

elsewhere by the fine timber of the park, and furthermore, entirely enclosed by the waters of the moat, in the which, with the setting sun, it was reflected here and there.

Afterwards the party met again in Long Melford Church, where a short paper was read by the rector, the Rev. H. R. S. Bree. He said, "there had been a church here since the 11th century, and that the present fabric is the third of its kind. Begun in 1450 as a thank-offering and a memorial to posterity, as well as a tabernacle of the Blessed Sacrament, Long Melford Church was reared by the joint efforts of the monks of Bury and well-disposed men of the place, among whom was John Clopton who was buried in the Easter tomb, the place of honour. Finished in 1497, less than 50 years saw the church's spoliation. In 1543 images, ornaments and churchyard cross were swept away. The Parliamentary despoilers in 1643 smashed 7,000 pictures of stained glass. In 1828 the church was in sorry state, the nave roof broken, windows bricked up, the West end marred by a gallery. Restoration began in 1866 and in 1900 the tower was refaced."

"This church is still one of the most interesting in Suffolk, and will doubtless always remain so, on account of the multitude of interesting objects it contains. It was recorded that "the Nave is 152 feet in length, and is flanked by wide aisles. Arcades of nine bays divide the church into almost equal portions, and there is one continuous roof over nave and chancel. The Lady Chapel still exists east of the main structure and was used as a school in 1670, for a multiplication table is still to be seen on one of its walls."

Soon after 6 p.m. the visitors had all taken their departure from Long Melford and its exceptionally interesting buildings of ancient days—having thoroughly enjoyed an excursion excellently planned and well carried out.

#### EXCURSION IN SOUTH ELMHAM DISTRICT.

The third excursion of the Society took place on Friday, August 3rd, and the particular district visited may be termed "that of the Elmhams," a district particularly noted for the Norman doorways to its Churches, and many of these were seen during the day, all of which have been beautifully and truthfully illustrated in a fine book dealing with such objects of antiquity by Mr. Charles Keyser, F.S.A.

The party met outside the church of Elmham St. Peter at 11 o'clock. This is a building very typical of many others in

the neighbourhood, which point is emphasised by the writer of the article which appeared on the following day in the pages of "The East Anglian Daily Times." He says, "The tide of prosperity which swept over much of the county in the fifteenth century, and is still evidenced by magnificent additions to and enlargements of existing fabrics, apparently left the region about the Elmhams untouched. In consequence building activity during the Perpendicular period was mainly confined to windows, insertions, and other work on a small scale. The ground plan of parish churches in this area escaped alterations, and to this disinclination to replace and extend we probably owe the preservation of early features, such as Norman doorways, which distinguish most of the churches seen."

The Rev. E. Farrer pointed out the chief objects of interest in St. Peter's Church, which is so intimately connected with St. Peter's Hall, about half a mile distant. The Tasburgh family resided there in the 14th and 15th centuries, and many of these objects were in some way connected with them. John Tasburgh in his will of 1473 gave various bequests to the church. He was buried in the chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which formerly existed on the north side of the chancel, and his altar tomb may still be seen in the north wall of the chancel. Another John Tasburgh, in 1510, bequeathes money for the erection of a rood loft, but no sign is visible to-day of it, or of the staircase which led up to it, thus possibly it was never made. The Nave and Chancel are divided by a singularly beautiful arch, adorned with canopied brackets for small figures. The font is a good specimen of a style often seen in East Anglia, octagonal, with panelled bowl, supported by angels with outstretched wings. Some little time was spent in examining the interesting objects in this church.

About 11.30, the party, considerably augmented since the initial start, arrived at St. Peter's Hall, South Elmham, and I imagine it was the first occasion on the which many of the visitors, saw for the first time that remarkable residence. It was viewed by the courteous permission, and with the kind help of Mr. and Mrs. Catling, but the numbers had so increased it was with difficulty that the members were able to see over the interior of the house; however, quite an hour was spent around and about the site, which gave them time to investigate, and examine, the various details of interest connected with it. The chief feature is the wealth of ecclesiastical architecture about it, several windows, nearly all of three lights, with tracery on the upper portions thereof, early pointed stone doorways, stringcourses of dressed stone with decorations in cut flint, in which occur the Sacred Monogram and the letter M both crowned, a regular church porch, with a parvise above,

and on the floor below, an early coffin stone of a priest of the church. It was naturally thought that these must have been taken from some church, and it was suggested that such may have come from St. Nicholas, South Elmham, similar details from that site being still existent in the garden of the Vicarage at All Saints, South Elmham. At one time there may have been more of the house than what was seen to-day, namely buildings on the east side of the forecourt, and certainly in 1484 there was a gate house on the northern side, mentioned in a will of that date. The Tasburgh family and their wills will be dealt with elsewhere in this publication of our Proceedings.

A move was then made onwards to the church of St. Margaret, South Elmham, "where in addition to the Norman doorway, the south wall retains a deeply splayed Norman window. It was noticed that there were yet in existence two panels of the rood screen, and an early tomb under an ogee arch, which possibly may have been a memorial to one of the stewards of the Bishops' manor and palace, which are in the parish and not far away. The original stand for the hour glass is still in situ by the pulpit, and the hour glass itself has been added at some recent date. In the chamber over the porch are preserved parts of the Church's barrel organ, and below are the parish stocks."

South Elmham Hall was reached about 1 p.m., and by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, the party were able to enjoy their lunch in the grounds of the huge moated enclosure which is the site of the Bishop's palace. Luncheon over, the visitors were conducted over the house, and Mr. Farrer spoke a few words as to the site and the buildings on it. He said there was no doubt but that for centuries, from the time of Herbert de Losinga downwards, the Bishops of Norwich had owned the manor and many of them resided on the site. The present house incorporates a lot of an earlier one, some pointed doorways, and much early timber work is to be seen about it. At one time, later on, it was owned and occupied by the Buxton family of Channonz Hall, in Tibenham, one of whom married Mr. Proctor of Burston, near Diss, connected with that famous funeral sermon which has been so frequently printed. Before leaving South Elmham Hall, a meeting was held with the President of the Society, Sir John Wood, as chairman, when several new members were elected.

A visit was then paid to South Elmham Minster, and again quoting from that article in "The East Anglian Daily Times" "A pleasant walk across fields brought the members to the wooded area, enclosing the remains of the ancient Church or Minster, which it is claimed was the site of the see of Elmham spoken of by Bede. It occupies four acres with a fosse on each side. The

ruins now freed of the ivy which disfigured them in former years measure 106 feet in length and 30 feet wide. No worked stones appear, the walls rise in places to 18 feet, being composed entirely of flints, picked up in the fields or quarried from local pits, embedded in mortar." Mr. Vincent B. Redstone, F.S.A., very kindly agreed to speak about this most interesting building and its connection with the See of Elmham. He read extracts from an article by Mr. A. W. Clapham, F.S.A., a Sussex authority, who, in the "Antiquary's Journal" for October 1926, flatly denied the claims of the Suffolk site, and affirmed that the Bishop's Palace was at North Elmham in Norfolk. This Mr. Redstone accepted as a challenge, and with regard to what he said I must again quote from the aforesaid article, "He proceeded to examine the whole question on the basis of evidence, tradition, and probability. Incidentally, he showed how Mr. Clapham betrayed his prejudice by reducing Dr. Cox's 15½ miles to 13 miles in order to make the proximity of the two Sees of Dunwich and Elmham seem ridiculously close. So far as actual evidence was concerned, the remains at North Elmham were not nearly so extensive as those at South Elmham, which such authorities as Mr. Micklethwait and Sir William St. John Hope, after thorough examination had pronounced to be the ruins of a Saxon building, and the seat of the Bishop. North Elmham again possessed no such convenience as the waterway of the Waveney, which is close to the South Elmham site. So far from the Suffolk theory being finally consigned 'to the limbo from which it should never have emerged,' as Mr. Clapham concludes, Mr. Redstone's logic goes far to decide the waverer to acknowledge the superior claims of South Elmham as the Elmham of the Bishops' See." The whole subject is discussed in Mr. F. S. Stevenson's paper in Vol. XIX, pp. 110-16 of the S.I.A. Proceedings.

After an examination of the ruins and the site thereof, Sir John Wood voiced the thanks of all to Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, and others who had contributed towards the enjoyment of the excursion, and furthermore, especial thanks to Mr. Redstone for his excellent lecture on South Elmham Minster.

About 3 o'clock the party reached Rumburgh Church and the site of its Priory. The Church, a long building under one continuous roof, stands on the south side of what is the site of the old Priory buildings, long since demolished (of which a plan has already been published in our Proceedings) hence the paucity of the windows on the north side of it. The low tower at the west end of the building has three lancet windows of the Early English type of architecture, and on the floor of the nave were seen many memorials of the Davy family, to which belonged David Elisha Davy, the well-known collector of that vast series of manuscripts which for

many years now has been lodged in the British Museum, and used by many a Suffolk archæologist. Mr. Redstone, in the few words addressed by him to the visitors, described him as "the most industrious, honest and reliable of county historians."

At Wissett Church the excursionists were welcomed by the rector, The Rev. S. F. Hughes, who pointed out several objects of interest which were disclosed under a recent restoration, more particularly a canopied niche in the splay of one of the windows on the south side of the nave. The two Norman doorways were much admired, as also the remains of coloured glass, in the windows of the nave, of several different periods of execution.

The party then moved on to Halesworth, their "ultima thule," where at the two hostleries of The Angel and The Kings Arms the company were provided with the much-wished-for tea, after which a visit was made to the Church, where Mr. F. C. Lambert read a paper pointing out to the visitors the many objects of interest which he knew so well, having been so long connected with the sacred building and its history. He said, "the Church was largely built by the Argentine family. Dame Margaret Argentine was buried within its walls in 1385, and the coat of arms of the Argentine family appears on the font. The vestry, dating from 1410, had an 'orate' over the door for its donors, Thomas Clement and Margaret his wife. The embattled tower of flint was finished in 1430. Five bells from the St. Edmundsbury foundry were hung therein in 1440. Two of those remain. The brasses include one recovered from the river Waveney. There is also the gravestone of Dame Margaret Argentine, rescued from doing duty as a doorstep. Among those who had occupied the Jacobean pulpit was Archbishop Richard Whateley, rector of Halesworth for 9 years. The nave floor has ledger stones of the Jermyn family, to which belonged Henry Jermyn, the Suffolk antiquary, who was the son of Peter Jermyn Senior, a Halesworth solicitor. The foundations of a round tower was disclosed near the font about 40 years ago. In the south-east corner of the Chancel is a pre-Norman stone, on which are sculptured hands clasping concentric rings."

Under the guidance of Mr. Lambert, many of the members were taken to see the old Bedingfield family residence, evidently erected in the early years of the 16th century, some of its timber ceilings are still to be seen, but the fine old overmantel, illustrated and described by Suckling in his county history, vol. II, page 336, has, I think, disappeared from our midst. We also had pointed out to us, the Tuns Inn, and other details of architectural interest, and this brought to an end a most enjoyable day.

The writer of the article in "The East Anglian Daily Times" reminded us that we visited the birthplaces of three well-known Suffolk men. Martin Joseph Routh, born at St. Margaret's, South Elmham, in 1755; he was President of Magdalen College, Oxford. David Elisha Davy, whose father was a Rumbergh farmer, and Henry Jermyn, born at Halesworth. The two latter were very eminent archæologists connected with Suffolk in the first half of the last century.