

"Snail-well." An old inhabitant of the village bequeathed a sum of money to one William Shakespeare. The church includes a Norman tower, nave, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch, and it presents many features of interest to the antiquarian. In the work of restoration, a stone coffin, containing the skeleton of a priest, was found. The lid may now be seen outside, near the porch. The Rector of the parish (Rev. E. Mortlock) entertained the party at tea, and directly after a start was made for Newmarket.

GENERAL MEETING.—IPSWICH. *October 6, 1884.*

Between 40 and 50 members and friends of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History spent a most interesting day in Ipswich on Thursday, October 6. Fine autumn weather, numerous and varied objects of antiquity lying within a comparatively small area, and detailed descriptive papers combined to render the revived autumn excursion one of the most successful in the recent history of the Society. The long programme had been compiled with great care by the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, one of the hon secretaries. Perhaps the work undertaken was too extensive, only a cursory glance of many antiquities being possible under the circumstances.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

The rendezvous was at St. Peter's Church, and here, at 10 a.m., a good company had assembled. In a paper on the church and parish, the Rev. Evelyn White stated that St. Peter's had an historical importance, causing it to stand prominently forward in the annals of Ipswich. The well-known parish, he said, was, perhaps, more largely frequented by strangers bent on seeing antiquities, than any other of the parishes in the heart of the town. The position of the church in close proximity to the decaying gateway of Wolsey's College, and the once favoured site of that grand anticipation of a gigantic mind, brought it to the notice of many who might otherwise quit the place in total ignorance of one of the many interesting ecclesiastical edifices that adorn the town, and gave the designation to a parish which in past days had done much to make Ipswich famous. It was a river-side parish, lying on both sides of the Gipping, but that part of it bordering on the south side of the river, much of which was anciently marsh and plantation, formed a separate parish known as St. Augustine's, where stood St. Leonard's Hospital. This was thrown into St. Peter's at the close of the 15th century. Coming to the church Mr. White said that a series of restorations, for the most part judicious and sound, had been carried out. The church was somewhat remarkable for the massive appearance of its tower, which rises to a height of 93 feet, and is 24 feet square, and is, with the exception of the modern erection of St. Mary Tower, the finest church tower in the town. After an allusion to the re-building of the upper stages of the

tower last year, Mr. White said the north-east side rested upon a very massive arch scarcely to be equalled in the county. This was formed chiefly of rubble and stone. The tower is a fine example of flintwork, the battlement and buttresses being wrought with freestone. The style of the interior of the church was principally Decorated. There were on either side of the nave clustered pillars with richly moulded caps. The windows in the aisles and the north side of the clerestory were Decorated, those on the south side of the clerestory being Perpendicular. There was no chancel arch. The modern ceiling of the nave cut off the head of the fine Perpendicular tower arch. The font was especially worth notice, probably Norman; it was of black marble, large, and in shape square, sculptured with twelve quaint representations of animals, somewhat similar to one at Winchester cathedral. It was mounted on a Perpendicular base, on which were four mutilated figures. Among the numerous bequests Mr. White mentioned that in 1446 Alice Bawde left to the Guild of St. Gregory in St. Peter's 20d. Iois Caldwell de Soham Monachorum, by his will dated 1506, directed his body to be buried by his father "yn the chapel of St. Jno. withyn the Parish Church of St. Petyrs in Ipswich." In 1509 Wm. Plesyngton left to the church two processionaries, &c.; thirty masses to be sung in the church for his soul and the soul of Emma, his wife; a sheet for covering the high altar, and a barrel of beer, with bread, to be given in the church at his expense to the poor of the parish; two silver clasps and two silver pins to the best mass book in St. Peter's "for as long as they will endure," and concluded by declaring his wish that Sir Jeffry (a priest) should be the supervisor of his will, and to have for his labour 20d. and "a payer of pabylls with gold waytes and a boke of comemoration." In 1503 Agnes Walworth left to the church a cup of silver gilt, and a request to be prayed for in the Bead Roll for one whole year. In a Will dated 27th April, 1510, the devisor deposes Sir Jeffry his ghostly father to sing a trental of thirty masses for his soul in St. Peter's church. John Heyneys, of Ipswich, on May 19th, 1495, bequeathed to the guild of St. Peter 3s. 4d., and to the reparation of the Holy Cross in the house of St. Peter, "when it is amended and newly-repaired," 6s. 8d. John Keve, in 1526, after leaving 20d. to the High Altar of St. Peter's, leaves the residue of his goods, after the payment of his debts, towards certain pilgrimages that he promised in his life time to Our Lady of Grace at Ipswich, Our Lady of Walsingham, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and to St. Cornelius of London. Elizabeth Watson, in 1525, ordered her executors to sell her six silver spoons, and with the money give towards a silver chrysmatory for the same church. According to the church books in 1576 large reparations of the church took place, and in 1593 the chancel was entirely rebuilt. The Register Books are somewhat disappointing, being almost entirely devoid of entries of interest. What is specially vexatious is the loss of the earliest register, dating from about 1500 to 1657. The dates of the entries in the earliest now existing are from 1657 to 1790. Mr.

White quoted some of the entries, among them, "1667, June 5, a child that was hurt with a gun was buried." "1720, William Ewen, from Hadley, buried in y^e Quaker's burying place in S^t Peters, Aug^t 7." "1727, William Gardiner, killed by a fall from a tree, buried Sep. 12." "1735, Daniel Howes, a sojourner, was buried of ye small-pox. August 5." About that time the small-pox carried off a large number of inhabitants. "John Christmas, stab'd by a Boy, was buried December 8th." Among entries in later register books was "1806, John Scarlett and John Scarlett, his son, the former aged 34, and the latter, aged 6 weeks, were both killed in one awful moment under a building on the north side of the churchyard then erecting, and which fell upon them, buried in one grave. August 6." On a fly leaf is written, "On taking a census of the parish of St. Peter's in Ipswich on May 27th, 1811, the population (exclusive of register'd seamen) was one thousand one hundred and twenty-five souls. Edward Griffin, minister." Very few uncommon or remarkable names occur. Ruphasha, a female Christian name, occurs twice. The ravages of small-pox led the penman to indicate deaths from that disease by the initials S.P. In 1734, when the total recorded deaths were 27, 16 were from this cause. The rate of infant mortality appeared about 1790 to have been very high—often the number was more than half the whole number of deaths recorded. There are several volumes of parish accounts; the earliest date is 1666. Among the entries are—"1667. Imprimis, Layd out for a pawne upon the steeple and for mending the sparre and spindell and painting it; one hour glass and frame, 5s. 8d." "Payd the preambulation day for a diner for the men and breade and beare for the boyes, £2 12s. 2d." "Payd for the clock mending, £3 12s." "Payd mor to the Doktor ffor setting his hand to a Rat, (*sic*) 2s. 6d." "1673. Paid for a book of prayers for the fast, 8d." "1675. For paintinge ye church dyell, £15 10s." Extracts from the overseers' books were given. Many weré in the nature of parish relief. In 1681, "Goody Browne to buy a wheel, 2s." 1697, "To redeem Goody Smith's bed, 11s." 1700, "Paid for taking of Cook out of ye Goale, £2 6s. 5d." Throughout the books were entries of sums of money raised by the then usual method of briefs. In 1698 there was a list of the unfortunate poor who were compelled to wear "badges" to show they received parish relief. In 1721 a rate was made according to the Act of 30th Elizabeth for the support of a stipendiary minister at the rate of 1s. 6d. in the £, and this means of raising money continued for some time, and the rate was often recovered by distraint. Near Silent street was a malting, said to be the remains of a mansion granted by Edward VI. to the Bishop of Norwich after the decease of Thomas Manning, Prior of Butley, who was created Suffragan Bishop of Ipswich in 1525, and had that house for his residence. For more than 40 years a Presbyterian congregation occupied a small Chapel, situate in the 'Green Yard,' until the erection in 1720 of the Independent Meeting House in Tacket Street. The is an entry made in 1696 of the payment by

Mr. Wineall of the Church Rate for this Chapel. Mr. White proceeded to point out the priest's doorway in the North wall, which, undoubtedly, communicated with the adjacent Priory, and the Decorated piscina close by having purbeck marble, one of which only now remains. On the south side is a piscina of late date, the adjunct to a side altar that was formerly placed here. A list was given of the Incumbents and Curates and other ministers who acted in the parish. Mr. White read some notes on the Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul, contiguous to the churchyard of St. Peter's, founded in the reign of Henry II. and suppressed when Wolsey proposed to found a college here. At the dissolution the site occupied six acres. Mr. White's paper concluded with notes on the church plate, bells, &c., and the more modern history of the parish, with quotations of some of the inscriptions on monuments in the parish church; the two following are of special interest:—

"HERE LYETH THE BODY OF JOHN KNAPP MARCHAT
AND PORTMAN OF THIS TOWNE OF IPSWICH WHO
DIED Y^e SECOND DAY OF MAYE, ANN^y, 1604 AND HAD
ISSUE BY MARTHA HIS WIFE 4 SONES & 8 DAUGHTERS."

This appears on a brass laid on the floor of the south chancel aisle, above which are figures of a man and woman, the former in the Portman's gown, &c. The brasses bearing the coat of arms, and representations of the children are gone. There is a good engraving of this brass in *Cotman's Brasses*. The following singular inscription is on a slab at the west end of the nave: "Hier lieth Interred Adriaen Adriaenzoo Waywell, who when he lived was both Marchand and Master of a Shipp, He deceasen the XXII. of Decemb A^o M.D.C.XX." Mr. H. C. Casley stated that during the restoration of the church a few years ago two doors were found in the east wall, but where the doors led to had never been settled. It had been surmised that the doors gave entrance to the priory of St. Peter and St. Paul. Mr. White pointed out that early in the 18th century a vestry was erected on the north side of the chancel and said it was just possible that these doorways may have been erected at the time.

Mr. Sterling Westthorp read some notes made on his visit to Oxford in the year 1879, when he went to the University with a view of obtaining the copy of the portrait of Wolsey, by *Holbein*, now in the Museum. When he asked permission of the Dean of Christchurch, the Dean informed him that he would find in the Chapter-house, then under repair, an interesting stone. Upon inspecting this stone, which was inserted in the wall on the right hand of the entrance to the Chapter-house of Christchurch, Mr. Westthorp found it to be the foundation stone of Wolsey's College at Ipswich, bearing the following inscription—
"Anno Christi 1528, et regni Henrici Octavi Regis Angliæ. 20, Mensis Vero Junii 15, positum per Johannam Episcopum Lidensem (Lincoln)." Under this was another stone, inscribed as follows:—"Lapidem hunc e Ruberibus Collegii Wolseiani Gipovicensis erutum, Decano et Canoniciis Aedis Christi, supremo Testamento legavit Ricardus Canning, A.M.,