

etc." The great orteyarde was stated to be "thicke sett withe fruite trees of all kinds, for pears, apples, wardenes, plumes, and such other," and the moat was described as having within it "roche, breame, tenche and perche, but small store because it is not well keapte, nor looked to, for the fish are sore destroyed with an otter and with some pickerell, which are in the same." No one explained what a Cynnyhalle really was, but it is described in the survey alluded to as a "fayer house adjoyng to the store house with a chymney, and the wyndowes well glazed:" The present owner, it is understood, intends that the ravages of time shall be checked as far as possible, and that this interesting old place shall be preserved from further decay.

From the castle the party drove to Mettingham Church, which has a round tower, apparently built of loose stones gathered in the fields, a very nice Norman doorway, and some charming old windows. There are also two stone coffins, with 14th century lids, and a very old silver chalice. It is somewhat remarkable that the surrounding ground is some three feet higher than the floor of the church. The Rector, Rev. H. E. Bucke, showed the visitors round the church and pointed out many objects of interest—the Norman doorway, the consecration cross upon the south wall, the old registers, an ancient pewter chalice, and the Elizabethan plate.

The Hon. Sec. then read the following short paper upon the Church:—

#### METTINGHAM CHURCH.

This church stands on the slope of a ridge overlooking the valley of the Waveney. When the usual interrogation as to the date of the erection of this church is made, the answer cannot be given by a fixed date. Like many of our parish churches its walls constitute the earliest and most reliable register of village history. The oldest record which this chronicle of stone contains relates to the inhabitants dwelling in the district probably more than

ten centuries ago. I allude to the round tower and to the lower part of the north wall. It is clear that the builders of the tower had little or no freestone wherewith to strengthen the walls. The material to hand was none other than the stones lying upon the surface of the adjacent fields. About seven feet of the projecting corner of the north wall marks most distinctly the scarcity of freestone. The construction of the wall at this point is most ingenious; large stones have been carefully faced and placed to supply the deficiency of freestone. The corner above the height of seven feet shews the addition of an upper course to the low wall of the early and probable Saxon church. This course was added at a time when a supply of quarried stone was at hand. The line marking the additional height to the north wall is clearly visible for some distance over the north door.

The construction of the north door must have been later than that of the tower, for if material was at hand to make a carved doorway there would surely have been some pieces available to form a coign to the wall, such pieces were used in the upper part of the wall. There are several features in the stonework of the north door which confirm the belief that originally it was standing upon some other site. The shafts differ in material from the capitals and bases, and the latter do not appear to have been made to support the pillars. The chevron pieces forming the archway, and the superincumbent head and moulding, bear signs of disturbance and replacement. An interior view of the doorway confirms the statement that the doorway was not the original north entrance.

Within the building the massive walls of the tower, probably holding in concealment the staircase leading to the bells; the piscinas, in the chancel and disused chapel in the south aisle; the mural painting of one of the consecration crosses, and the late Elizabethan black letter text above it; and the Tudor font all bear witness to the love and reverence borne to their church by those who for more than four centuries have slept in its quiet church-

yard. The arms of a former patron, John de Norwich, (partie per pale argent and gules over all a lion rampant ermine) may be seen in a window in the north wall; without the church are the lids of two stone coffins, each bearing the raised emblem of the cross. The varied character of the windows is interesting, the designs and tracery gradually descend from the late Decorated to the latest Tudor perpendicular periods.

The chalice, the cover of which bears the date, 1570, and the parish register, its entries commencing with the year, 1653, should be noticed, as well as an old pewter flagon and an ancient fire place, all of which may be seen in the south porch now converted into a vestry.

Luncheon at the King's Head, Bungay, was the next item in the programme, and it proved a very popular function. At its conclusion, two new members were proposed and elected—Rev. L. W. H. Andrews (Carlton Colville), and Mr. Godfrey Pritchard. An adjournment was then made to Bungay Castle, the remains of which are to be found at the back of the King's Head, and virtually form part of the grounds of that hostelry. Mr. J. O. Kemp acted as guide, and pointed out some very curious things, including a very deep square passage, constructed perpendicularly in the centre of the castle, and supposed to be a means of secret ingress and egress. There was also a dark subterranean dungeon, with a narrow and deep airhole, which had been discovered during Mr. Kemp's investigations. It was stated that there is, or was, a passage leading from the castle to St. Mary's Church, and thither the visitors repaired.

St. Mary's Church, which formerly adjoined a priory of Benedictine nuns founded in 1160, is full of interest to the archæologist, but a good deal of its glory has departed. The nave, south aisle, and chancel were supposed to have been built about 1300, the north aisle in 1450, and the western front and tower somewhat later. In 1688 there

was a dreadful fire in the town, which committed great havoc, including the destruction of the chancel, which, with the priory, now remains a ruin; the church now has no chancel in the ordinary form. The registers date back to 1538, and contain many interesting entries. There is a piscina of unique design, and the roof of the north porch is exceptionally good. The Rev. B. P. Hurst, vicar, afforded all possible facilities for seeing the church, and gave many interesting particulars. The neighbouring church of Holy Trinity was next visited, by permission of the vicar, Rev. J. A. Fletcher, who acted as guide, and exhibited the old registers, church plate, etc. Mr. Redstone gave some account of the church, stating that its quaint round tower seemed to be similar to that at Mettingham, which is only two miles away, but closer inspection revealed that there were two or three courses marked by layers of stone which also formed the system of courses which they had seen in the castle walls, and he therefore thought that the tower of Holy Trinity was older than that of Mettingham. The church contains a very delightful Elizabethan pulpit of the date, 1558, the making or putting together of which was stated to have cost ten shillings, according to the parish accounts, the ironwork cost 10½d., and the mason's work one shilling. Mr. Fletcher stated that for two hundred years a partition was erected between the chancel and the nave, and that the chancel from 1558 to 1754 was in ruins. When the chancel was restored, the parishioners formally declared that it was not a chancel, the object of this declaration was to impose some restriction on the actions of the clergyman. Having inspected everything of interest connected with the church, the party proceeded to the Drill Hall, where they were hospitably entertained to tea by Mrs. Fetzner Taylor, of Hedenham Rectory; that lady and her husband are prominent members of the Norfolk Archæological Institute. Before leaving very cordial thanks were tendered to them, on the motion of Mr. H. C. Casley, seconded by the Rev. F. J. Eld, F.S.A.

The last item in the day's programme was the visit to Flixton Hall, and there can be no doubt that the members of the Institute and their friends derived great pleasure from that privilege. It is impossible to give any adequate description of the hall and its surroundings here, but it may be mentioned that there is included amongst the very handsome apartments two beautifully furnished halls or galleries, one above the other, in the centre of the house. Paintings, statuary and lovely cabinets abound on all hands, and in the hall on the ground floor there are many interesting articles besides, such as old-fashioned weapons of all descriptions, and other curiosities. Cases of stuffed rare birds and animals are to be seen, and a huge black bear, stuffed with most life-like effect, holds a card tray in one of the corridors. The ladies were much interested in two very handsome bedrooms, each containing a unique four-post bedstead, over which was a remarkably beautiful circular wooden canopy, painted and gilded. The gardens were greatly admired, and deserved all the enthusiastic praise that they received. Halesworth was reached in good time for the express to Ipswich.



LINDSEY CHAPEL—SOUTH WEST VIEW.