham, and Robert Howell (? E 3), to make an inquisition, April 13th, 1330, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk for adherents of the late Earl of Kent.† The three chevrons gules (B 7) of Gilbert of Clare (surnamed the Red) are well-known. His second wife was the unfortunate Alice, widow of John, Earl of Warrenne and Surrey (B 5), whom he divorced to marry Joan, daughter of Edward I.

The central position of the C row is occupied by shields belonging to the members of the Royal House of Plantagenet, the shield of Mortimer (C 4) is fixed in the centre of the whole group. On the right is the shield of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and Lord Wake (C 3) whose daughter Eleanor was 1st wife to Roger Mortimer (C 4) and secondly to Edward Charleton, Lord of Powys

* Vincent on Brooke, p. 363.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*.



FAÇADE, BUTLEY PRIORY.

PLAN OF SHIELDS ON THE FAÇADE OF BUTLEY PRIORY.

Emp. Wenceslaus, brother-in-law of Edward III.

on Edm. of Langley's tomb
114 Castle, 2 + 3. Lion

<p>A</p> <p>Germany. An Eagle having two heads, not crowned.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ancient France. Sembé de lys. Edm. III.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>St. Edmund. Azure, three crowns, 2 and 1, or. Royal saint.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Crucifixion.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>England. Gules, 3 lions passant, gardant or.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Castile and Leon, or John of Gaunt. 1 and 4 a lion rampant, 2 & 3 a castle.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>William Hurthelwe. Azure, 3 Hatchets argent.</p>
<p>Thomas De Vere. Quarterly, gules and or, a Mullet, argent.</p>	<p>Wm. de Bohun, E. of Northampton. Azure, a bend, argent, (?) cotised and between 6 Lioncels rampant or.</p>	<p>Thomas Beauchamp, E. of Warwick. Gules, a Fess between 6 Crosslets or.</p>	<p>England. As above.</p>	<p>Warreñne. Cheguy, argent and gules.</p>	<p>Thomas Plantagenet, D. of Gloucester. fleur de lis. England in a bordure argent. Holand. E. of Kent.</p>	<p>Gilbert Fitz-Gilbert, E. of Clare. Or, 3 Chevrons, gules.</p>
<p>O</p> <p>Walter Fitz-Walter. A Fess between 2 Chevrons.</p>	<p>Beaumont. Sembé de lys. A Lion rampant or, debruised by a bendlet.</p>	<p>Thomas Holland, Lord Wake. Or, 2 Bars, gu., in chief 3 torteaux.</p>	<p>Roger de Mortimer. Azure, 3 Bars or of the 1st and 2nd, an inescutcheon, argent.</p>	<p>Powys. A Lion rampant.</p>	<p>De Ros. Gules, three Water Bougets, argent.</p>	<p>Thomas Mowbray, D. of Norfolk. Gules, a Lion rampant, argent.</p>
<p>Tiptoft. Argent, a Saltire engrailed gules.</p>	<p>Bardolph. Azure, 3 Cinquefoils or.</p>	<p>Wm. de Huntingfield. Or, on a Fess Gules, 3 plates argent.</p>	<p>Richard Fitz-Allan. Gules, a Lion rampant or, armed and langued azure, of Joan of Holand</p>	<p>Ufford. Sable, a cross engrailed or.</p>	<p>? Grimston. Gules, on a Fess sable 3 Mulletts of 6 Points pierced. In dexter chief spot ermine.</p>	<p>Robert Malet or Roscelyn. Argent, 3 round Buckles sable.</p>
<p>E</p> <p>Loudham. Argent, 3 Escutcheons sable.</p>	<p>Rendlesham Crest.</p>	<p>Bigod. Or, a plain Cross gules.</p>	<p>Glanville. Argent, a Chief indented azure.</p>	<p>De Vesci. Or, a Cross patonce sable.</p>	<p>Lade. A Fess nebuly between 3 Escallops.</p>	<p>Robert Danvillers. Argent, 3 Escutcheons gules.</p>

See Incestor, Vol. 1. N^o. 2. p. 107. Shields on Edm. of Langley's tomb. 5th son of Edm. III. d. 1402
mar^{ed} Isabel yonnesen dau: of Pedro the black. Ki. of Castile d. 1393

(C 5). The Fitz-Walter shield (C 1) is probably that of Walter Fitz-Walter, one of the greatest barons of all the company which followed the fortunes of John of Gaunt in Spain, 10 Richard II., and not of the still more famous baron who in the reign of John was "Marshal of the Army of God and of the Holy Church." There is deep interest in the fact that the majority of these arms emblazoned the shields of the knights who fought with "time honour'd Lancaster" on the fields of Spain. The Beaumont shield (C 2) with its bendlet to mark cadency* may be that of one of these knights, viz., John, Lord Beaumont, who died full of honour, 20 Richard II. † The curious *water-bougets*, or vessels used by mediæval soldiers for carrying water, mark the shield of Baron de Ros (C 6); and the *lion rampant* denotes the Mowbray shield (C 7).

The engrailed saltire of Tiptoft (D 1) is familiar to all readers acquainted with the Brass of Lady Tiptoft with its double impalement (D 1), (B 6), (C 5). The bearings on the shield (D 2) are evidently cinquefoils. This may be the Bardolph shield. ‡ I consider the following shield (D 3) to be that of Sir William de Huntingfield. The positions of honour in row (D) are held by the shield of Richard Fitz-Allan, Earl of Arundell (D 4), whose mother, Alice, was sister and heir of the last Earl of Warrenne and Surrey, § and the shield of the Uffords (D 5). The remaining shields (D 6) and (D 7) appear to bear the arms of Grimston, and of the Jernignan family according to the author of *Index Monasticon*, but as the latter family bear on their achievement "mascle" buckles, the (D 7) shield may be that of Robert Malet, *Argent, 3 round buckles tongues to the dexter sable*, or the Roscelyn shield.

The fifth and final row has its interest centred in the shield (E 4) of the founder of Butley Priory, Ranulph Glanville, justiciar under Henry II. The *cross patoncée* (E 5) is probably that which emblazoned the escutcheon of William de Vesey, son-in-law of Glanville, while the *plain*

* Boutell, p. 171.

† Collin's Baronetage, Vol. II., 73.

‡ Boutell, p. 163.

§ Yorke's Union of Honour, p. 291.

cross (E 3) may have been the red cross borne by the Bigods, their kinsfolk. The non-heraldic shield (E 2) bearing the crest of Rendlesham, the present proprietor of the premises, is said to have displaced the Willoughby shield* *azure, a fret of 8 pieces or*. This may have been the Spencer shield. The duplicate shields (E 1) and (E 7) do not stand for the arms of only one family, but may be those of either the Loudham, Danvillers, or Hay families. The shield (E 6) is generally ascribed to Lade (? of Bottisham, Co. Cambridgeshire), but I have not been able to discover any member of this family connected with the noble houses of Suffolk.

It is evident from Ford's ms. in the Bodleian Library,† that the arms and crests over the doorway have been placed in new positions. The Forth crest, "a bear's head erased sable, muzzled or"; and the Graham crest, "a dove ppr.," were formerly placed on either side of the arms of Forth, impaled with Glemham. The uppermost shield, "three lyoncells rampant," are for Powell; between the Graham's and Forth's crests are the "three fleur-de-lis" (Gwaringdu); on "a cross five mullets" (Brokenspear).

There remain, besides the small extent of wall which marks the grand buildings of former days, the fish-pond, which supplied the Lenten repast, and the "monks' wood." To the north stands Barrow Hill, an ancient burial ground. No monument remains of the Butley priors, unless the large slab recently discovered in Hollesley chancel with its legend commencing, "Hic nece stratus humi Pōr. W." be a stone that once covered the last resting place of William of Halesworth, Prior of Butley (1374—1410), under whose direction it is probable that some of the shields over the gateway were executed.

Before the close of the 15th century the Priory had mortgaged the greater part of its possessions, the funds were not sufficient to provide service books for the choir, and novices were compelled to journey a-foot, when

* Davy mss. Index Monasticon.

† Muskett's Suff. Manorial Families, Vol. I., p. 116.

candidates for ordination from other monasteries were sent forth on horseback. This was a cause of complaint, although in the early days of monastic life it was necessary to obtain the Pope's permission for monks to ride.* The monks had not the means to support "Thomas Orford, a good grammarian, and fond of letters," at College; his friends therefore promised "to furnish him with suitable lodgings at Cambridge instead of the usual rooms at college,"† when the last prior resigned.

At the dissolution of the monastery the wealth of the Priory was granted to William Forth of Hadleigh. After two generations it passed into other hands, and is now the property of Lord Rendlesham. The old gateway was converted into a residence by George Wright, 1737, and is now occupied by the Rev. T. Eland, vicar of Butley.

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, 1250.

† Dr. Venn's *Reg. of Gon. and Caius Coll.*, Cambridge, Vol. I.

III. ORFORD.

The inroads of the North Sea have buried beneath the sands the churches and part of the town of Dunwich, the forests of Felixstowe, and other places of interest on the East Coast. Even in these days the sea, at high tide, by its inundation nearly four miles inland, gives the village of Hollesley the appearance of a seaside resort. But if the ocean has destroyed busy streets and fertile fields by its encroachments, it has, by its desertion, converted the ancient borough of Orford into a quiet village. "Orford," to use the words of an historian,* "complains of the sea's ingratitude which withdrew itself little by little, and it begins to envy it the advantage of a harbour." Another writer† states, "Orford was in former times a

* Camden's *Britannia*, p. 374, ed. 1695.

† H. Moll, p. 149, ed. 1724. De Foe's *Tour in the Eastern Counties*.

town of good account, but now (*i.e.* in 1724) can scarcely find itself. However, it is a Mayor Town, sends Members to Parliament, and has a small market on Mondays." A print* of the ruins of Orford Castle at this period represents a forest of masts belonging to innumerable fishing smacks riding in close proximity to the town, but it cannot be a faithful picture, for some of its details are unquestionably incorrect. Many valuable papers have been read and written about the noble ruins of the Castle, which do not fail to interest antiquarians.†

It is true that no definite information is to be found in ancient records of the exact date of the erection of the Castle, nor has the name of its founder been handed down to posterity, but the same mist hangs over the history of many of the noble edifices of our country, whether they be castle, cathedral, church, or moated hall. The stones give some clue to the date of the foundation, whilst style and architecture fix the period of construction, and history helps us to conjecture who first reared the construction.

Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes and Normans had successively gained their footing in this island by landing on a defenceless coast. The protection of our shores, by the erection of castles and forts where the shelving beach presents an easy landing place, has preserved Britain from the terrors of an invasion. The wily Norman baron knew that the safety of his lands lay in the strength of his defences, and not merely in the boldness with which his men would attack an invading force. Robert Malet, to whom William the Norman had granted the greater part of the East Anglian lands washed by the ocean, probably erected Orford Castle, or commenced its erection, to protect his adjacent demesnes from invasion by sea. The governor of the castle was Warden‡ of the Eastern shores and Admiral of the Fleet north of the Thames. In the Domesday Book there is no mention of either Orford or

* Pub. by H. Buck, 1738.

† Lord John Hervey. Proc. Suff. Inst., Archæologia xxix., Grose's Antiquities.

‡ Rymer's Fœdera.

of its Castle,* yet within fifteen years after its compilation. Malet conceded to the Priory of Eye among other things,† “ . . . mercatum et thelonium de Oreford, præter navium quæ pertinent ad firmam de Donewico, videlicet xxx solidos,” from which it is evident that before the year 2 Henry I.; when Malet ‡ was disinherited for supporting the claim of Robert Curthose, Orford was a thriving market town. At first sight it would appear that under the protection of the walls of the Castle of this famous baron rose the habitations of his retinue and the homes of his dependants, forming a new settlement or town. I do not think this to have been the case, it is more probable that the Church was the centre of the town as now, and not the Castle.§ The existence of a church at the time of the Domesday has been over-looked by most writers, from the fact that Orford was the *Ham* of Sudbourne. The entries in Domesday are as follows:—

|| *Sudburn.* In Sudburna tēnt Gislebt de Wiscand de R. malet xii. libo hoēs comd ejusde E. LX acr. Tnc. III car. m° II et val xx sol. un ex his libis fuit maneria xx ac̄ i animat xxx pors. ; XL oves, I ca. posset fieri. I mot val x sol eccl̄a XVI acr. et val II sol.

In eadem tenet Walteñ de Cadā de R. malet I liḅ hōm comd E xxx acr. et I bord sep I car. I piscina. I acr p̄ti, I salina val XII sol In burgesgata I acr. val. III.

Plumesgata H.¶

Sudburnham teñ Sca. A...t...r...e...p mañ VI car trē semp XIV viñ. Tc XV bord modo XXI. Tc II serv. Tc III car in duiō m° I. Tc XII car hoñ modo VI et VI possent restaur III ac̄ p̄ti silva de XII porc. Tc I run semp VII añ et XVII porc et CXX oves et sep val VII liḅ h̄i [Ecclesia VIII ac**] I lḡ in longo et diḡid in lato et XXd de gelto.

The mention of a *salina*, and a *burgesgata*, denotes the proximity of the sea-shore, as Havergate still marks the island lying at the mouth of the Ore. *Burgesgata* was the quay or landing place of the borough or town. *Methersgate*,†† on the left bank of the Deben, was so

* Valoignes, Peter de, was Lord of Orford and the Castle, where he was seated, temp. William the Conqueror.—Sir Richard Gipps' "Ancient Suff. Families." This is evidently a mistake, unless the Warden of the Eastern Shores was Governor of the Castle during the King's pleasure.

† Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. III., p. 401.

‡ Dugdale's Baronage, sub. Malet.

§ Grose's Antiquities. || Domesday, p. 316 b.

¶ Domesday, p. 384 a.

** This is added above the line as if an omission.

†† Court Rolls, Sutton Manor.

named from the landing place or quay erected by one Robert Mather of Sutton, in 1600. When Malet, or his successor, selected the mound commanding the ford over the Ore as the site for his castle, it may be that Sudburnham became known as Orford.

In Suffolk, Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, gave to the monks of Ely* the manor of Sudbourne [? Sudburnham ten' Sca. A...t...r...e; i.e., held of Saint Awdry], which King Edgar had granted to the bishop for translating the rule of S. Benedict into the Saxon or English tongue. The many labourers employed upon the building of the castle, may possibly account for the presence of fourteen villans, and an increase in the number of bordars from fifteen to twenty-one. Decades must have rolled by before the building reached the stage of completion. The keep, as it now stands, is a noble work, and its walls more massive than those of a castle formed from an ancient hall or manor house, such as was constructed by Richard Clare,† Earl of Hereford, when he was granted permission by the king to make a castle of his house at Southwold, 44 Henry III. The work was, if not begun, finished by Ranulph Glaunvyll, the successor of Malet, in the days of Stephen,‡ when "castles rose in great numbers in the several districts, and there were in England, so to speak, as many kings, or rather tyrants, as lords of castles," and "every powerful baron made his castles and held them against the King, and they filled the land full of castles."§

Ranulph Glaunvyll was succeeded by his son Walter Glaunvyll,|| a devout and unwarlike man, who bestowed upon the Cluniac Monks all the churches of his Barony. His son and heir, Bartholomew Glaunvyll,¶ the founder of Broxholme Priory, Co. Norfolk, was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk for the years 16 Henry II. to 22 Henry II. Ranulph Glaunvyll,** the founder of Butley and Leiston Priors, Lord Chief Justice of England, *temp.* Hen. II.

* Bentham's *His. of Ely*, Vol. I., p. 75, 2nd ed., 1802.

† Dugdale's *Baronage*, Vol. I.

‡ William of Newbury.

§ *Saxon Chronicle*.

|| Dugdale's *Baronage*, Vol. I.

¶ *Ibidem*.

** Sir Ric. Gipps' *Ancient Families of Suff.*, *Proceedings of the Suff. Inst. of Arch.*, Vol. VIII., pt. 2.

and Rich. I., was his brother, and successor to his estates.

Subsequent Wardens of the Castle were members of the noble houses of Valoines, Ufford, and Willoughby. Dugdåle* states, however, that upon the death of Isabel, relict of Sir William Ufford, Richard Beauchamp, son of her brother Thomas, succeeded to her estates as next heir. † Sir John White, who resided at Tunstal in 1403, held the manor of Orford; he died in 1407. Early in the seventeenth century Sir Michael Stanhope was owner of Sudbourn manor and Orford Castle, and at his death it descended to the Hon. Pryce Devereux, Lord Viscount Hertford. In 1754 the Earl of Hereford purchased the estate, which in after years became the property of Sir Richard Wallace, then of Arthur Heywood, Esq. It is now held by A. H. E. Wood, Esq.

There is only one tradition connected with the history of the Castle. This tradition refers to the capture, imprisonment, and escape of a wild man, and is recorded in the pages of the monkish historian of Coggeshall. If Bartholomew Glaunvyll were the governor at the time of this capture, it must have been made in the early years of Henry II.'s reign. It may be well to give the reader short extracts from the "Observations on Orford Castle," by the Rev. Chas. H. Hartshorne, † 1840.

Orford Castle stands nearly two miles from the sea, and half a mile from the River Ore. Between it and the sea is an extent of low swampy ground, and the view inland is flat and uninteresting. It is erected upon a mound in a degree artificial, being surrounded by a fosse from twenty-one to thirty feet in depth. The multangular keep was encircled by a lofty wall that had merlons and a parapet walk all round. This concentric defence terminated at the approach across the fosse on the south-west side. There are no remains of this wall.

The Approach was over solid masonry fifteen feet wide and seventy-six feet long.

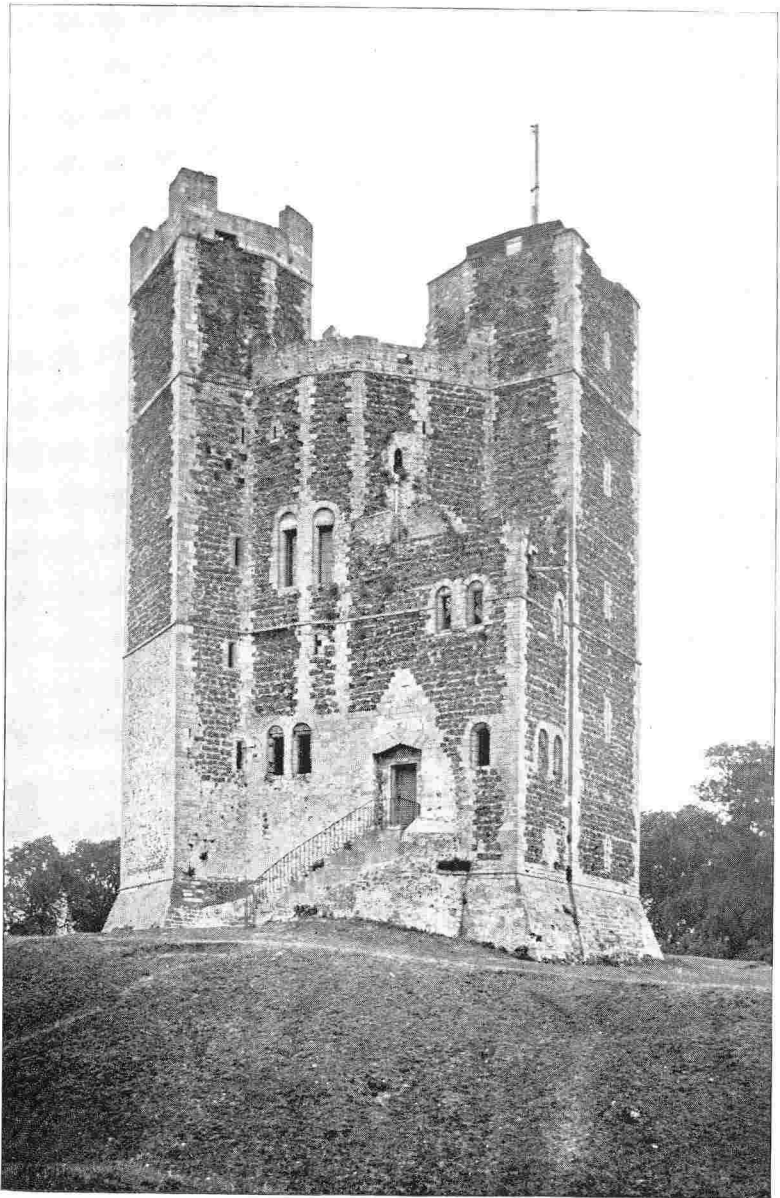
The Keep was built upon the most regular plan, circular with three towers.

The Masonry and Material were excellently executed, the building was partially faced with hewn stone. The greater part of the material used in the construction was in all probability dug from the sea; the

* Dugdåle's *Baronage*, sub. Ufford.

† *East Anglian*, Vol. VI., p. 63.

‡ *Archæologia* XXIX., p. 61, et seqq.



ORFORD CASTLE.

stone being similar to that used in making cement. There is but little ornament, the character of architecture is bold and simple. The building is in a good state of preservation, and is but little impaired.

The Entrance is by a flight of steps on the south-east side, where the marks of a former porch are visible. A singularly constructed doorway leads into an antechamber with three windows. There was no portcullis, the doors were strengthened by large bars of timber pushed through the wall across the door. Norman castles standing before the days of Edward I. were probably without portcullises.

The Donjons are small chambers without windows beneath the ante-room, usually donjons were in turrets, the access to which was by means of ladders.

The Doors of the First Floor were protected by a large bar of timber, seven and a half feet long.

The Chief Room, twenty-six feet in diameter and twenty-one feet high, had six narrow square-headed windows three feet high. Hooks, hinges, and mortice holes remain to mark the use of shutters.

The Dormitory of the seneschal, reached by a small staircase of twenty-one steps, was in the north-east angle of the building. The urinal on the north side of the passage has its pipe visible without.

The Bedchamber, a large square room entered from the window recess on the east side of the passage, had a window looking north-east protected by a shutter.

The Cellars were large recesses upon the basement floor. A well four feet in diameter, and a square-headed sink remain.

The Grand Staircase in the south-east angle was a means of communication with all the rooms of the keep, and is in every respect perfect.

The Second Floor is reached after ascending twenty-two steps. Here were five rooms, a chapel, a dormitory for the priest, his garderobe, closet, and the dormitory of the seneschal.

The Third Floor has masonry admirable throughout. Here were six rooms. A grand apartment thirty feet in diameter has on the north-east side a spacious fire-place. The kitchen, garderobe, dormitory of proprietor looking north-east, are the most complete in the whole castle.

The Fourth Floor had two rooms. The wall of the dormitory for females was five feet three inches in thickness, being two feet thicker than the wall of the corresponding room beneath it.

The Fifth Floor ascended to the roof. The entrances to the three hexagonal turrets are distinct; each had two floors, the upper one doubtless arrived at by a ladder. In the north-east angle is an oven arched with Norman bricks, and having a curious elevated situation.

Wilkins mentions the capitals in Orford Castle as specimens of Norman architecture. The same writer states* that "Orford Chapel and the Saxon Church at

* *Archæologia* Vol. xii., p. 141, *ibidem* p. 168.

Dunwich, of whose foundation there are no records, were of stone. Their plans are similar to those of Ely Cathedral. They were probably built about the era 630 or 636 A.D., or soon after by Felix or his successor. The piers to the chancel have a diameter of three feet three inches, and are thirteen feet high. The width of the arches, like those at Ely, is three diameters." Full representation of the arches and piers are given in the illustration.

It appears strange that "so spacious and magnificent a parish church" * should be designated a chapel-of-ease to the village church of Sudbourne. The officiating priest was usually styled *Rector* of Orford.

Beneficia accident 'vacant' &c. [1454-5]† Orford...Johns Jenesson... Rtor. xxiiii/i xivs. ivd

Arregragia primor' fructuum p' dei &c. [1459-60] Orford...Rog'us Kegyll...Rtor. xxj/i vis. viij/d.

Extracts from old Wills in the Probate Registry Office, Ipswich. 5th Oct. 1447. Robert Gooding of Orford, names as supervisor of his will *Sir John Squier, Rector of the Church of Orford.*

22 April 1470. Robert Bokyll of "Orforth" wills to be buried in the churchyard of the *parish church of Orford.*

In the numerous wills at Ipswich the building is always spoken of as the *church*, not chapel, of S. Bartholomew in the *parish* of Orford, but after the Dissolution of monasteries the incumbent was appointed to the living of *Sudbourne, cum libera capella aut cantaria de Orford et capella Beatae Mariae de Gedgrave.* In 1545 John Greenwoode ‡ was presented to this living by ten burgesses of Orford, viz.: Thomas Mannyng, John Edmunds, Robert Edmunds, John Hynde, Robert Palling, Robert Partryche, Walter Edey, Roger Rande, William Wyseman, and John Marriet. In 1558 Thomas Burgho', L.L.B., was appointed rector, and in 1572 Thomas Aggas, § with whom the burgesses disputed about the payment of tithes, was presented to the living by Queen Elizabeth; in subsequent years the advowson was the gift of the reigning monarch.

* Archdeacon's Visitation, 1676.

† Proceedings of Suff. Inst. of Archæology, Vol. VII., pt. 1.

‡ Induction Book, Archdeacon's Registry, Ipswich.

§ Calendar of State Papers, Doomes. Series.

The following note about the early construction of the church, forwarded to me by the present rector, the Rev. E. M. Scott, may throw a little light upon the reason why *the church* is designated a *chapel*.

“The chancel was part of a monastery chapel, the nave and centre tower of which were pulled down in the early part of the 14th century, and replaced by the present church. The East end of the North aisle (see illustration) shows that this chapel had transepts, and transept aisles. The East end of the North aisle is called the Mayor's chapel, as several of the Mayors of Orford are buried there.”

It is evident from the will of Johanne Howse, dated 6 Jan. 1500, that there were several altars, and therefore chapels in the church, for after mentioning the high altar, and our Lady's altar, she wills a bequest of four pence to *any other altar*, as if she had forgotten to whom the other altars were dedicated. The chapels mentioned in other wills as existing in Orford were dedicated to S. Leonard, to S. John the Baptist and S. Thomas the Martyr, to S. Bartholomew, and to Our Lady of Pity, but I believe only the two last were attached to the parish church. From the will of Robert Bokyll, dated 22 April, 1470, it is to be seen that the chancel was built (*de novo construendo*) in the latter part of the 15th century. The many restorations and alterations which the edifice has been subjected to, have concealed the original structure which appears here and there in detail. The most recent restoration has brought to light the Norman archway near the priest's door, probably bricked up in 1470 when the “stained image of the Blessed Mary stood within the wall.” The following extracts from wills in the Ipswich Registry give a faint idea of the state of the church and its services in the 15th Century.

Monday the Feast of S. Matthew Apos. 1445. *John Longe*, smith, of Orford to be buried in the churchyard of S. Bartholomew Apos. Orford. To the High Altar 8d. To the repair of church 12d. To my daughter a house called Calwysholte. To son Thomas Smyth, 6s. 8d.

Will proved in the church of Eyke 27 Jan. 1446.

20 Feb. 1449. *Robert Rydde*. To the fabric of the Church of Orford £3 to repair the same. To the chapel of the Blessed Mary "existens" in the aforesaid church, to repair and support the same 10d. To the tabernacle of the B. M. now making 20d. To the friars of the Order of S. Augustine, Orford 20s. To my sons and daughter "quos de sacra fonte lenan (?) om̄ eorum per se" a sheep. Wife Margaret deceased. Executors John Rydde, Thomas Pecyce, & John Bullyng.

7 June 1450. *William Gefard* of Orford. To the repair and ornamentation of the altar of the B.M. there 12d. To the repair of the tabernacle, and the image of S. Bartholomew now making 6s. 8d.

20 Jan. 1448. *Johanna Boteler*. For a chasuble ornamented with silver to be kept in the church, 20s. To Petronelle Whinny "unam togam sanguinam." To my son-in-law William Mannyng "unum librum cum ipus (sic) (? imagine) bte. marie." Supervisor Sir John Squire, Rector of Alderton.

Friday before Christmas 1457. *Roger Goodchyld* to Thomas Baldry a coverlyth. To the parish priest 8d.

Feast of S. David, 1462. *John Carpenter* of Orford, to the picture image of the B.M. 12d.

Feast of S. Peter 1462. *Richard Comerland*. To wife Joan eleven sheep which are in pasture with John Doget of Sudbourne. Executor Richard Runtynge, clericus, of the parish of Orford.

20 Aug. 1470. *Richard Bullyng*. To the church for a vestment 40s. To Colet Hautsyn my daughter my house in a street called Bradstreet. To said daughter a tenement in the market place of Orford, and two pieces of land called Ebunye lands.

25 Mar. 1471. *John Hall* to the House of the Order of Hermit Friars² of S. Augustine in Orford, 10s. To the light of the Holy Sepulchre in the parish church, 4d. To the torch of the same church 4d.

22 Ap. 1473. *Joan Marechalle* of Orford. To the "domini" of the order of Friar Hermits of S. Augustine in the town of Orford.

22 Ap. 1470. *Robert Bokyll*. For a silver chalice for the celebration of mass in the chancel there *de novo construendo* one standing piece embossed, one plain piece of silver, and a silver girdle, to be in the custody of Richard Runtynge, parish priest, in all to the value of 9 marks. To the painting of a picture for the altar of the chapel of the B.M. 24s. To the Austin friars in Orford 7s. 6d. To John Sewould late friar of the same convent 13s. 4d. *I exonerate John Ambrose late friar* of the same convent from the debt due to me. To the repair of the chapel of S. John the Baptist & S. Thomas the Martyr in Orford 6s. 8d. To John Bokyll my son in Sizewell, 73s. 4d. which he owes me.

22 Dec. 1475. *Richard Bayman*. To the chapel of S. John the Baptist in Orford 3s. 4d.

23 Mar. 1476. *Robert Hall*. For repair of church 6s. 8d. "To Alice my wife my Seale (? sailing) Boat with all the parcels needful to be had belongyng on to the sea, and my tenement sittynge upon Clynker's lane in Orforth to be sold by my attornies and do for me in

pilgrimages and other operations of misericord which shulde rediest brynge my sowle to waye of salvacion." Executors John Hert and Ales my Wyff *be record* of Syr Thomas Mason and William Gybson.

1 Jan. 1477. *Edmund Cowper*. "y^e residue of y^e silvyr to have a preest syngyng in Orforde chirche."

4 Oct. 1482. *John Baspall*. To the gilde of S. John 2s. 3d. To S. Leonard of Orford 12d. To son Richard a silver basillard "unam Togam de mustevler (sic)." To son John "Meam tunicam defensalem vocat A Jakke." To Anne my daughter my pieces of Corell with three rings hanging from the aforesaid pieces." To my wife Olive my house Geynesburgh. Friar John Bassett and Friar Robert Neve to celebrate masses for my soul.

23 Jan. 1482. *Robert Burghard*. To the repair of the chapel of S. Leonard s in Orford 12d. To the chapel of S. John 12d. *These to record* Sir John Greene and John Hankyn.

3 Feb. 1482. *Robert Bokyll to be buried in the chapel* of the B.M. Orford. To repair of said chapel 6s. 8d. To Friars Austin of Orford a "margin Tacabre" (sic) or price of same 10s. To altar of S. Bartholomew, and to altar of B.M. each a dyaper cloth. To wife Margaret my ploughs and "all herynsse belonging and half the wyntercornys already sown." Executors Henry Wingfield Knight, and Sir Thomas Mason, clericus.

9 Oct. 1483. *Robert Belyngham* of Orford servant with Herry Wingfield Knight. "To Herry Hardwicke my neve apprenticed in London my long-blak gown, lined with blak fresse & my doblet of Tanny ffusteyn & my best blak hosis, & my best blak bonet, & a tepet of Tanny chamblet with my best blak hatts. My wife to have her federbedde & trannson."

20 Ap. 1488. *Thomas Pratt* of Orford. To repair of church 6s. 8d. To the painting of the Candlebeam in the said church 6s. 8d. To the gilde of S. John the Baptist in the said town 6s. 8d. To the making of a tabernacle for my Lady of Pity in the church 6s. 8d. To the repair of the Chapel of the same 6s. 8d. To the Convent of Austin Friars 13s. 4d. "I will have a tapir of wax brennyng before y^e rode of Gedgrave 4 of y^e weigte of ii li." For the repair of the way leading from the church to the bridge 3s. 4d. "I give to y^e disposal of my executors the rest of my goods with the condicion y^t as ferre as it may streeche to a pax of silvyr in the Churche of Orford."

27 Jan. 1489. *Alban Gelden^ey*. "To the making of a peir of deskis in ye vestrie to lay on books 4s." To repair of Church 6s. 8d. which Robert Goodynge of Woodbregge oweth me.

29 Jan. 1496. *William Fuller* to be buried in the churchyard of S. Bartholomew of Orford on y^e southside s. To repair of church 40s. To the bell 40s. I bequeath to ye steyning of our Lady in ye wall when it wanteth 40s. Also to the *Hermit* of S. John's Chapel to be prayed for 3s. 8d.

6 Jan. 1500. *Johanna Howse*. To the high altar 10s. To "Our

Ladis Awter" 3s. 4d. to any other altar in the said church 4d. To the said church my maser. To the Hermit of S. John's Hospital 6s. 8d. to pray for me and my friends. "A dobyll nekkercher & ii hedekerches & a quarter kercher" are mentionéd.

26 Dec. 1500. *Alice Johnson*. To the high altar a ryall and a nobyll. "I bequeath to the Sacrament a kercher." To the chapel of our Lady in the Wall 6s. 8d. To the high altar in the Convent of Austin Friars 6s. 8d. To Sir Roger, parish priest, my ghostly father 12d. and to the *parish clerk* 4d.

24 Jan. 1500. *Agnes Meddowe* for an altar to be made before our Lady in the Wall 6s. 8d. and if it may not be made there to go to the repair of the church of Orford. Supervisor Sir John Brown. "My corall bedes⁶ that Sir John Brown parson of Sudbourne gave me."

23 Oct. 1504. *Robert Marryot*. To repair of Saint Bartholomew 3s. 4d. To repair of S. Andrew 20d. To repair of belframe 6s. 8d.

Dr. Bensly, of Norwich (there is no one more willing and ready to assist an antiquarian in his researches), has kindly forwarded the following extracts from Tanner's MS. in the Diocesan Registry, Norwich :—

Sudborne, omn. sanct. cum Capella de Orford.

Orf. dd. S. Barthol.

— dd. S. Nicholas.

Domesd. † Prior Elyensis est Patronus illius

Rector de Orford habet mansum.

6 Kal. Ap. 1226. Joēs Horshawe . . . ad præ. Pr. et Conv. Eliens.

* Lib. 1. 27. 6. Id. Ap. 1308. Dñs Tho. de Cantebr, (in eccl. de S. cum Cap. de O.) ad præ eorundem.

in eccl. sive Capella B. Barthol.

de Orford . . . 9 Ric. II.

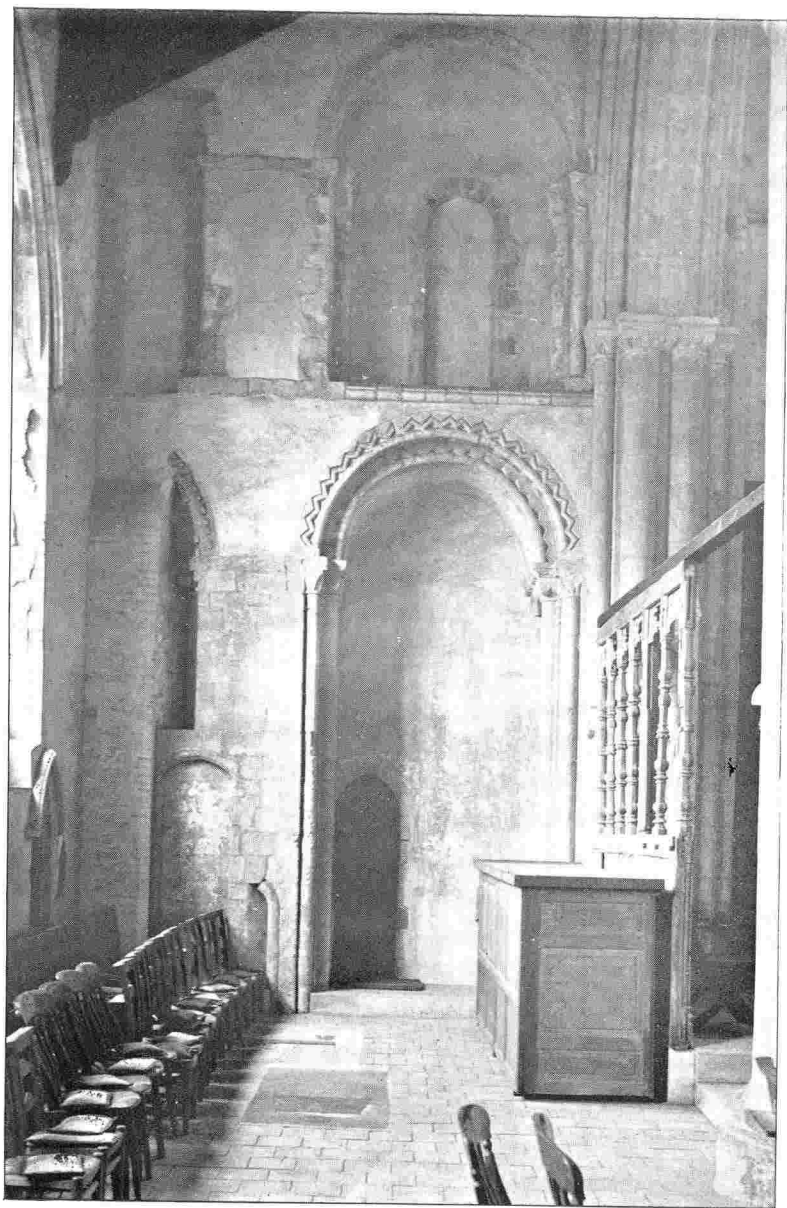
Pat. 3 Jōis n. 21. (o) Rx restituit p̄r Eliensi

Capellam de Oreford et jus ptm ad matricem Eccl. de Sudburn.

[There are numerous notes in the MS. of Institutions on the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Ely down to 1501...subsequent institutions are not mentioned in the MS. W.T.B.]

Many of our Suffolk churches appear to have a dual dedication, and doubtless as the commerce of Orford increased the seamen, fishermen, and their wives frequented the church to offer up their vows and prayers to S. Nicholas. Few churches were without altars to this patron saint of sailors, and as his devotees became more

Will of John de Wasford. parson of Orford. 1. Ed. I. Ips. Ist. Pleas



NORMAN ARCH, ORFORD CHURCH.

numerous those of the old patron saint may have become less.

Another altar to be found in most Anglian churches was that dedicated to S. Thomas the Martyr,* whose cause was championed by Bigot, Earl of Norfolk, and Robert, Earl of Leicester. The Countess of Leicester† landed a force of Flemings at Orford, and sent supplies from thence to her husband. The re-dedication of the altar of John the Baptist to S. Thomas of Canterbury, may be ascribed to the namesake of the Martyr, who was appointed rector in 1308. In the reign of Richard II. the town of Orford was fined the sum of 15 marks for the illicit practice of supplying the enemy with corn.

1. Thomas Manning, alias *Sudburn*, not Sudbury, as generally stated, was the last of the Priors of Butley, Suffragan Bishop of Ipswich, and instituted vicar‡ of Debenham, 13 Aug., 1536. Patron, Sir Thomas Rush. The first and next advowson was conceded by the Prior and Convent of Butley.

2. In 23 Edward I. Robert de Howel granted a piece of ground in Orford to the Friars of the Order of S. Augustin. to build a Priory. In 9 Edward II. the area of the ground was increased to the size of sixteen perches by sixteen, in order to enlarge the house. In 1198 Pope Innocent III.‡ conceived the idea of uniting the different congregations of Austin Hermits into a mendicant order under a General, who should reside at Rome. This project was carried into effect about the year 1215, when it was decreed the order should be known as the Hermit Friars of S. Augustine. The year 1250 is generally accepted as the date of their landing in England. The habit of the Order is Black, and comprises in addition to the long robe reaching to the feet and bound round the waist with a leathern cincture, a capuce or covering for the shoulders with a hood. These hermits are not to be confounded with anchorites who lived in cells, as the Hermit of Bredfield.

* Froude's *His. England*, Vol. III., p. 115. † Gardner's *Dunwich*, p. 7.

‡ *Induction Book, Diocesan Registry, Ipswich.*

§ Father O'Gorman's Article in *S. Peter's Mag.*, Sep., 1898.

A Robert,* son of Hugh de Howel, chevalier, and Johanne his wife, laid claim to land in Wickham Market, 6 Ed. III., and in 1330 the King ordered John de Loudham, Robert Howel,† and Thomas de Hindringham to make inquisition in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk for adherents of the late Earl of Kent.

3. The chapel of St. John the Baptist, with its "gilde," "hermit," and hospital, appears to have been an object of veneration to the townsfolk. Its site and its founder are alike unknown. The hospital for a Master and Brethren dedicated to S. Leonard‡ in the time of Edward II. remained until 1586. It is said to have stood near Sudburne Park, and the lands belonging to it are thought to have been enclosed within the park, whence a payment is made to certain poor persons annually.

4. At Gedgrave was a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Mary and S. George,§ and an old Hall called Holy House.

At the visitation of the Archdeacon in 1686, Theophilus Hook, Rector, and W. Green curate.

The Tenor Bell was broken.

The leads of the church were decayed so that it rained in at several places.

The floor of the south aisle was sunk.

The Great Bell split.

The seat inclosed at the South side of the church which belongs to Gedgrave required to be new paved and mended.

The partition of the Church and Chancel over the King's Arms (affixed 1676) was decayed, and

The South side of the Churchyard wall was in ruins.

The mother church at Sudburne "was formerly burnt and newly built in 1676."||

5. William Fuller dreaded to find a resting place on the north side of the church, where those who died without the pale of the Church were buried.

1556. Ultimo die mensis maij sepulta est Anna Christmas *extra sanctur*.¶

Feet of Fines. † Rymer's *Fœdera*. ‡ Dugdale's *Monas.* pub. 1846, Vol. vii. p. 776.
§ H. Moll's pub. 1724, p. 149. || Book of Visitation, Arch. Registry, Ipswich.

¶ Petistree Parish Register.

6. A Coral necklace was worn as an amulet or defensative * against fascination. Pliny, Lib. xxxii., states "Aruspices religiosum coralli gestamen amoliendis periculis arbitrantur; et surculi infantia alligati, tutelam habere creduntur."

Orford font bears the inscription—"Johannis Cokerelis et Katarine uxoris ejus qui istam fontem in honore dei . . . fieri. Orate pro aiabus." At the sides are the symbols of the evangelists, the Deity and Christ, the Virgin and dead Christ, angels holding instruments of the Passion, and emblems of the Trinity. On the shaft are, alternately, woodmen and beasts. Charsfield, Stradbroke, S. Mary, Bury S. Edmund's, Barking, and other churches, have similar shafts to their fonts.

The question often arises,—Why are the shafts of fonts ornamented with sculptures of "wild men," known as woodmen? Many suggestions offer themselves to this query, but no satisfactory answer has been given. Do the images at Orford represent S. John the Baptist, a patron saint of the town? The representation appears to be that of a wood-man or wild-man (A.S. wod-mad, savage), also called a "wood-house." † The crest of the Wodehouse family, Co. Norfolk, is a demi-savage with a club. This image, clad in a bearskin resembles "Orson, who suckled by a bear, became very fierce and slew the wild beasts of the forest. No one dared go into the woods through the fear of him; wherever he went a bear accompanied him. Subsequently, as a slave of his brother Valentine, the 'savage man,' conquered the black knight." In religious plays the devil was personated by a man, who clad in bearskin attacked Vice with a club. It may be that the images are symbolical, either of the victory over sin, heresy, and the devil § (*i.e.* the derne hunte, † the crafty hunter), in baptism, or are representative of the wild untutored savage who must yield to the power of Christianity.

* Sir T. Brown, Bk. v. chap. 24.

† *Archæologia* xxix., p. 40.

§ "Effigies draconis, quæ cum vexillis in ecclesiasticis processionibus deferri solet qua vel diabolus ipse, vel hæresis designatur, de quibus triumphat ecclesia."—

Ducange, sub. v. 'Draco.'

‡ King Alfred's Bestiary.

A great work of judicious preservation and restoration has been recently undertaken by the Rev. E. M. Scott, acting under the directions of the well-known architect, Mr. Micklethwaite, F.S.A., who estimates that an expenditure of £10,000 will be necessary to place the church in a fit condition for Divine Service. The Rector writes:—

“I am now doing all I can to get the South Aisle restored. This will cost £2,500, of which I have collected £1,100: I hope you will mention this and urge your members to help me in this matter, and also get their friends to take an interest in this great work.”

Earlier
Records }

Orford in 1697 was honoured with giving a title of Earl to the Edward Russell, son of the Duke of Bedford, who as Admiral gained a signal victory over the French in 1692. The honour was again conferred upon the town when Robert Walpole was created Earl of Orford, 1742. Robert Walpole, father of the Earl of Orford, held lands in both Tunstal and Blaxhall, which he inherited 1688, upon the death of his brother Edward, a scholar of Woodbridge School 1674. The honour was conferred for a third time by the bestowal of the title upon Horatio Walpole in 1806.

* Edward Walpole, M.A., Trin. Coll., Cambridge, received lands from Robert Walpole and Maria his wife, daughter of Sir Jeffrey Burwell of Rougham, co. Suffolk.

“Know all men by the use of these presents, that I, Deborah Brame, widow, lady of the Manor of Valence in Blaxall have constituted, deputed, and appointed William Betts of Yoxford in the Co. of Suffolk, gent. my steward of the Manor for this time only to receive and take from Robert Walpole, brother and heir of Edward Walpole, deceased, late copyhold tenant all lands, &c. descended to him after the death of the said Edward Walpole.”

This paper is but a short sketch of part of the town's history, there yet remains to be written a history worthy of this old and ancient borough.

* Court Rolls of the Manor of Valence in Blaxall, 1688.