

On the 15th April, 1886, the Council met at Bury. Present Mr. Beckford Bevan, in the absence of the President, and afterwards the Lord John Hervey, took the chair. During the meeting his lordship expressed his intention to retire from the presidency. Nine members were present. Several matters were discussed affecting the interests of the Institute. The librarian, Mr. Stephens, was instructed not to allow any volumes of the Fitch collection, or other similar books, to be taken from the rooms, unless under a special order. It was resolved that the Parts of Proceedings, and the publications in hand, be sold to members as required to complete their sets, at prices to be determined by the Secretaries.

A General Annual Meeting of members was held on Thursday, April 15, 1886. The chair was taken by Edward M. Dewing, Esq. Twelve members being present. The Rev. C. H. E. White read the report, 1885-6: and three new members were elected. A communication from the Society of Antiquaries, calling attention to the historical value and importance of Court Rolls, and the pressing need for their preservation, was read, and supported by the Rev. C. R. Manning, who explained the desirability of giving publicity to the matter.

A Council Meeting was held at the Athenæum, Bury, on Monday, July 19, 1886. Present Sir Louis S. Jackson in the chair, also eight other members. The minutes of the last Council Meeting were read and confirmed. This meeting was specially called to take into consideration the vacancy in the office of President, with the view to the selection of a gentleman to fill the position. It was proposed by Mr. Dewing and seconded by Mr. Beckford Bevan, that the Lord Henniker be recommended to a General Meeting for election to the vacant office of President, if it should appear that his lordship would accept the office. Carried unanimously.

The subject of the excursion was discussed, and it was decided to visit Denston and the neighbourhood, in the summer of 1887.

GENERAL MEETING.—SUDBURY, CHILTON, ACTON.

OCTOBER 5th, 1886.

The members of the Institute and their friends assembled at the Railway Station, Sudbury, at 10 o'clock. Here they were met by the Mayor, Ex-Mayor, and Town Clerk, and other gentlemen, including Mr. W. W. Hodson, who ably acted as local secretary and guide. The party, accompanied by Mr. E. M. Dewing, and Rev. C. H. E. White, the honorary secretaries, proceeded by way of the Priory to All Saints' Church, which was minutely examined, a goodly number of the party

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climbing into the priest's chamber over the vestry, where some good iron work screens were shewn and several constructive features of a former building pointed out. Both here and at the other churches a number of the inhabitants were present, who listened with evident attention to the papers read.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

An interesting paper was here read by the vicar, the Rev. C. J. Stower, who at the outset paid a deserved tribute of respect to his predecessor, the Rev. Charles Badham, who died in 1873, and who had bequeathed a valuable legacy in his "History and Antiquities of the Church." The general style of the architecture is Perpendicular, but the chancel, which dates from the reign of Edward III. is of the Decorated style, with a few traces of Early English, which were probably the most ancient architectural remains now standing in this town. The rest of the church may be said to have been erected in the reign of Richard III., A.D. 1350, or early in the reign of Henry VIII., A.D. 1490. Mr. Badham says, "The Lambeth Records state that during the first Dutch War, in the reign of Charles II., the church was converted into a prison, and 'ruinated,' by the prisoners," but one of the Harleian MSS. used the term "damaged," which was evidently more correct. The font deserves attention, although there is nothing exceptional about it. It stands at the west end of the nave, and is one of those of octagonal form, usually found in churches of the Third period. The base mouldings are modern. The benches are interesting, and the poppy heads are copies of ancient specimens found at Lavenham, and other churches in the neighbourhood, and were carved by the late Mr. Thomas Elliston, at one time sexton and subsequently churchwarden of that church and afterwards of S. Gregory's, who was a self taught wood carver and a well-known church restorer. The roofs are very fine, and that of the nave bears traces of mediæval painting: the joists are decorated with arrows, not very clearly distinguishable; their points are in the direction of the ridge. Formerly there was some ornamental work in the south aisle, at the in-sections of the ridge and tie-beams, but it has been removed. The roof of the north aisle is worthy of remark. It is very massive and the mouldings of its timbers are of the best description. The bosses which are all perfect, present some of the best leaved-patterns in the style. The Tudor flower, which adorns the cornice is like-wise very good. The principal timbers are supported by carved braces and wall-pieces, with hammer-beams resting upon corbels. A considerable amount of restoration has been effected, but the old carving, &c., has been scrupulously preserved and the work done on the old "lines." Thus, with the exception of the four north windows, all the stone-work and glass in the church is new. There are one five-light, one four-light, and 15 three-light windows, exclusive of the 10 clerestory windows. The pulpit is one of the few existing octagonal pulpits of the 14th century.. Mr. Badham states that it was *discovered* in the year

1849, although the date generally assigned to it is 1490. There are supposed to be only four earlier examples. It is a very chaste specimen of the early Perpendicular, beautifully proportioned, carved in the higher parts of the panels and terminating in a stem of great purity, resting upon an octagonal stone plinth. The oak is as sound as it was upon the day that it was erected and the edges of the carving are almost as perfect as though they had come fresh from the carver's hands. Mr. Badham's expression "discovered" may be explained as follows:—For centuries the pulpit had been boarded round with deals and covered with paint, blue outside, the churchwarden of the period being a Conservative—and yellow inside, the Vicar being a Liberal. Some slight repairs were necessary, and the Vicar watching the carpenter at his work, noticed something dark beneath, and directed the workman to knock off the outer panels, when the present pulpit re-appeared. The Screens, four in number, are of a rich description and among the best examples that can now be met with. They are all of the Perpendicular style and abound in ornamental detail. The rood screen, judging from the base and lower panels, which have been preserved, must have been magnificent. The organ screen is made of materials found in the "parvis" or priest's chamber over the vestry. Entering the chancel, we are reminded that this is probably not the only church which has occupied this site. The stone door-way leading to the Tower stairs is built upon monumental slabs of a much earlier date, tending to the opinion that this is probably the second church built upon this spot. But the chancel is of an earlier date than the rest of the church, three styles of architecture, the early English, the Decorated, and the Perpendicular, are distinguishable, although the latter predominates. The east window was designed by Mr. W. M. Fawcett, of Cambridge, and is considered to be in excellent keeping with its surroundings. The coloured glass is modern, having been put in during the last few years.

Two vicars, John Olyer, from A.D. 1400 to 1424, and William Puttock, from A.D. 1571 to 1581, and many distinguished personages are interred in the chancel.

Near the chancel steps is placed a slab, supposed to be one of the original stones of the former church, (to which allusion has been made,) which bears the following inscription—

"Hugo de Linton
Vicar of this Parish
On the presentation of the Abbey & Convent of
St. Alban
A.D. 1307 to A.D. 1317."

The chantry-or south chapel has been much restored, nearly the whole of it being new material, with the exception of the walls and roof. The four-light window had been bricked up for many years, and the Gibbon's mural tablet erected over it, but this was removed to the tower and traces of the old window discovered and carefully imitated.

The north chapel (which is called the Eden chapel) is full of interest. It was one of the burial places of the families of Eden and Waldegrave. It was probably erected or re-erected at the time when the north aisle was rebuilt, but the wall next the chancel must have been that of the former edifice.

Much information is to be found on the mural tablet at the north-east corner, which is generally read with interest by visitors to the church. The pedigree of the families of Eden and Waldegrave, painted upon the wall, is also a curiosity of considerable interest rarely to be met with in any church. The stone recording the fact that Sir Thomas Eden, *Knight*, here lies buried A.D. 1616, was removed, when the organ was erected and placed directly at the west of the screen. It must once have been very handsome, but the brasses have all been taken away, probably by William Dowsing, who visited this church on January 9th, 1643, and did much damage. The vestry is worth visiting, where for the benefit of the Society, are to be seen our parish registers, dating as far back as A.D. 1564, in excellent preservation, and also our handsome communion plate, bearing the inscription, "The Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Theobald, to ye Parish of All Saints' Sudbury, A.D. 1757." Near the vestry door, in the churchyard, is the Gainsborough tomb, which is always shewn with pride to visitors, containing the remains of several near relatives of Thomas Gainsborough, the celebrated landscape painter, who was born in this town in the year 1727 and is buried at Kew.

The Vicar concluded by saying that there were many other points of interest, which the necessary limits of his paper, could not permit him to introduce; but as to the initiated they told their own story, he sincerely trusted their visit to the old church of All Saints, Sudbury, might not prove uninteresting.

The party then proceeded by Cross Street and Stour Street, Mr. Hodson calling attention to the old Bull Inn, with its massive joists and oaken door; the ancient timbered house in Cross Street, recently restored to some extent, once the residence of the Mayor; and to the fine old house in Stour Street, the residence of Surgeon-General Sparrow. Mr. Dewing read a letter he had received from the Rev. H. Elliot, of Gosfield, suggesting that the quaint carvings on the bracket of the oriel window might be "heraldic supporters." Mr. Hodson said the house was at one time the Salters' Hall, and was probably of the date about 1450, and was said to have been built by one Walter Cony, a distinguished merchant. Mr. G. Bevan said in that case it was probable the carvings had a "punning" allusion to the name, for the centre figure had evidently a "coney" or rabbit under one of his arms, and a hound between his feet. By the courtesy of Dr. Sparrow the interior of the house was inspected, and also an out-house with huge beams of chestnut wood, on which (Dr. Sparrow said) the spiders did not weave their webs.

Mr. Bevan called attention to the picturesque appearance of Stour

Street with its overhanging foliage, and Mr. Hodson pointed out the site of S. Sepulchre's church, and gave some account of the building and its surrounding croft. The party then proceeded to

S. GREGORY'S CHURCH,

where the visitors were met by the rector, the Rev. T. Lingard Green, who briefly described some of the salient features of the building.

The following paper was then read by Mr. Hodson.

"Having been asked to give a few particulars respecting the church in which we are now assembled, I would first remark that it is a very interesting one on account of its architecture, its history and former surroundings. As Sudbury was in the time of the Heptarchy (and as its name implies) the chief town in the south of East Anglia, it is very probable there was then a church here, occupying the site of the present building, and also that of a prior Saxon temple. The Anglo Saxon chronicle informs us that Bishop Alfin died in Sudbury, in 797. S. Gregory's church is mentioned 200 years after, about 970, when Atheric gave one moiety of a hospital he had founded to S. Gregory's, in Sudbury, and the other moiety to Bury. Soon afterwards Lady Ethelbeda, widow of Berthnōth, Duke of East Anglia, bequeathed land at Waldingfield to this church, stating that her sister on her death bed had formerly given it. The pious testatrix to S. Gregory's also helped to found the abbey at Ely. In the Domesday Survey it is stated that this church was possessed of 50 acres of land and 25 acres of meadow. Coming down to the reign of King John, 1206, it is stated that Amicia, Countess of Clare, gave the church to the Prioress of Eaton. Apparently, however, she only confirmed the grant of her father, William, Earl of Gloucester, giving "the chapple of St. Peter and the church of St. Gregory" to the monks of Eaton. This grant was formally ratified by Henry II. In the 15th year of John, the countess complained to the King that the presentation of the church and chapel was unjustly withheld from her. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1288, the three parish churches are mentioned. The next mention we have of this church is its purchase of the priory of Eaton by Simon de Sudbury, whose reputed head is preserved in a niche in the vestry, with a parchment containing particulars of his life. The bishop's brother John united with him in the purchase, and shortly afterwards Simon founded "a goodly college here for six secular priests, of whom one was to be warden or master," to "perform the divine office daily according to the ordinances of the said Simon and John." The college was built on the site of their father's house, where the Union House now stands. The gateway remains, but has been restored. The college was richly endowed, and will be alluded to in the paper on the Town Records. Thus the history of the church is an ancient and a somewhat chequered one.

The present building is probably the third erected here. A piscina of an earlier church remains in the east wall of the sanctuary, and here and at All Saints the belfry doorways are built on early monumental slabs. Pieces of worked ashlar of a former building can be seen outside S. Anne's chapel, adjoining the porch. Simon de Sudbury rebuilt the chancel in 1365, and the lower portion of the walls and his priests' moveable seats still remain; the sub-selia of the miserere on the first return-stall on the south side has the talbot's or hound's head, from the Archbishop's arms. Weaver found his arms in a window in the north aisle with an "orate," but they have long since disappeared. They are blazoned in a window at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

With regard to the present building it may be remarked that the chancel is an unusually deep one, as long as the nave. There was originally a crypt or sacristy under the sacramentum, and the external arches of the windows remain. While the north arcade is of early date, the south one is as late as from 1500 to 1530. The mouldings in the former are elaborate, and have been poorly imitated in the south arcade. The eastern bay of the north aisle, where was formerly a chapel, overlaps the chancel. The clerestory is an addition, and the "weathering" of the old high-pitched roof can be plainly seen above the chancel and tower arches. The parapet of the nave is level with that of the chancel. The "members" of the string-course on the north outer walls are said by Mr. Butterfield to be unusually fine, especially taking into account their position. The roofs are well worthy of attention. The cornices of the flat chancel roof are embellished with rows of angels with outstretched wings, bearing the Instruments of the Passion. The bosses on the roof of the north aisle represent the Virgin within a wreath, a shield charged with a boar (the De Vere's badge), and an heraldic oak branch. The interesting chapel of S. Anne, the mausoleum of the Carters, has been recently restored by a representative of the family, the Rev. S. R. Carter, rector of Brantham, near Manningtree. The tomb of Thomas Carter, a benefactor to the Sudbury poor, has a long inscription in Latin, ending quaintly with, 'Traveller, I will relate a wondrous thing. On the day upon which the above-mentioned Thos. Carter breathed out his soul, a Sudbury camel went through the eye of a needle! Go, and should you be rich, do likewise. Farewell.'

At the restoration of this chapel a lychscope was found, and also the original consecration cross, and a similar cross was found near the priest's door in the chancel. There was formerly a chapel to S. Mary the Virgin. The font has several times figured in architectural works, its cover being very rich and unique, of tabernacle work painted and gilded, probably of the time of Henry vi. There are similar examples at Ufford, Blythburgh, Cothelstone (Somersetshire), and Chevening, near Sevenoaks, Kent. The font itself is modern. There were formerly numerous brasses here, but only the matrices remain. One is of a bishop or mitred abbot. One Bishop Jane was buried here, for a will is extant of the 15th century, directing that the body of the testator shall

be buried near the high altar here, next to the tomb of Bishop Jane. I have not been able to discover who this bishop was. Wm. Wood, the warden of the College, and founder of our Grammar School (1492), was also buried within the sanctuary, that his brethren might look on his tomb at their devotions. He bequeathed books and vessels for the high altar. A slab, bereft of the brass figure and scroll inscriptions or legends, removed some years since from the north of the chancel, and now placed at the east end of the south aisle, is probably the one which covered the remains of the pious warden and scholastic. Near the same spot next the south wall is an incised slab of a female member of the Quintin family, probably the wife of Robert de Quintin, a Sudbury wool merchant, of the time of Edward I. I am informed by Sir Wm. Parker that her name is mentioned in 1301 as 'Segeyna.' Some of the De Quintins were buried in the Friars' church. From an inquisition of 3 Edward I., it appears that Robert and John De St. Quintin and other merchants exported wool 'contrary to the statute through the port of Ipswich beyond the sea.' There is an altar tomb outside attached to the south side of the tower, which was probably removed from within the building. There are eight bells, as at the other churches. In 1785 the peal was increased to eight, and in 1821, five of the bells were replaced by new ones. The tower is well proportioned, with a watch tower at the south-east angle. William Dowsing, the Parliamentary Visitor, came here, 9th January, 1643, and "brake down 10 mighty angels in glass, in all 80," so that originally all or most of the windows were of stained glass. The church had formerly a west gallery, high pews, of almost all shapes, and a 'three-decker' (erected 1722), which were swept away about a quarter of a century ago:

In the churchyard there was an ancient hermitage, which in 1433 was inhabited by John Levnyton and Richard Appleby, the latter described as 'a trewe member of Holy Chirche, and a gode gostly Levere.' The hermitage was truly described, from its position, as a 'Solitary place'; it was built at the cost of the parish that 'virtues myght increase and vice be exiled.' A field near the Long Croft was known formerly as 'The Hermitage.'

The oldest Register dates from 1590, but it is mutilated. There are not many early entries of public or local interest.

About 1820 a portion of the Croft was added to the churchyard. Croft Fair (now abolished) as originally granted, was held on the fifth Sunday in Lent, but it being rightly thought a profanation of the Lord's day, it was afterwards held on the Monday after, or on SS. Peter's and Paul's day, 29th June, on the neighbouring Croft."

Mr. J. C. Ford, Bury S. Edmund's, then read an interesting paper on Sir John Schorn, one of the East Anglian mediæval saints, whose shrine was a popular resort. Mr. Ford exhibited some beautiful paintings of figures of the saint represented as "conjuring the devil into a boot," a miracle which was accredited to him by the ignorant populace of his

time, and which referred probably to the reputed cures for gout effected by the medicinal spring named after him. The Rector exhibited a panel from one of the rood screens in the town, on which the saint is represented in the act of performing the reputed miracle. This pseudo-saint, Master John Shorn, was of Kentish birth. In an account of Shorne church there is a wood-cut representing him in the gown and cap of a Doctor of Divinity, and his head encircled by a wide nimbus.

(*Archæologia Cantiana* xi., lxi.: see also *Proceedings of Suffolk Institute* I., 222; *Norfolk Archæology* II., 280).

S. PETER'S CHURCH.

This church, next visited, was thus described by Mr. Hodson.

"We have here a building of a somewhat different type from the two already visited, for though they are mainly 'Perpendicular' in style, they contain portions of earlier buildings, and examples of different periods. But here we have a building apparently erected at one period, early in Henry VIII's reign, about 1484, with the exception of the nave roof, put up about 1685. We have already seen that 'the chappel of St. Peter,' was mentioned as early as the beginning of the 13th century, and again towards the end of that century, and there are also other references to the chapel, for example—the hanging of a great bell in 1376, a new font in 1456, and in the grant by Henry VIII, to Sir Thomas Paston of the lands and property of S. Gregory's College, the 'rectory, chappel, and church of S. Peter,' are specially mentioned. The original 'chapel' must have been entirely removed to make room for the present church, which was built at a time when the Sudbury merchants were prosperous woollen manufacturers, and when indeed many of the Suffolk churches were largely restored or rebuilt. At the visit of the members of the Royal Archæological Society in 1876, Dr. Freeman described the present building as being one of a distinct East Anglian type, with a long clerestory, with two windows in each bay, and with a fine nave roof, which from its singular 'coves' was almost unique in its peculiar construction. It will be seen that the aisles are nearly of the same length as the tower, nave, and chancel combined; the tower is supported by four very fine lofty arches. The chancel is built at an angle with the nave, which may be an example of orientation, or symbolism, pointing to the crucifixion, but the inclination might have been caused by the fact that a large house stood at the east end, nearly abutting on the church walls. There are other irregularities in the plan at the western end, where the building was formerly entirely surrounded by houses. The parclose screens are considered very fine examples of middle Perpendicular work, and abound in ornamental detail. The cornices are rich with running foliage; tendrils, leaves, and grapes, being carved in rich profusion. The canopies with their ogee crockets are also very beautiful. At one time these screens were white-washed, and at another painted blue. At their restoration in 1855 a dozen coats of colour were

scraped off the woodwork. The rood screen has disappeared and several pieces of the painted mullions may be seen in the roof of the south aisle at the east end. The stair-case doorway and openings to the loft still remain. There are two chantries or chapels. There were formerly altars to S. Marie and S. John.

The rood canopy, painted and gilded, is rather an unusual feature. Traces of a 'Doom' painting over the chancel arch were found at the restoration. Over the porch is a parvis or priest's chamber, and tradition runs that there was formerly a library here. In an inventory taken 1673, Jewel's works, Erasmus' paraphrase, and several other books are mentioned among the 'chattels' of the church. There were formerly two long narrow niches with wooden doors on each side of the chancel, supposed to be contrivances for holding the beams used for hanging the altar curtains. The original underground sacristy, for a long time desecrated by being converted into a receptacle for bones, &c., has been restored to its original use. The lower panels of the rood screen have also been repainted, as the original figures were almost obliterated. In 1503 one Thomas Trupoo, alias Euston, of this town, bequeathed to this church 'a good and substancial ship of silver and gilt, conveniently for frank-incense to use there on to the honour and laud of our blessed Saviour for ever. Also a cope' with this scripture (or writing) in a roll set upon the same, 'Orate, pro anima Thome Estoon, Alicie and Kat'rine uxor suæ,' of the value of 3s.' A similar cope was left to the Friars' church. There are eight bells, the ring having been increased by two some dozen years ago, but the bell frame is in such an unsatisfactory state that an appeal is being made by Mr. Lancelot Andrewes, the organist, for £200 for a new frame, and for the re-hanging of the bells, which have not been rung for two years.* The church is built of flint, with occasional layers of thin brick, and with facings of Barnack stone. The sacred edifice suffered, with the sister churches, from the iconoclasm of the Parliamentary Visitors, who brake down about a 100 pictures (in the windows) and two crucifixes, 'and gave orders to take down the cross off the steeple, and divers angels, 20 in least, on the roof.' A quantity of broken stained glass was found near the walls when the houses at the west end were removed, and the Market Hill was lowered. The paintings of Moses and Aaron over the north and south doors (said to be very good ones) formed panels of the former Grecian reredos. I have not been able to find when the noble tower was partially spoiled by the erection of an incongruous copper spire, but the old spire was removed as far as "the Crown of Thorns," and rebuilt in 1790, and the present ugly monstrosity was put up in 1810, at a cost of £380, money not wisely spent. A new altar piece was provided in 1715 of classical design, and therefore out of character with the building. Formerly there were three wide galleries, the west one, where the organ stood, having been built in 1777; these were removed at the restoration in 1855. The east window was presented in 1847 by the late patron,

* This work was completed about Easter, 1887.

and was filled with stained glass in 1854 by the late Mrs. E. Stedman. The other painted windows are memorial ones. The pulpit had a tapestry frontal, with the arms of James I., which is exhibited at the Town Hall, together with the mediaeval Alderman's pall or "burying cloth." A panel from the rood screen of one of the churches, with painting of Sir John Schorn, the Buckinghamshire rector, "conjuring the devil into a boot," has already been shown. As will be seen from an engraving at the Town Hall, a row of fine trees stood about half a century back on the north side of the churchyard. Adjacent was the corn market with its cross, about a century ago, and near by the butchers' stalls.

The last of our trio of fine churches, of which we are justly proud, has now been visited and briefly described. In the middle ages Sudbury was so fortunate as not only to possess these noble edifices, but had in addition the church of S. Sepulchre, the Friars' church, the Ballingdon chapel, and not far distant S. Bartholomew's chapel, the small church at Brundon, and a still smaller chapel belonging to "the brothers of S. Thomas the Martyr," near Ballingdon hill. The three existing sacred fanes bequeathed by the piety of our forefathers have during the last quarter of a century been well cared for, and more fitly adapted for congregational worship. May they long remain as witnesses of the noble donors of past generations, and as incentives to the self-denial and labours of those yet to come.

THE TOWN RECORDS.

A large party of townspeople and visitors assembled at the Town Hall, where the town charters, leases, conveyances, books, and records, each distinctly labelled with date and regnal year of sovereign, had been arranged in excellent order by Messrs. W. B. and E. Ransom (sons of the respected Town Clerk), who had worked very hard in various ways for some days past to make the visit of the Institute a success. There was also an interesting exhibition of paintings, engravings, prints, &c., mostly illustrative of old Sudbury, kindly lent by Messrs. Ransom, G. L. Andrewes, and Hodson. The documents, &c., having been closely examined, the chair was taken by the Rev. C. R. Manning, of Diss, and among the large company present were the Mayor, G. W. Andrewes, Esq., R. Mattingly, Esq., ex-Mayor, and Mrs. Mattingly, Mr. R. Ransom, town clerk; Revs. C. J. Stower, Dr. Babington, A. Moon, J. Yelloly, F. Haslewood, F.S.A., Evelyn White, Dewing, W. E. Layton, Mr. E. M. Dewing, Mr. J. C. Ford, Mr. W. J. Laxton, F.S.A., and Mrs. Laxton, Mrs. H. C. Casley, Mr. John Roffey, Mr. H. Fison, Mr. E. F. Bisshopp and Mrs. Bisshopp, Mr. W. Methold, Mr. T. Smith, J.P., Mr. W. L. Lewis, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Hodson.

After a few words from the chairman the following paper was read by Mr. Hodson.

At the outset of the paper which I have been requested to prepare on

our Municipal Documents I must crave your indulgence, inasmuch as I am only a "prentice hand" at the work in which I have been recently engaged, and have not been able to obtain the assistance or guidance of anyone versed in the decipherment of early documents. I am only able to present the purport of the principal of our records, but trust this initial examination may lead to a more thorough research, feeling confident that much light would be thereby thrown, not only on local matters, but also on several periods of our national history. I would also state that had it not been for the kind and continued assistance of Mr. W. Bayly Ransom, the son and partner of our respected town clerk, and of his brother, I should have been unable to present even this brief record.

I. Our earliest deeds refer to grants from the lords of Clare. The first is a grant of Portman's Croft and King's Marsh (now known as the Great Common) from Richard de Clare, sixth Earl of Hereford and second Earl of Gloucester, to the burgesses and commonalty of Sudbury. It is without date, but it is stated in Sir Simon D'Ewes "Suffolk Notes," taken 1636, preserved among the Harleian MSS., that it was granted in 1262, the year of the Earl's death. This deed, like several of the others placed before you, is well preserved, and is a beautiful specimen of caligraphy; the ink is quite black and the down strokes are broad. It is only 9in. by 3½in. (It will be remembered that Sir Simon D'Ewes, the Puritan antiquary, was Member for Sudbury in 1640.)

II. Gilbert de Clare, son of Richard, third Earl of Gloucester, on the 23rd January, 1271, 55 Henry III., granted a confirmation of all the liberties and customs given by his ancestors. This earl married Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward the First; he was killed at Bannockburn 1314, and died childless. The manor of Sudbury probably formed part of the dower of Joan of Acre, the widow, as she died seized of it. The deed is a beautifully clear and distinct one, 7½in. by 3½in., with seal attached.

III. Elizabeth de Burgo, the third daughter of Richard de Clare (who granted our first charter), co-heiress of Gilbert, and Lady of the Honor of Clare (a title now held by Her Majesty), granted a further confirmation of the early privileges to the town in 1330, 4 Edward III. The Charter was signed at Clare on the Friday after the feast of S. John the Baptist. It recites *ipsissima verba* Richard's Charter. There is appended a large and well preserved seal with five coats of arms, which are described at length in Sir Simon D'Ewes Notes already referred to. The caligraphy of the deed is very distinct; its size is about 10in. by 5in. Among the signatures is that of Robert de Bures, probably the father of the Acton crusader, who died 1302, whose perfect memorial brass we have an opportunity of seeing this afternoon.

IV. and V. These were feoffments of S. Gregory's Croft in the

reigns of Edward III., Richard II., and Henry VI., two of which, the first and the last, are among the borough papers. In 1356 the Croft became the property of one John Bayley, a fuller of this town, and Isabella his wife. We have still a Fulling-pit meadow on our common lands, where fulling mills used in the worsted manufacture formerly stood. S. Gregory's Croft was originally called Laketon Croft, and the manor was named Place's lake, now corrupted into "Splash-lick," the name of a small islet in the river near Croft bridge. Probably in early times there was a large sheet of water there, like the former mere of the Stour at Sturmer.

From the third feoffment, 1436, 14 Henry VI., we learn that the Croft was given to the town by one Wm. Barbor, in 1392, 16 Richard II., and this grant was confirmed in 1436 by one Thomas Dobbs, whose name still remains in connection with two places called "Dobb's Hole," one a bathing place on the river, and the other part of a field where were formerly pits.

V.a. - Sir Simon D'Ewes gives a copy of a grant of North Meadow in 1306, 34 Edward I., by John Payton to his brother Jacob, but there are no deeds among our records showing when the meadow became the property of the corporation. As in many deeds of that time, the king is described as "Edward filii Regis Henrici."

VI. An early document, 1274, 2 Edward I., in parts very illegible, appears to be a warrant directed to the mayor and constables of the town, for the apprehension of an offender.

VII. In the preamble of Queen Mary's charter it is recited that though the inhabitants of Sudbury were time out of mind quit and free of certain tolls, &c., through the whole realm of England, yet the deeds, writings, and letters patent of the Crown of the liberties and privileges of the borough had been embezzled and carried away, and therefore a new grant of incorporation was necessary. This, the Queen states, she more readily gave on account of the recently displayed loyalty of the inhabitants in the time of the rebellion of the Duke of Northumberland.

VIII. An interesting record is, however, extant of 1455, 34 Henry VI., with portions of the great seal of England attached. The document is 10in. by only 1in. in breath, with five lines of writing singularly clear and distinct. These letters patent recite that whereas the men and tenants of the town of Sudbury of the Honor of Gloucester, as it is said, ought to be free from the time which memory describeth not, from tolls, pontage, passage, piccage, paneage, and murage, through the whole kingdom of England, these privileges are continued. This deed is a confirmation of letters patent granted 15 years before in precisely the same terms, which are also among our records, the writing being rather larger than in the first deed named.

VIIIa. In 1397 Roger de Mortimer, fourth Earl of March and son of Philippa Plantagenet, Earl of March and Ulster, granted a license to the mayor and bailiffs of this town to appoint every year two serjeants to carry before them the maces of the earl's arms within the franchise of the same town. This deed was in Norman French, beautifully preserved, with the earl's seal attached, having his arms quartered with those of De Burgh. A *fac simile* was published with the "Proceedings of the Institute" at their visit to Sudbury in 1851, and an account of the arms was given in full by the late Mr. W. S. Walford. I have not been able to find this valuable document among the corporation archives. When shown to the Institute it was in the custody of the then town clerk, Mr. Edmund Stedman, now deceased. The seal of Mortimer is peculiar. It has Mortimer and De Burgh quarterly, Mortimer being the paternal coat of the De Burghs, the coat of the Earl's grandmother Elizabeth de Burgh. But the earl's mother was Philippa, daughter and heiress of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, and according to the rules of heraldry he should have quartered the arms of England and France in right of his mother. This seal is an early example of supporters, viz., the white lion of Mortimer. Edward iv. when he came to the throne, took as the supporters of his royal arms the black bull of Clare and the white lion of Mortimer. A valuable paper ("Note B" on this seal by the late Mr. W. S. Walford is published in the "Proceedings" for 1851.

IX. The next document to which I wish to call attention is the grant of arms to the town, 20 September, 1576, 18 Elizabeth. It is on thick vellum, with a large blazon of the arms in the left upper corner; a small circular piece has been apparently torn or worn from the vellum at one of the foldings. The "talbot" or hound is from the paternal coat of Archbishop Sudbury. The "chief" is a very honorable one, being a "parcel" of the royal arms, and the crest has the Prince of Wales's plumes. In the corporation accounts for 1577 there is the following entry, "Item payd to the Kinge of Armes for the Arms of the town five marks, and to the Clarke 4s. 2d. Total amount, £3 10s. 10d."

X. The next document, though not referring to the corporation, is a very interesting one, inasmuch as it belonged to Archbishop Sudbury. It is a grant of land near the Croft from Hugh de Dedlyn to Simon (described as) "the son of Nigel Thebauld and Sara, his wife," and was executed at Sudbury the Thursday after the Feast of S. Gregory, 1339, 13 Edward III. It is a beautiful specimen of penmanship, and the ink is apparently as black as when first used.

CHARTERS.

There were five charters granted to the town by Mary, Elizabeth, Cromwell, Charles II., and James II. We possess the originals of those

of Elizabeth, James, and Charles, and translations of most of the charters. All the great seals have disappeared. Elizabeth's charter is a very fine example of caligraphy. The loyalty of the inhabitants is gratefully recognized in Mary's charter. It appears from Cromwell's, that many of the inhabitants adhered to and assisted the Parliament in the Civil Wars.

XI. The surrender of the charters in 1684 is also among the records, and has a good impression of the borough seal. The town seal was the gift of Richard Skinner, mayor, in 1616.

XII. There is also a certificate of the admission to the freedom of the borough of one William Calver, in 1506, 22 Henry VII.

XIII. There are several important leases. One is the original lease of four acres of land on Windmill hill for 300 years from 14 April, 1544, 35 Henry VIII., from Sir Thomas Paston to William Sidey.

XIV. A second is the lease of five acres of land on Windmill hill from Thomas Smith to Richard Firmyn, mayor, of Woodhall, dated 8 June, 1579, 21 Elizabeth. Mr. Alderman Fyrmin left £10 by will, 1614, for the silver-gilt maces of the town to be restored and enlarged, and also bequeathed four acres of land in Windmill field, to the poor of Sudbury, which land he had bought of Sir Thomas Eden, the elder, of Ballingdon Hall.

XV. As appears from a deed of sale, made 23 March, 1584, 26 Elizabeth, Richard Fyrmin bought of William Byatt, draper (mayor), two acres in the same field for £22, part of the manor of Neales. This deed recites a will made in the reign of Philip and Mary.

XVI. There are several deeds relating to Armsey, formerly waste land near Ballingdon hill in Bulmer parish, belonging to S. Gregory's college. We have a conveyance of this land from John Scalder (mayor) and William Flec to Thomas West and others, 1513, 4 Henry VIII. One Thomas West gave the land to the corporation.

XVII. There is a lease from John Ward, mayor, to John Sheppard, weaver, who was allowed to have brick fields there, the right of the freemen to depasture their cattle on the waste being reserved. The lease is dated 13 April, 1611, 9 James I. In 1832 the corporation sold the land to Col. Meyrick, who annexed it to the Auberies estate, much to the dissatisfaction of many of the freemen.

XVIII. Sir Robert Crane, Knt., of Chilton Hall (whose seat we shall visit in to-day's excursion and also the Crane monuments), had property in this town, and there is a conveyance on the table from him to Charles

Abbott, mayor, and to the aldermen and burgesses, of a tenement in Friars' Street near Bullock's Lane; for the purpose of erecting a bridewell. The deed is dated 11 October, 1623, 21 James I. Sir Robert Crane was a member for the borough in four parliaments, from 1623 to 1640. His coadjutor in 1640 was Sir Simon D'Ewes. In 1635 the corporation sent the Chilton knight "27 lbs. of sugar" as a gift, according to their practice of making presents to their members of parliament.

XIX. to XXI. There are two feoffments of tenements in Ballingdon of the dates of 1627 and 1633, 3rd and 9th of Charles I., and the admission of one Thomas Woode, weaver, to his freedom by servitude, 10 January, 1612, 9 James I.

XXII. A beautiful deed of fine penmanship and well preserved, with portions of the great seal attached, deserves attention. It is dated 12 February, 1597, 39 Elizabeth, and purports to be an exemplification of records relating to the borough of the time of Edward I., &c.

XXIII. Much information is contained in a copy of the grant of Sudbury tithes and of the college of S. Gregory by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Paston, "one of the gentlemen of his privy chamber," for £1280. Not only did S. Gregory's church and rectory belong to the college, but "the rectory, chappel, and church of St. Peter," the advowson, &c., of Brundon church and rectory, the quires of All Saints' and Acton church, and a "certain quire in Melford." Mention is made of the church of S. Sepulchre then standing, but long since removed. Certain relics in this church were given to Richard de Clare, the year of his decease 1262, by one Roger Wymarkes. The church is mentioned in the Inquisition of 5 Henry VI., and in the ecclesiastical survey of 26 Henry VIII.

One of the records is specially interesting, as throwing light on two matters connected with the town. Among our regalia is a silver tankard or "loving cup," with engravings of the great plague and fire of London, 1666-7, and inscriptions in Latin, purporting it to have been made in remembrance of one that had been presented by King Charles II. to Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, in acknowledgment of his services during the plague. (This celebrated tankard is fully described and illustrated in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1848, xxx. ii. 483.) Sir Edmund, an active magistrate, was murdered in 1678 (it was said by the Papists), for the part he took with reference to a supposed plot. It was not known how the tankard referred to came into the possession of the corporation, but the paper referred to supplies the "missing link." Among the mayors of the borough was one John Catesby, who served the office a number of times, and was apparently a lover of peace and favourable to the Dissenters. In 1684 a long list of "allegations" against him was drawn up to prevent his name being inserted in Charles's charter, one of

which charges supplies the wanted information respecting our cup. It is very quaint and is as follows:—"Sir Richard Cordel had been for a long time member for the borough, and ye Corporation had declared they would vote for him, but were overpowered by ye continued entreaties and wheadles of Mr. Catesby, and Sir Jervasse Elwes to gratifie ye Corporacen did p'sent them with a tankard with some inscripson thereon, engraven in Latine relating to Sir Edmund Bury Godfrey, which ye now said Mr. Catesby, keeps and brings forth at all Corporacon Feasts and in most solemn manner drinks Sir Jervasse, his health, and ye said John Catesby hath declared he had made such an interest for Sir Jervasse Elwes in Sudbury as all ye gentlemen in ye country could never destroy it." Sir J. Elwes, of Stoke College, was created baronet in 1660, and was M.P. for Sudbury from 1661 to 1684, and from 1698 to 1700, when he died, and was succeeded as member by his grandson.

Mr. Catesby, the mayor, was specially censured by the petitioners (whose names are not given), because he would not "present" the Dissenters and those who did not attend their parish church, and several leading names are mentioned, and among them that of Mr. Petto, ejected from S. Cross, South Elmham, the minister to the Sudbury nonconformists, who then met for worship in a barn. It is stated in the paper referred to that this Mr. Petto had with his family for 10 years last past lived in no "privator" place than in the vicarage house belonging to All Saints' church. There was then no settled minister at this church, and in a letter to the Bishop of Norwich it is stated that the Nonconformists were so bold as to frequently preach in the church. There is also mention made in the same document of Mr. Jenkyn, of London, as one of the preachers, who probably was the son of the Rev. William Jenkyns, M.A., and was born in All Saints' parish in 1612, his mother being the grand-daughter of John Rogers, the proto-martyr, in the Marian days. At the age of 72 Jenkyn was committed to Newgate, and in answer to a petition for his release, King James said that he should be a prisoner as long as he lived; the poor divine died in prison four months afterwards.

Among the miscellaneous papers is a long roll, bristling with seals, being "Bye Laws made 15 November, 1515, 7 Henry VIII.", addressed to "all true and faithful People of Crist." By it the inhabitants were prohibited "empeleing or pursuing" out of the lord's or lady's court. "Foreigners" (that is non-freemen) were to take the freedom by purchase, under the penalty of 2d. every week their shop was open, or they bought or sold. Fines were to be inflicted on bakers, making and selling unwholesome bread, and on brewers for brewwing ale not up to the standard. The following is a curious clause bearing on sanitary matters:—"No man þson inhabitant in the same town shall suffer any man of swyn to goo in the street ther without they be sufficiently rynged, nor suffer them to goo abroad on any Sunday nor on any other pōcession day, nor in any feir tyme, nor on any market day, nor to be abrood in the streete on

night tyme for the noyance of their neighbours under Payne to forfeite for evy sweyn as often as it is soo taken 2d. whereof 1d. alwayes to be taken of them, and the other penny unto the comon chist."

The last document which time permits me to call attention to is one specially connected with our afternoon's excursion, being the Will of Alice de Bryenne or Bryan, 1434, whose canopied brass awaits us at Acton church. Among her trustees are names of historic families, the Waldegraves, Rokewoods, Clerbeckes, Cavendishes, &c. The small plots or fields known in these parts as pikles ("pightello") are alluded to. This will was to remain in the custody of the Warden of S. Gregory's college and his successors. There are the customary directions for masses for herself and for Sir Robert de Bures (who has already been referred to in this paper), and his wife, who are described as "patris mei" and "matris mei," although they were apparently grand-parents. The will is a long one, and well preserved and deserves publication *in extenso*.

Had time permitted I could have given interesting extracts from the Corporation Books (several of the earliest of which are on the table), which commence 1563, 5 Elizabeth, and contain the "orders and decrees" of the weekly courts, the accounts of the mayors and chamberlains, the fines and punishments at Quarter Sessions, and numerous other matters. The quaint ceremonies observed at the election of the mayor, with the reverent kissing of the maces, and the oaths of all the officials from the recorder to the "bedell" are given in full. In olden times there were numerous borough officials besides the recorder, mayor, steward, chamberlain, aldermen and chief burgesses, as for example, overseers of the flesh, fish, and poultry markets, and of the weaving trade, ale tasters, and bread weighers, inspectors of tanned leather, sizers of measures, crier, bedell, &c. There are sumptuary regulations as to the gowns and tippets of the mayor, aldermen, and councillors, and a record of their sale with other corporation property under an execution. Delinquents were punished for using the trade of a weaver, not being apprenticed, for keeping too many looms at work, for eating flesh in Lent (*temp. Elizabeth and James I.*), for killing bulls and selling their flesh without being first baited, for taking unreasonable toll at mills, for depraving the book of Common Prayer, for wandering about during divine service, for selling goods and working on the Sunday, for selling bread wanting in weight, for trespass on the common with hogs, &c. Whipping, as a punishment, was frequently inflicted on both sexes, and even as late as 1782 one Sarah Green, for obtaining some clothing of the value of 9d. from a companion, was sentenced to be set on an open cart, and publicly whipt from the Gaol in Friars' Street round S. Peter's church, with 15 stripes on her naked back, until blood was drawn. The regulations drawn up in 1624 for the Bridewell are curious, and a special prayer is given which was to be said every morning by the head jailer with the prisoners.

The mayor's account contains singular items. Presents of sack,

claret, ale, sugar, &c., were made to the M.P.'s, and "poor ministers" were frequently assisted, gifts were made to "the children of the revels," payments made for scouring the town armour and for wearing the same at a ceremony at Babergh hall, for wine for the love and charity feasts, for coats for the officials and sundry old women, for making the dipping (or ducking) stool, for whipping convicted persons, for sick and maimed soldiers, &c. The "Kings' players" received gifts for performing "interludes of playes" at the Moot hall, to which the burgesses had free admission, till so much damage was done to the hall that in 1604 the plays were abolished. In 1665 a pest house was ordered to be built on the Claypits for those who should "fall out" with the plague. The year after, six men were appointed to nightly keep watch and ward, and complaint was subsequently made that they were supplied with ale at the town expense, at the setting of the watch, and consequently neglected their duty. Until the time of James I., the mayor had the task of collecting, levying and gathering rents, fines, &c., but "to the end that he might the better employ his labour and pains," two chamberlains were then appointed to do his work of collection. There are frequent references to contemporaneous national events, and to borough and county affairs, and ample materials are procurable for an almost continuous history of the borough.

The documents, charters, and books, which have been referred to are on the table, and Mr. Bayly Ransom and his brother will be pleased to point them out. The paintings and prints, illustrative of Old Sudbury, have been lent by Mr. Ransom, Mr. Lancelot Andrewes (son of our worthy Mayor), and some are from my own collection. His Worship the Mayor, who has the custody of the corporation regalia, has kindly allowed its exhibition.

Dr. Holden then exhibited a large geological section, shewing the Sudbury strata, and also an interesting collection of elephants' teeth, flint implements, flakes, bones and "scoriated" boulders, showing the ice markings, found in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Booth said he believed that mammoth and other teeth had been found in gravel pits at Melford.

THE GENERAL MEETING

was held at the Rose and Crown Hotel, the Rev. C. R. Manning in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Rev. C. H. E. White, Mr. W. F. Laxton went at some length into the principal business of the meeting, namely, the election of a president in the room of Lord John Hervey, resigned. He considered, however, the rules on the subject very defective, and concluded by moving "that the rules and regulations of this Institute be referred to the Council to revise, with instructions to submit proofs of the revised code to the members at the annual general meeting." Mr. Casley seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Casley then moved that until the adoption by the members of a revised code of rules, Lord Henniker be elected president.

Mr. Casley's motion was passed, and on the suggestion of Mr. Dewing, seconded by Mr. White, Lord John Hervey was elected on the Council.

THE LUNCHEON.

A capital *déjeuner* was served in the large room of the hotel by Mr. George, at which a large party was present, the Revs. Manning and White, respectively occupying the chair and vice-chair. After dinner Mr. White said he had received letters of apology from Sir Louis Jackson, Mr. Cuthbert Quilter, M.P., and Lord John Hervey. The Chairman formally proposed votes of thanks to the Mayor and Town Clerk, for the assistance given, and also to the Incumbents of the churches, and the readers of papers.

Mr. Dewing said he wished to return thanks to several gentlemen who had largely assisted towards the success of that meeting, namely to Mr. G. Bevan, Rev. J. Yelloly, and to Mr. Hodson, but he wished for a special vote for Mr. Hodson, because he could truly say that had it not been for his assistance they could scarcely have had that meeting at all; there had been almost daily letters between him and the speaker, and he (Mr. Dewing) therefore wished to express his own personal indebtedness to Mr. Hodson. Messrs. Ransom, the town clerk's sons, had also given valuable help in various ways.

Mr. Bevan and Mr. Hodson returned thanks.

CHILTON HALL AND CHURCH.

The excursionists then proceeded in vehicles to Chilton hall and church, and from thence to Acton church and vicarage. The party was much struck with the external appearance of Chilton hall, the old seat of the Cranes, with its massive walls and corner buttresses, washed by the waters of the enclosing moat, which is crossed by a fine stone bridge of several arches and by a wooden drawbridge. There is a corner turret and several quaint features in this old red bricked seat, but not much in the way of carving of interest inside. Behind are the thick coped and parapetted and moss and lichen covered walls, and near the church one of the ancient "stews" or fish ponds partly surrounded by tall rushes. The estate was for a long time in the possession of the famous Norfolk Wyndham family. The church is noted, among archæologists, for several fine alabaster (but much mutilated) altar tombs, and for a large painted mural monument with figures in several compartments.

Mr. Dewing read a paper on the Crane family, which was established in Suffolk, at Stonham, as far back as the time of Edward I., but now has entirely died out. They were generally noted for being "much married," and the pedigree tables are therefore somewhat involved.