

## NOTES

*The Kettlebaston Alabasters.* The Rev. H. C. Butler, Rector of Kettlebaston 1929–1964, sends the following addendum to the article which appeared in Volume xxx for 1966 of these *Proceedings*: 'I had in my possession until my retirement a letter written in 1864 by Lord Arthur Hervey, Archdeacon of Sudbury, to "Mr. Churchwarden Barton" of Hall Farm enquiring if it were true that repairs were being executed in the chancel wall, for which no permission had been given. It must have been at this time that the fragments were found.<sup>1</sup> The Rector from about 1840 to 1890 was John Robert Fiske who gave them to his neighbour, James Beck, Rector of Bildeston, who presented them to the British Museum in 1883. There are photographs of the originals in the church together with casts presented by the Trustees of the British Museum in 1934. Attention is drawn to the external niche on the S.E. buttress of the chancel. The lower part of the carving (in Caen stone) is an exact reproduction of the fragment of the Coronation of our Lady (Vol. xxx, Pl. XXXVIII). The upper part was carved from photographs of the same subject. The sculptor was W. J. Drew of Ipswich. The colouring is traditional. The wrought iron gates with Maria monogram are hung on the original hooks. This work was carried out in 1946 as a memorial to my brother'.

*The Orford Alabaster* (*Ibid.*, Pl. XL) has remains of dark green and yellow paint on the shaft down the centre and traces of pink paint near the bottom of the drapery. It was found in a cottage at the corner of Gedgrave Road (TM/42044974) in 1966.—*Editor.*

*The former timber spire of Monks Eleigh Church.* A folded sheet of thick damp paper describing the demolition of the spire of Monks Eleigh church came to light in July 1968 during the removal of the remaining foundation timbers which had themselves become unsafe. The paper was discovered in a small lead envelope nailed to one of the cruciform tiebeams, beneath the lead sheets and boarding. One side of the sheet contains an ink and wash sectional drawing of the spire with three plan levels superimposed and also an elevation, both at a scale of a quarter of an inch to the foot, indicating an overall height from parapet to weather vane of 64 ft. on a base diameter of 14 ft. 6 ins., a somewhat more slender structure than the sketch of the church in about 1790 indicates (Plate

<sup>1</sup> White's *Suffolk* (1874) states 'the church . . . is an ancient fabric much in need of restoration' and Kelly's *Directory* (1908) states 'the church was restored in 1829 and the chancel in 1902'.—*Ed.*