

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

SUDBURY, CLARE AND LONG MELFORD.

JULY 28TH AND 29TH, 1910.

A new departure was made in carrying out the Annual Excursion of the Institute for 1910. It was arranged that the Excursion should extend for two days instead of one. To carry out this resolution it was decided to hold a meeting at Sudbury on Thursday, 28th July, upon which day a visit was to be made to the churches and places of interest during the afternoon; in the evening papers relating to the history of the borough were to be read. Mr. J. Langdon, then Mayor of Sudbury, was a chief promoter of the movement, but his tragic death deprived the Institute of his support. Mr. Edward Arnold, who succeeded to the mayoralty upon the decease of Mr. Langdon, readily consented to extend a welcome to members and formed a local committee, comprising Edward Arnold, Esq., H. H. Baker, Esq., Edward Oliver, Esq., Dr. J. Sinclair Holden and Dr. H. Dove King, who made all the arrangements whereby the Sudbury Meeting proved most successful.

The first gathering of members was at St. Peter's Church, where the Rector, the Rev. J. J. Jones, acted as guide, and where also a most useful paper was read by Mr. Basil Oliver upon the history of the church. This gentleman also gave a well thought out paper on All Saints' Church. These two papers are printed in this number of the Proceedings of the Institute. The Rev. J. J. Jones also acted as guide to the church of St. Gregory. Dr. H. D. King kindly

gave up the use of his gardens to the Mayor and Mayoress, who reside outside the borough, that they might welcome their visitors to tea. After tea visits were made to Salter's Hall, the Old Guild Hall, Gainsborough House, and various old timber houses. Dr. J. Sinclair Holden permitted members to view his remarkable collection of local flint implements.

The evening meeting was held at the Guildhall, under the presidency of the Mayor. The attendance of townsfolk as well as of members to listen to the papers, which were read by Miss Ethel Stokes and Mr. V. B. Redstone, was most encouraging. At the evening meeting there was also an exhibition of articles of local and antiquarian interest (mace, cup, charters, etc.).

Upon the following day, Friday, 29th July, members assembled at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Clare, where they were received by the Vicar, the Rev. J. R. M. Vatcher, who pointed out the chief features of interest in the church. The parish registers and a chalice of Flemish design were exhibited. The Hon. Secretary here read a paper upon the history of the church. Interest was taken in a legend round the border of a large monumental slab which once marked the resting-place of a prior of Clare. Mr. W. E. Jordan of King's College, Cambridge, suggested that the legend referred to a prior who had been a provincial of his order; the name William de Ge . . . was defaced.

It was the unanimous opinion of those who visited the next site that they were standing within the area of an early British enclosure, and not within the precincts of a Roman Camp. The Rev. J. M. Vatcher proved a most valuable guide to the old houses standing within his parish. The old house by the churchyard was the most interesting. The recently restored side-wall facing the street bears a shield containing the arms of the Clares; the arms represented upon a carved shield were the source of much discussion. The Hon. Secretary remarked that the arms

were those of Hamelden of Holton, co. Suffolk:—*argent, fretty gules with nine fleurs de lys or, on a canton gules an estoile or.*

A most agreeable experience was the visit to Clare Priory, the seat of General Sir George Digby Barker, K.C.B. Before proceeding to examine the recently excavated tombs—considered to be those of Joan of Acre and Lionel, Duke of Clarence—and the well-preserved walls of the chapel, refectory and library, the visitors listened to a paper, read by Sir George Barker, giving some part of a history of Clare Priory which is in course of preparation by Lady Barker, who has kindly supplied a *resumé* of the paper for publication. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Sir George and Lady Barker for the interesting paper. After the visitors had been entertained in a most hospitable manner, they availed themselves of the opportunity Sir George Barker had given them of inspecting the ruins of Clare Castle.

Members who were compelled to stay at Long Melford for more than eighty minutes awaiting the arrival of a train, were kindly given an opportunity of inspecting a most interesting chapel, part of Melford Place, the residence of C. H. Westropp, Esq. All were most interested in the old oak room, and also in a stone slab which was stated to have been brought at some distant date from the walls of the old Sudbury Grammar School. The arms carved upon the slab represent those of Maclean of Hasemere Hall, Sussex; they may probably have been placed in the walls of the Grammar School when rebuilt by Sir Lachlan Maclean, M.D., patron of the school, in 1817.