

gone the way of many more sepulchral brasses." The inscription runs thus:—

Hic jacet Ricardus de la Pole filius d'ni mich'is de la Pole nup' comitis Suff' qui obiit xviii. die Decembr' A'o d'ni. m.ccc.ij. cui' a'i'e p'piciet' d's.

There were also exhibited the curious old communion flagons of silver, battered and broken, and a more modern silver salver, with date 1789; the first register dated 1538 to 1724; the second register from 1724 to 1803; a curious old book, inscribed, "Wingfield Town Book, 1750," and many others. From the town book we copied the first item:— "An inventory of George Cuppers' household stuff taken for the use of the parish of Wingfield, 1750:—1 bed, £2; 1 bed, £1 11s. 6d.; 1 coffer, 1s.; 1 table, 1s.; 1 ditto, 6d.; dresser and 2 drawers, 1s. 6d.; 1 warming pann, 1s. 6d.; 4 chairs, 5s.; 1 pr. bellows, 1s. 6d.; porrag' pott, hake, and chairs, 4s.; 3 vessels, vale stool, 2s.; 1 meat hutch, 1s. 6d.—£4 11s. 0d."

The company left Wingfield Church, proceeded to

FRESSINGFIELD,

where they arrived at 1.45 p.m., alighting at the Fox and Goose Inn. Here a small room had been set apart for a temporary museum, and this was visited before dinner by most of the members. Dr. Raven explained the nature and associations of the contents. There was the ancient "Tithe Book" of 1567, which, the worthy doctor stated, showed that Francis Sancroft, of that period, had not paid his tithe; a specimen of ancient four-lined church music, neatly written, which had served as the vellum binding of an old parish book; a number of flint implements, an ancient rouge pot; Samian ware, curiously enough mended anciently with a metal rivet; iron cheek bone from the harness of a horse, found seven feet below the bed of the river at Hoxne; the top of the old bell at Garboldisham, the founder of which was alive in 1347; and many other curiosities. One of the most interesting relics was Archbishop Sancroft's own Bible. Dr. Raven observed, "it is just two hundred years to-day since the Archbishop went to prison." He probably took this very Bible with him. It so happened that the evening lesson for that same day of trial contained the following words, which if read in vivid memory of Macaulay's account, will be felt almost to have been the Word of God to these men's souls. Dr. Raven read II. Cor. vi., 4, 5:—

"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

"In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings."

When this fact was announced all the gentlemen present lifted their hats and bared their heads, so dramatically telling was Dr. Raven's

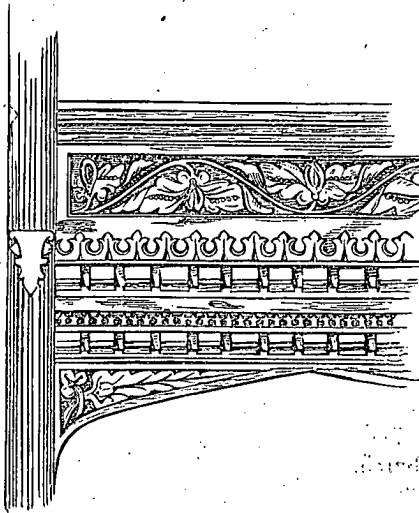
simple description of this historic event, for that very day (8th June) was the 200th anniversary of the committal of Archbishop Sancroft to the Tower.

The upper chamber at the "Fox and Goose" was anciently the Guildhall, and here was laid an admirable cold collation, after which the business of an annual meeting, and the election of new members took place.

The party then passed through the Churchyard to

FRESSINGFIELD CHURCH.

This was seen to great advantage, having just undergone judicious restoration at the hands of Messrs. Bottle and Olley, of Yarmouth, the contractor being Mr. R. Etheridge, of Fressingfield. The cost amounted to about £600, which was raised by the Rev. J. J. Raven, D.D., the vicar. The opening ceremony took place on Thursday, May 3, 1888, the sermon being preached by the Bishop of the Diocese, who took for his text Haggai i., 8.

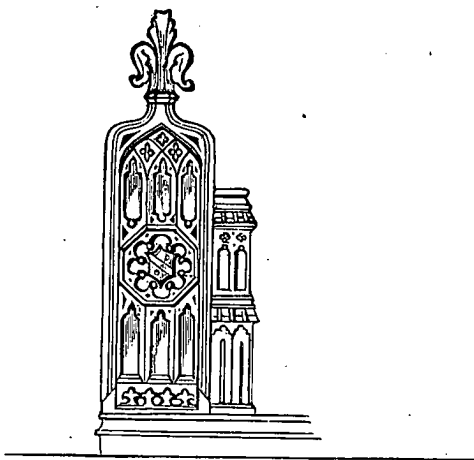


CORNICE TO NAVE.

Dr. Raven mounted the pulpit, recently erected by Mr. J. Sancroft Holmes to the memory of his ancestor, Archbishop Sancroft, and called the attention of visitors to the many points of interest in the fabric.

The church is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, the greater part dating back to the middle of the 14th century, that portion being in the Decorated style. To this part a clerestory and other additions were

made early in the 15th century, the additions being of the Perpendicular order of architecture. The finest feature of the church is the nave, which is very lofty, and covered with a beautifully carved hammer beam Perpendicular oak roof, the carved cornice being considered remarkably fine. The bold foliage is of open work, pegged to flat boarding.—Six large clerestory windows, with fine Perpendicular tracery, add greatly to the light supplied by the side windows. With a little more length, the nave would be perfect. The roof of the chancel is also a fine old piece of oak, but scarcely so lofty, nor so rich as that of the nave. The north and south aisles were restored some eighteen years ago, when that and other work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Phipson. There is a square tower, of the usual pattern, which contains a remarkably fine peal of bells. The south porch is also unusually fine.



NEW BENCH END TO MATCH EXISTING WORK.

Inside the church perhaps the most striking feature is the seating of the nave, which is filled with grand old oak benches, all beautifully carved, though firm and strong as when placed there, and with fine poppy heads. They are probably nearly as old as the church. Some of these benches had fallen into disrepair, but all have now been made sound and good; and in a few cases it has been found necessary to replace the ends of the benches, and these have been admirably supplied, the carving being in complete accordance with the old work. In this work also the comfort of the congregation has been consulted, for the wood blocks which now compose the flooring inside the benches will doubtless be found far more warm and comfortable than the old floor. In the

aisles porcelain tiles have been placed, and the old memorial slabs have been replaced. In the work of restoration, portions of the old rood screen were found, and these, after being carefully restored, were replaced in their proper position, giving now in a good state of preservation the dado part of the old screen. One matter deserving special mention is the old guild seat in the north chancel chapel. This is beautifully carved in the Decorated style, and is about 500 years old, though in perfect preservation. On much of the carved work a wretched coating of paint was found, and this has been completely removed. This church contains the remains of one of the finest *Sedilias* and *Piscina* that could be found in a local parish church. This was bricked and plastered up, and when the hideous covering was cut away, it was found that nearly all the masonry and beautiful carved stone work had been ruthlessly torn away. Just enough remains, however, to show that it had the usual three handsome stalls, and what the general design must have been; and when further steps can be taken, this will be replaced. In making new altar rails and altar, the old dedication stone of the church was found in perfect preservation.

The work of restoration has included the removal of a gallery from the west end of the nave, where the organ and choir were formerly located. These are now placed in the chancel chapel, new oak choir benches having been supplied in accordance with the rest of the work.

The well-known arms of the De Uffords, Earls of Suffolk and of Hastings, remain in the chancel, where is also a well-preserved brass to William Brewes (1482). The south porch is supposed by Dr. Raven to commemorate the deaths of two Michael de la Poles, who died, one at the siege of Harfleur, and the other at Agincourt.

After giving a description of Fressingfield Church, Dr. Raven proceeded to deliver a biographical sketch of Archbishop Sancroft, who was born and buried in the parish.

At the conclusion of the paper the Rev. E. C. Hopper, rector of Starston, who is descended from the Archbishop's brother Thomas, exhibited the private communion cup, preserved in leather case, used after his deprivation by the Archbishop. It is of silver, and dated 1567. Dr. Jessopp pointed out to some of the members that the communion table was probably of the time of Archbishop Laud. It is handsomely carved, and in a beautiful state of preservation. Before the party left the church, Dr. Raven described the handsome south porch, and pointed out the tomb of the Archbishop (ob. 24 November, 1693).

The examination of the church occupied fully an hour, and after partaking of Dr. Raven's hospitality in the shape of a cup of tea and light refreshment, and bidding their kind host farewell, the party returned to the "Fox and Goose" and remounted, arriving at Hoxne,