

romantic story of the house of De la Poles, Earls and Dukes of Suffolk, which will be found on another page of this Part.

The company then took their way over the curious drawbridge and followed the course of the moat to the front of the Castle, where, the conveyances being in readiness, they re-mounted and drove to the Church, which is not far distant.

WINGFIELD CHURCH.

The contents of Wingfield Church have the greatest charm for the antiquarian. The Rev. C. R. Manning has described it in the 3rd vol. of the *Transactions* of the Institute, and standing in the chancel he read portions of his paper to the members. The earliest remains found in the present church are of the 14th century, although there was an earlier church here, and the probability is that when the church was made a collegiate one it was entirely re-built. The church was made collegiate by Eleanor, relict of Sir John Wingfield. It is dedicated to SS. Mary, John the Baptist, and Andrew. The church consists of nave and chancel, with aisles to both, those of the chancel having been chapels with their own altars. The chancel is of considerable dimensions, and apparently underwent ornamental alteration in the time of Richard II. The old returned stalls still remain, having poppy-heads and panelling, and the old carved screen remains in the arches behind. The beautiful arches which divide the chancel from the side chapels are four in number, three on the south and one on the north. The mouldings of two of them are ornamented with the badges of the families of Wingfield and Stafford, proof that they are the work of Michael de la Pole. The attention of the company was centred chiefly in this magnificent chancel, and the curious architectural features it contains. On the north of the chancel the aisle is utilised as a vestry. This compartment has a wooden roof, which forms the floor of an upper chamber, this construction evidently being of ancient date, and coeval with the church. The upper chamber is approached only by means of a ladder, several members climbing it in order to inspect the curious hagioscopes or "squints"—large and carefully-formed holes running obliquely through the wall. Mr. Manning endeavoured to explain the use of this chamber, by stating that it was probably used by the members of the College of Priests, which formerly existed at the south-west corner of the churchyard, and may have contained their library and vestments. To this, however, Dr. Raven took exception, saying that it struck him that it had been designed for the use of ladies or widows of the Earls of Suffolk, who are so intimately associated with the church, for they would in all probability have sought some privacy during the hour of worship. He, in turn, however, yielded his opinion to something more than a conjecture which was raised by Dr. Jessopp. While searching through some of the old records of a neighbouring parish, he had come across a

complaint that the Custos Capelli did not sleep in the church, and this fact opened his eyes to the conviction that this chamber was the place of residence for one of the chaplains of the church, whose business it was to watch over the light which perpetually burned on the altar, to sleep in the church, and also to guard it against robbers. Dr. Jessopp said there was a similar chamber at Hingham, in exactly the same position as this, and he was going to restore it for the use of the young men of the parish. Dr. Raven remarked how delighted he was to accept Dr. Jessopp's explanation of the use of the chamber, more especially because he was able to support it by stating that he recollected that one of the nonjuring clergy had actually died on a portion of the rood screen, that he might die in the sight of the altar.

Dr. Raven proceeded to read a highly interesting document which had been forwarded to him by the Rev. Henry Walford, of Ewelme (together with photographs of the tomb of Alicia de la Pole, in Ewelme Church), and which related to Wingfield Church. It was nothing less curious than an estimate, which has been found among the Ewelme papers of the middle of the 15th century—an estimate of the cost of repairing Wingfield Church, county Suffolk, lengthening the chancel and building a new arched recess for “my Lord's fader and his moderes tombe;” our lady's chapel to be also lengthened even with the chancel, and windows to be made on the south side and north side of the chancel, walls heightened, and clerestory windows worked in,—Total estimate £75 8s. 4d. Some of the items of expenditure are as follows:—

xxxvii tons of Lyncolnshire Stoon at vis. viiid., and for		
cariage per ton iiiis.	-	- xixli xiiis. viiid.
viii ton of Kingmelle stoon and cariage	-	- iiiili iis. iiid.
xm. bryke, the M. 6s. with cariage	-	- iiiili iiis. iiid.
xxiiii chalder lyme at viis. with cariage	-	- viiili viis.
Two water paylles viiid.—viii bolles for mortar xvii.		
—iiii shovels xvii.—xii bordes for syntres lld.—sand xiiis. iiid.		

Some of the monuments which lie in the chancel of this church are of great beauty, but unfortunately their inscriptions have long been lost, and to prove the identity of each has become a difficult task. There are here monuments to Sir John de Wingfield, an eminent soldier, a chief favourite and counsellor of Edward the Black Prince, whom he accompanied in his expedition to Languedoc in 1355; another to Michael de la Pole, the second of his name, Earl of Suffolk; and a third to John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, who married Elizabeth Plantagenet, sister of Edward iv. and Richard iii., of both of whom more anon.

Within the vestry were exhibited several curiosities. One was the brass plate from a slab monument to Richard de la Pole, still existing in the church, which Gough, in his *Sepulchral Monuments*, mentions as having seen in the church chest in 1764, “and am since told they have