

through which the castle has passed were sketched by the Custodian, who conducted the party to every point of interest.

Although by order of Sir Robert Hitcham, who purchased the castle fortress in 1635, all the buildings within its outer wall were dismantled the site is redolent of historic memories. The main walls, which rise some 44 feet above the turf and extend beneath it for a further 13 or 14 feet, are crowned here and there with chimneys of Tudor brickwork, finely wrought. From the summit of these walls the eye looks down on the stately church, which enshrines the dust of the noble and brave, and on the slumberous little town, which has seen so much of pageantry and historic incident. And one is forcibly reminded of the mutability of earthly things.

G.L.

TWO WEST SUFFOLK EXCURSIONS.

Friday, July 12th, was quite a "red-letter" day in the way of excursions, chiefly because of the exceedingly large numbers present and because the sites selected for inspection were exceptionally interesting. Two of the finest Elizabethan houses in the county, a bijou church, if one may use the word to describe such a building, and a spacious lawn for tea, all attracted members to such an extent that the question almost involuntarily arose "What of the future?"

Our afternoons are always rendered extra pleasant by the kind hospitality offered at teatime and a hearty welcome by some good member, or friend, enroute. Even 80 is a tax on hospitality, but when this is doubled —— ? The increase being due to members bringing friends with them, it has been suggested (and no doubt the matter will be ventilated at the General Meeting) that members should pay a small fee and visitors a larger one—for each outing. Would this necessitate a public tea at some famous hostelry—or could we still hope to be entertained? The fees in this latter case could then go to the foundation of an Excavation Fund, which is and should be a necessary adjunct to our Society.

To return—Rushbrooke Hall was kindly placed at our disposal by Lord Islington who allowed his delighted visitors to inspect the chief rooms and treasures in parties (this was a stipulation, and rightly so) chaperoned by Mrs. Pickering (private secretary) and other kind assistants.

Rushbrooke (vide Green Book by S.H.A.H.) has been the home of the de Ryshbrookes, Jermyn, Davers and Rushbrooke families, from whose ranks were many recruits to fame in Suffolk and English history, notably Henry Jermyn, Lord St. Albans, the

staunch supporter of the Stuarts and custodian-lover of Q. Henrietta Maria. It is not necessary here to describe the Hall (see above and Proceedings, Vol. II), nor the Church, which was afterwards visited under the guidance of the Rector (Rev. H. Pettman). The latter is unusually fitted up after the style of a College Chapel, the work of a former owner of the Hall, who, according to tradition, dismantled his drawing-room for this purpose, using all the panelling, etc. Was it, one wonders, a thank-offering for the return of the old property to his family?

Suitable thanks having been paid to the Rector, a move was made to Hawstead Church—a late start made still later by the lane from Sicklesmere being blocked. This delightful building and one so full of interest is also to be found in our Proc. Vol. VII, from the pen of a figure once so familiar to most of us, that of the Rev. Leslie Mercer, recently called to rest after many years work as Rector. Lunch was taken in the shady grounds of the vacant Rectory.

Coldham Hall, Stanningfield, the near rival of Rushbrooke—their dates are of the same decade 1574-77; was next visited. A delightful approach up the avenue leads us to the house of Col. H. E. Hambro, who rightly insisted on the inspection being by “numbers,” owing to the narrow and rather dark passages everywhere. The quantity of old oak was amazing. Proc. Vol. III supplies details of the Hall, but the present owner has succeeded in not only “restoration” but in “discovery” as the hall is itself once again and several new features added, i.e., new to this generation and of great interest because of their use in Papistical times. The Rev. E. J. A. Teviotdale, in the absence of the owner, conducted the numerous parties over the place, whilst others queued up in the shade or inspected the fine gardens.

The Rokewood family obtained the manor by purchase from the de Illeigh's in 32 Edward III, reigning here till the end of the 18th century, when it passed by marriage to the Gages of Hengrave. Ambrose Rokewood was mixed up with the Gunpowder Plot and was executed at Tyburn in 1605.

Tea taken at the Rectory was welcome after the long hot day and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for his hospitality to such large numbers. During tea business intervened to save time, when two of our Vice-Presidents, Rev. E. Farrer and Mr. V. B. Redstone, voiced the gratitude of all to Lord Islington and Col. Hambro for the day's enjoyment. A visit across the road to Stanningfield Church was rewarded with an interesting paper by the Rector, who also touched on the history of his parish. N.B.—The domestic staff at both the big houses received a handsome gratuity, the result of a collection during the

day. When one thinks of the floors to be polished after the traffic of so many feet, this was a just tribute, which was also extended to a very helpful member of the A.A.

Friday, August 30th, Newmarket and District. Was the attraction of this excursion strictly archæological or were members intrigued by the visit to the Jockey Club? Even with this in view, it was a long run to be in good time, but the resulting visit was justified—weather, objects, “ambitions” all being most satisfactory. One member had waited over 50 years for this chance. Early train arrivals inspected Exning; Burwell Church described by its Vicar, was full of interest, its rich carvings in oak, its memorials, the palimpsest brass on the chancel floor (c. 1542), a unique specimen, all repaid a close inspection. Outside, and fortunately near at hand, Dr. Lucas helped us to explore the Anglo-Saxon-Norman work of fort and castle. “Finds” belonging to the locality were then shown by our guide at his house, one, of special note, being the vertebræ of a whale found side by side with fallen trees—their trunks towards the west, showing that a tidal (?) wave must have swept up the Wash, which extended in early days thus far and farther, levelling the trees and leaving this monster stranded. Swaffham Prior with its twin churches in one churchyard, came next. One has the uncommon dedication of Sts. Cyriac and Julitta (child and mother) and a polygonal lantern tower; the other, St. Mary’s, octagonal and 16 sided ending once upon a time with a spire. In the absence of the incumbent (on holiday) a good descriptive letter from him was read out. The next move was for luncheon on the ramparts of the Devil’s Dyke, followed by a group photo; after this Dr. Palmer, of the Camb. Arch. Society, gave us the latest data concerning this wonderful work, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, proving it to be post-Roman. Hearty thanks having been rendered to our guides at church, castle and dyke, the party crossed the large stubble field, racing for the gate; the sight of this viewed from the vantage point of the rampart suggested an attack by a “Tank Corps!” Thanks to Mr. Marriott, the Sec. of the Jockey Club, who had kindly granted this favour through the good offices of Mr. C. E. Hammond, the Club was thrown open to us. Delightfully cool it was after the great heat outside. We were first entertained by Mr. Hammond’s “racy” anecdotes and then spread ourselves over the numerous rooms. Original paintings of famous Derby winners, Gold Cups no longer competed for, except in replica, relics of Eclipse, etc., etc., were on view, a veritable feast for racing connoisseurs at any time, but appreciated even by archæologists. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Pace (steward of the club) were deservedly thanked, the latter for his exhibits and courtesy in acting as mentor.

Newmarket Town was able to provide several points of interest, the hints for these being given on the back of the day's agenda, for individual search. A welcome tea at the "Golden Lion" brought to an end the last excursion of the season and members returned homewards, filled with the wondrous mixture of things that their Society could show them.

H. COPINGER-HILL,
(Assist. Excursion Sec.)

THIRD EXCURSION OF THE SEASON:

For the third Excursion of the season on Thursday, August 8th, 1929, the rendezvous was Ipswich Old Cattle Market, where some of the members assembled at 11 a.m. for the charabanc. This was considered by some the best and most interesting excursion of the year.

The account of it (in the "East Anglian Daily Times") says "The first halt was called at the Church of St. Mary, Trimley, where the members were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. Ralph Burnham. The fabric a few generations ago was almost a ruin, but had since been made worthy of the purposes for which it was built."

Mr. V. B. Redstone, F.S.A., in an address on the Church, based his remarks largely upon his gleanings from Court Books, covering a period of 400 years, and old wills relating to the place. Comment, he said, was frequently made as to the presence of two churches within one churchyard, or more properly within adjoining churchyards. Actually, there were formerly three Trimleys—St. Mary, St. Martin and St. John, the last named parish having its church at "Alteston." Then there was the near-by church of Stratton St. Peter. A rough map of the lands of the four manors made it clear that the four churches were so distributed as to be of easy access to all the inhabitants. The tower of Trimley St. Mary Church was in course of building from 1430 to 1450. Evidently the Trimley people had considerable difficulty in finding materials for church building, and when they tried to obtain stone from the Felixstowe shore their neighbours of Felixstowe would not permit them. The people were mostly poor; some of the 15th century bequests were not of sums of money but of such items as "red cows." Over the west door of the tower (exterior) a band of 14th century shields, retained from the former structure, displays among other devices, the arms of Thomas de Brotherton, natural son of Edward I., and those of the two husbands of de Brotherton's daughter Margaret, the second being Sir Walter Manny.

The Rector mentioned that there are 25 or 26 other instances of two churches standing in a common burial ground.

Some of the members went in to see the Church of St. Martin—near by—the Rector, the Rev. S. J. S. Banks, was away from home.

From Trimley the members moved on to the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Old Felixstowe, or as the old name was, Fylchestowe.

The Vicar, the Rev. H. B. Greene, was in attendance to receive the party with words of welcome to this much-restored, but still interesting building (as the account puts it). Notable among the contents of the church is the 15th century font, the bowl of which is carved with emblems of the Crucifixion, and a ship, symbol of Holy Church into which the babe enters at baptism. To this font attaches an anecdote, related in "Lady Login's Recollections." Some sixty years or so, since the Choirmen of Felixstowe were accustomed to making use of the font as a receptacle for their hats, a practice obnoxious to the widowed Lady Login, who threatened if it were not discontinued to have the font filled with water. She was as good as her word, to the chagrin of a young buck, who thoughtlessly tossed a brand new "topper" in as usual, and fished it out all dripping!

Considerable alteration to and enlargement of this church were carried on in the seventies of last century. Through the influence of Lady Login, the War Office granted the church authorities the use of old Government bricks from a condemned coast battery, and these materials were successfully employed in the new transept walls. Recently, three lofty lights in the north transept have been fitted with heraldic glass, designed by Mr. F. S. Eden. The central panel shows the Royal Arms with supporters, and the others have the arms of Login and of Campbell of Kinlock. The window, which is a fine addition to the church, is a memorial to the Login family. Miss Edith Dalhousie Login, who died in July, 1928, was the last surviving child of Sir John Spencer Login and Lady Login (who survived her husband for 40 years). When Sir John Login died in 1863, the Maharajah Duleep Singh erected an impressive monument over the burial place of his guardian in Felixstowe Churchyard, the inscription thereon being approved, and the text added by Queen Victoria.

Mr. Redstone, after speaking of the church, gave an address on the Priory of St. Felix. This small Benedictine cell, spoken of as the "Cell of Walton," was attached to Rochester from about the middle of the 12th century. Some of the Priors or Wardens—there were about four inmates of the cell, including the Warden—later succeeded to the see of Rochester. The speaker had not

found that St. Felix had had much to do with Suffolk. The dedication of the priory introduced the name Felix. In early times the place was known as Burgh or Burch. St. Felix' Day was annually celebrated in a certain "stowe" or place in Walton. And from this seems to have arisen the name Felixstowe. The priory was founded by Roger Bigod in 1105; the Bigods and the Mowbrays after them had their great hall at this place. A way called Bigod's Way, or the Earl's Way, may still be traced, running from Framlingham to "Fylchestowe." On Sept. 9th, 1528, Stephen Gardiner, the Archdeacon of Worcester, with Rowland Lee, Canon of Lichfield, visited the priory and condemned it to be suppressed. Attention was drawn to various details in the interior of the church, including traces of Early English work in the nave, some carved bench-ends, and a Jacobean pulpit. The exterior of the building is becoming rather heavily matted with ivy.

From the church the members repaired to Trent's Restaurant, Felixstowe, where a cold luncheon was served. I turn to the account again. During the luncheon interval a veteran member of the Institute introduced himself. He was the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White, F.S.A., a former hon. secretary and editor for the Society, and the founder of the Cambs. and Hunts. Archæological Society.

Mr. Evelyn White proceeded to offer some remarks on Felixstowe. His paper mainly concerned itself with an attempt to unravel the intricacies gathered around the place-name Felixstowe. The place-name Langestuna occurring in Domesday Book, might be identified, said Mr. Evelyn White, with that part of Felixstowe known to us as Langer Common. Here was Felixstowe of old time. The speaker passed on to speak of the priory, and the formation of a distinct parochial area some hundreds of years after the Saint's death. Quite possibly Felix may have visited part of Suffolk but the supposition that he landed here from France may be regarded as highly improbable. The speaker concluded: "The contention that there is no reason to assume that St. Felix was ever personally attached to the little village on the Suffolk coast may be a little disturbing to the minds of those who are fain to associate the habitat of this good man with the place, bearing his honoured name, but it is well to dispel misconceptions."

I turn to the account again. "Leaving the busy thoroughfares of Felixstowe, the archæologists sought the seclusion of Nacton. While some lingered in the Church of St. Martin, and listened to a paper by Mr. E. R. Hancox, others adjourned to the farmhouse known as Alnesbourne Priory." To refer to the paper read by Mr. Hancox, the church was restored, practically re-built of rubble and septaria and roped with tiles. The North Aisle and

Vestry added in 1707-9. Previous to restoration the Chancel Arch was very solid and much narrower. The church was very plain, consisting of only nave and chancel, probably in the sixties, it had been made "decent and in order" by a lavish use of whitewash, thereby covering up what stencilled or other decoration had relieved the plainness of the walls. Mr. Wilcox helped a former Rector to uncover some of the paintings, but beyond a conventional martin resting on a leafed branch we could find nothing even on the wall above the chancel arch, though there was a suggestion of some other subject. What the church was like before the whitewashing period it is not possible to say, but I think, Mr. Hancox says, the high oaken pews then existing were taken out and possibly served as firewood and the present deal benches were put in. I believe these and a deal pulpit were carved by a wood-carver named Ringham, who lived in what is now known as Ringham Road, at the bottom of St. John's Road, Ipswich. It was probably during this attempt to make the church look like a whitewashed barn that the piscina, now to be seen near the pulpit, was carefully blocked up as also was the niche for the holy water stoup by the door. These were uncovered in the 1907 re-building. The piscina in the chancel is hidden by panelling, which panelling, previously to restoration formed part of Broke family pew, that is, the masonry is covered and it is now used as a convenient place wherein to keep the Alms-dish. There was an Almonry on the N. side of the church which is now covered by the panelling.

During the work of restoration in 1908, whilst watching a man digging for the foundations of the N. aisle; I found a penny of one of the first three Edwards or Rich. II, as all the pennies minted in the 14th century under those four kings were alike, it is impossible to say, exactly, the date of the one I found, and as it was in company with material that had obviously been burnt, I concluded the old church had been destroyed by fire and the building we knew previous to 1907 had been erected say towards the end of the 14th century, when a workman had dropped his day's pay. As a modern building it could not be better. The east window by Kempe is beautiful both as regards proportion and tone. The window in the south of the aisle shows the intermarriages of the Broke family.

There are one or two architectural gems, remaining from the older building. As the tower was not touched, the fine west window is still there. There is an early lancet window north of chancel which now, of course, looks into the vestry. The window on the south side, to the left of the door, as you enter, is also as it was and is worth noticing. The font, the type of which is very usual in East Anglia, but unusual in the fact that it escaped the attention

of Wm. Dowsing, is worth noticing. The date of the font, is, I think, contemporary with the re-building of the church after (presumably) the fire towards the end of the 14th century. Previous to this fire—which please forgive me, if you think it existed only in my imagination—the church had undoubtedly Saxon and Norman characteristics and the font may have been a Saxon or Norman one and now possibly lies buried somewhere in the churchyard. During the alterations in 1907 I saw bits of both Saxon and Norman mouldings, which had been embodied in the building of the walls with the usual septaria, etc. Representations of the four evangelists occupy four panels. The other has the Trinity shield, a clever conception of a medieval artist. The supporting column is guarded by lions and alternate representations of unregenerate and regenerate man. An heraldic window, erected in 1863, records the alliances of the Broke family, who as Fuller testifies long resided here, “in the most worshipful equipage.”

There are two interesting wall memorial tablets, the large one, in the west end of the N. aisle to Admiral Vernon, of Porto Bello fame and the other to Admiral Sir Philip Bowes Vere Broke, the famous Commander of the “Shannon” in the fight with the American frigate “Chesapeake,” June 1st, 1813. Broke, who was born at Broke Hall, in 1776, was a fine type of English gentleman; before his fight with the Chesapeake, finding his water running low, he wrote to the Captain of the Chesapeake requesting him to give him a meeting; he stated exactly the Shannon’s force and pledged himself to such measures as would insure the absence of all other English ships, adding “or I would sail with you under a flag of truce to any place you think safest from our cruisers, hauling it down when fain to begin hostilities.” The letter, however, was never delivered and the two ships met at close quarters and the fight was over in a few minutes, owing to the superior discipline and gunnery of Broke’s men. Broke was the first naval officer to interest his men in gunnery. There are many relics of the fight at Broke Hall, including the figurehead of the Shannon, which, as a naval trophy, is considered next in value to Nelson’s coat.

As we are here more to study architecture I must not say much about the other celebrated naval man who lived here. The tablet to his memory fully describes his virtues and bravery. The capture of Porto Bello caused the people of England to go mad with excitement and joy. Historians, however, tell us that as an achievement of war it was a small thing, but innumerable medals were struck to commemorate it; these are well known, there are over a hundred different varieties in the British Museum. They are poor in design and all have Vernon’s head, with the legend “He took Porto Bello

with six ships." The sailors of his squadron called him "Old Grog," from his program coat. Admiral Edward Vernon lived at Orwell Park. His nephew, to whom he left most of his fortune, rebuilt the house; he was created Viscount Orwell in 1776 and in the following year Earl of Shipbrooke; but on his death in 1783 both these titles became extinct and his estates passed to his nephew John Vernon, whose heiress carried them in marriage to Sir Robert Harland, whose father was also a distinguished naval commander. After Sir Robert Harland the property was acquired by Colonel Tomline, Mr. Pretymán's predecessor.

There is one brass, 15th century, remaining in the church, that near the Litany desk, to a member of the Fastolf family. The Fastolfs anciently held the manors of Nacton and Low Hough (the old name of Broke Hall), which Manor, passed in marriage with their heiress to the Brokes. Alas, all the other brasses are gone and during the re-building of the church even the slabs from which they had been torn disappeared; one, sad to relate, forms the step at the churchyard gate. There is a curious dormer window in the nave. Before the restoration there were two, both on the south side. A former Rector, Thomas Hewett (died 1773) mentioned in "Margaret Catchpole" shows with his father another Thomas (died 1711) a mural tablet which has an inscription.

I turn now to the account given by Mr. Claude Morley, F.E.S., F.Z.S., when he detailed what is known of the history of a small house of Augustinian monks, dedicated to the honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The name of the site is really Alvesbourne—Alves' burn; the brook still runs down to the Orwell. The small manor mentioned in Domesday Book had then (1086) a mill and 200 acres of arable land. Of that priory, which was endowed with Alvesbourne Manor, including the church, no founder's name emerged. Albert de Neville, a benefactor, not the founder, added to the endowments in 1210. The temporalities of the priory were drawn entirely from Suffolk. Prior John Turner was installed in 1424, and the subsequent history of this small Augustinian house was identical with that of Woodbridge. The revenues did not go to swell the income of Wolsey's Ipswich College. A large barn and farmhouse replace the chapel and monastic buildings. It was here that the father of *Margaret Catchpole*, "the Suffolk heroine," worked as a farm labourer, and here also that the intrepid girl learnt to ride.

I turn again to the account. "By the kind invitation of the Rt. Hon. E. G. Pretymán, J.P., the party enjoyed tea at Orwell Park. The visitors were privileged to stroll about the picturesque grounds, which slope down to the Orwell, and to view the Louis

XV furniture, pictures, and statuary in the house, where was shown also Mr. Hancox's interesting collection of flints, implements, etc., found in the district.

The President, Sir John Wood, was in the chair at a brief business meeting during tea, when gratitude to the kind host was voiced and a hearty vote of thanks accorded. An informal meeting was called at a later juncture, when Mr. Redstone made allusion to the death of Mrs. Beatrice Andrews, a daughter of the late Henry Prigg, and a member who had long served on the Council of the Institute. The Secretary was asked to convey to the family a vote of sympathy from those present.

A drive through a beautiful avenue brought the party to Broke Hall, the residence of Capt. the Hon. James Vincent Saumarez.

The Hall was built by Sir Richard Broke, Lord Chief Baron, in the time of Henry VIII. Many relics of Sir Philip Broke, the naval hero, here preserved, include the white and gilt figurehead of the Shannon, the first letter written by the hero, with his left hand, after the action, and the superb pieces of plate presented to him by the Free and Easy Club, of Ipswich, the gentry of Suffolk and others. The many portraits, and the gardens, affording delightful prospects of the Orwell, gave unbounded pleasure to the visitors. And I may mention the kindness of both Captain the Hon. and Mrs. Saumarez in the trouble they took to shew the visitors their beautiful house—to whom we offered our very best thanks. We dispersed at about 6.30 p.m.

The attendance of an A.A. patrol enhanced the comfort of the large party—in number about 140—participating in this most enjoyable Excursion.

GRAVES LOMBARD.