

A Nich for the Patron Saint on the South side of the East partition, and these two holes (by way of Cancelli) to look thro', the North side of the same partition to the altar.

In the Chancell a very old stone much decay'd by age. Near it the Altar Stone (I presume) much hollowed or worn in the middle part. Query by what means. On the North Chancell Window, a white rose.

Only two Sediles by the holy water stone. S. side. S. window stop'd up.

Stephanus Toneri me fecit 1572 de Bury. Sante Edmonde Omnia Jovam laudent animantia. [Legend on one of the Church Bells.]

PATRONAGE OF GEDDING CHURCH.

Gift of the right of presentation to Gedding Rectory.

Extracted from the Will of M^r. Catlyn late Minister of Wickham Market. Suff. dated 31. Jan. 1694.

"Item, I doe hereby give the perpetual patronage and right of nomination and presentation of a Clerk unto the Rectory of Gedding in Suffolk, unto the Corporation of Ipswich in the same county in which I was born, to be disposed of freely by the Bailiffs of the same for the time being, together with the eldest Portman, who is not one of the Bailiffs, the Recorder, and the Town Clerk, or the greatest number of them, whensoever it shall be void by the death, or otherwise of my nephew Thomas Ramsford, to whom I have given the next Advowson after the avoidance thereof by the death or otherwise of the present Incumbent, and I will that the Writings of the alienation thereof from Robert Page Lord of the Manor be accordingly delivered to them." S. Pickering's ms. Coll. III. fo. 50.

The Patronage was purchased by Rev. Rt. Townson in 1882.

Before leaving Gedding the members were conducted to the Hall, mention of which had been made in Mr. Boucher's paper. This is but a short distance from the church, and has the appearance of having once been a place of great strength, although what now remains is but the gateway to the original mansion. The interior of the building is of massive construction, the kitchen possessing a curious flight of stone steps leading down to the moat. The Honorary Secretary having given a very brief description of the place, the company proceeded to

THORPE MORIEUX,

where they were courteously received by the rector, the Rev. R. C. Temple. He and Mrs. Temple not only bade the visitors a hearty welcome, but also kindly provided light refreshments upon the lawn. Thanks having been accorded to the host and hostess, the party crossed the road to the church, where the Union Jack (a relic of the Jubilee commemoration) floated merrily from the tower. The chancel, which is exceptionally long, bears on its north and south walls two marble tablets—one of these surmounted with a coat-of-arms, is in memory of

the Rev. John Fiske, who died in 1764, and whose wife was descended from George, Duke of Clarence; and the other of his daughter. In the garden in front of the rectory a well-preserved shilling of the time of Henry VIII. was found in May, 1889, some seven inches beneath the surface, which rather tends to show the date of a portion of the present house, about which there are marks even of greater age. The name of the first clergyman recorded in the Norwich Diocesan Registry is that of

Hugo de Arderne, persona S. Mariæ de Thorp 13 Hen. III.

who may have lived at the west end of the northern gable (the oldest part) of the rectory; and it is presumed that the earlier priests occupied one large room, forming both study and sleeping apartment at the same time, at the original Manor House or Hall.

The Rector read from the pulpit the following paper:—

“That which strikes a stranger on entering this edifice, is its unusual dimensions, its altitude, particularly for a rural parish, the present population of which is only 416, living in some ten scattered hamlets; there being no village proper. How is this to be accounted for? I find no records, and regret that my efforts to obtain information from reliable sources have been unsuccessful, beyond a meagre extract from the *Ecclesiastical Topography of England*, kindly supplied by Mr. Fawcett, of Cambridge, ‘though,’ as he observes, ‘it does not tell one much more than one can see:’—‘The church of Thorpe Morieux is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and west tower, the latter perpendicular, the rest of the church decorated. East window, three lights; two lights in side walls, with good tracery. South doorway and door very good. The porch of wood of the same date as the nave; it has open tracery at the sides, and a good verge-board.” Up to the time of the Restoration of the church in 1869, the present Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway (Rev. William Thomas Harrison) being then rector, there was the usual array of unsightly pews—some six on the south, and eight on the north side—and galleries blocking the fine arches west and east. The floor declines gradually from the west door to the chancel step, which is unusual. The handsomely carved piece of masonry inserted in the south wall of the nave was found ‘buried,’ happily in an uninjured condition, in the piscina at the south-east angle (which probably was a side altar), and upon it may have rested an image of the patron saint, or—if not thus used in this place, deemed by persons of judgment, upheld by authority for their opinion, to be the right one—a lamp stood upon it for the use of the priest at early morn in the dark days of the year. On the east wall, in the corner near the pulpit is the entrance to the rood-loft, and on the outside are the clearly visible remains of the staircase, pronounced to be a very interesting feature here. The font, of early English construction, did not, there is good reason for supposing, always stand where it is now, but in the present chancel, thus in agreement with the architectural features, both as regards the windows and buttresses of this

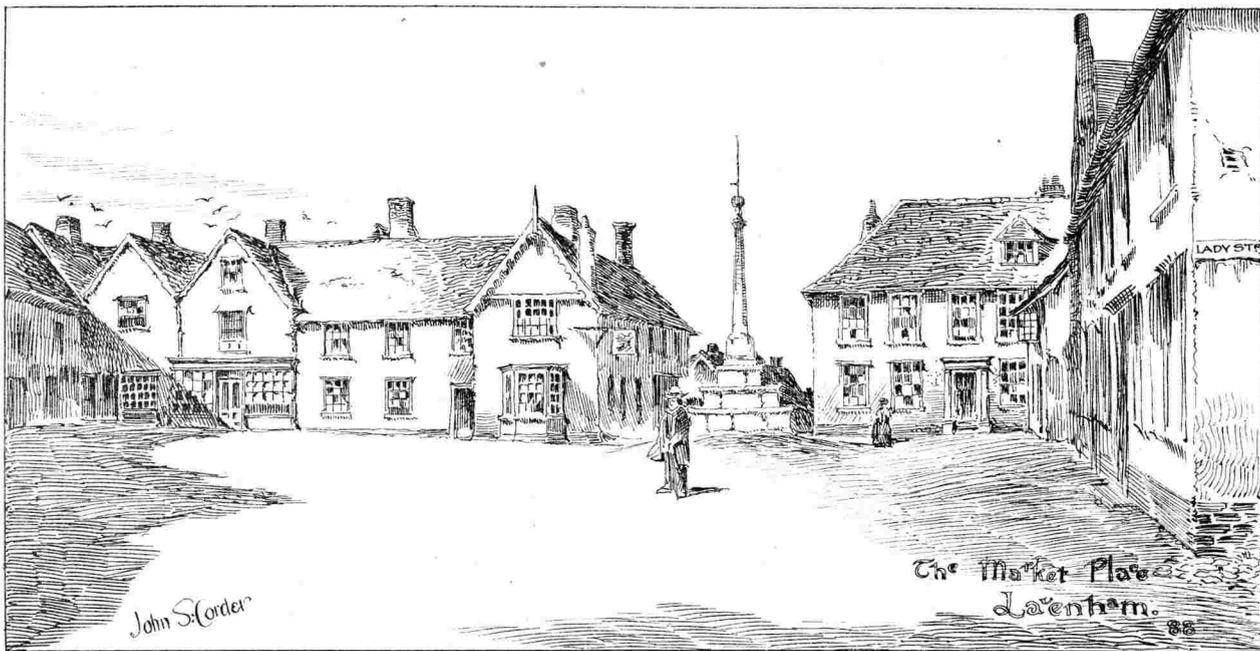
portion of the edifice, which was doubtless the original church, dating as far back as the time of Stephen (1135-1154), the former half of the 12th century, and built by the lord of the soil living in the old manor house, within easy bowshot of this spot, for the use of his family and dependents, whose number may have been 32 (more or less). As the population increased, and with it the energy of pious and charitable minds, we need not to quote chapter and line of the page of Church history to draw the natural conclusion that succeeding generations ambitiously vied with the past in seeking to promote God's honour and glory. It is in this way an answer is forthcoming to the question raised as to how the unusually large dimensions of this church may be accounted for. At the south-east end of the nave is a second piscina of beautiful construction, and well worth inspection. There is yet another in the inner wall of the vestry, which, being an addition to the church at the time of the restoration in 1869, could only have been so placed in order to religiously preserve a tangible memory of the past. Hugh de Morieux, of Norman-French extraction, was the lord of the soil, from whom the place takes its name; and Thorpe, sometimes written Thorp, and formerly Torp (or Torf), is the old Saxon word for a small collection of tenements occupied by labourers, in fact, our present 'village,' the German 'dorf,' having the same signification. The registers of the parish date from 1538, A.D., very well written and preserved, with an occasional quaint remark appended. The communion plate consists of chalice and paten of silver, flagon of plated metal, all of the 18th century (1756, earlier or later)."

The time taken in examining this church was more than had been allowed, and the visitors had to be hurried away without a chance of getting more than a distant view of the Manor House and the "fish-pond," a means of providing a plentiful supply of fish in the fasting days.

Without delay the company had resumed their journey, and were soon in the quiet and antiquated town of Lavenham. Dinner was served at the "Black Lion."

RECTORS OF THORPE MORIEUX.

A.D.		A.D.	
1229	Hugo de Arderne	1607	John Nuttall
1317	Will de Say	1638	Edrus Solley
1346	Joes de Hadenham	1639	Johannes Powle
1349	Petrus at Medwe	1641	Tho. Colman
1366	Alex. Kylmond de Rattlesden, 5 yrs.	1662	Thos. Pratt
1371	Joes Brightles	1673	William Barker
1391	Adam Drake	1701	Joseph Sparrow
1413	Nic. Huxtere	1719	John Fisk
1452	Rob. Chapman	1753	John Fiske
1479	Mr. Will. Lamyn	1778	Peter Edge
1501	Will. Hempton	1781	John Sparrow
1537	Mr. Rob. Codd, LL.B.	1786	Hezekiah Goodeve Harrison, 37 yrs
1546	Mr. Thos. Smith	1823	Thos. Thomas Harrison ...
1554	Rob. Rossal	1868	William Thomas Harrison, 7 yrs.
1571	Henr. Boyse	1875	Robert Charles Temple ...
1594	Will. Gilbert		



John Storer

The Market Place
Lavenham.
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COWELL, LITH. IPSWICH.

MARKET · PLACE · LAVENHAM ·

From A.D. 1317 to 1868 there are names of 29 Rectors recorded; yielding an average tenure of office of 19 years each. If, as there is good reason to believe, the original church, consisting of the chancel of the present edifice, date from the middle of Stephen's reign, 1145 A.D. there would be a period of 84 years unaccounted for; and if any record of this ever existed it must now be deemed irrecoverable. According to the foregoing computation of 19 years' tenure to each resident priest there would have been five such anterior to the first on our list; had they their abode at the Manor house, or present Hall in this locality, occupying one large room in it, of which there are several, as study and chamber together? We think so, and that they were domestic chaplains to the then lords of the soil rather than parish priests proper.

A stone spear-head was found in a ditch near the fish pond, three acres in extent, about three years ago. It is four inches long and three inches in circumference where the shaft was let into it.

LAVENHAM CHURCH

was afterwards visited. This grand perpendicular building holds a foremost place among the churches of Suffolk for the massive beauty of its structure. The tower, which is 140 feet high, is too familiar to all who pass by that part of the country to need description, whilst the church itself, worthy to be a cathedral, has been often fully described: a detailed account thereof by Mr. E. M. Dewing, our late Secretary, will be found in the VI. volume, p. 105, of the Proceedings of the Institute. One interesting incident was mentioned in the course of a few remarks by the rector (Rev. J. M. Croker). In removing a slab of stone a very old coffin was discovered in almost as perfect a condition as if made yesterday. The slab was let down again for the time and taken up the next day, and not a vestige remained of the coffin or its contents save a handful of mould.

LAVENHAM

had been visited on two previous occasions, namely in the years 1855 and 1877.

The ancient and celebrated family of the De Veres formerly resided in Lavenham, and to this fact the noble church greatly owes its magnificence. Thomas Spring, died 1440, leaving by Agnes, his wife, a son, Thomas, whose monumental brass is affixed to the East wall of the Vestry. He died 1486. His will is extant, he left certain bequests to his spinners and other artizans, and also 300 marks for building of the Tower. The town contains some curious timbered houses, the most interesting example is

THE GUILDHALL,

which was also inspected by the party. Mr. Corder, of Ipswich, whose design for the restoration of the Hall was accepted in open competition, read a very valuable paper descriptive of its prominent features.