MEETING AT LAVENHAM, 1889.

Other peculiar features of the old town having been sought out by the members and discussed, the party again took the road for the return journey. The route taken was via Brettenham, where they were met at the Church by the rector, the Rev. Canon Betham, Rural Dean, who read the following paper on the Church and the Roman occupation of the neighbourhood.

BRETTENHAM.

"'Combretonium olim nunc Bretenham' is the record of one of my predecessors near 300 years ago, and the tradition then held cannot be less than an article of faith with his successors—at all events with me—and the tradition is not without support. The traces of the foss of a camp, handed down as Roman, may still be seen in a field three-quarters of a mile S.W. of the church, and have been examined and marked in the recent revised ordnance survey. Kirby, in his Suffolk Traveller, having taken his survey about 150 years ago (1732, &c.), says: 'Brettenham, a parish at ye head of the little river Breton (always here called the Brett), supposed to be the Combretonium of Antoninus.' Now Anton. Iter. ix. (Richard of Cirencester iii.) makes from Camalodunum (Colchester) 'ad ansem,' or 'ad Sturium annem,' vi. miles; thence to 'Combretonium' xv. miles. A line drawn straight on the ordnance map from Colchester to Ixworth, cuts the Stour at a little less than 5½ miles, and the centre of Brettenham (or the old Roman camp) at 18 miles, very nearly, and reaches Ixworth in 28¼ miles (Sitomagum xxii. miles, but ?Haughley). But as the Roman mile was 1593 Yards, ours 1760, a simple sum shows that the vi. miles become 5 2-5ths miles, approximately, and the xv. miles becomes 13½ miles, which, added together, and allowing for deviations from the direct, are sufficiently near the 18 miles of modern maps. It may suffice to remark that whilst Ixworth (on the map) is 28 miles from Colchester, Haughley is 24 miles. Of course, though the Roman roads were direct (usually) from station to station, we know that they then often made an angle, and we must not press too much on terminal directness. There is this fact also: a line drawn from London to Castor would pass through Brettenham. That, and a line from Colchester to Ixworth, would intersect not many rods from this church. Then the Roads were called 'streets' (?Rattlesden strit, e.g.) and about half a mile west of this church, starting from a corner near the Roman camp, we have a road (and a few houses) running in a direction for Ixworth or Haughley, universally known as 'Duck street.' There is no special supply of water or poultry there. But what if it is an ancient Dux street? We must leave this fascinating subject of history, tradition, and speculation, and passing over many centuries, come to the time when the Roman 'chester,' 'station,' or 'strat,' became the 'ham' of Saxon times, the 'home' of the Brett, the 'dwelling-place' of those who occupied what the Romans had left, and congregated on both sides of the brook whose modest waters and name 'flow on for ever,' whilst men and races have come and gone. Of that
BRETTENHAM CHURCH.

‘ham’ the church must have been the central and chief feature. Whether there had been a British or præ-Augustinian church we know not; whether of oak logs, or wattle and daub, or clay; but a Saxon church there undoubtedly was.* It is inscribed in Domesday as having been in ‘ye time of Ed. ye Confessor.’ Hollingsworth, in his History of Stowmarket (appendix), conjectures that it was of timber. From his work, and from the recent publication of the Cosford Half-Hundred, for which I am indebted to the courtesy of ‘J. H.,’ we learn that there was a ‘church and a benefice, possessing 24 acres.’ Whether of mean materials or not, that church passed away. Probably it was followed by a Norman one of much more pretension, in the great impetus which must have been given to church building by the example of S. Edmund’s Bury, and the vast amount of devotion of all kinds which was attracted to the shrine of the popular martyr and king of a thousand years ago; for the Abbot of S. Edmund had, as we shall see, some connection with Brettenham, though of its extent I cannot speak.† Happily it was not turned into a vicarage. I suppose the secular patrons, king or other, kept their and its independence. Be that as it may, Saxon and Norman churches disappeared before the ‘new work’ of Pointed architecture, leaving apparently not a wrack behind. Such was our experience in the partial rebuilding, &c., of 1866. The same applies to the First Pointed or Early English work, if any there was. This brings us to the church as we now see it, in the main; viz., a Decorated, Second Pointed, or Edwardian nave, of about the middle of the 14th century, or a little earlier (Earl of Gloucester, patron till 1344), and a Third Pointed or Perpendicular chancel, probably built between 1400 and 1432 (†temp. Henry vi.), until which latter date the Earl of Stafford was patron.‡ Here it may be fitting to remark that whilst the general rule in this district is Decorated chancels and Perpendicular naves, or, at all events, that the nave was rebuilt last, the reverse is the case at Brettenham. At Thorpe Morieux, e.g., is a chancel which I should place in the reign of King Stephen, transition from Norman, the nave being late Early English, or transition therefrom. At Preston and Felsham the chancels are Decorated, the naves mainly of the next style. At Brettenham,

* The influence of Sigebert, King of the East Angles, A.D. 638, the real founder of the University of Cambridge, long before King Alfred, who is the great boast of the sister University, no doubt extended throughout his kingdom.

† In Bracton’s Note Book, temp. Henry iii., before any of our present church was built, and when an older one must have been, in vol. ii., p. 13, ed. 1887, I find: 13, Datus est dies Lamberto de Muletona petenti et Abbati S. Eadmundi per attornatum sui patenti de placo audiendi di eleccionem de advocacione ecclesie (5) de Bretenham in Octabio Omnium Sanctorum prodefecto militia quia tantum Hugo Talemasch venit cui, etc., et Willielmus Esturmy, Ranulfus de Baribus, et Willielmus de Gerarvilla atchiefentur, etc., post venit Willielmus Esturmy et habet condem diem, (5) to hear ye election to be made by the 4 knights, of 12 recognitors for a writ of right of Advowson. (Hollingsworth’s Stowmarket, p. 85, says, “Sir W. Esturny was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk 1210 to 1214, and in 1254 his grandson possessed the Manor of Buxhall.”)

there being no arches or arch-mouldings except into the chancel and under the tower, we have little to guide us as to the date, beyond the window tracery and the position of the windows. It is plain enough that the north and south nave windows are low in the wall, compared with the height of the latter, and on the south side, especially where it joins the north-east angle of the tower (the tower projecting and being disengaged except as to its north side) are plain indications that the nave walls have been raised about three feet, which was abundantly proved when the interior plaster was removed in 1866. We must then take it, I think, that (c. 1400) with the present nave, which was of less height than now;† existed a chancel of proportions corresponding thereto, or possibly of earlier style, hardly commensurate with the nave. This, or other of the various motives which led to abundant church building in præ-Tudor days, induced the Earl of Stafford to build the present chancel, which somewhat overshadowed the nave, as it then was, and in consequence the side walls and roof of the nave were increased as above. The effect is not quite satisfactory, and it was even less so when there was a short parapet (in place of an eave) on the south side, continued upward without horizontal string of any kind. My reason for attributing this later work to the Earl of Stafford is that there are two shields of arms on the piscina, and two on the east end, externally. One of each is a chevron simply; no colours remain or are indicated, but there were slight traces of red 30 years ago, and as the arms of Stafford are, or, a chevron gules, we seem to be on safe ground. The other two ancient shields, one simply a bend, the others a cross with billets on it, in the absence of colours, I have been unable to identify, though I long ago sought the aid of so learned an antiquary as the late Mr. Almack, of Melford. The third shield, externally, though new in execution, is ancient in heraldry, being that of an old family in Westmoreland, to which the last restorer of the chancel belongs. It has not displaced the third ancient shield, which might have helped the history of our church; that was long gone, and a huge red brick buttress covered the spot. It has occurred to me that the fine three-light Decorated west window may possibly have been the east window, removed when the Perpendicular work was built. It is larger and finer than the east window of Preston, which is of like design. The state of the church when I first knew it, in 1859, was the common one of that period (pews, gallery at west end starting from floor, unnecessary plaster, of which and brick some of the mullions consisted, and most unnecessary white, black, and ochre washes, with red dining-room curtains and pole to one window, and green curtains to pew, and purple fittings, beyond the wildest vagaries of the most juvenile ritualist). The nave roof was as now, though much dilapidated, and whitewashed as far as man's arm could reach; the chancel roof concealed by a coved ceiling cutting the head of the east window, which was also crossed by iron rods, tying the

* The tower is in the position of a south porch, for which its lowest stage serves.
† Probably about the same roof pitch and height as the present chancel.
two wall plates together, the south wall, being much out of the perpendicular; it had to be rebuilt. Above this ceiling it was hoped the ancient timbers might exist, but no trace remained, all was supplanted by a roof of barn-like plainness, except the cornices, from which the present ones are copied. The windows were all glazed in square panes, the old vestiges of the ancient rich glass of the 14th and 15th centuries being now in the north-west chancel window. The chancel arch had apparently fallen down, probably when a massive rood screen and gallery was destroyed, at all events, it had been rebuilt—bodged together with some of the old stones, and timber, bricks, &c., in the most heterogeneous and shapeless way. What destruction came from the 16th century, what from the 17th, what from the all-consuming tooth of time, we cannot apportion. A 'minister' had been intruded in the Great Rebellion, but to a good Caroline divine I attribute the altar rails, the steps (which I used again in the restoration), the old lectern, and other improvements, as they were thought and intended to be, but which make the history of our church less plain. What fragment there was of the rood-screen (it was made into walls for pews) is before you, also two poppy heads, and the much-mutilated bench ends of a few seats, which must have been very handsome. The old bits of stone, placed where you can inspect them, were the only 'find,' in rebuilding, as I had to do, the south wall of the chancel, its arch, and the east and west gables. The piscina and other features were replaced, the windows, though new, are fac-similes of the old. The rood stairs are unfortunately built up solid, the only alternative unhappily being to rebuild that part of the wall and lose them together; but the south doors are original, they and the very handsome font being 500 years old; the north door is new, but an exact copy of the original; the priest's door is new, of a very handsome design, the wrought iron hinges, from ancient ones in Lincolnshire, figured in Camb. Camden Society's Instrumenta Ecclesiastica, to which I supplied them in my undergraduate days. There were no traces of memorial brasses, or of stones which had held them, but three coped coffin lids were found in the pavement, reversed, so as to bring the flat side uppermost; they are now placed under the east window, externally. There is no legend on any of them, nor any clue to the founder of the altar or chantry which existed at the south-east corner of the nave. The registers commence in 1584, and are rather bald, confining themselves to names and dates. The Wenyeves, or Weniffes, were here then, and may have been earlier; they were at Whatfield in 14——. The famous Bishop Hall, of Norwich, when rector of Hawstead, married the daughter of Geo. Wenyeve, Gent., of Brettenham, whose eldest son, Thomas, dying in 1611, aged 21, is commemorated by a quaint and touching epitaph within the sacrament; the next brother, Edward Weniffe, becoming the eldest, was Sheriff of Suffolk in 1652, and one of the ten Members of Parliament in 1656. His son, Sir Geo. Weniffe, Knt., was M.P. for Sudbury, 1685–88. Another Edward Wenyeve was rector about 1733,
and they filled an important position till John Wenyeve died, early in this century, and his only son, Geo. Wenyeve, died set. 32, in 1814. Martin Briggs, rector, 'migravit ad caelos,' 1597, and is specially commemorated. William Alcock, rector, was cruelly ejected in 1644 by the Earl of Manchester, for being true to Church and King; robbed even of his modest private estate, and his wife and children, reduced to beggary and starvation. Yet we are told of the Nonconformists, who ejected themselves from posts of which many of them were in wrongful possession. James Hotchkis, d.n., Head Master of Charter House, 1731, was rector about 1739 onwards. Among his best known pupils were Sir Wm. Blackstone and ‘Jones of Nayland.’ Others, unknown to fame, may have faithfully fed their few sheep in the wilderness. The altar plate is modern—the old, which is described as ‘handsome,’ having been sacrilegiously stolen some half century since. The pulpit and font cover (Rattee and Kett, Camb.); the priest’s desk, copied from rood screen, locally executed. The bells are three, by the makers known around. There is an ancient timbered farm-house, known as the Church Farm, from its proximity, with date 1587; another one, probably older, at the south-west corner of the parish, known as the Poplars, is said to be the old hall. 'Brettenham Hall, proper, has no very old work.'

The party having conveyed their thanks to Canon Betham for his admirable paper, returned to Stowmarket, having enjoyed an excursion, which will rank amongst the most successful which the Institute has ever held.

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London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. [E.C.
Hon. Sec., Charles Welch, Esq., F.S.A., Guildhall Library, London,
Lincoln and Nottingham, Architectural and Archaeological Society of
Counties of. [Horncastle.
Hon. Sec., Rev. John Clare Hudson, M.A., Thornton Vicarage,

Montgomeryshire, the Powys land Club. [Welshpool.
Hon. Sec., Morris Charles Jones, Esq., F.S.A., Gungrog Hall,

Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society.

Hon. Sec., Christopher Alexander Markham, Esq., F.S.A., Spratton,
Northampton.

Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain, Oxford Mansion, Oxford
Hon. Librarian, E. C. Hulme. [Street, London, W.

Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.
Hon. Sec., C. J. Turner, Esq., The Castle, Taunton.

Hon. Sec., Mill Stephenson, Esq., B.A., F.S.A., 81, Parchmore Road,

Yorkshire Architectural Society.
Hon. Sec., Rev. William Haworth, 10, Bootham Terrace, York.

Ireland. Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland.

The Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, United States.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Secretary, Professor Spencer Fullerton Baird.
RULES OF THE
Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History.

1. The Society shall be called the "Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History."

2. The object of the Institute shall be---
   1. To collect and publish information on the Archaeology and Natural History of the District.
   2. To oppose and prevent, as far as may be practicable, any injuries with which ancient monuments of every description, within the district, may from time to time be threatened, and to collect accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions thereof.

3. The Institute shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members.

4. Each Ordinary Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of 10s., to be due in advance on the 1st of January, and shall be considered to belong to the Institute until he withdraws from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary. A donor of £5 shall be a Life Member.

5. The Officers of the Institute shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and Honorary Secretaries, all of whom shall be elected for the year at the Annual Meeting.

6. The general management of the affairs and property of the Institute shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the officers, and of twelve members elected from the general body of the Subscribers, to retire annually, but eligible for re-election.

7. The Council shall meet to transact the ordinary business of the Institute, not less than three times a year. They shall have power to make Bye-Laws, appoint Committees and Local Secretaries, recommend Honorary Members for election by the Annual Meeting, supply vacancies that may occur during the year in their own body or among the officers, and to make arrangements for Excursions and other meetings. They shall also annually frame a Report and prepare the Accounts for submission to the Annual Meeting. At the Meetings of the Council, three to be a quorum, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.

8. The ordinary place of meeting shall be Bury S. Edmund's, but it shall be in the discretion of the Council to hold meetings at other places, if and when they shall think it advisable.

9. Each Member shall be entitled to free admission to the General Meetings of the Institute; and he shall also be entitled to the use of the Library, and to a copy of each publication of the Institute; but no copy of any such publication shall be delivered to any member whose subscription is more than twelve months in arrear.

10. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of April or May in each year, or at such other time as shall be fixed upon by the Council.

11. All papers presented to the Institute shall thereby be considered its property, and the Council may publish the same in any way, and at any time, that they may think proper.
In presenting their forty-third Annual Report, the Council of the "Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History" can once more congratulate its Members upon its progress and prospects.

A large and successful Evening Meeting and Conversazione of the Institute, was held at the Athenæum, Bury, in the early part of 1890, when a temporary museum was arranged to the satisfaction of members and their friends.

In the summer an excursion was made into Eastern Suffolk. Starting from Saxmundham the carriages halted first at Leiston Abbey, the ruins of which were ably demonstrated by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., assistant secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Members then proceeded to Theberton Church, which was described by the Honorary Secretary, and after a thorough inspection of the building the excursionists were driven to Dunwich, where dinner was served at the "Barne Arms." The ruined church of "All Saints" was made the subject of much discussion, as papers were read upon the same, by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. Watling, and the Rev. Dr. Raven, supplementary remarks being made by Mr. Hope. Dr. Raven, acting as cicerone, conducted the party over the remains of the Convent of Franciscan or Grey Friars. The last place in Dunwich visited by members, was what remains standing of the Chapel of S. James' Hospital, upon which Mr. H. Watling made some remarks.

Upon the homeward journey members alighted at Westleton Church, when its chief architectural features were examined. Thus the summer excursion terminated.

In August the members of the Suffolk Institute held a joint meeting with the Essex Society. On the first day the town of Ipswich was perambulated, and the churches of S. Mary at Elms, S. Matthew, S. Mary-le-Tower, S. Margaret, and S. Mary Key, were visited. In the Evening a Conversazione was held at the Museum, when Dr. Taylor, the Curator, demonstrated its contents. On the following day members
of the two Societies met at the Guildhall, Harwich, where its archives and regalia were exhibited. After a paper had been read, carriages conveyed the archaeologists to All Saints' Church, Dovercourt.

The Council were able, in the autumn of 1890, to place in the hands of its members, a Part, of rather more than the usual bulk, containing papers by thirteen different authors. The illustrations were numerous, there being thirty-five lithographs and wood-cuts, due to the kindness and generosity of members.

Members continue to increase in number, but the Council have to lament the deaths of the Right Honourable Lord Tollemache, the Rev. Samuel Savage Lewis, F.S.A., the Honorary Secretary of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, and also the decease of the Rev. J. M. Croker, rector of Lavenham, one of the oldest members of the Institute.

The Finances of the Society are in an encouraging condition, and the Council hope to be able to issue, in due course, Part 3, which will complete the Seventh Volume of the Proceedings.

The large county of Suffolk affords ample scope for antiquarian research. An immense field remains unexplored in almost every direction. It was suggested in our last Report that the Church Plate belonging to the County should be tabulated and described. It may, therefore, here be stated, that steps have been taken with a view to obtaining an accurate return.

Whilst there is much that is encouraging in regard to the position of the "Suffolk Institute of Archeology," &c., we must remember that vacancies are constantly occurring in our list of members. That these may be filled up, those of literary taste are invited to seek election. It is believed that such will be the case, particularly if it is felt that as a learned Society, it has for its object the study of the Antiquities of the County, and therefore deserves more general support.
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I have examined the Vouchers and Bank Book, and certify the same to be correct.

T. EDGAR MAYHEW, A.C.A.

*Ipswich, April 27, 1891.*

£281 13 6
SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, &c.

DECEMBER 31st, 1890.

Payments.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED, 1890–1891.


Associated Societies: Reports and Papers. Vol. 1, parts 1, 2.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society.


Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Reports and Communications. Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32.

Pedes Finium, 1891.

Dorset, Church Plate of. By J. E. Nightingale; F.S.A. 1889.

East Anglian Notes and Queries, parts 69 to 82.

Ireland, Royal Society of. Vol. 1. Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 5th series.


Appendix to Vol. vi.


Somersetshire Archæological Society. Vol. xvi.

Suffolk, Sudbourne Church, Print of Monument.

Surrey Archæological Society. Vol. x., 2. 1891.

AMERICAN BOOKS.

Brazil, Archivos do Museu Nacional do Rio-de-Janeiro. Vol. viii., being contributions to the Paleontology of.

Le Muséum National de Rio-de-Janeiro et son Influence sur les Sciences Naturelles au Brésil.


Peabody Education Fund. Proceedings of Trustees. 1890.

Smithsonian Institution. Reports. 1888, 1889.