ARMS AND EPITAPHS IN PARISH CHURCHES, CHIEFLY OF SUFFOLK AND ESSEX VISITED BY WILLIAM TYLLOTSON BETWEEN 1594 AND 1600.

By COL. W. G. C. PROBERT, F.S.A.

These notes and drawings of coats of arms fill a stout pocket-book about 5 inches by four. On the inside of the cover is written in the autograph of the donor "Presented to the Society of Antiquaries by Peter Muilman, Esq.,* Dec. 21st, 1771."

According to the first pagination it contained originally 658 pages. These figures have been at some time corrected in pencil—the leaves only being numbered. The last leaf is numbered 305.

"Willm. Tyllotson his book, Curat at Caapell, Ao. Dom. 1594" is the first entry and then the title "Collections of Armes in Churches in the County of Suffolk".

The next 58 pages are filled with shields in trick. Arms in Long Melford Church occupy 10 pp., Bewers St. Marye 5 pp., Chilton 3 pp., Sudbury College 3 pp., St. Peter's, Sudbury, 3 pp., All Hallowes, Sudbury, 2½ pp., St. Gregories, Sudbury, 3½ pp., Lavenham 28 pp.

After these until leaf 155 his drawings are entirely of Arms in Essex Churches with one exception, that of St. Stephen's, Ipswich.

From leaf 155 to 192 he gives attention only to Suffolk Churches—descriptive matter and occasional drawings. Little Wenham (Brawyse), Seckford, Sudbury (Eden).

Sudbury. "In domo Master Walgrave in new orellier opus uxor her arms." (This entry will give an idea of Tyllotson's odd habit, when describing heraldic shields of mixing up Latin, French and English terms. When, as often, his handwriting suffers from evident haste, this peculiarity and his code of abbreviations add to the difficulty of deciphering his MS.)

Bewers St. Marye, 3 pp.; Long Melford, 6½ pp.; Lavenham, 8½ pp.; Sudbury, 4 pp.; Chilton, 1 p.; Shimpling, ½ p.; Cavendish, 3½ pp.; Boxsted, ½ p.; Reydon, 2; Capell, 2; Heigham juxta Neyland, ½ p.; Houghton juxta Heigham, 1 p.; Holbrook, 1 p.; Eyke and Woodbridge, 1 p.; Belsted, 1½ pp.; Copdock, ½ p.; Wengham parva (Brewes), 4 pp.; Nacton, 1 p.; Trimley, 1 p.; Brightwell, ½ p.; Etherston (?) Copdock, Rattlesden, 1.


Then follow some arms from Essex Churches and those of Oxford and Cambridge Colleges, 50 pp. in all.
Leaf 242 is headed "Bures St. Marye in coun. Suffolke, Visitatn. made A° 1600"—14 pp. Other arms in the Church and at Smallbridge. 3 pp.

Leaf 257 contains the writer's signature again.

"Libec Wm. Tyllotson Minr. de Gypswics in com. Suff. Ypswche," from which we gather he had been elevated from his curacy at Capell before or during the year 1600.

Then follow descriptions of arms in Loddon Church, 6 pp.; Brome, 2 pp.; Shelton, 20 pp.; Hardick, Pulham Magd. Dickleboro, 2 pp.; Methingham juxta Bongey, 5 pp.; Stoke Ash, Bongey, Metford, 1 p.; Lynsted and Huntingfield, 2 pp.; Heveningham and Yoxford, 6 pp.; Hadleigh epitaphs, 3 pp.; Boxford and Assynton, 2 pp.; Hinckelsham, Bramford and Sproughton, 3; Culpho, Coddenham, and Gt. Bealinge, 1; Tuddenham, Playford and Ufford, 3 pp.; Rendlesham, Wickham Ashe, Kelsall, 2 pp.; Sfordley, Westleton, Brampton, 1 p.; Holbrook, Floughton, Brusyard, 3 pp.; Walton, Trimley Martyn and Mary, 1 p.; Hornington and Nacton, 1 p.; Brightwell and Marlesford, 1 p.; Ipswiche Churches, 8 pp.; Burnt Elly, Bradfield, Weltham, 1 p.; Burstow and Stragwell, (?) 1 p.; Aketon and Waldingfield, 5 pp.

The last entry (on p. 300) is of the Arms in Henham Hall by Blyborough 4 pp.

The leaf numbers given above are those pencilled in the M.S. to replace the original pagination in ink.

The transcriber has been unable to trace any connection of William Tyllotson with the family of the famous Archbishop of that name and would be glad to learn which of the Ipswich churches he served in 1600.

*Mulman, of Kirby Hall, Hedingham, Essex, bore the cost of publishing in 1770, "The New and Complete History of Essex," in 6 vols. He has been frequently, but quite incorrectly, described as the author of that compilation from Morant.