

The tour was continued after tea by making a visit to Mr. Sherman's house in Northgate Street. Mr. Sherman pointed out the principal features of interest, especially calling attention to 14th century tracery work which had been discovered beneath the plaster of the inner walls. In 1589 it was the home of a linen-weaver and was then purchased by Thomas Bennett, who had previously named his mansion "the White Horse."

The late hour left scanty opportunities for an inspection of the Museum at Christchurch Mansion, under the guidance of the Curator, Mr. Guy Maynard. After seeing the chief objects of interest and hearing his remarks upon them, the members present accorded him a hearty vote of thanks for his able services, and also expressed a warm appreciation of all the efforts made by those who had arranged the day's programme.

EXCURSION TO BAYLHAM, NETTLESTEAD AND DISTRICT.

On Friday, August 15th, 1924, members assembled at the Ancient House, Ipswich, to proceed to Baylham, to make a tour through a district which to a large extent had not before been visited by the Institute. The large number which collected at Baylham Hall to be received by its hostesses, the Misses Wilson, showed the selection of route was greatly appreciated. The district has no large church, except Barking Church, but is of peculiar interest in possessing many houses which had suffered through the loyalty of their owners to the Stuart cause, many of whom were mulcted with such grievous fines that their estates became impoverished. Among them were Wentworth, Windsor and Acton.

The owner of Baylham Hall is Lady de Saumarez, who inherited it through her great grandmother, Lady Middleton (by birth Harriet Acton). The present hall was built by John Acton, of Ipswich, who purchased the estate of Lord Windsor, into whose possession it came by descent from Elizabeth Andrews, daughter of John Andrews, and wife of Thomas Windsor. The grand staircase was greatly admired, and visitors were particularly interested in the exterior architecture of the building, and the old extensive stables without the moat, which surrounds the rear part of the premises. Lord and Lady De Saumarez were unable to be present, but their daughter and General Mitford were with the party. The Misses Wilson received a hearty vote of thanks for their kind welcome.

Members next proceeded to Nettlestead High ^{Hall} ~~House~~, where they were welcomed by Mrs. White-Cooper, who interested her visitors by the description of her premises while they were assembled on her

picturesque lawn. Previous to her occupation of the house, the buildings had furnished two cottage residences for labourers; judicious alterations had retained and made conspicuous panels, old glass, and quaint doors. A vote of thanks terminated this pleasing visit.

Nettlestead Chace, the ancient home of the Wentworths, was the next stopping place. Here Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Rewse-Smith gave their visitors a hearty welcome and provided them with light refreshments. The most prominent members of the Wentworth family were the first Baron Wentworth, his eldest son, who surrendered Calais in 1558 and the fourth Baron Wentworth, who attended the ill-fated Strafford on the scaffold, and whose heavy debts ultimately caused the alienation of his whole estates in 1638. The front of the house has been re-faced with brick. The Wentworths held the estate through the marriage of Roger Wentworth and Margery, daughter of Sir Philip Spencer. The early owners were the Tibetots. The Nettlestead stately house and park were sold to William Lodge, citizen of London, who resided there in 1655. He was succeeded by John Fuller, of Ipswich, who was followed by the heir of one, William Bradley. William Forth, of Butley, purchased part of the Wentworth estates and founded Nettlestead High House. The chief attractions of Nettlestead Chace are the gateway which stands in a direct line with the long chace still markedly visible in the rear of the premises, the old panel room, the Wentworth arms with its thirty-five quarterings, and the old motto—*Pense a bien*—carved in stone. Especial notice was taken of the large dovecote probably erected late in the sixteenth century. In 1617 a law was passed in Scotland prohibiting the erection of a dovecote by any person unless he possessed lands capable of producing ten chalders of grain within the radius of two miles. Dovecotes were permitted to be purchased subsequently to the passing of the statute but could not be rebuilt if ruinous. Similar statutes might account for the present state of the Nettlestead Chace dovecote. All present thoroughly enjoyed their visit and thanked their hosts for their warm welcome and hospitality.

A few members entered the church connected with the name of John Bois, who, with Bishop Lancelot Andrews, a benefactor of Offton, was one of the translators of the Bible, 1611. In the south wall of the church is a outside squint; in the north wall of the nave a single light window with sunken ornaments round the arch.

Offton church was also visited; its wood carving, rood-beam worked into back of a bench, a holy water stoup like a domestic mortar, a doorway with Norman characteristics, and timber-built porch are all objects of interest. The old parish register was

placed out for inspection. Two very interesting items on the programme had to be omitted, viz., Tudor Grange, Nettlestead, which Mr. M. Birkett had kindly invited members to visit, and Off-ton Castle. Some fortunate persons snatched a hurried view of both, and stated the pleasure they had in doing so.

The Rev. Charles Baker met the party at Barking Church and kindly gave the information concerning its most interesting features pointing out the finely carved roof, benches and screen. The chief interest appeared to be centred on the old parish chest, and the 18th century braziers which had been used for warming the church.

The next move was to Whitton Lodge, where Col. G. W. Horsfield and his daughters welcomed all present and hospitably entertained them to tea on the lawn.

After tea Col. Horsfield gave a most interesting and instructive address on Lowestoft china, informing his audience about the output of the Lowestoft factory (1750-1802), using the many excellent specimens of the ware which he had on exhibit as samples. He was emphatic in his remarks that the so-called Yorkshire-Lowestoft china was a harder manufacture than the true Suffolk china. - It was difficult to quit so interesting a subject and place. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Col. Horsfield and his daughters for the most enjoyable time spent at Whitton Lodge.

The last place of call was Mock Beggar's Hall to which the owner unfortunately absent, had granted members full access. The exterior has a very pleasing appearance, but the interior does not bear the interesting characteristics it must have borne when as part of the Acton property it was held by the descendants of John Acton of Ipswich. In 1838 it was the property of Mr. James Corder. The present proprietor has carried out careful alterations to maintain his residence as a place of interest, and all in attendance desired Mr. Redstone to convey the thanks of Institute to him for the privilege he had granted them to view the place. - It may here be stated that Miss M. Betham-Edwards in her writings has made Mock Beggar's Hall the scene of "A Suffolk Courtship," the heroine being one, Christy Kersey. In 1838, Edward Kersey was Mr. James Corder's tenant.