

doorway. Obviously forming the threshold of this there is still *in situ* a Purbeck marble slab (now in three pieces), 5 feet 3 inches in length, 24 inches across at the head, and tapering down to 12 inches at the foot. It is ornamented with a double hollow chamfer all round, and somewhat resembles a 14th century stone coffin lid now lying in the S. chapel at Newbourne Church, though on its (present) under side it shows no trace of any cross, either incised or in relief, as in the Newbourne slab and most other grave slabs of this date. The irregular angles of the slab too are curious. Another fragment of a similar Purbeck marble slab showing the double hollow chamfer on two of its edges, has also been re-used to form part of a step.

The tower seems to have fallen into a bad state of repair during the seventeenth century, and in 1693 the Bishop of Norwich, having been certified that it was very ruinous and in great danger of falling made an order for its repair, at the same time giving permission for its being made twenty feet lower than it was. (See Eastern Counties Collectanea. 1873., I., 241). It was probably taken down altogether about the year 1770. At the end of the first volume of the parish register this note occurs :

Mem. Mr. Pack, at the three Bells in Whitechappel, thought the Tenor weighed about 750 lb., the next 650, and the third 500 and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Said he would give £4 per cent. if we would send'm to him, which he thought would cost for the two Biggest, Freight and Wastage (?), Portage and Cartage, about 30s., and that they will be better sent whole than broke.

The note is undated but it is in the handwriting of Thomas Hewett, who was Rector of Bucklesham from 1744 to 1773. Obviously the two larger bells were then being sold, probably because the tower was in an unfit state to hold them.

The bell now hanging in the turret was recast a few years ago.

J. F. WILLIAMS.

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#### NOTE FROM BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

A great improvement has been effected, at the beginning of March, by the removal of the iron palisade which were on either side of the Gateway in front of the Abbey walls on the Angel Hill. The gain in dignity and apparent size both to the walls and to the gateway is very marked, especially as the two captured German guns have been taken away as well. The iron railing is not shewn in any of the views of the Angel Hill with which I am acquainted, so it cannot be very ancient. On the other hand there is no local

memory or tradition as to when or how it came to be erected. It was a very ugly specimen of cast iron work, and from its appearance might date 1840-50, or earlier, comparing very badly with the beautiful iron work around the "Chapel of the Chancel" in the churchyard.

Rebuilding operations in Lower Baxter Street disclosed a good deal of old timber work in the side of a house at the corner of Abbeygate Street, but this will soon be covered again. There is a great deal of mediæval timber construction concealed behind the monotonous and dull grey brick facades which our great grandfathers thought so "respectable," and applied with such a lavish hand to Bury St. Edmunds.

E. C. FREEMAN.

On the Hitcham site to which reference was made Vol. XVIII., Part 3, p. 220, further very interesting facts have come to light. Last October the foundations of a house of some sort were located in lengths of 52-ft., 31-ft., 33-ft. and 23-ft., the walls were 2-ft. thick of flint and rubble, the mortar having perished, but were in good preservation, although only just below the plough. At one angle is either a bastine corner or the base for a pillar. Close by were several refuse heaps and one midden (explored) which yielded quantities of oyster, whelk and mussel shells, pottery fragments in great variety, one piece of Samian gave ALBU CIUS in raised letters, a small key of unusual type was picked up with pieces of glass, tessera, part of a knife and bracelet, etc., etc. Also parts of large tiles with flange, probably from the top of pilae. It is hoped to uncover the site in early August, as soon as the winter bean crop has been cut. Volunteers will be welcomed to dig and pick out various objects.

On another site (that of Villa Faustini?) in the near neighbourhood of Eastlow Hill, several interesting fragments have been found while stone raising was in progress in the gravel pit. From a series of "middens" quantities of bones, cores of bullock horns, etc., broken pottery of all kinds and shapes, Samian giving potters' marks MAXIMIN, LITERA, another similar to that from Eastlow, . . . FUSA and a fourth at present undeciphered. The skeleton of a man about 5-ft. 4-in. high, stiff with rheumatism, according to Sir A. Keith, who kindly examined it, but stated that the skull was too far decayed to give nationality. Close by at a much greater depth were found a (Roman) lamp, hippo sandal, tripod stand and the complete set of shackles—all in excellent order. Also a bronze needle. The lamp is identical with that found at Eastlow.