

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

KELSALE, YOXFORD, SIBTON ABBEY AND CHURCH,
DENNINGTON.

Thursday, July 7th, 1892, having been fixed for the annual excursion, a large number of the members of the Institute spent an enjoyable day in the picturesque locality popularly known as the "Garden of Suffolk." The train left Ipswich at 10.20 for Saxmundham station, where vehicles were in readiness to convey the excursionists to the various places mapped out for visitation. The first drive was a short one to Kelsale Church where members were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. George Irving-Davies.

KELSALE CHURCH.

BY THE REV. GEORGE IRVING-DAVIES, M.A.,

Rector of Kelsale with Carlton.

In regard to Kelsale generally, it may be observed that Kelsale, also written Kellishall, near Saxmundham, was anciently the Demesne of John, Duke of Norfolk, which he had with the Countess Mareschal as her portion—till being attainted for siding with the House of York against Henry, Duke of Richmond, this manor was given to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford—but it is probable it did not remain long in that family, for it was in the Duke of Norfolk's family again in 1545, and his Trustees presented to the Church during the reign of Elizabeth.

In King James I. time Sir Thomas Holland had it, and in King Charles II. reign, John Bence, Esq.

Kelsale Lodge did also formerly belong to the Dukes of Norfolk, and passed from them to the family of Weakenham, and from them to the Hobarts. It now belongs to Sir Ralph Barrett Macnaughten Blois.

John Framlingham, Rector here, founded at Carlton, about 1330, a Chantry for three chaplains, to pray for the soul of Alice of Hainault, Countess of Mareschall. It was granted, 36 Henry VIII., to William Honing. Carlton Hall and Bromholme Manors were in 1839 the property of the Rev. George Anguish.

Carlton Hall is now the property of the Countess of Stradbroke. (Davy, mss., vol. xvi., British Museum.)

The Church (St. Mary) consists of a nave, a chancel, and a south aisle. The chancel was formerly externally and internally a miserable structure, having a wooden east window and a flat plastered ceiling, its

length was 38 ft. 8 in. long and 17 ft. 10 in. wide. The present chancel was built in 1877—as also the chancel aisle and vestries—the only thing worth preserving being the small south door of Norman date. This, as well as that on the north side, of the same style, are engraved in Davy's architecture of Suffolk. In 1880 the nave and south aisle were restored and re-seated with oak benches, the length of the nave is 74 ft. by 22 ft. 9 in. wide. It was very irregularly pewed and seated with oak and deal, as was also the chancel; some of the pews were of an extraordinary height; the south aisle had a long gallery, and at the west end was another gallery with a barrel organ. The pulpit was placed high up on the north wall, with reading desk and clerk's desk beneath. The Font is octagon, and the faces have on them alternately the emblems of the Evangelists and Angels bearing shields, of which one has the arms of the East Angles, three crowns, and that on the opposite side three cups.

The tower was restored in 1890-91, and the plaster on it and on the entire Church was removed, and the flint work repaired throughout. The tower contains eight bells with inscriptions.

Over the outer door of the porch, on shields, are the emblems of the Trinity and Crucifixion.

The next place visited was Yoxford.

YOXFORD CHURCH.

The Rev. Henry Parr, the Vicar, delivered from the good Jacobean pulpit, some account of the Fabric and the Celebrities buried therein.

He remarked that there was no record as to when it was erected, but evidences of antiquity were apparent. In the wall of the South Aisle might be seen a piscina dating back to pre-Reformation times, as it could not have been made later than 1559. It was discovered when the Church was last repaired, having been plastered over for some three hundred years. There are also several brasses of the early part of the 15th century.

At the east end of the South Aisle is the Cockfield Chapel, belonging to the proprietors of the Cockfield estate. The vault beneath contains the remains of three families of local importance—Hopton, Brooke, and Blois.

The North Aisle is modern, being an addition made in 1837 at a cost of £1,200. The date of the tower does not appear but it contains a peal of six bells, which are probably the best in the neighbourhood both for tone and tune.

As to the interior of the building, when the Vicar first came in 1867, it presented a very different appearance. At the west end were two galleries, the lower one reaching across the building and obscuring the light of the two windows. Above it was a smaller one high up in the roof containing a barrel organ. The vestry was in the tower beneath the belfry floor. The font stood before the vestry door almost