

## THE COMMEMORATION OF CRABBE.

At the suggestion of Mr. Charles Ganz, of Aldeburgh, who had taken great interest in promoting the Commemoration of Crabbe, the Council decided that the Hon. Excursion Secretary should assist that gentleman in his efforts so that the members of the Institute might have the privilege of joining in the Commemoration fixed for the 16th, 17th, and 18th September, 1905.

The celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of George Crabbe was begun at Aldeburgh, the poet's birthplace, on Saturday, 16th September, 1905. After luncheon at the Wentworth Hotel, the Mayor of Aldeburgh referred to the pleasure it gave him and his Corporation to welcome the visitors, especially M. René Huchon, who had come a long distance to do honour to Crabbe's memory. Mr. V. B. Redstone read a paper on the early history of the town; and a visit was made to the Moot Hall, in which pictures, prints, mss., and relics were exhibited. The most notable of these were the portraits of Crabbe by Pickersgill and Millington, copies of unpublished poems from the collection of the Duke of Rutland, Crabbe's notes on the *Trefolium Suffocatum*, a crayon portrait of Chas. Fox, done by Crabbe's son, and an old painting of Aldeburgh Beach showing the poet, his daughter, and Lord Salisbury. The exhibition of the collection was due entirely to the energies and enthusiasm of Mr. Ganz. The party next visited the church, where Mr. V. B. Redstone acted as guide.

In the afternoon papers were read in the Jubilee Hall.

M. Huchon, of the University of Nancy, dealt at some length with "Crabbe's Aldeburgh," explaining that a minute knowledge of the poet's family and youthful surroundings was eminently necessary to those who wished to understand his poetry, and to learn the source of the pessimistic gloom which darkened the pages of "The Village."

Mr. Clement Shorter described Crabbe's place in literature; and Mr. Groves gave a careful account of Crabbe as a botanist.

In the evening, a series of *tableaux*, illustrative of the poet's life and work, were presented in the Jubilee Hall.

On Sunday morning a special sermon was delivered by the Rev. S. W. Goldsmith, Rector of Aldeburgh; and in the afternoon a few visitors journeyed to Orford Castle.

The party assembled in full strength on Monday to take part in a run through the Crabbe country of Suffolk. Three large brake loads, as well as several cyclists, left Saxmundham for Renham, where the poet lived in the years 1801-5. A short stay was made at Sweffling Church, and then the company proceeded to Framlingham.

Framlingham Castle and Church were visited, and papers were read by Mr. H. C. Casley, Town Clerk of Aldeburgh, on the Crabbe Family; and by Mr. Ganz. The party then proceeded to view Parham Church and Old Hall, and were conducted by Mr. Corrance to Parham Hall. From Parham the conveyances took the visitors to Little Glemham Hall, to which, by the kindness of Mr. Dickson, and of his mother, Lady North, free admission was given. Here Mr. C. Ganz read a paper dwelling more especially upon the poet's associations with the place and its former owner, Dudley North, M.P. for Aldeburgh.

The thanks of the Institute are due to all those gentlemen who so kindly received the excursionists, and particularly to Mr. Chas. Ganz for the great trouble he had taken to give members the opportunity of enjoying so pleasant and so interesting an excursion.