

Cotton, in Suffolk, and Harleston, in Norfolk, installed Prebend of Norwich, Oct. 18, 1670.

Leaving Cotton, a pretty drive of three miles brought the party to MENDLESHAM, at which place Camden fixes a residence of the East Anglian Kings. Here, towards the close of the 17th century, a large silver ornament, supposed at the time to be a crown, but more probably a torque, was found; and subsequently a gold ring, inscribed with runic letters, was unearthed. The church, with its fine tower abutting upon the high road, is dedicated to St. Mary. The tower and porches are of the Perpendicular period, while the nave and the North and South doors are good Early English work. The South aisle, with good windows, belongs to the next period. The North porch is a fine specimen of the 16th century work, with a chamber roughly panelled with oak slabs, and having an iron bound door, fastened by a curious lock. It has been used as the town armoury, and still contains various pieces of 17th century armour, including a musket and powder flask of the period. Here also are two church chests full of old parish accounts and stray leaves of an early Register. The Communion plate (the chalice bearing date 1662), is also kept here. The four angle buttresses of this porch terminate in bold grotesque figures of the wild man and his dogs. Two other points deserve notice, viz., the original benching and the simple cot for the sanctus-bell, a plain rectangular opening in the gable of the nave.

The following notes on the earlier history of the parish were read at the meeting :

The history of the Lordship of Mendlesham during the reign of the early Norman Kings seems somewhat uncertain. The family of Danmartin is stated to have been enfeoffed of the Lordship soon after the Conquest; Odo de Danmartin held lands here in the time of Henry II. (Pipe Rolls), and Galiena de Danmartin exchanged the Manor with Hugh de Mandeville for lands in Essex, by a fine levied 41st Henry III. (1256). Hugh, styled the son of Otto de Danmartin, held the Lordship, and obtained a patent for a fair in the year 1280 (9th Edward I.) He is called the Master of the Mint. In *Domesday Book*, the name of Otto, a goldsmith, occurs as holding lands in Essex, and in Suffolk at Mendlesham. He is supposed to have been the father of Otto, the younger, to whom Henry I., about the year 1107, restored the mysteries of the dies. Later in this reign, William Fitz Otto, goldsmith, was confirmed in the lands his father had possessed, on condition of performing the duties of the office which Otto, the goldsmith, had executed. The office to which this relates bore the title of *Cuneator*, and was the only hereditary office connected with the Mint. The tenure seems to have been by *petit serjeanty*, and the duties, to superintend and appoint the engravers of dies, an office of no small trust at any time, but more especially when we remember the number of Mints which had licence to coin money. In 1264 (49th Henry III.), Thomas Fitz Otho claimed as his right by inheritance all the broken dies, and he presented before the barons Ralph de Blund to the office of cutter of the King's dies.

In 1301 (30th Edward I.), the Manor passed to Sir John Botetout, upon his marriage with Maud, the heir of Hugh Fitz Otho. The office of *Cuneator* being hereditary, vested in Sir John Botetout, in right of his wife; upon his death it was sold by the widow to Lord Latimer. Sir John Botetout was Governor of Briavels Castle, in Gloucestershire, and Admiral of the King's Fleet. He was distinguished in the Scottish wars of Edward I., and was one of the 104 Barons and Knights who in the name of the Commonalty of England gave answer to the Pope's assumption of

temporal power, claiming for the See of Rome power to dispose of the Kingdom of Scotland, that, "By the grace of God it is, and shall always be our common and unanimous resolve, that with respect to the rights of his Kingdom of Scotland, or other his temporal rights, our aforesaid lord the King shall not plead before you, nor suffer his right to be brought into question by any inquiry." Thus early, as Lingard remarks, did our ancestors distinguish between the spiritual and temporal authority of the Pontiff.

Sir John Botetout was summoned to Parliament as a Baron in 1308 (2nd Edward II.) He died 1311 seized of the Manors of Carbrooke Woodhall, and Butetorts in Cranworth, Norfolk, and of Mendlesham, in Suffolk. His eldest son, Thomas, dying in his lifetime, he was succeeded by his grandson John, a minor, in whose descendants the Barony remained until 1406, when it fell into abeyance between three daughters. In 1764 Narbonne Berkeley, Esq., established his claim to the Barony, but on his death it again fell into abeyance, until it was called out in favour of Henry Somerset, fifth Duke of Beaufort, descended from the sister and heiress of Narbonne Berkeley. The Barony is now merged in the Dukedom.

The second son of Lord Botetout was John, whose daughter and heir married Sir Robert Swynburn.

With the third, or, according to other authorities, the fifth son we are more immediately interested; he is styled *Otho of Mendlesham*, and we may fairly assume that he made this place his residence.

Geoffrey de Bottetourt

William de Bottetourt

John de Bottetourt—Matilda, sister and h. of Otho, and d. of Thomas Fitz Otho, by  
Lord of Mendlesham, summoned to Parliament as a Baron 10 Edw. ii., ob. 18 Edw. II. Beatrix, d. and coh. of William Beauchamp, Baron of Bedford, who married secondly William de Monchensis, of Edwardstone

Otho, 5th son, = Sibilla (?)  
ob. 19 Edw. III.

John de Bottetourt = Catherine, d. of William Weyland, Kt.

Johanna = John Knyvet, son of Sir John Knyvet

From Otto the estate seems to have passed to his son Sir John, 19 Edward III., whose daughter, Joane, carried the estate by marriage to John Knyvet, the son of Sir John Knyvet, of Buckenham Castle, in Norfolk. A shield on the stone work of the West door, much worn, appears to bear the arms of John Knyvet. The brass which now lies in the nave, but which not long ago laid in the South aisle, probably represents this John Knyvet. The brass is that of a knight in the plate armour of the beginning of the 15th century. The only coat upon the brass still remaining, viz., 3 piles within a bordure sable, charged with besants, is that of his mother, the wife of the Lord Chancellor, and one of the co-heiresses of the Lords Basset, of Weldon. But when Sir J. Blois made his church notes, there were two other coats of arms, viz., Knyvet impaling Fitz Otto or Boutetort (Bendy of 6 a canton) and Knyvet impaling Basset. It also bore this, "Hic Jacet John Knyvet A Dom. istius villæ qui obiit 1417." Upon the West door the two coats, noted by Sir T. Blois as Boutertort impaling Weyland and Knyvet quartering Bourtetort, seem to imply that the church tower was completed if not built by John Knyvet. It is pleasant to think that he may have used his ample fortune to complete church

work begun by the family the heiress of which he married. The Knyvet Hall is said to have stood to the East of the church. Mendlesham remained in the Knyvet family for several generations. After the Reformation they appear to have become possessed of the Advowson, which had been originally granted by William Rufus to the Abbey of Battel. Sir Thomas Knyvet, who died in 1569, in an elaborate will settling his vast estates, bequeaths to his next heir his Manor of Mendlesham, and directs that the next turn of presentation to the Vicarage be given to "Oliver Mellynge, his servant," an early illustration of Macaulay's sketch of the post Reformation clergy. In 1649, the grandson of this Sir Thomas sold most of his possessions in Norfolk and Suffolk.

## LORDS OF THE MANOR.

9 E. I.	1281	HUGH, son of OTHO DE DANMARTIN. THOMAS FITZ OTHO (son and heir of Otto Cuneator). Died 2 E. I.
2 E. I.	1274	HUGH FITZ OTHO, son and heir. D. 11 Edw. I., 1283.
11 E. I.	1283	MAUD, sister and coh., m. Sir John de Botitourt.
17 E. II.	1323	OTTO DE BOTITOURT, 5th son.
19 E. III.	1345	Sir JOHN DE BOTITOURT. JOANE, d. and h., married John Knevet, Esq. Died 1417
5 Henry V.	1417	Sir JOHN KNEVET, son and heir.
9 Henry V.	1421	JOHN KNEVET, Esq., son and heir.
24 Henry VI.	1446	Sir WILLIAM KNEVET, Kt, son and heir.
7 Henry VIII.	1515	Sir THOMAS KNEVET, Kt., son and heir. Sir EDMUND KNEVET, son and heir. Sir THOMAS KNEVET, of Buckenham Castle, Kt., son and heir.
11 Eliz.	1569	Sir THOMAS KNEVET, son and heir. Died 1595.
	1609	JOHN ELDRED, Gent.

After a visit to STOKE ASH Church, where the Rev. W. H. Sewell read the paper printed in Vol. IV., p. 417, the party halted for luncheon at the White Horse, a road-side inn better known in days gone by. After luncheon, the Rev. Professor Churchill Babington read a paper upon a find of Roman coins, lately made at Lavenham, and then the party proceeded to

THORNDON ALL SAINTS, where the members were met by the Rev. Dr. Lee, who pointed out the chief objects of interest in this restored church, first calling attention to the North and South doorways,\* which, with one of the windows in the chancel, indicated the existence of a church of Decorated style, about 1330. The general style of the building was that of about the middle of the 14th century, when the nave was probably almost rebuilt and lengthened. How reluctant our fore-fathers seemed to be to destroy evidences of those who preceded them, and how often we find a doorway, window, or arch carefully preserved and remaining a witness of the piety of a past generation! The tower, which stands on the South side of the nave, is Perpendicular. When the church was restored, evidences were discovered that the church had at one time suffered from fire, and probably owing to that calamity the

\* On the porch are the arms of Hemenhall or Hempnall. On a fess between 2 chevrons 3 escallops. *Davy.*

nave and a portion of the chancel were rebuilt during the Perpendicular period. The niche in the South-east angle of the tower entrance is a fine specimen of 14th century work, and one of the windows of the tower is deeply splayed externally. The font is of the 15th century, and is very similar to many others in Suffolk and Norfolk. The Rector also pointed out the fine carved lectern, copied from that at Shipdham, Norfolk, lately presented to the church, and the beautifully carved wooden reredos in three compartments, in the centre one of which the Last Supper is represented, presented by the family of the late Rector, observing that whether it could be retained depended on the decision in the Exeter Cathedral case. Subsequently, at the Rectory, some Saxon remains, discovered in the parish not long since, were shown.

At BRAISEWORTH, the next parish visited, a new church was built in 1857. But, the old graveyard being still used, the nave of the original church has been retained for the burial services. The beautiful Norman South door has been removed to the new church, but there are still remains of very early work, especially in a window on the North side. The Rector, the Rev. R. M. Bingley, kindly read extracts from *Domesday Book* relating to the parish, and spoke of the three Manors in the parish, Old Hall, New Hall, and Boirles. With reference to the fabric and its ornaments, he said the original building was Norman, if not earlier. When the nave was pulled down in 1856 two windows with semi-circular heads were discovered in the South wall, similar in character to, but larger than, that which remains in the North wall of the chancel. The dimensions of the chancel are stated to be 18 ft. 5 in. by 13 ft. 6 in., and of the nave to have been 31 ft. 10 in. by 15 ft. 4 in. The foundations appeared to be laid without concrete, and consisted of deep and wide trenches filled with loose flints. At the East end they came upon an apparent extension of the foundations as though an apse had formerly existed. The two most interesting remains were two Norman doorways which were removed to the new church and there restored and erected. One was a unique specimen of a rude pointed arch with rough Norman mouldings. A theory had been advanced that this doorway was built at a later date, of old Norman materials, but Mr. Bingley thought it a complete answer to this that the mouldings diminished towards the apex of the arch, which would not have been the case had they ever belonged to a semi-circular arch. The churchyard had no boundaries. The remains of a later date are the ambry or credence table, the piscina, the remains of the old chancel gate, and monuments to Alexander Newton, Esq., 1569, to William Colman, 1643, and John Greene, 1642; an iron frame for an hour glass, and two stone coffins. The new church is in the Norman style, with a large heavy West window with wheel tracery in the head, the walls being of rubble with Caen stone dressings.

A short drive brought the party to EYE, and a halt in front of the Union House, from whence an excellent view of the earth-work, known as Eye castle, can be obtained. Here the Rev. C. R. Manning read the

suggestive paper printed in Vol. V., p. 104, and the party then adjourned to the church, where the Rev. W. H. Sewell read such parts of his exhaustive paper upon the church as time permitted. This paper is reserved for a future part of the *Proceedings*. The day ended with a call at the Vicarage, where the Rev. W. Page Roberts had most kindly prepared a welcome for all, and ample support against the fatigues of the homeward journey.

D.