

EXCURSIONS, 1913.

It was arranged by the Council that there should be, as in previous years, a half-day excursion held in addition to the annual excursion arranged for at the General Meeting. The district selected was Melton and its immediate neighbourhood.

On Wednesday, 12th July, 1913, more than forty members of the Institute, with their friends, were met by the Hon. Excursion Secretary at the site of the Old Melton Prison, formerly the gaol of the Liberty of St. Etheldreda. The place is now used for a granary. Its massive walls, its deep cells, and its well executed wood-carving, in turn formed the centre of attraction. Mr. Charles Smith, the present owner of the property, kindly permitted the company to assemble upon his lawn in order to listen to a paper, descriptive of the Old Gaol, read by Mr. V. B. Redstone.

During the inspection of the buildings it was pointed out that artistic drawings representing ships of the 18th Century were probably the work of some prisoners.

The Rector of Melton, the Rev. H. G. Broke, and several of his parishioners, were present at the meeting, and expressed the pleasure of hearing information about the historical importance of the Old Gaol.

Leaving the Gaol the members proceeded to the ancient meeting place of the Hundred of Wilford, an eminence standing by the three-leet way near Wilford

Bridge, and which commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. It was upon the edge of a deep shelving sand-pit that Mr. Redstone took his stand to read to the company an account of the Hundred Moots of Suffolk. He drew particular attention to the site upon which they were assembled, pointing out the suitability of the eminence for the erection of the Hundred gibbet. Skeletons of malefactors who had been buried near the gibbet, upon which they had been hanged, often roll down the side of the pit, whence sand has been removed for ships' ballast.

A visit was then made to the most interesting village church of Ufford. The Rector, the Rev. W. J. Wyan, welcomed the visitors, and pointed out the characteristic features of his church, its noble font-cover, its well-executed bench-ends, retaining most remarkable specimens of native wood-carving of the 15th Century, the panels of its ancient screen, its 16th Century brasses, and many other items of interest.

An unannounced pleasure awaited the company. Edward Brooke, Esq., J.P., owner of Ufford Place, visited the church and most kindly invited all present to be his guests at Ufford Place, where about fifty sat down to tea. Mr. Brooke gave still greater pleasure to his visitors when he allowed them to enter his house to view what is most certainly one of the finest private libraries in the county. Sir Gerald Ryan, supported by Mr. E. Packard, thanked Mr. Brooke on behalf of the Institute and especially of the company present for the warm welcome he had bestowed on them, and for the opportunity which he had given them of seeing so remarkable and valuable a collection of books.