

## WINGFIELD CASTLE

occupies an area of about an acre and a half, surrounded by a square moat, 10 feet in width. The site, and the moat itself, are no doubt much older than any buildings now upon it. The family of de Wingfield held the manor and resided here, in early times, perhaps from the Norman Conquest, and had the manor and the family been one of more importance, or had it been the seat of a Saxon lord, we should have found here the circular and horseshoe earthworks of the pre-Norman age, or the quadrangular keep of the builders in stone, of the 11th century. On the other hand, had its possessors in the 15th or 16th centuries not fallen into misfortune and forfeited their title and lands, but remained here in peace, the buildings which we see now, would probably have been entirely replaced by an Elizabethan or later mansion, with a pleasant park instead of a bare common. As it is, we have the advantage of seeing an intermediate structure, a fortified manor house of the latter part of the 14th century, with a fine entrance gateway, and the outer walls pierced with mullioned windows. Michael de la Pole, 1st Earl of Suffolk, married the heiress of the Wingfields of Wingfield, and he had the king's licence to crenellate his "*mansum manerii*," here in the 8th Richard II., 1384. That is accordingly the date of the old work still existing. The principal feature is the gateway, which stands on the middle of the south side. The entrance had a portcullis, and is approached by a bridge over the moat, and it probably had a drawbridge. On each side are stone sculptures of the arms of De la Pole and Wingfield. At each angle of the gateway and the curtain wall are octagon and semi-octagon staircase turrets, that in the south-west angle being large, and giving the principal access to the guard room over the gateway, and to the living rooms beyond, and extending to the flat roof above. The courtyard within the four walls has lost all its old buildings, and is now a garden. On the east side is a curious drawbridge, balanced by a large stone.

As Dr. Raven is about to tell us of the fortunes of the De la Pole family, I will only say further that in the time of Henry VIII., the Castle became the property of the Catelyn family, of whom Richard Catelyn was Sheriff of Norwich in 1531, and about that time they altered the building, and erected the dwelling house, with some fine chimnies, now forming the west front of the Castle. Sir Nevile Catelyn, who was knighted by Charles II., in 1662, died without issue, and the property passed to the family of Leman, of Brampton, descendants of his sister Anne. From them it passed by will to the Wilson family, of Didlington, and to the late Lord Berners; but was sold in 1856 to Sir Robert Shafto Adair, who was father to the late Lord Waveney, and to Sir Hugh Adair, Bart., the present owner.

The Rev. Dr. Raven then read a well-compiled paper upon the

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