

had already issued to all members of county archæological societies several printed pamphlets, telling of their scheme and of the progress of their work, and giving useful hints to those willing to help. Thirdly, as to recumbent effigies, it had been stated that England contained some 2,000 recumbent effigies, which it was proposed to divide into three main classes according to the material of which they were constructed, namely, purbeck, freestone, and alabaster. It was suggested that every county archæological society should organise a visitation of every church, and thus make a list of all such effigies, such list giving brief particulars as to material, style of costume, apparent date, and name of the person supposed to be represented by the effigy. This visitation would, of course, be made at the same time as that proposed on parish chests. He proposed that a special meeting of the Institute be held to discuss the adoption, or otherwise, of the proposals he had put forward.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh cordially seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Sec. then proceeded to give an account of "Lidgate, its Castle and Manor." The name Lidgate denotes the antiquity of the village; in only one instance does the spelling of the name occur as Ludgate; the usual reading as applied to the villages of Warwickshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Lancashire, is generally adopted for the name of the Suffolk village, standing on the street (*gate*) running alongside the streamlet, Lydd. The poet, John de Lidgate, a monk of Bury, who died *circa* 1460, expresses the opinion, in his Epilogue to the poem by Bochas, on the Fall of Princes, that the village was the scene of one of the marauding expeditions of the Danes.

"Born in a village which is called Lydgate,
By oldé time a famous castel towne,
In Danes time it was beaté down,
Time what St. Edmund's martir, maid & King,
Was slain at Oxford, record of writing."

The "record of writing," is probably the poem of Dennis Piramus, the French poet of the Court of Henry III., and for *Oxford* should be read *Orford*. The castle of Lydgate was probably a timber-built fortress, such as stood upon the mounds of Haughley and Denham, and of which all traces were obliterated by fire in the civil broil of Stephen's reign, or by orders of Henry II. In this castle Ralph de Hastings, lord of the manor of Lidgate, and a strong partisan of the Empress Maud, would defend himself against attacks made by Engelran de Say, lord of Denham, and a warm supporter of Stephen's claims.

The plan of Lidgate Castle is, roughly speaking, as follows:—

A square court with sides 50 yards in length, is surrounded by a dry fosse, in some places 50 feet deep. The sides facing N.E. and S.E. are protected by an outer fosse filled with water from a brook. Between the two fosses is a high embankment about 10 yards in width. The keep stands within the angle formed by the sides facing S.E. and S.W. The approach is over two ditches, near the angle formed by the sides running N.E. and S.E. At this point a fosse appears to commence, surrounding the outer court, and enclosing farm buildings, a small field, the church and churchyard, as well as the tenements standing near the churchyard gate. The whole plan bears a strong resemblance to the plan of Haughley Castle, and may resemble that of the Norman Castle which stood on the banks of the Seine, and was the residence of William de Wateville, mentioned in the Domesday Survey, as lord of the manor of Lidgate.

The township was transferred to the monks of Bury by Reginald de Scanceler, before starting on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, *circa* A.D. 1100.

The manor was subsequently held by members of the families of Windsor, Hastings, and Cantilupe, by service of Dapifer or Steward of the Liberty of Saint Edmund; the frequent occurrence of the decease of a lord during the minority of the heir, caused the manor to lay waste

for many years. In the year 1340 the Rector bewailed the fact, "that there were 700 acres of arable land, which in that year and for a long time previous had lain fallow, and was not farmed because the manor was in the hands of the King by reason of the minority of Laurence de Hastings (then five years old). The land was not placed under cultivation, consequently the tenth sheaf, which in former years was of the value of £6 *per annum*, was greatly lessened in value, and of the remaining land in Lydgate belonging to this manor only 200 acres were cultivated."

Richard, Abbot of Bury, with eight of his monks, one of whom was Thomas de Lydgate, and twelve servants came to Tivetshall, in 1317, raised "hue and cry," and expelled from her lodgings at an inn there, one Matilda, wife of John de Boletourt, who as justice in 1316, passed sentence upon the villagers who had broken in the newly enclosed park of Lydgate, known as Croyley Park, and carried off the deer of Isabella, Countess of Pembroke.

An extent of the estate of Lidgate manor, dated 6 Edward II., makes no mention of a castle. A summary of the extent is as follows:—

600 acres of land value £10 <i>per annum</i>	price 4d. per acre.
20 acres of meadow value £2 <i>per annum</i>	price 2s. per acre.
10 acres of pasture value 10s. <i>per annum</i>	price 1s. per acre.
120 acres of wood value £3 <i>per annum</i>	price 6d. per acre.
1 windmill value £2 <i>per annum</i> .	
Rent £3 10s.	
200 eggs at Easter value 7d.	
4 capons	value 6d.

A rental of 20-21 Edward III., makes mention of a piece of pasture known as Castleyard.

After the paper on Lidgate was read, Prince Fredk. Duleep Singh called upon the company present to pass a vote of thanks to the Rector and Mrs. Gray for the kind welcome bestowed upon the members of the Institute present.

A long drive was then commenced, to visit Gifford's Hall, a fine example of Tudor architecture. A paper was

read by the Rev. E. Farrer, F.S.A., after which Mr. B. Hunter, the present occupier, kindly acted as guide through the panelled rooms. A heavy downpour of rain compelled the party to take shelter for awhile in some farm buildings, and the opportunity presented itself of reading a paper by Professor Skeat, on the poems of John Lydgate, the monk of Bury.

The further journey was rendered uncomfortable by thunderstorms and rain; all were thoroughly drenched when the carriages arrived at Badmondifield Hall, where the owner, Mrs. Bromley, had kindly provided tea for her guests. Many spent the time attempting to dry their garments, so that little opportunity was given to examine a house familiar to readers of Edna Lyall's, "In the Golden Days." One of the chief features which strikes a visitor to the hall is the minstrels' gallery; the entrance to the room has certainly an ecclesiastical appearance above the carving. This carving was brought from the ruinous chapel of St. Edward, which stood upon a little island within the outer moat surrounding the Hall, when Sir George Somerset acquired possession of it at the time of the Reformation. He converted the room over the porch into a chapel, for his servants and parishioners, and in it he placed the picture and altar of S. Edward.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh signed the visitors' book on behalf of the Institute, and thanked Mrs. Bromley and her daughters for their cordial welcome. When the rain ceased, the brakes started for Bury, but the roads were heavy, so that the journey was slow, and much delay was caused thereby.

EXCURSION TO LAVENHAM.

It has been the custom of recent years to hold a half-day excursion, in addition to the usual annual outing. The Rev. Canon Scott sent an invitation to the members of the Institute to pay a visit to Lavenham, on the 9th August, 1904. Nearly eighty members accepted the invitation, over forty of whom sat down to luncheon at the Swan Inn. After luncheon, Mr. Scott (the Rector's son) acted as guide, and took the visitors to the many quaint houses where wool-weavers dwelt in the 16th century. The old Hall of one of the Cloth Gilds was visited; doubt was expressed as to the possibility of the small effigy on its oaken corner post, representing the 15th Earl of Oxford, founder of the Gild. The ceilings of some of the town houses are beautifully carved, and the character of all the old buildings marks the fact that the town was inhabited by industrious and skilled artisans. The Rector acted as guide over his church, and drew especial attention towards the fine richly-ornamented tower, the chapel founded by Simon Branch and Elizabeth his wife, the Spring Chapel, and the chancel screens. The examination of this, one of the most magnificent of Suffolk churches, was fully appreciated by all the visitors. A gathering was then held upon the Rectory lawn, where the Rector and his wife received their guests. After tea a cordial vote of thanks was given to the Rev. Canon Scott and Mrs. Scott for the opportunity which they had afforded members for seeing so interesting a town as Lavenham.



From a photograph by the late G. Calver Mason, Esq.

KENTON HALL.