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KEDINGTON CROSS.

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Another Cross which was of great interest to all on our visit to the above Church last year is worth consideration. It is said to have been un-earthed in the Church some 700 years ago and pronounced by the late Sir W. S. J. Hope as of 900 A.D. date. A first glance causes wonder—as it seems to picture the Crucified as a Child—but Holman Hunt's picture is something after this—in the shadow on the wall of the carpenter's shop, and there is also one of a fully robed figure—so that artists even nowadays "romance." An eminent professor, on a recent visit, even points out the possibility of a short clustering beard. The whole stone is evidently just over 3-ft. high—with a wheel diameter of 18-in. by 6-in. thick—of oolite (limestone). The head of the Saviour slightly inclined to the right has a "nimbus." The whole figure being roughly cut out and not very anatomical, leaves much to the imagination. The Right Ear is out of proportion unless meant for part of the nimbus. The Body is very diminutive and emaciated, at the base are the remains of some floral ornament. The Cross now on the East gate of the Church is not necessarily in its original position. It may have been a Churchyard or Preaching Cross belonging to very early days. Below the waist is a loin cloth—said to be folded and bunched up on the right in the usual form—but the folds of cloth—to the eye of the observer do not seem to come over from the left—where there is an analogous straight line and are not continued over the side. Knowing how symbols were "worked in" of old whenever possible—is it ludicrous to suggest a harp? On the assumption that below, the floral representation might be for the "branch or stem of Jesse," "the Rose of Sharon,"

within the volute, the "Star of (or the Morning Star) Bethlehem" above the left arm of the Cross, why not "the Harp" as pointing to descent from David? On many an Irish Cross, called "Crut" or "Crot," of corresponding date will be found this harp, of different shape from our idea of a Harp. (N.B.—Between the feet is the head of a large iron bolt—the means by which the Cross is at present secured). However, one must bow to the expert, that it is a loin cloth. In photographs of sculpture on a sarcophagus in the Catacombs of Domitilla (see "Illustrated London News," April 10th, Fig. No. 3 shows the "Holy Child" in swaddling clothes identically folded as at Kedington).

H. COPINGER HILL.

The Rector of Kedington, Rev. W. H. Turnbull has just issued a new and fuller account of his church, which is a reprint of his paper in the Journal of the British Archæological Association Vol. XXXVI, Part 2, 1931. The following extract is from this paper by kind permission.

"The carved figure represents Our Lord as the youthful Victor reigning in triumph on the cross. Mr. P. M. Johnston says that 'I should judge it to be pre-Conquest and to have originally formed the top of a detached standing cross, perhaps a preaching cross around which the early converts of Kedington gathered to hear the travelling priest, before ever a stone was laid upon a stone in the Temple of the Lord that supplanted the heathen place of assembly. The treatment of the loin-cloth bunched up over the right hip and draped in horizontal folds in the centre is very peculiar and seems to me archaic.' Professor G. Baldwin Brown, of Edinburgh, journeyed to Kedington to see this cross in January, 1931. He has supplied me with a complete descriptive article from which I extract the following:—'It is a substantial block of oolite in the form of a truncated squared shaft about twelve inches wide on the face by about six inches in thickness, running off above into a circular face eighteen inches in diameter and six inches thick. Round this thickness lines of tooling run in somewhat irregular grooves but neither on this part nor on any other portion of the stone is the diagonal stroke of Norman tooling in evidence. The face both of the squared shaft and of the circular termination of it carries orna-

ment of a noteworthy kind. Unfortunately the sinister side of the shaft is split away from the middle to the sinister edge of the stone, but on the dexter side of the central line there are the remains of floral ornament, consisting in an upright slightly curving stem, giving off on the dexter side a branch curled round on itself in volute form.

The principal feature which gives importance to the stone under consideration is a figure of the Crucified Saviour. The face of the Christ-head which hangs a little over to the dexter side is certainly that of an adult. The lower part of the face is evenly rounded and suggests the possibility of a short clustering beard, though this can only be conjectured. On both sides of the head and on the top of it are the terminals of the cross on the cruciferous nimbus, treated in rather bold relief. The main cross itself is marked out so far as its upper limb and transom are concerned in very slight relief or merely by an incised line, but the lower limb is not indicated at all. The body of the Crucified down to the waist is nude, but a heavy loin cloth swathes it from the waist to knees and this is of great importance because the front part is treated with rounded folds crossing horizontally. On the right hip the draping is gathered up into the bunch for fastening it which so often appears. Faintly to be observed above the transom by a close inspection of the original but more evident in the photograph is a consecration (?) cross. The other two are too faint in their marking to be anything more than later additions.

This introduces the question of dating, for which the late W. St. John Hope suggested about the date A.D. 900. The horizontally-barred drapery is quite Anglo-Saxon and may be seen in the evangelistic figures on the tallest of the well-known crosses in the churchyard at Ilkley in Wharfedale. This detail on the Kedington crucifix is really sufficient to vindicate for the piece an Anglo-Saxon and not a Norman or late medieval origin.' The cross is a fine example of how the Church of a thousand years ago pictured her Lord."

FIRST EXCURSION OF THE SEASON.

In writing up the history of our excursions a great difficulty is set up by having to follow on after the lucid reports sent to his paper ("E.A.D.T.") by their up-to-date reporter who, being an ardent member of our Society, looks up his itinerary and is always well primed. The 1st excursion was purposefully late in starting owing to a funeral which would be in Ixworth Street when our arrival was due and this was to be avoided. However, those waiting at Ashfield House had extra time to inspect the Cross in the gardens there. A complete wheel-headed cross is certainly unique for Suffolk, but as a paper with full details, etc., will be found elsewhere in this number of the Proceedings, further mention is unnecessary—beyond thanking Mrs. Hollond for the privilege extended to us. If its removal back to the Church or Churchyard can be arranged, as a memorial to the late Mr. Arthur Hollond, the mistake—if there be one—of omitting a visit to that church can be remedied, as a service on the occasion would be held and members should seize their opportunity. Every church and place of interest on these trips cannot be visited, variety being requisite and a further visit left for another year.

Walsham-le-Willows (St. Mary). Is the name reminiscent of Norman-French? The article is used in Ashby de la Zouche, but not many traces of French remain in our Suffolk place names, apart from the actual surname—such as Thorpe Morieux.

Here the Rector, Rev. A. C. Briggs, gave an admirably clear spoken account which was so pleasant to the ear as to receive a spontaneous compliment of thanks. Ashfield, Walsham and Bardwell all had intimate connection with Ixworth, here as more or less a daughter church of the Abbey. Writers on Suffolk flint work always refer to the "flush" work round the clerestory and on the porch.

The Church in its prime must have been highly coloured for traces remain in many parts. The fine reredos, by the great Timworth rather blocks the East window. The screen bears the date 1441. The building of the church, begun in 14th century, shows signs that work was interrupted by the plagues at the end of that century. Figures of saints once evidently adorned the walls. A stone coffin in the church and parts of the present Rectory point to Walsham having been the home of a Prior under Ixworth Abbey.

A long run across the Peddar Way led to Bardwell Hall, where a welcome by the occupier, Mrs. Notley, awaited all and a thorough inspection of her charming old Tudor house was granted. This was described, naturally, by the Rev. E. Farrer, who gave as owners and occupiers of old—the Berdewelle, Bronde, Draper (responsible for the actual present building), Ashfield, Pennington and Blake families. The outside is fascinating and requires expert description, such as was vouchsafed; inside a fine early 16th century hall with a good Jacobean stairway. Traces of the chapel were to be seen.

After thanking Mrs. Notley, a move was made to the church. When lunch was consumed in the Rectory garden, with Mr. and Mrs. Mumford as kindly hosts, opportunity was taken to read a letter from Canon Warren, Rector, 1890–1922, and a valued member of the Society, now called to rest.

At the church of SS. Peter and Paul, Mr. Crosby, a keen local antiquarian, gave a brief account. A fine effigy of Sir Wm. Berdewell, the great warrior (died 1434) was to be seen in the N.E. nave window. An angel bearing a book with the date 1421, refers to his restoration of the roof. Various mural paintings, uncovered in 1853, including a "Doom," were, alas, re-covered at the same date.

Ixworth (St. Mary) was a regular feast for the architecturally-minded member. The tower told that the church and the abbey, founded 1100 A.D., were dedicated to the B.V.M., the latter being the site of an Austin Priory (founder, Gilbert de Blund or Blount); here were also the "2 arrows in saltire" of St. Edmund, and "Master Robert Schut Abot" on the tower.

Richard Codington, whose table tomb and brasses remain, came into possession of the manor after its suppression by Henry VIII, 1536. An inscribed glazed tile on the south wall of the tower and another smaller one on the north face over the door are interesting because they help to date the tower. "Thome Vigal gaf. to the Stepil iiijl."

His will bears date 1472, but another old will tells of its completion by 1484. Ixworth "wills" prove of great interest in the history of her church (see Proceedings, Vol. I.). The whole fabric is in very good preservation. Mrs. Cartwright (unfortunately away at our visit) gave permission to inspect the "Abbey," as it is called nowadays. Outside, on the lawn, could be traced the chapel, with its ridged stone coffin slabs; inside a very fine crypt with good pillars and stone vaulting was observed. Many other remains of the original building and its fittings were noticeable. Mr. Taylor, the Agent, had kindly exhibited his wonderful collection of "finds"

on the estate. There were also enormous pigs of lead stamped with Henry VIII's mark. The monks of old made great use of the river here, there being a wonderful system of encircling moats. An enjoyable al-fresco tea at the Norton "Dog" was much appreciated. Keen members then went on to Norton church, to be rewarded by fine old oak benches and 8 good misericords in the chancel; a splendid octagonal font panelled with symbols of the Evangelists and a "woodman" on the shaft. Our hosts were heartily thanked at each halting place.

SECOND EXCURSION OF THE SEASON.

It was a beautiful day when we arrived at Butley Priory at 12 o'clock for the second excursion of the season to pay a visit to Dr. Rendall, who was there ready to receive us. As they arrived our members assembled in the main apartment, where Dr. Rendall commenced to lecture to them and tell them what he had done. I turn to the account given in the "East Anglian." "First came Butley Priory, reminiscent of the power of the Church, later Orford Castle, illustrating the power of the State, finally Iken Church, a little-known building in tree-curtained seclusion, speaking of the worship and life of the common people. "Butley Priory"—the gatehouse of the Priory, founded at Butley by Ranulph de Glanville, in 1171, is now the residence of Dr. M. J. Rendall. It is chiefly notable for the heraldry on its facade ranged in 5 rows of seven each, 35 shields in all, showing the arms of benefactors of this Augustinian house.

The present owner has opened out various windows, restored to its right level a delightful piscina (brought from the destroyed Abbey Church and once degraded to form part of a fireplace), and carried out other work with great care, Mr. Caroë being the architect. To his numerous visitors (assembled) under a groined roof, with leaf bosses, and close to a door, having an opening marked "the voice of the ether" (the home of a loud speaker), Dr. Rendall explained the features of the structure, erected between 1290 and 1349, the coats of arms being not later than 1406.

ECHOES OF THE PAST.

He mentioned a letter (of which a photostat was shown) extant at the Record Office, written to Cardinal Wolsey by Mary Tudor, "the French Queen," from Butley Abbey, dated 28th September (1515?). In this Mary refers to the Cardinal's visit to her, whilst at Letheringham Hall, and her request for the Cardinal's good offices on behalf of her well-beloved servant, Susan Savage, petitioning for her brother Anthony.

A few years later, in 1526, it was on record that Lord Willoughby, the Duke of Norfolk and others, were at supper at Butley Abbey, "joyful and merrie," with the prospect of hunting foxes on the morrow. All this liveliness took place within 10 years of the Dissolution, which swept away nearly all the Priory except the gatehouse."

Mr. V. B. Redstone, F.S.A., expressed the grateful thanks of all to Dr. Rendall for his kindness. After which we got on as quickly as possible to what was described as the lovely church of Butley, with its thatched nave and unbuttressed tower, which was beset by the archæologists, numbering 164, to whom the Rev. Thomas Thomas extended a welcome. Mr. Redstone, in briefly describing the building, remarked that it was one in whose walls the eye might detect every period of architecture from Norman to modern times. That district, he said, was remarkable for the Norman work remaining in its churches. At Butley the lower stage of the humble but pretty tower was Norman as were the north doorway (blocked) and the fine south doorway (brought to light about sixty years ago).

From Butley we travelled on through Chillesford Parish (now joined up with Butley) and through Sudbourne to Orford, and our A.A. Patrol helped us to park our cars in the Market Place. A very fair cold luncheon was provided for about 50 of us at the Crown and Castle Hotel by Mr. Noël Gower, a new proprietor, after which we repaired to the Castle.

I return now to the account given in the "E.A.D.T." "In the keep of the ancient Castle Mr. Redstone made some introductory remarks concerning this military fortress, built by order of Henry II. The speaker's full account of it is printed in 'Memorials of Old Suffolk.' He went on to tell of a cartulary of St. Alban's, dated 1200, containing a map of the Castles of England, including that of Orford. A photograph of this map was handed over by Mr. Redstone to the Orford Town Trustees, to whom he also presented an 1813 map, showing all the routes which Napoleon might select in invading these shores and a third map (late 18th Century). In handing these over, amid applause, Mr. Redstone expressed a hope that others who possessed anything that might assist the Trustees in elucidating the history of Orford would do likewise. He took occasion to return thanks to Sir Arthur Churchman for his noble gift of the Castle, and to the Trustees for undertaking its care. (Applause.) The Excursion Director, Rev. G. Lombard, seconded Mr. Redstone."

Subsequently the building, now partially repaired, and, after long years, once more accessible, was explored under the leadership

of Dr. H. N. Baron and Mr. Clifford Hosken, and the extensive views from the summit, embracing sea and coast, wooded countryside, and the meanderings of the Alde being especially enjoyed.

In looking into the castle again we were much interested in the large oven at the top, and the deep well in the very base.

At Orford Church (the account says) the Rev. H. A. Tudor gave a most interesting summary of the main features, which include part of the East wall of the North transept (Norman); an octagonal font typical of many in Suffolk, but exceptional in that one panel contains a pieta and another a Trinity group, similar to that on the brass of a civilian and wife (c. 1520), in the (present) chancel floor; and numerous brasses, one of which, to James Coe, first Mayor of Orford (1579), has an inscription partly "palimpsest." At the west end is a pleasing door of Suffolk oak, the work of the wood-carving class of the Archdeacon of Suffolk. At the east is the roofless and ruinous chancel of the Norman Church, some of the rounded pillars having curious raised spirals.

Unfortunately a shower of rain came on while we were in the church, which made it uncomfortable for a time. I continue the account. "In the Town Hall was exhibited a fine collection of Orford's charters, beginning with one of Henry V, and the regalia, including silver maces, one the gift of James Coe, and another a massive specimen (temp. George III) with the Royal Arms, carried before the successive mayors as the emblem of the King's authority."

Mr. R. A. Roberts, F.R.HIST.S., whose unavoidable absence was generally regretted, had most thoughtfully provided typed descriptive notes. From Orford we went on to Sudbourne Hall, the rain having ceased, where tea was enjoyed, by kind invitation of Mr. J. Malcolm Lyon. The visitors had the pleasure of strolling through the charming gardens and grounds, once, as it is said, the not unfamiliar haunts of George IV as an "Adonis of fifty" smitten with the mature charms of the Marchioness of Hertford, mother of the 3rd Marquis (Thackeray's "Marquis of Steyne.") With the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A., in the chair, a business meeting followed tea, new members being elected, and thanks returned to the Hon. Excursion Director. The kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Lyon and family, who waited on us themselves, was gratefully acknowledged by the Rev. Graves Lombard (Director) and by the Chairman.

IKEN CHURCH.

From Sudbourne Hall we travelled on to Iken, Church of St. Botolph, where the Rector, the Rev. R. L. Mann, welcomed the

visitors. The account says: "An unpretentious building with a flint tower and a thatched roof to its nave, the church stands upon a promontory jutting out into the river Alde. Quoting Baring-Gould, Mr. Redstone advanced the theory that here was the hermitage of St. Botolph, 'the God-forsaken devil possessed spot he was in search of'—Ikenho. Strong support of the Suffolk claim is to be found in Arnold Foster's 'Dedication of English Churches.' The speaker then adduced evidence concerning the early character of the church building. Robert Gildeney in 1450 bequeathed 40s. to the building of a new belfry. In 1487 Robert Fouceboun left money for the repair of the candlebeam. Thomas Goodyng limited his bequest for a like use to 2d. The south porch was erected before 1529, when Margaret Talvasse desired to be buried before the Porch door.

The Font, octagonal, with well carved panels, occasioned some remark. Mr. Redstone, quoting William Caveler, a most reliable authority, who described it in 1855 as 'an octagon with foliage in the panels of the bowl,' yet its panels contain emblems of the evangelists and Crucifixion symbols. However, the Rev. J. W. Darby, who visited Iken Church before Caveler (viz in 1831) noted the font as 'Octagon: 4 sides emblems of ye Evangelists full face with labels, 4 sides figures winged full face upon clouds holding implements of ye Crucifixion.'

Mr. Mann saw the visitors depart at about 7 p.m., when they returned via Tunstall to Ipswich, etc., which proved to be an excellent excursion."

THIRD EXCURSION OF THE SEASON.

Those who made the long journey from E. Suffolk (and they were many), to be caught in a violent storm at Clare, must have been well pleased with themselves on reaching Kedington (SS. Peter and Paul), pronounced Ketton locally, to find two whole hours and more allowed them for the inspection of the "Westminster Abbey of W. Suffolk." Quaintly picturesque outside, with no hint of its inner treasures, it is full of history and interest. Few churches have such a large piece of Roman mosaic work to catch the eye on the tower, or a better Crucifix of Saxon work (c. 900 A.D.) over its eastern gable. Traces of Norman work (1140) in the pillars of the Chancel Arch, with an interesting door to the rood-loft (? of later date); E.E. work for the present building (c. 1300); a nave, altered in Perp. (c. 1420); large vaults underneath, the burial place of the Barnardiston family (see Proceedings, Vol. IV). It is to this family who lived at one time in the adjoining parish of that name and were for long lords of the manor, that the preserva-

tion of so much that is original work, is due. The family, or chantry pew, was occupied on this occasion by several representatives of the name. The Rector, the Rev. W. H. Turnbull, drew attention to the many features of his church, appealing at the same time for help towards the repair work then in progress. The first rood-screen was utilised to form the parclose, but its successor is an early specimen bearing date 1619; a fine 3-decker pulpit of Jacobean work; altar rails after "Wren," linen-fold doors to pews, etc., tiny box pews on N. side, galleries for singers and children, a quaint alms box sunk into the nave floor according to the oldest style, are some of the chief items of interest in the wood work. Barnardiston tombs; their hatchments (the numerous coats of arms, reproduced in miniature, were thoughtfully placed in the Vestry for the benefit of lovers of heraldry); the hour-glass stand, a wig-pole, or so-called (?) and the general old-world or old-time appearance of all, enabled members to visualise the services, etc., of the past. But where are the early registers? 1651 is given for the earliest.

A plan of the immediate environs of the church would have been helpful to visitors; however, the Rectory lawns were eventually found for luncheon, and inspection made of a fine room and Jacobean (?) staircase. Cordial thanks were voted to the Rector and Mrs. Turnbull and to the Churchwarden, Mr. W. H. Bowyer, for his help at the church. Mr. C. F. D. Sperling had given a very interesting history of the Barnardiston family, with an account of the various effigies.

After a difficult get-away, Great Thurlow Church (All Saints) was next visited, where the Norman work has been modernised. However, there were good brasses, two of 1460, one to Thos. Underhill and Anne (Drury) his wife, 1508, another to Thos. Knighton and Anne. The church possesses an Elizabethan Cup of 1547. In Little Thurlow (St. Peter), where the Rector, the Rev. C. D. Rogers, acted as guide, was an elaborate tomb to a Lord Mayor of London, 1619, Sir Stephen Soames. The Rev. E. Farrer produced an old picture of his house, the Hall. Some very interesting specimens of pewter plate were also on view.

Little Bradley (All Saints) provided a feast of brasses—to Underhills and Knighton again. The former with the arms of Mauvesin, temp. Ed. I, another very interesting piece was that of John Daye, with the arms of the Stationers' Co.; 1584, who printed the Works of Foxe the Matyrologist, Latimer and Archp. Parker. The church itself is a mixture of Norman, Dec. and Perp. styles, with an early date and graffiti (to be deciphered) on the tower pillars, similar to those at Buxhall.

(N.B.—With reference to these brasses, *vide* Proceedings, Vol. XX, Part 2, by H. C. Andrews).

Cowlinge (pronounced Cooling), dedicated to St. Margaret, proved full of interest. The Rector, the Rev. H. W. Gilbert, spoke briefly on the building which is remarkable for its windows, its king-post roof, and the stone altar slab, recently dug up but now again *in situ*; several members, however, declared that it should be reversed. The screen, with traces of colouring, is referred to in our last Proceedings.

The churchyard was an object lesson in upkeep. Mrs. Tonge, of Branches Park, provided a happy ending to a busy day, with tea and ices under a marquee. Our President (Sir John Wood) voiced our appreciation and thanks to her whilst at tea with us, and Canon B. Suckling backed up the efforts of the Excursion Secretaries in their work.

FOURTH EXCURSION OF THE SEASON.

SAMFORD HUNDRED.

Thursday, September 4th, 1930.

For this—the fourth excursion of the season—as mentioned on the programme, a motor coach left Ipswich at the junction of Queen Street and Princes Street at 11 a.m. for Woolverstone Park.

Referring to the “East Anglian Daily Times” account: “The tidal rivers Orwell and Stour — or the peninsular separating them — were not then explored for the first time by the Suffolk Institute of Archæology members. They were there ‘also’ in August, 1909. And on July 4th, 1856, when the County Archæologists travelled from Ipswich by water, landed at Redgate Hard, walked to Freston Tower, and later re-embarked for Stutton, but owing to tidal difficulties and the failure of the Railway Company to supply the promised late train, suddenly substituted Erwarton for Stutton.” It was singular that on this excursion we failed to see over “Stutton Hall” on account of the family being away from home.

Again referring to the account: “The place of assembly was Woolverstone Park, thrown open by the kindness of Major J. A. Berners, O.B.E., his Agent meeting our cars at the gates, and conducting us to near Freston Tower, where a halt was called. Many of the party made the ascent of this six-storeyed structure, whose scanty history was most kindly sketched by the Rev. H. Mayne Young, who quoted Samuel Tymms, Mr. V. B. Redstone, F.S.A., and Robert Reyce. It is said that the legend that the Tower was connected with the early days of Cardinal Wolsey “may be described as a fantastic dream of Richard Cobbold, who as early as

1827 (in "Valentine Verses") sketched the building and in doggerel lines, promised to write its "tale." The idea long simmered in Cobbold's mind, his novel "Freston Tower," self-styled an entertaining and instructive record of the origin of the turret, appearing in 1850. This pleasant retreat of ruddy brick (incidentally a poetaster in Clarke's "History of Ipswich," apostrophises it as "Old Freston, stern and gray,") did not rise from the greensward till 19 or 20 years after Wolsey had lain the world away."

According to a visitation book of 1561, it was built "within these twelve years," i.e. about 1549. Robert Reyce, writing in 1655, however, refers to it as "Freston Tower, not far from the channel, lately built."

Of Woolverstone Church, set in a beautifully kept churchyard, it may be said that it is picturesque. Little more can be added, for in the 'eighties it underwent the pangs of restoration. What is left of the old building is mainly comprised in the present south aisle, the existing nave and channel being new. The Rev. R. J. Utten Todd, Rector, was able, however, to point to a brass to his predecessor, Thomas Runtyng, 1399, and a recess near the font, probably for the Chrism. Mr. Berners, the squire, was himself with us in the church.

An interval for lunch enabled the members to stroll about the undulating park, through the gardens and to the Cat House. The grotto leading from the Conservatory was a surprise to all. Woolverstone Hall was built in 1770. The Holbroke family held Woolverstone Manor in the fourteenth century. In the time of Queen Elizabeth it was in the hands of Thomas Gawdy, Knt., and subsequently formed part of the possessions of the Catlyn family, from whom it came to the Bacons and the Bedingfields. Mr. W. Berners bought the estate of a Mr. Ward. Most of the ceilings throughout the house are the work of the Adelphi Brothers Adam.

After this we repaired to Erwarton Hall, Mr. Berners kindly taking the Excursion Director in his car. This was visited by the kind permission of Captain M. Austin, R.N. The house is best known for its brick gateway, a "decorative prelude" to the Hall itself. Like a shrunken tower (says the account) with absurd finials resembling chimneys, this gateway has been often figured, most recently in "Suffolk and Norfolk," by Dr. M. R. James, who considers it later than the house (1575). Mr. Christopher Hussey dates it c. 1549, which would make it co-eval with Freston Tower. Erwarton Hall, the old home of the Parkers, has over the doorway the arms of Morley impaling Calthorpe. Within are a handsome late 17th Century staircase, and an upstairs room with a plaster ceiling geometrically divided by moulded ribs and adorned with

fleur-de-lis and roses. A little heraldic glass remains with the date "1575" in one window. On two diamond panes are cut the words: "Lady Parker Long and Sir Philip was here in January, 1784. We had a terrible journey from Chelmsford to Colchester."

Erwarton Church, most late Perpendicular, with a chancel shortened 13 feet in 1838, has a notable series of monuments. These and other features, were briefly explained by the Rev. R. Utten Todd. The earliest monument is the cross-legged (stone) effigy of Sir Bartholomew D'Avillers (died 1287); another, in a recess east of this, commemorates Sir Bartholomew Bacon (1391) and his lady; a third is to a widow lady.

ROYAL DUST?

In the spandrels of the west doorway are the arms of D'Avillers. Heveningham and Bacon. Anne Heveningham, who married Bartholomew Bacon, died in 1435, which may well be the date of the tower built largely of septaria, stone, and undressed flints.

Mr. Todd, speaking of the tradition that the heart of Queen Anne Boleyn is buried here, quoted the account of the sexton who was present in 1836 when in the south wall of the chapel there was found "A leaden box as big as my two fists. . . Mr. Berners ordered the box to be split open with a chisel. There was only a little black dust in it. . . ." "According to what my grandfather telled my father the Queen's heart was buried somewhere in the church and would be found some day." The casket and dust now lie in a vault under the organ, where, too, are hidden away some pieces of armour, formerly hanging in the church.

In the pleasant garden of Shotley Hall tea was enjoyed, the hospitality of Mrs. Donald Wrinch being gratefully acknowledged in a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Cordy S. Wolton. Mr. Watkins also voiced the gratitude of all to Major Berners, who very nicely brought Mrs. Wrinch forward and thanked her himself, after which a business meeting was held. Earlier in the afternoon, the Rev. H. A. Harris had publicly thanked the Rev. R. Utten Todd for his kind help.

AN ANGELIC CEILING.

After this we took to our cars again and went to Crewe Hall, Stutton, which we were enabled to visit through the kindness of Mrs. Reade, though being away from home at the time.

I return to the account. "Approached by a long, straight avenue, this house fearfully and wonderfully adorned, in what may be termed pseudo-castellated Gothic, proved well worthy of inspection. Over its entrance are the arms of Bowes of London and Essex, with the date 1605. Within are some wonderful ceil-

ings, and wainscot. One of the bedrooms has a plaster ceiling with two "full length" angels, cherubs and other devices. Another with fruit and hops, is reminiscent of moulded work at the Ancient House, Ipswich; the drawing room has another ornamental ceiling, all these being 17th century work. As mentioned, a brief paper on Crowe Hall was read by the Rev. Graves Lombard, who said: The manor was held by the de Coggeshalls in the 14th century. Crowe Hall, probably took its name from Crowe or Crawe, of Hintlesham, in the 14th century. Thomas Bowes, of Great Bromley, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Smith, of this parish (1681), but the Bowes family was connected with Suffolk earlier than this. Since 1821 the property had been owned by the Reade family."

The account says, "Two more churches completed the programme. Time did not permit of more than a cursory inspection of these." The first was that of East Bergholt (where, unfortunately, we were rather late in arriving after our long round), whose unfinished western tower, dated 1525, south porch with sundial, as depicted in one of Constable's National Gallery pictures, and tiled "Cage" where the bells hang, without bell-wheels, behind a grillage of oak, are familiar to most East Anglians. The interior (of church) contains amongst other interesting features, a Holy Sepulchre recess, a poor Carolean brass, and some Constable memorials. These latter comprise a window to the memory of the R.A., and a sorry font, designed by the Rector of 1867 to commemorate Abram Constable, brother of John.

The Rev. J. Henry was in attendance at the Church of Stratford St. Mary, where he kindly pointed out the chief features of interest. The account says: "There is much flint panel-work, including an inscription to Thomas Mors and Alice, his wife (1499), and the complete alphabet. The entire building was restored, not wisely but too well, about 50 years ago. To contemplate it is to sympathise with Edward Fitzgerald's stiff-lipped attitude when appealed to for subscriptions for such a cause."

"I have invariably found," wrote old Fitz Gerald, "that a village church is entirely spoilt by so-called improvement or restoration. The architect called in must make a job, and also show his taste by doing too much and by turning the old building (with its odds and ends of several styles, added in different centuries and so historical, if not beautiful) into some neat article of early English—flood English or architect's own English—which I have never yet found better than the old ramshackle thing"!

This brought a happy and successful day to a close—as the Fourth Excursion of the Season.

G.L.

HALF-DAY EXCURSION.

The half-day excursion to Dunwich, unfortunately, proved a very wet stormy day, but notwithstanding a very fair number of our members turned up, and all but two came on the motor coach from Ipswich. A few of us got over there by lunch time, which was partaken of in our cars.

After lunch a lecture on the Ancient History of Dunwich was given by Major Ernest R. Cooper in the Church of St. James. The church was partially filled by members. As the account from the "East Anglian Daily Times" relates, "the party was joined by a number of local residents, who obviously found much pleasure in listening to the praises of a town which once played a most important part in the history of the East of England."

Dunwich in Early Records. The lecture was all the more illuminating because Major Cooper concentrated on unfamiliar, out-of-the-way facts and happenings in Old Dunwich, drawn for the most part from the misty days of its bygone greatness. It was almost impossible, he said, in any researches into Suffolk coast history to get away from Dunwich and Dunwich people. They were always cropping up in Early Suffolk records, and in most unexpected places. For instance, in the library of Durham Cathedral there was preserved a manuscript poem, written by Jordan Fantosme, monk and clerk to the Bishop of Winchester, narrating the siege of Dunwich in 1173. Therein Fantosme asserted that he witnessed many of the events related, and it might be considered fairly certain that he was in Dunwich in the early summer of that year and was one of the besieged. Speaking of the shipbuilding activities for which Dunwich was once famous, the lecturer suggested that it was very likely that amongst the old Dunwich shipwrights was one or more of the Pettes, forbears of the famous shipwright family of Pepys's days. In 1497 the will of William Pette, of Dunwich, was proved and contained evidence that he was a ship or boat builder, since he left his new boat and working tools to his brother John. In 1540 Peter Pett, the son of John, was shipwright at Harwich, and Major Cooper suggested that he was the son of John of Dunwich as well as the ancestor of all the Pettes of the King's Dockyards.

An Early Printer. Having described one or two murders which took place in Dunwich in the dark ages, the lecturer came to more peaceful times, when he dealt with the birth in Dunwich in 1522 of a boy who later became the famous Reformation Printer, John Deye, who first introduced Gothic type into England. It was he who in 1550 produced one of the earlier Almanacs, which he called

"a prognossicacion," and who in 1563 brought out Foxe's Book of Martyrs. To Master Dye, said Major Cooper, we were indebted for that detailed account of old Dunwich, dated 1573, set out in full in Suckling, the manuscript of which is in the British Museum. Master Deye died in 1584, and was buried in Little Bradley Church in Suffolk. He was referred to in "The Times" Printing Supplement of 1929 and his name had been adopted by a New York firm of publishers.

Dealing with the encroachments of the sea in olden times, the speaker said that from the 1,547 certificates of Church Goods, it would be found that in 1542 the churchwardens of St. John's, Dunwich, sold plate to the sum of £21 "which was bestowed in making a pere for the defence of the Church." Also in 1544 a further £17 worth of St. John's plate was sold "which was bestowed lykewyse in making a pere." At the same time, the Church Goods of St. Peter's were sold for £18 and the money spent on the haven. The church register of St. Peter's, which had been missing for some years, was recently located at the British Museum by Mr. C. Partridge, and it contained a memo. dated 1698, that the chancel end fell on December 11th, 1688, and that in 1697 half the steeple fell down the cliff, and that the last service in St. Peter's was held about 1654. As regards the church of All Saints, Major Cooper mentioned that the last service was held about 1755, and that the east end fell over the cliff in February, 1904, and the steeple on November 12th, 1919.

Among many other subjects, Major Cooper touched briefly upon the St. James's Hospital and Grey Friars, the ruins of which are still visible. The former (he said) was a leper hospital, situated without the gates, and founded in or before the time of Richard I. and it was at one time a very wealthy house. The building was 107-ft. 7-ins. long 24-ft. 6-in. wide and the chancel 20-ft. 9-ins. wide, ornamented with intersecting Norman arcading. Divine service was held there, until the time of Charles II, when the place was allowed to go to ruin. When the foundations of the new church were dug, an immense quantity of skeletons were discovered buried in masses. Grey Friars or Friars Minors, he said, must have been established soon after the coming of the Friars in 1220, and the original site was now under the sea.

At the General Suppression in 1538, Grey Friars was suppressed.

Coming to more modern times, the lecturer said that Charles Keene, of "Punch" fame, was a great lover of Dunwich, which he visited many times. It was his habit to take his pipes to the beach, about 10 p.m., when the populace was asleep, and skirl away by the sad sea waves. Keene, by the way, could be looked upon as a

Suffolk man, as his mother was Mary Sparrowe or Sparowe, of the Ancient House, Ipswich, breed. They lived in Ipswich for a time, and Charles went to the Grammar School. Edward Fitzgerald was also a great admirer of Dunwich, while Jerome K. Jerome was another frequent visitor, and he was bound there on the day that death overtook him.

After inspecting the ruins of St. James' Hospital, as also an ancient chest in the High Street, the party proceeded to the Barne Arms, where Major Cooper most kindly entertained them to tea. After the refreshment, the Rev. Graves Lombard, Hon Excursion Director, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Major Cooper, who in response said that they would be interested to learn that he had induced the Dunwich Trust to apply some of the accumulated surplus funds to the building of two almshouses. (Applause.)

G.L.