

BOXFORD CHURCH.

THE church of Boxford, in the Deanery of Sudbury, is a fine structure in the Perpendicular style. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consists of a chancel and nave, with aisles throughout, two porches, and a tower at the west end.

The tower, which is surmounted by a modern open spire (originally containing the clock bell, now placed with the other bells), consists of four stages having double buttresses at the angles, and an embattled cornice with a figure of an animal crowned and sitting at either corner. The spaces between the angle buttresses are pedimented, the apices terminating in carved figures, one of which, represents an evil spirit carrying an orb. Three of these figures are represented in *pl. ii, figs. 2, 3, and 4*. The west door is of the 16th century. Over it is a good three light window with a niche on each side and two flush pannelled niches of flint work. The spire occupies probably, the place of a lantern, for John Cowper, in 1465, bequeathed ten pounds, a large sum in those days, towards making a pinnacle or lantern on the highest part of the roof for a "horologium, vulgo clok belle." Formerly, as well as now, the tower appears to have had a peal of bells, for in 1451, Thomas Cowper bequeathed 12*d.* to the reparation of the great bell. There are now eight bells. The following copy of the inscriptions, beginning from the treble to the tenor, has been kindly supplied me:—

- Treble.—"Thomas Gardiner, Sudbury, me fecit, 1714.
2nd.—"Sancte D. . . . ora pro nobis.
3rd.—"Thomas Gardiner, Sudbury, 1754."
4th.—"Charles Newman, 1688."
5th.—"Isaac Strutt, Hugh Green, Churchwardens; T. Osborn, founder, fecit, 1799."
6th.—"S'c'a Catarina se'per. da O Divina."*
7th.—"Intonat Celis vox Campanae Gabrielis."
8th or Tenor.—"Sacra Trinitate fiat haec campana beate. John Thornton, Sudbury, fecit 1718."

* A specimen of the lettering of this bell is given in *pl. ii, fig. 1*.

The south porch is very rich. The whole composition from the plinth upwards is pannelled, and finished with a rich battlement, partially pierced; but the whole has suffered considerably. It is in two bays, the sides composed of open panneling, and in the jambs of each arch are niches with pedestals and shields of arms. The outer and inner archways have the same sort of enrichment. Over the former are fine spandrils and a series of tabernacled niches. In the western spandril is the figure of an angel with his hair blown about by the wind, and a scroll on which may still be traced the words:—

“AUE MARIA PLENA D’N. ET.”

The figure in the corresponding spandril is defaced, but was probably that of the Virgin with her emblem the pot of lilies by her side; forming together a representation of the Salutation of the angel Gabriel. The niches are seven in number. At the base of the centre one are two shields, one on either side. On one is the reed with sponge and spear disposed in saltire. The other shield appears to be similarly charged, with something else in pale. The corbel heads to the water tables are good and of varied design. On the west side, south window is a crowned head with an inscription on the crown.—(See *pl. ii, fig. 7.*) On the north window is an eagle on a shield, and the same bird is repeated in the spandril above. Between this window and the battlement is a stone thus inscribed (See *pl. ii, fig. 5*):—

JOHN

FBRWN

On the east side of the porch by the north window are “two faces under one hood” bearing some resemblance to the heads of SS. Peter and Paul as they are seen on papal bulls (See *pl. ii, fig. 6*). The sculptured heads throughout the church will well repay inspection; exhibiting much play of fancy and skill in execution. The large Purbeck gravestone within the porch may be that provided for John Cowper, dwelling “at the Stone, in Boxford,” what is now called Stone street, who, by his will, dated in 1465, directed his body to be buried in the new porch on the south side,

and bequeathed 20 marks, "ad edificacionem noue porticus in quo elegi loc' sepeliend;" or for another member of the same opulent and pious family, William Cowper, of Caleys street, who, by will, in 1476, directed his body to be buried in the new porch, to the reparation of which he bequeathed 40s. There are many other bequests, chiefly of small sums, in the wills of Boxford people, to the making or building of the porch, or to the fund for its reparation; marking the date of its erection, and the interest which this beautiful work justly excited among the parishioners. The earliest legacy occurs in the will of Roger Wygenhale, who, in 1441, bequeathed 6s. 8d. to the making of a new "vestibule." In 1452, John Coc left "j superlectus cum j tester blod color" to the building of the new porch. The door from the porch into the church is a rich piece of Perpendicular pannelling.

The most curious portion of the church however is the porch on the north side, which is a fine specimen of Decorated wood work (*See pl. i.*) It is in two bays with open sides having excellent tracery. The front has open pannelling and a rich verge board. There is a groined ceiling, the ribs of which rest on clustered shafts and have bosses at the intersections. The whole of the boarding is gone. Tradition says that this porch was originally on the south side of the church, being removed to its present spot when the stone porch was built. This may be the fact, or the idea may have been suggested by the circumstance of the porch being so completely disconnected from the church. It bears many marks of having been re-put together, and the upright timbers having been shortened, being perhaps decayed when remounted on the brick base work. The door from this porch into the church is good, but is not so elaborate as that on the south side. Three doors of so early a period are rarely found remaining in such good preservation in one church.

The interior (thanks to a tolerably sound roof) remains in good condition; but the pewing is bad, and the huge gallery at the west end is a sad eye-sore.

The font is at the west end of the nave by the south aisle opposite the porch. The bowl is modern, but it stands on a pannelled pedestal of the 15th century; and is covered by an octagonal cover of the 17th century. This cover opens on two sides and the interior is painted with passages of scripture on scrolls from John iii. 4, 5, 18.

At the east end of the south aisle was the chapel of Our Lady. Some portions of the rich decorations of the altar screen are still visible. On the north side of the east window are two tabernacled niches one above the other, with painted backs, groined vaulting and pedestals for figures. Between these niches and the window are traces of mural painting, of which the figure of Edward the Confessor with ring and sceptre is very clear. Above it, appears a figure kneeling at a fald-stool. On the south side of the window are two other niches similarly arranged, but of smaller dimensions and less enriched character.

At the end of the north aisle of the chancel was the chapel of St. John the Baptist; at the entrance of which, Ann Smyth, in 15..., directed her body to be buried, and a "ston of marbylle" to be laid upon her husband and her. On a board against the north wall under the cornice of the roof is painted the date 1689, above a shield with the letters I. B. G., and a pair of compasses; and below these in two compartments, the letters E. O. and I. G.

In this chapel is the entrance to the rood-loft, the stairs being continued on to the aisle-roof. Here too is an altar tomb to Willm. Doggett, with a fine black marble slab on the top, into which are let the following inscription on a brass plate and some shields of arms.

Here lyeth Willia' Doggett Marchant adve'terer
 Citizen and mercer of London, and free of the
 East India Company, who tooke to wife Avis
 Lappadge, y^e daught. of Thomas Lappadge of Box-
 ford, wth whom he lyved 19 years, and had issue by her
 6 sones and 6 daughters, y^e said Will dep^{td} this life y^e
 10th of Octobr 1610, beinge of the age of 58 years.

At the top, on the right hand side, are the arms of the Mercers Company; and on the left hand, the City arms.

At the bottom, on the left hand, are the arms of the Merchant Adventurers; and on the right hand, those of the East India Company.

There are no remains of the rood screen *in situ*, but fragments of it have been used to block up the fine arch behind the organ gallery. In 1512, William Waschere bequeathed 26s. 8d. "to ye gylding of the candle bem." On the principal of the roof over the rood are the letters—

R. W.

I. G.

on a shield between the date 1685. The east window has five lights.

When we look at the magnitude of the sum that must have been expended in building so fine a structure, and the richness of its internal decorations, as shewn by the few slight fragments that still exist, we can have no doubt that the high altar was sumptuously adorned; but nothing remains to indicate its character beyond what is to be met with in the bequests of the townspeople. From these we gather that in 1473, John Neel left 20s. towards the making of a new tabernacle in honor of St. Mary, at the high altar; and in 1438, Walter Barbot left his silver girdle and base-lard that was attached to it, to be devoted to the making of a cross of silver.

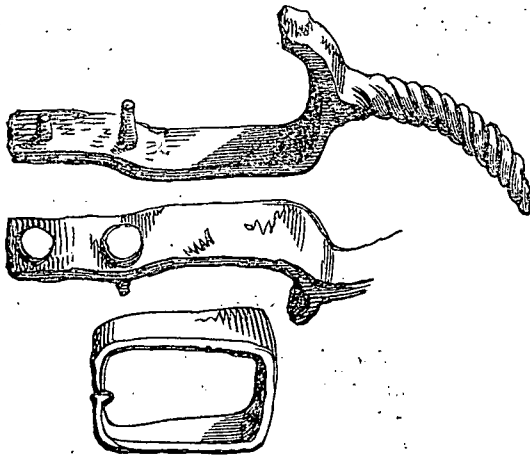
For the anastatic drawings of the plates which accompany this paper, the Society is indebted to the Rev. J. J. Simpson.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

SAXON REMAINS FOUND NEAR IXWORTH.

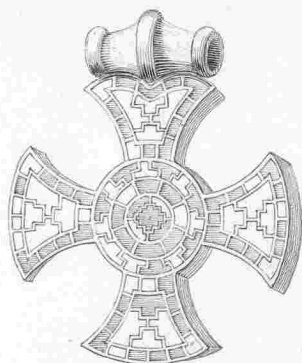
(From *Smith's Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. iv, p. 162.)

THE gold ornaments here delineated are in the collection of Mr. Joseph Warren, of Ixworth, who has generously contributed the accompanying plate and woodcut. They were accidentally dug up, about a year since, by some labourers, in what appeared to have been a grave, together with some objects in iron, of which examples, a quarter the actual dimensions, are here represented.

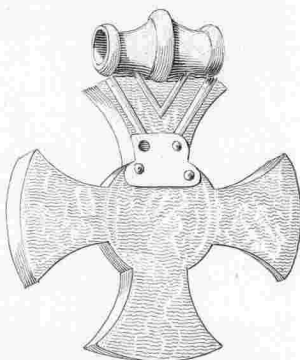


Of fig. i, there were four; and of fig. ii, twenty-four. In all probability they were, as Mr. Warren suggests, the handles and staples of a coffin, which seems to have been further indicated by a quantity of the mouldering remains of wood, which the workmen stated they noticed in the grave.

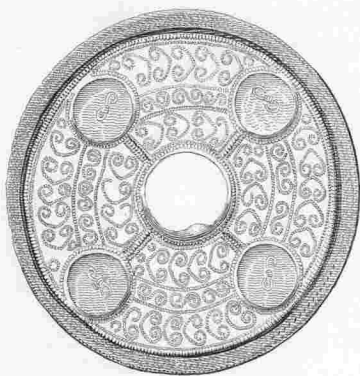
It will be observed that fig. ii of the plate is imperfect. It is only the upper part of one of the beautiful Saxon fibulas of the most elaborate workmanship, such as are engraved in plate 2, fig. iv, of the *Inventorium Sepulchrale*,



1



2



J. Cleyburn. del. et sc.

SUFFOLK.

In the possession of M^r Warren.

which were formed in two pieces, welded together by a circular band. As there is every reason to believe that it came into the hands of Mr. Warren in the condition in which it was excavated, it must be supposed that it was interred in this fragmentary state; and had been separated from the lower portion before it came into the possession of its owner, whose corpse it had been deposited with in the grave. This supposition bears on the question of the age to which these ornaments must be referred; and whether they may be considered of one and the same period. The fibula resembles the finer examples found in Kent and in some other parts of England. It may be especially compared with that found near Woodbridge, in Suffolk, engraved by Mr. Fairholt, in his *Costume in England*, p. 465. That, like Mr. Warren's, was only the upper plate of the fibula; and, like this, denuded of the principal settings.* But the surface of the Ixworth plate, unlike that found near Woodbridge, is wholly covered with filigree or vermiculated work, like that engraved by Mr. Akerman, fig. 2, plate xxxii, in his *Remains of Pagan Saxondom*, which is stated to have been found somewhere between Husband's Bosworth, in Leicestershire, and Welford, in Northamptonshire; and in this respect, but not so fully, it may be compared with that found in Derbyshire, and now in the museum of Mr. Bateman.—See his *Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire*, p. 20.

The cross (fig. i) is not paralleled by any of those found in the Kentish graves, nor by that discovered with the fibula in Derbyshire. But it very closely resembles one found in the gravel pit at Lakenheath, near Brandon, in Suffolk, a few years since. The form of the cross is the same; the setting of the garnets and the turquoises, which cover the upper surface of both, is precisely similar, and each is surmounted by a barrel-shaped gold bead. That from Lakenheath, however, bears in its centre a gold coin of the Emperor Heraclius; and this helps us in a certain degree, towards assigning an approximate date to both.

* This is now I believe in the collection of Mr. Robert Fitch, of Norwich.