

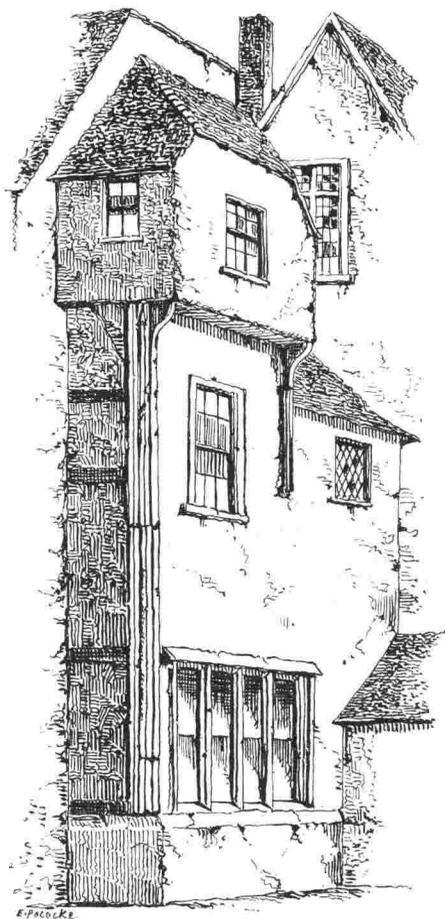
ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, UPPER BROOK STREET,
IPSWICH.

BY REV. FRANCIS HASLEWOOD, F.S.A.

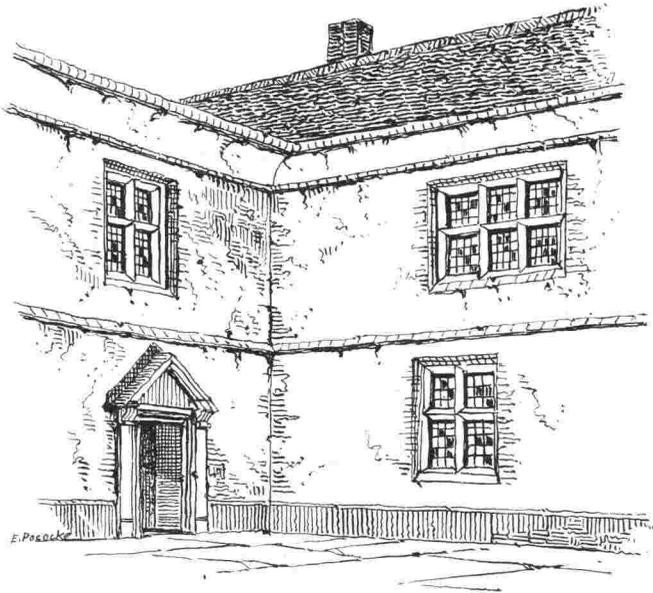
An old house, of Elizabethan character, No. 32, Upper Brook Street, Ipswich, is now being reconstructed to form a Working Men's Club. From an inspection of the premises a good idea may be formed of its original proportions, while the work of demolition of the front of the building affords evidence that it was once the residence of a family of great influence in the town, and probably the county. It may be noted at the outset that the legal documents, held by the owners of the property, are absolutely void of all information. The title deeds have been examined, but no clue can be obtained therefrom as to who were the owners of the property earlier than a quarter of a century ago.

The mansion is constructed of brick, and from an examination of the debris, it appears these bricks are only two inches thick, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, and nine inches long. Over the main entrance is an Elizabethan window, and during the present alterations another was discovered which had been concealed for generations; and in removing that portion of the building next the street the old corridor was opened up, which at one time evidently extended to the roadway.

At different points round the exterior of the house are features which deserve notice, but time as well as the rough hand of the builder has left its mark. The string-course seen over the principal entrance is continued beyond the present building, clearly indicating that the adjoining building at one time formed part of the house now under consideration. The gable facing what is now, and probably

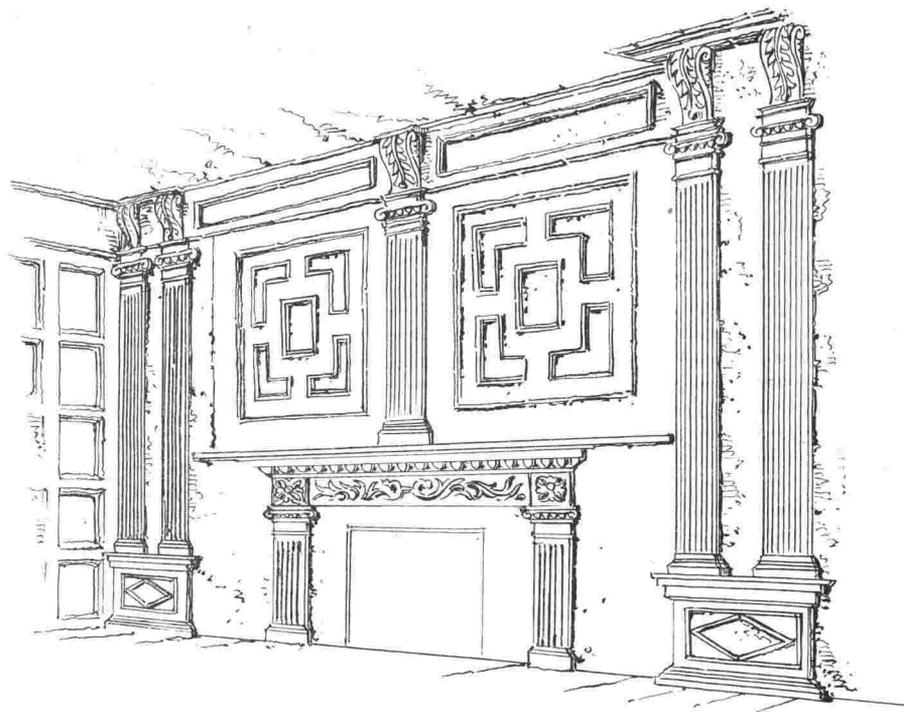


ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, UPPER BROOK STREET, IPSWICH,
VIEW FROM THE GARDEN.



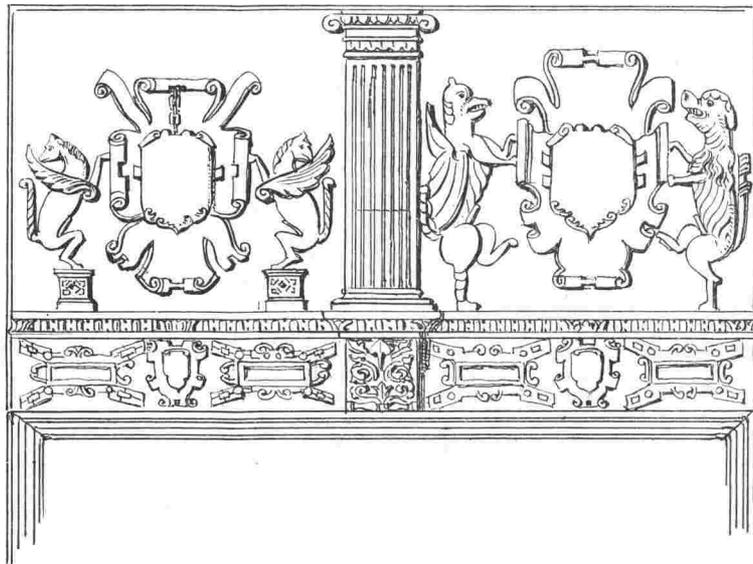
ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, UPPER BROOK STREET, IPSWICH.

VIEW FROM THE COURT YARD.



ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, UPPER BROOK STREET, IPSWICH

PANELLED ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR.



ELIZABETHAN HOUSE, UPPER BROOK STREET, IPSWICH
OVER THE MANTLE-PIECE ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

always was, the garden grounds (though they have without doubt been considerably diminished in their original proportions) is somewhat remarkable as being continental in character.

Internally there still remains much to indicate the original beauty and richness of the various apartments. On the ground floor, in which is now "the bar" of the Working Men's Club, is a quaintly carved, and handsome over mantel-piece. The shields are plain, but were in all probability at one time emblazoned. The supporters on either side are carved in a grotesque manner. Forming part of the ornamentation is the Tudor Rose, but this and other points of interest in the carving, are half hidden under the centuries of paint. In this apartment also is a good example of a recessed, or bay window, of the period. On the first floor there is what is now known as the "oak room." This is used by the Club as a reading-room. The four sides are covered with oak panelling, the fluting of the pilasters—seven rowed in some, and five in others—being very defined, and some are reeded about a quarter of the way up. The mantel-piece bears some good carving, the under cut of birds and foliage being evidently the work of a skilled hand. This piece of carved work was apparently brought from some other part of the building, and formed no part of the original mantel-piece.

The cellarge accommodation is of great size, extending beneath the whole of the building, and the existence of an old staircase leading from the cellar, discovered during the partial demolition of the premises, may afford a subject for speculation as to the purposes to which this staircase was formerly applied.

CONVERSAZIONE AT IPSWICH, 1891.

As the *Conversazione* held last year at Bury gave general satisfaction to members, the Council decided to have one of a similar character at Ipswich. Tuesday, October 20th, 1891, was considered generally convenient, and accordingly the services of the Mayor of the Borough (Frederick Turner, Esq.), were enlisted, and that gentleman not only very kindly granted the use of the spacious and elegant apartments of the Town Hall, for the purposes of a *Conversazione*, but entered most heartily into the whole affair, and invited a large number of friends to be present on the occasion. The Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Council convened the members of the Institute, the result of the joint invitation being a large and brilliant assembly. It may be here noted in passing, that the Card of Invitation was specially designed by Mr. J. S. Corder, who artistically represented an old Ipswich Inn, and also introduced drawings of some Church bells as having reference to the programme of the evening. A committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements which were admirably carried out, the whole suite of rooms were brilliantly lighted, and the approaches carpeted and decorated with choice flowers and plants. The guests were received in the Library by the Mayor of Ipswich, and the ladies and gentlemen found awaiting their inspection a large and varied collection of antiquarian findings and art productions, and to add still further to the enjoyment of the guests, the services of the band of the Suffolk Artillery Militia were engaged. While the company was arriving, and before the programme for the evening really began, the committee-room was visited, where Mr. Hamlet Watling had arranged a considerable portion of his valuable collection of drawings and maps of the county. The walls were hung with fac-simile coloured drawings of painted glass from Southwold and other churches, and upon the tables were laid several volumes written and beautifully illuminated by Mr. Watling. Conspicuous among these were water-colour drawings of Dunwich, the churches of Ipswich, and other places, as well as pedigrees of some of the prominent Suffolk families.

Besides this collection of Mr. Watling's, a large number of curiosities were arranged on tables in the Council Chamber. These exhibits comprised contributions by several gentlemen who have for many years been collectors of curiosities, as well as prints and drawings, relating to the Borough of Ipswich. The arrangement of the temporary museum was entrusted to Mr. Frank Brown, who artistically grouped the various objects for exhibition.

LIST OF EXHIBITS.

Mr. A. C. Casley. 1. British bronze sword, leaf shaped, dredged out of Orwell. 2. Penington's map of Ipswich. 3. Complete set (12) of Glyde's illustrations. 4. Print of market cross.

Mr. B. P. Grimsey. 1. Stoke Church (2), *Frost*. 2. S. Peter's Church, *Russell*. 3. S. Mary Elm's Church, *Russell*. 4. S. Lawrence and S. Stephen's, *Russell*. 5. S. Lawrence from Tower Lane. 6. Old room in Ancient House. 7. Old Shire Hall, *Russell*. 8. Coins found in Ipswich in excavating for sewer.

Mr. Buckham. 1. Ogilvie's map of Ipswich. 2. Fragments of Roman pottery found in High Street, Ipswich. 3. Old padlock and nail found in Fore Street, Ipswich.

Mr. Eyre. 1. Old Custom House, showing spandrels. 2. Chapel roof in Ancient House. 3. S. Lawrence Lane, *S. Read*. 4. Old Theatre. (Engraving.)

Mr. J. D. Piper. 1. Buck's view of Ipswich. 2. Old Stoke Bridge, *Frost*. 3. Common Quay, by *Frost*. 4. Clarke's Farm, S. Helen's. 5. House in Lower Orwell Street., *Russell*. 6. Common Quay (oil), *Frost*. 7. S. Stephen's Lane, *Cotman*. 8. Bracket from Rotunda.

Mr. W. Brown. Old jug, S. Nicholas. Model of the West-gate, by *Frost*.

F. Brown. Spandrels, from old Custom House.

Mr. Westhorp. Saxon needle, found on site of the Public Hall.

Mr. H. M. Jackaman. Corn Hill, *Read*. Angel Lane, *Russell*. Black Friars Monastery, *Gaze*.

Mr. J. S. Corder. Saxon coins. Roman vase and pottery found on the site of New Gas Offices, Carr Street. Tiles found in pulling down an old building opposite the Sea Horse, College Street, Ipswich. Illustrations of corner posts and pargetting, Ipswich.

Rev. Dr. Raven. Fragment of mill-stone from a Roman settlement at Brettenham, near Thetford, Norfolk.

Mr. C. Barrell. Several oil paintings by Suffolk artists.

Besides the above, Mr. Spanton, of Bury, exhibited a collection of large photographs of remarkable churches and mansions in the county, and Mr. W. Vick also showed, not only excellent photographs of old Ipswich, &c., but in addition several which had been taken by him during the summer excursions of the Institute.

When the time arrived for the commencement of the Evening Programme, the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., F.S.A., the author of *The Church Bells of Suffolk*, gave an account of

SOME OLD CHURCH BELLS IN IPSWICH.

Rubbings from mediæval bells in Ipswich were exhibited, from the towers of S. Stephen, S. Lawrence, and S. Matthew.

In commenting on them the speaker remarked how few people would imagine that a bell contained on its surface anything of interest, and expressed his hope that after the examination of the church bells, those belonging to old houses might receive notice, instancing a bell at Giffard Hall, in Stoke-by-Nayland parish, inscribed + Sancte Hugo Ora Pro Nobis.