

"ANGULUS ANGLIE." A CORNER OF ANGLIA.

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There exists, among the manuscripts of the British Museum, a bound volume containing parchment leaves upon which are written a chronicle of St. Alban's Abbey, by one of its inmates, William de Wallingford. Within the book is drawn a map of Great Britain as this Benedictine monk conceived it to be, in or about the year 1250. One of the marked features of interest is the representation of the Suffolk coast-line between "*Hippewic*" and Dunwich. In the draughtsman's mind Orford was a town of importance, "*une grant cité ancienne de antiquité*" as sung by the French poet, Dennis Piramus, at the same time, 1240. *Castellum* or *Castrum Orford* is enclosed within an oblong border from which proceeds the only road marked upon the chart as the way, thence to Grimsby *via* Norwich, Cambridge and Peterborough. Next in importance appears a district labelled by the compiler *Angulus Anglie*, now constituting an area the Colness Hundred, then bounded as the cartographer informs us, by *Goseford* (i.e. Bawdsey Haven) on the North and *Auwelle* (Orwell) on the South.

It seems highly probable that Wallingford was well acquainted with the neighbourhood in which, during his days, occurred some of the most stirring events connected with English History.

Lying between the Deben and the Orwell there then stretched a line of cliffs which gradually sloped towards the marsh lands of Langer and Colness Creek; midway between the two estuaries the shore afforded facilities for landing troops. Consequently, it is not surprising to know that the earliest invaders, the Romans, were believed by Piramus to have erected on the highest summits of the cliffs a fortified camp similar to that erected at Burgh Castle and that its surrounding walls were washed away by the sea.

The immigrants who followed the Romans found this district, one favourable for habitation, for their settlements appear to have been more numerous in this "Corner of Anglia" than in any other part of Suffolk. As given by the cartographer, Gulpeler, Plumyard, Morston, Mayston, Blofeld, Wadgate, Burgate, Norton, Thorpe, Micklegate and many other hamlets, stood clustering together, each large enough to be assessed for the King's gelt, and each sending its man to the Hundred Moot, which assembled near *Colness* Creek, at the spot where a Ferry House stood on the banks of the Orwell according to ancient Ipswich muniments.

As the Roman site on the Yare received from its Anglian occupiers the name Burgh, so was the site which their camp occupied near the Deben mouth known locally as Burgh. The Burgh of Colness was doubtless as important to the Angles as was the Burgh of Lothingland.

The latter "burgh" is considered to have provided shelter to St. Furseby when he founded his school in East Anglia; there is however little evidence to substantiate the statement that St. Felix established a similar refuge camp on the site of the Colness Burgh.

Burgh of Colness did not give place to the name Felixstowe until near the end of the fifteenth century: after the settlement of the Normans the district was known as *Filthestow* and later as *Filchestow*; the script "c" and "t" are not easily distinguishable apart. The Benedictine monks of the Priory of St. Felix always adopted these latter names when compiling the rolls of their manor, or when communicating with the parent house of Rochester.

The tenants of Burgh and Walton met at the same General Court as the tenants of Trimley, but formed a separate leet. The foundation of the modern town of Felixstowe arose when its lord, Roger Bigod, divided up his demesne lands, giving churches, priest's lands, a mill in *Burgh*, and other estates to found a cell of Rochester, viz. the cell of St. Felix in Walton. A Rochester cartulary states that King William (? II) granted to Roger Bigot the right to give to the Church of St. Andrew, Rochester, the church of St. Felix, Walton, with the tithes belonging thereto. Roger Bigod died in 1107, and his eldest son, William, who was joined with him in the gift was drowned in the White Ship in 1120. Hugh Bigod, brother to William, succeeded to the estates, and confirmed the said grant, as Earl of Norfolk, c. 1140. Within the confirmation he names three of his tenants, *Blackeman*, *Godric*, and *Leofric*, names which occur in the Domesday as of freemen belonging to the district. Of the two hundred and more Colness names mentioned in this Survey many, e.g.—Durrant, Bond, Gooday, Hildyard, Goodman, Hanson, Coleman, Lewin and others—are well-established Suffolk names.

The confirmation of the grant is of further interest in that it mentions the *building of Walton Castle* by Earl Hugh. To carry out this work the Earl gave 48 acres of arable land in exchange for land on which he had built his castle, granting to the monks at the same time the "*chapel of his burgh*." The castle was constructed of *free stone*; a supply of flints may also have been used and brought from Gravesend as was done according to contemporary evidence when Walton Hall was erected in 1292. It is highly probable the castle was completed before 1148, the year in which Archbishop Theobald landed at Goseford, now Bawdsey Ferry, and was received by Hugh Bigod "with warm hospitality." It was under this Earl that Walton (i.e. Felixstowe) became the centre of military activity. In 1173, Robert de Beaumont, second Earl of Leicester, landed here with his mercenaries and proceeded to attack the Castle, but failing to capture it journeyed to Framlingham and thence to Haughley, where he destroyed the castle of Ralph de Broc, Beckett's most bitter opponent. Leicester's Flemings were subsequently defeated at Fornham. In 1174 Bigod, himself, landed with a force of Flemings at Walton; his castles of Walton, Framlingham and Bungay were taken and destroyed. Walton Castle was never rebuilt; it lay in ruins, which, as before stated, formed a

supply of material a century later when Roger Bigod, the fifth and last Earl of Norfolk, built Walton Hall, subsequently surrendered to the king and his heirs. Roger Bigod died in 1306. When Walton became the property of the king, all existing records connected with it came into the Exchequer, consequently there is to be seen at the Public Record Office a sequence of invaluable historical local documents describing the rent and issues of the manor for the years 1277—1307. In 1277 we read the *castle* site had become a *pasture place* for sheep; sheep fed and hay was gathered within the castle walls, the fosses within the bailey, and around the castle; sheep were also to be seen feeding before the hall gate, in the court yard and elsewhere, even the 8 acres which constituted the "old *bergh*" yielded hay to the value of 10d. an acre. The same conditions had prevailed in the previous year, in which an addition of two shillings and sixpence was added to the rental arising from fishermen drying their nets at "*Langere*" (?Landguard), when in Holm Marsh, near by, three hundred sheep were folded. Three mills stood at Lefstanton, Gulpeler and Gudeston; these mills ground the tenants' corn. Bigod sent his corn as supply to Edward's army in Scotland and had cause to complain that by receiving payment according to Scotch measure he lost money, for it required 13 Scotch bushels to measure the amount of 12 Walton bushels. The accounts further afford interesting details as to current prices and relative values of commodities. In the year 1290, 14 shillings was realised by the sale of 2 cows, 8 calves realised 50d., 6 pigs 4 shillings, 113 cockerells a penny a piece; 2,060 eggs were sold for 6s. 10s.; 1,000 herrings for 2s. 10d. In the accounts for 1286 we are told the servants' wages at 2s. a year amounted to 104s.; a new boat for Gosford Ferry cost 12s. 4d.; beer was 1d. a gallon; the carriage of a cask of wine from Bawdsey Ferry to Woodbridge by boat was 16d. Whilst the price of a cow was 16d., the price of a rabbit was 3d., so valuable was its fur. Much money was spent on repairs done to various premises, viz. dairy, kitchen, barns, etc. The vineyard was let at a rent of 5s. a year.

The most amusing record is that which gives an account of the expenses of men who left Gosford on a week's visit to London in 1293, under the leadership of one, John Schane.

They left Gosford Nov. 12th, after spending 1d. on refreshments, passed through Colchester 5d., Chelmsford 18½d., where water for their horses cost ¼d., Brentwood 6¼d., having drink by the way ½d., to arrive in London, the same day Thursday, where they paid their groom 3d., for hay 3d., litter 2d., candles ¼d., and other sums totalling for the day 4s. 1d.

Friday found them entertaining John Apadam (? a Welshman), William de Beccles, and others with bread 6½d., ale 3½d., herrings 3d. stockfish and ling 3d., lampreys 3d., sauce ½d., cheese ½d., coal 1d., spices 3d., apples ¼d., ale 2½d., and other sums. Total 4s. 2½d.

Saturday without extra company and being satisfied with bread, ale 9½d., herrings, sauce and salt, and apples for diet their expenses only amounted to—total 2s. 11½d.

Sunday was a day of special entertainment, bread, ale, meat, poultry, pottage, renewed in the evening when John de Causton visited them; meat for John de Hol, with other items made the sum reach 6s. 5d.

Monday, too, was a day of feasting; fowls were taken for breakfast, pears accompanied the apples; there was an extra expense for mustard $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for a barber to trim their beards 1d. in all—7s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Tuesday found them supplied with meat, fowls, bread, ale and apples; Wednesday they returned to a fish diet, herrings and stockfish with sauce to make the food palatable; Thursday, bread, ale and meat supplied their wants; and they total up all their week's expenses as amounting to 42s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Stockfish and herring diet no doubt accounted largely for expense on ale, varying from 9d. to 15d. daily.

There is very little record of events occurring in the Felixstowe area during the twenty years of Edward II's reign, until their close, when the Rochester monks note in their Chronicle the landing at Walton of Queen Isabella and Mortimer with an army of mercenaries to expel Edward II from the throne; the monks are silent as to the next visit of armed forces to Felixstowe. It is the Wardrobe account book of King Edward III, himself, which gives insight into the activity and commotion which pervaded the district, when he assembled his army at Walton to make an expedition to Flanders in 1338. The Rolls of Parliament, and the City of London Letter Books depict the busy scenes which must have been then witnessed on the shores and coast of Felixstowe. The King travelled thither *via* Bury St. Edmunds, where he was entertained to the music of Adam le Organer. Ale was supplied by men of Gosford and Orford, the vicar of Assington furnished two and a half hogshead of wine, the rector of Bucklesham found straw for the royal stables, and the constables supplied the horses with hay. It would take much time to dwell upon the sundry expenses incurred when the King was encamped at Walton from Sunday, July 12th till the 16th July following. All details are given by Sir William de Northwell, his wardrobe keeper, who fails not to inform us that the household expenses were heavy on the Monday because of a deer hunt in which the King was engaged. The wages of the household amounted to £5 daily, almsgiving to 4 shillings a day. The kitchen on Sunday cost over £12, on other days a little more than £8.

From Walton Edward wrote to the Mayor and Aldermen of London charging them to hasten the despatch of the men who were to accompany the King abroad. They declared that they had sent 40 men at arms and 60 archers giving at the same time the names of each man and the City Ward whence he had come. It was complained that some had deserted the City company to join the retinue of some great man in order to receive higher pay. There is also a further list in Rymer's *Fædera*, giving the names of the great men who joined the King at Walton.

The ships left Walton on Friday, 17th July, to join the rest of the fleet off Swynehumber. On Sunday, 19th July, the ships were

assembled at Yarmouth, whence they set out to arrive at Antwerp the following Tuesday. It was some centuries before the district again formed a camping ground for so large a force.

GOSFORD SHIPS ENGAGED IN THE EXPEDITION TO
FLANDERS, 1338.

The ships were hired for 27 days and were under the command of a master, who was assisted by a mate (*confrater*).

<i>Ship.</i>	<i>Master.</i>	<i>Crew.</i>	<i>Wages.</i>
Burmayden	Wm. Brian	1 mate 43 mariners	£16 3s. 0d.
Malote	Robt. Courteller	1 " 37 "	£13 6s. 9d.
Godyer	Wm. Scot	1 " 37 "	£13 6s. 9d.
Cogge Joane	Ranulphus Rodberd	1 " 29 "	£11 2s. 9d.
Isabel	Wm. le Waller	1 " 29 " & 1 boy	£11 6s. 1½d.
Laurence	Hugh le Tailour	1 " 32 "	£12 3s. 0d.
Godale	Thos. Godwyn	1 " 46 " & 1 boy	£17 10s. 6½d.
St. Mariecogge	Ran. Southeryn	1 " 23 " & 1 "	£9 5s. 7½d.
Sanneye	Robt. Hashis	1 " 43 " & 1 "	£16 7s. 4d.
Saffray	Ran. Gardiner	1 " 29 " & 1 "	£11 6s. 1½d.
Elene	Robt. Yper	1 " 38 " & 1 "	£14 6s. 10½d.
Margarete	Robt. de Hall	1 " 25 " & 1 "	£9 19s. 1½d.
Berthelmew	Wm. le Rede	1 " 18 " & 1 "	£7 10s. 11½d.
Rose	Wm. Taphus	1 " 28 " & 2 boys	£11 2s. 9d.
Katerine	Ran. Haskes	1 " 24 " & 1 boy	£9 12s. 4½d.
		481	11 £184 10s. 5d.

15 ships, 15 masters, 15 mates, 481 mariners, 11 boys, wages £184 10s. 5d.

Upon examination of the wage list we may deduce the facts that the wage of a ship's master was a shilling a day ; his mate received sevenpence a day ; the wage of a mariner varied from fourpence halfpenny to threepence a day ; a boy received a penny halfpenny a day.

On this occasion Ipswich supplied ten ships, Dunwich eight, and Orford five. These ships were solely for the King's service ; Lord Robert de Ufford secured passage for himself, twenty-one horses, a knight and four shield-bearers for £7 ; other noblemen made similar arrangements.

For forty years records are unavailable as to the History of Felixstowe and its neighbourhood. The silence is broken by a Rochester chronicler who has preserved a letter from John, Prior of the parent house, to John Morel, warden of the cell of St. Felix, and who with one Henry Raundes long had the care and custody of the cell, charging them to visit Rochester as speedily as possible to show the state of the cell in writing. The letter is dated May 17th, 1382. We gather from the Court Rolls of 1382 what the trouble was. The rolls are headed for that year with the ominous words, " The first Court after the burning of the books," and the Assize Rolls add that destruction was the work of a mob lead on by John Battisford, parson of Bucklesham.

On June 15, 1381, the house of the monk's tenant, John Cobat, was destroyed, and on the morrow, the house of their steward,

Roger de Wolfreston, was despoiled. It was this same Roger who, acting as steward, summoned the first court of 1382, and we can well understand with what sternness he issued the order for all the homage of the Priory Manor to draw up a new rental fully describing all customs and holdings of the manor.

The new material to which we now turn for local histories, viz. the Manor Rolls and Books, are very complete, running consecutively from the year 1382. It was through the kindness of the then lord of the manor, the Hon. E. G. Pretyman, who granted free and easy access to these records, that I have been able to gain a close insight into the general character of those, who, living in the past, mainly upon the cultivation of the soil, and the harvest of sea, have handed down to posterity the villages of the Cosford Hundred as we know them.

The Manorial Records now left to us to consider may be arranged into two classes, first those referring to the Priory; secondly, those which deal with the manor of Walton including as it does Trimley, Felixstowe, Falkenham, Kirton and their hamlets.

The Priory Manor was not extensive, yet its records are not without local interest. The Prior of Rochester in consideration for John Corbat's good services to the Prior and chapter in times past (the rebellion) remitted to him all arrears of rent; but it was considered wise to request Lady Margaret, Countess of Norfolk, to admit Brother Henry Randes to be warden of Felixstowe cell in room of John Morel, warden at the time of the peasants' revolt. Similar requests were forwarded to patrons when Thomas Heriottesham, Nicholas de Frondesbery, John Galdyng, John Sutton and others were successively appointed wardens of the Priory.

From the long list of names of tenants appearing at the various courts it is clear that the district known as Old Felixstowe was more densely peopled than it now is. The estates attached to household tenements were generally $1\frac{1}{2}$ rd. in area. A study of various customs connected with the holding and conveyance of lands brings to light some need, or indeed preference, for the use of the duodecimal system in land measurement. The frequent necessity to deal in fractional parts of one-third, or one-half, required the adoption of a system of numeration which admitted easy division of quantities by three. A widow's dower of a third of an estate could be readily allotted. The multiplying of numerous tenements led among other things to the increase of local field names, hence arose such names as Foxgrave, Longdole, Langyslond, Pertondale, Burxtoe, Olgosyng, Aylmerscole, Pypilton, Ofton, Briddislowe, and others no longer marking Felixstowe sites. Occasionally the given field names mark peculiarities of local dialect, e.g. lond is land, slowe is slough, on is one, hundir is hundred, Abylton is Appleton, and as we find Oxnyng for Oxenyng (meadow for oxen) so we have Galnell for Gallenhyll. "Bop your Knop" may be heard from Suffolk lips, hence the variant Knopet for Knabbet is not surprising, but it would be difficult to account for many of the local names without a close study of the manor rolls of past

centuries. Let one example suffice. Cole-pulere, a hyphenated word, arose from the restriction placed on villeins to abide within the area of the manor. The Cole villeins so restricted multiplied as conies within the district; more especially the John Coles, for John was an oft selected Christian name; and, consequently, as they could not be distinguished by the usual designations, senior, at Hill, etc., they were alluded to by the addition of the mothers' names, Coleknight, Colemoyses, Colegrene, Colekempe, Colefroode and other such like names. The story of the Felixstowe Coles would fill a fair size book.

One name appears in the 16th century, and now exists, which is difficult to explain, although the nature of the surrounding land is given; I refer to Bent Hill. It may refer to “bents” growing nearby.

A *plethora* of information to be gleaned from the Priory Rolls still awaits consideration, but omission must be made on such incidents as refer to the manumission of villeins, the origin of “land of increase,” the “provisions made for old age,” the fracas arising between clergy and parishioners, so that space may be allotted to the consideration of the condition of the Priory itself, at the Eve of its Dissolution.

The cell of St. Felix was not an imposing building; the means for the support of its inmates were decidedly limited. The year's accounts of Wm. Waterford when warden, in 1499, will give some idea of its wealth.

		£	s.	d.	
<i>Income.</i>	Tithes coming from Langyngfee		2	0	
	From Westerfield		5	0	
	From Sternfield		5	0	
	Straw sold		4	0	
	Sale of corn	13	12	2	
	Lease of Mill and Pasture	13	4		
	Prior of Christchurch, Ipswich		3	0	
	Rent from Westerfield		10	0	
			£15	4	6
	<i>Expenses.</i>	Assise of beer		4	0
Rent of wood at Shitton			1	0	
John Pope two dinners on <i>St. Felix Day</i>				3	
Procurations—Walton and Felixstowe churches		15		0	
Tithes to Prior of Butley		4	16	8	
3 doz. candles 2s., bread and wine 2s.			4	0	
13 lb. wax for church 7s., Easter capon 4d.			7	4	
Parchment 9d., Repair of kettle and bowls 10d.			1	7	
3 doz. spoons, 3d., to beggars 20d., audit ale 20d.			3	7	
For le fair Ginp P (sic) 12d. at various Courts 2s.			3	0	
Divers potations 2s., for ale at Purification			5	0	
To the King and Queen of May				2	
Repair of vases 7s., of baskets 6d., wheels 16d.		8	10		
Journeys to Ipswich and Woodbridge			1	8	
To the mendicant friars, Ipswich			1	8	
		£7	13	9	

There remained for their own expenses, and for the wages of their servants, Thos. Longe, Wm. Chaundler, Richard Steven, William

Cole, sen., John Gerard, Thomas Boole, and Richard the smith the sum of £7 12s. 9d., for which they would be responsible to the mother house of Rochester.

It is not surprising then that when Cromwell, Wolsey's Vicar-General, drew up his report upon his visit to the Priory in 1528, he found :—

"In the hall : 3 standing boards set fast in the ground ; old hangings of little value, stained with the life of Job. In the parlour : a cupboard with 2 aumbries value at 5s. ; an old long table next the window ; a small square side table and two old short forms an ell long of little value. In the buttery : a bin for bread to be chopped. In the cellar nothing. In the chamber over the parlour : a small bedstead, and a *noghty* lock. All the locks about the house were noght. Two old square chests, a pair of rude andirons. In the next chamber : a small bedstead, an evil lock ; a new clothes press."

The last warden, therefore, had little to hand over towards the furnishing of Wolsey's College at Ipswich. At the fall of Wolsey the Priory and its manor passed into the hands of Sir Philip Tilney, *knt.*, and others as feoffees for Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, but later it was held by the "Most Powerful and Most Dread Prince, Henry VIII," over whose first court John Lucas, acting as steward, presided 1544. Little support and attention were given to the upkeep of the buildings and in 1550 it was reported by the homage that the house and building site late of Felixstowe Priory were in extreme ruin and decay. It may be considered that it was entirely in ruins when the site of the late Priory with a close called Camping Yarde, i.e. the Football Ground, was granted to Thomas Seckford in 1576.

Having thus far treated of the history of Felixstowe from the minor records of the Priory, we can add to our knowledge from entries in the voluminous Court Rolls of Walton which give much greater details of information, for, not only do they deal with an increased area, and therefore mark more definitely the topographical features of the district, but being the records of General Courts they contain entries from the Courts Leet which were attended by all tything men dwelling within the precincts of the manors for which the Courts were held.

The complaints brought before the Leet Court were as varied and trivial as many which may now be heard in any Petty Sessions Court such as :—using unjust weights and measures, assaults on neighbours, thefts, nuisances, etc. Doubtless the court was unusually packed when Godfrey Hardekyn, the chaplain, and other clerics as Friar William of Falkenham, Hugh the parson of Kirton, or the inmates of Felixstowe Priory were accused of poaching in the lady's warren. Sometimes it was the officers of the manor who were summoned to answer for neglecting their duties during the year's term of office ; frequently women had been permitted by them to sell ale of poor quality ; may be the ale-taster was not over-fond of tasting all and any kind of ale offered for sale, yet the leet decided again and again that he should continue yearly in office till he could do his work satisfactorily. On one occasion the bailiff had tasted and selected ale for

the Manor House but Agnes Cowpere saw an opportunity of sending weaker and more unpalatable beer for which act a fine was inflicted. The sale of fish was placed under close supervision. All fish offered for sale had to be taken to Colehouse (now Bawdsey Ferry House), none was allowed to be purchased unless taken thither. Profiteers, however, have always existed, and did then, when the servants of the Manor House bought fish privately and sold it to the Lady at more than market price. It can be conceived that the offices of bailiff, messor, collector, ale-taster were not enviable posts ; selection for the posts were made yearly from tenants occupying land within a fixed area and a Bail Book was established so that election to office might be made in turn and order.

The Leet fixed the value of wreckage found on the Lady's shore so that the finder might have its half value, whether the wreck discovered were 14 barrels of ale at 2s. 8d., or 19 empty barrels at 4s. 9d., a barrel of ox-beef ; Spanish iron staves ; a boat, a tree trunk, or an anchor. Sometimes a ship was stranded then its owner paid for groundage, but no one was permitted to scour the shore at night with the hope of finding wreckage ; on one occasion ten such searchers were fined by the Court for so doing. The jurisdiction of the shore was marked by stone bounds, therefore we meet with such entries as Thorpestone, Colleshoustone, Langherestone, etc. The name Langer, now Landguard, appears to be clearly explained by the entry “ a marsh called Hilpeshere,” i.e. Hilp's marsh, and if such is the case Langer or Langhere means the Long marsh. The word Londger also appears, showing that as *land* was pronounced *lond*, so sand was pronounced *sond* ; Weresond, le Estsond are to be found.

The variety of terms given to areas of land and water are interesting and suggestive—“ water called le Plassh in Puttocktoft,” explains “ Playsshis in the Warren ” ; Hungarytoft, Fannerstoft, Colystoft mark the use of the unexpected Danish word toft ; Walleyard, Hestewalle, Walledych, Coweswalle, etc., favour the view that the late Professor Skeat erred when he came to the conclusion that Walton was the “ ton of foreigners or Welshmen ” : barley grown in le Vineyard proves the failure of grape-culture in Felixstowe : le Hoo, Klynghowedych, and similar names give an idea that the “ tumuli ” of to-day were the Hooes or Haughs of the early settlers. These are but a few of the examples which philologists might select for discussion on place names. Some words as, gate, place, chace and wong are familiarly used, but “ *Knell* in Felixstowe ” is not common ; nor would one expect to meet “ stint ” for cattle-pasture elsewhere than in the north of England. A study of the personal names to be met with in the Court Rolls would be none the less interesting than a study of the field and place names.

Another matter calls equally for attention, viz. the care taken to define holdings, to allocate lands to their rightful owners, to explain clearly why estates fell into the lord's hands either as escheats or lands of increase ; and to perpetuate records of the descent of property.

In making these records much information is given which is of value to historians, students of social economics and to genealogists. Among the many new facts which a close examination of the Felixstowe and Walton rolls has brought to my notice is the one that when land fell into the lord's hands as an escheat by a defect of heirs the right was known as *le Morgon*.

The historian will find allusion to the fluctuating fortunes of the House of Norfolk, the Revolt of the Peasants, the spread of Pestilence, besides the enforcement of statutes concerning villeinage; or, if he desires to turn his attention to local history he can find information on the rise and fall of monasticism, the development of small estates, and the concentration of dwellings along streets. He will find also notes referring to the growth of the parish church, a special allusion to which appears in the disputed contract over the erection of the belfry of the church of Trimley St. Martin between the churchwardens and Richard Forthe, the builder, in 1432. He will be able to compare the letters of Margaret, Countess of Norfolk, to her steward with those published in the famous Paston Letters written by the same Countess. The full charters granting manumission or freedom to villeins entered on two or three occasions are of special interest.

The economist will find many entries of prices and values wherefrom to draw statistics as to relative prices of food, and clothing, the decadence or prosperity of agriculture. He will be able to compare systems of life insurance and annuities, of apprenticeships and servitude. If he desires he will find opportunities to compare the Manor House of the 15th century with the dwellings of freeholders and bondmen; and he will be perplexed to find reasons for the apparent wealth and social positions of villeins always held to have been subservient and poverty-stricken beyond measure.