

The grant from Henry VIII. to Walter Copinger to wear his hat in the King's presence is unique. Miss Strickland mentions two instances— one, Lord Kingsale.

THE COPINGER HAT GRANT.

The story goes that Henry VIII. would make Walter Copinger a Lord, and he said "No, I have no wife or child and want nothing on earth." "But I will do something for you," replied the King. "Then let me wear my bonnet," was the request. "So you shall," was the King's answer.

"HENRY R. Henry, by the grace of God, King of England and of France, and Lord of Ireland.

"To all *manor* (*sic*) our subjects as well of the spiritual preeminence and dignities, as of the temporal *auctority* (*sic*), these our Letters hearing or seeing, and to every of them greeting: Whereas, we be credibly informed, that our trusty and well beloved subject Walter Copinger is so diseased in his head that without his great danger he cannot be conveniently discovered of the same: In consideration whereof, we have by these presents, licensed him to use and wear his Bonet upon his said head, as well in our presence as elsewhere at his liberty. Whereof we will and command you and every of you to permit and suffer him so to do, without any your challenge, disturbance, or interruption to the contrary as ye and every of you tender our pleasure. Given under our signet, at our manor of Greenwich, the 24th day of October, in the fourth year of our reigne Henry R" Granted anno 1513.

L. S.

Before leaving Buxhall church the attention of the visitors was drawn to the parish stocks, which have been preserved, and were exhibited in the porch.

The archæologists then proceeded to

RATTLESDEN,

where they alighted at the church. Here they were met by the Rev. John Barney, M.A., the rector. The Rev. F. Haslewood, the honorary secretary, having called the members beneath the pulpit, read therefrom the following paper, descriptive of the church:—

"The fine church in which we are assembled claims S. Nicholas as its patron saint. For the most part churches with this dedication are seldom found inland, S. Nicholas being generally regarded as presiding over sailors. Possibly this fact may be explained by the circumstance that the river, now merely a rippling stream, was at one time navigable

as far as this place. Tradition asserts that the stone for the magnificent churches at Bury S. Edmund's was brought by water from Stowmarket as far as Rattlesden, and thence to Bury. Coming to the fabric itself it will be observed that the Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture prevail; the nave and tower are good examples of the former, the porch, clerestory, aisles, and chancel being of Perpendicular character. The chancel arch is very lofty, and east window large. In the north-wall, within the sacarium, will be observed a fine aumbry or locker beneath a mutilated canopy. The original iron hinges remain, whilst grooves in the sides, which formerly supported a wooden shelf, likewise exist. Fragments of ancient glass are found; one being a portion of the Apostles' Creed. The chancel stalls are old, and a portion of the screen may be observed at the west end of the church. The nave roof is very handsome, of double hammer beam construction, and decorated with angels with expanded wings, there being thirty-three on either side, or the large number of 66 in all. The five arcades, with as many clerestory windows, are unusually large and fine. The roofs of the north and south aisles are likewise good. Upon the south side may be observed the stone steps to the rood loft; the original staples for the doors remain *in situ*. The rood loft apparently ran in an oblique direction, possibly to form a second rood. Some tabernacle work exists, which formerly contained images for the side altars. In the north aisle, in the joint of the east window, will be found a niche. In the south aisle is an aperture now partly closed; this was intended to obtain a view of the high altar. The nave-piers are octagonal, and upon the columns of the arches will be observed some cinquefoil carving beneath the capitals; this ornamentation is not, however, found upon the responds. The vestry, of Perpendicular style, is worthy of notice, formerly there was a room over it. The font is good, though mutilated; its date is about 1450. The pulpit presents a fine example of Jacobean work. The tower appears almost too small for the body of the church. In the fine south porch will be observed traces of the ridge of the roof of an earlier porch. The south elevation of the church is good and striking. Colonel Parker gave nobly to the work of the restoration of this beautiful church, upon which was spent about £3,000. Sir A. Blomfield, Knt., was the architect, and the building does credit to his skill. The chancel was undertaken in 1879, and the remaining portion in 1883."

The visitors spent a short time in the inspection of the vestry, the clock tower, and the various objects alluded to in the foregoing paper. In the vestry had been laid out the parish registers, which date from 1558. Mr. Duncan Parker also called attention to the fact,—of which he was reminded by the allusion in the paper to the river,—that there was found in the river-bed many years ago an old anchor, which was long preserved, and a portion of which may still be seen in the village, its existence confirming the suggestion that the river was at one time navigable up to that village. A heavy "knocker" on the church door was pointed to by Mr. Parker as having been constructed from a portion

of this relic. Mr. Stanton mentioned the fact that several years ago, while the porch was being cleaned, remains of a curious fresco were discovered on one of the walls.

NOTES BY DAVY. Transcribed by REV. F. HASLEWOOD, F.S.A., HON. SEC.
Rattlesden. Hund. of Thedwastre.

Church Notes, taken March 21, 1814, by H. I. and D. E. D.

The Church consists of a Chancel, Nave, 2 Isles, and a Vestry, all covered with lead.

The Chancel is 41ft. 7in. long, and 20ft. 6in. wide, ceiled with wainscot. The Communion Table is raised 1 step, and inclosed by oak rails. The East window is large and handsome, but modern, having been repaired and altered about 4 years ago. On the N. side, near the East end, is a nich, 4 feet high, with crockets and finials.

The Vestry adjoins the N. wall of the Chancel, and is 15ft. 10in. long, by 9ft. 9in. wide, over which is a room, not used, with a staircase of stone up to it. The frames in which were contained the Lord's Prayer, Commandments, &c., having been taken down from their places in the Chancel, are standing in the Vestry.

The Nave is 64ft. 4in. long, by 23ft. 3in. wide, on the same level with the Chancel. On the N. side of the division of the Chancel from the Nave, are some remains of a painted screen; the figures with their names over them, of the following Saints still remain; J. Beutelacij, (?) Dorothea, Magdalena, Edwardi. The Nave is separated from the Isles by 5 arches, on each side, which are pointed, and rest upon octagon fluted pillars, and is lighted by 5 windows on each side, above the arches. The Pulpit, which is of Oak, carved, 6gon, is placed against the 2^d. pillar from the E. end, on the N. side. The Font stands in the middle near the W. end, raised 2 steps, octagon, carved on the faces, with a large wooden type. At the W. end is a small gallery, over which, hang the Arms of Geo. I., 1714. The chief part of the Nave is seated with oak, with 3 or 4 pews. The second clerestory window from West end, on the North side is filled with painted glass probably taken from the other windows, but much broken. The roof appears to be of chestnut.

The Isles are each of the same length with the Nave, and 7ft. 7in. wide. In many of the windows are remains of painted glass, but in fragments. In the 2^d. window from E. end, in S. isle, is a shield of Arms, quarterly 1 & 4 Or. 3 cocks gu. 2 & 1

2 & 3 Vert. fretty, argt a fess gu.

In the Windows of the N. isle, are some figures of Saints &c., pretty perfect. On the S. side, is a Porch.

The Steeple at the W. is a square tower of stone, with a wooden pyramidal spire. It contains a Clock, and 5 Bells.

The outside of the Church is of cut flints. The parapet of the N. Isle is in diamonds, with blank shields. On the Parapet of the S. isle, are, a Crown pierced with 2 arrows in saltire. M. T. I. H. S., &c.