

## SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1902.

The number of excursions was increased this year to three. The programme for the half-day's outing elicited many supporters, even although the pleasure upon the occasion of the visit to Tuddenham Hall was greatly marred by a downpour of rain, accompanied by lightning and thunder.

## EXCURSION TO OTLEY.

On Wednesday, June 11th, 1902, a visit was made to the late 15th century Manor-house of Otley Hall, where the owner, Mr. F. Müller, gave the excursionists a cordial and very hospitable reception. There were brakes from Ipswich and Woodbridge, but a large number of the visitors preferred cycling over from different points of the locality. More than one hundred members and friends assembled in the fine hall, to listen to a description of the house given by the Hon. Secretary. A few years ago the old hall would have attracted little attention, but in recent years Mr. Miller has given the exterior an appearance as charming and as interesting as the interior, by stripping the walls of rough white-washed plaster, thus exposing the brick and timber of which the building is constructed. The most notable features from without are the small diamond-paned lattice windows, and the long colonnade, surmounted by the grape and vine leaf ornament of late 16th century workmanship in the front of the house, the circular addition to the north wall, and the massive chimney stack attached to the east wall. The reason for this extensive pile is the presence of sanitary arrangements erected in a large upper room, which was added to the house about the year 1612.

Within the rooms themselves, the massive carved oak beams of the ceilings, the quantity of oak panels which covered the walls of the hall and the passage without the hall, but which once constituted part of it, did not fail to attract attention. Upon examination it may be seen that the panels represent four or five distinct, and beautifully carved examples of the style known as the ribbon or linen-pole pattern, in one or two instances the character of the carving is unique. Above the colonnade are rooms,—to which access is obtained by ascending a broad oak staircase, which tradition points out as marred and scarred by the spurs of gay cavaliers, who were companions of Robert Gosnold, an ardent supporter of King Charles. These rooms are decorated with mural designs in many cases as perfect as they were the first day when sketched upon the walls. Grotesque heads, armorial bearings and panels cover the walls. The armorial bearing (Gosnold quartering

Pearson and Naunton) gives a clue to the occupier who erected the colonnade and rooms above it. One design upon the wall is credited to represent Otley Hall shortly after its erection. This may be the fact, but the picture bears something of a conventional design in harmony with the other drawings.

At a little distance, across an adjacent field, may be seen an enclosure, once probably surrounded by a moat, but which is of too small an area to have been the site of an older hall. The character of the bushes and undergrowth which cover it, strengthens the opinion that formerly it was a garden-ground, protected by trenches from invasion of cattle feeding on the neighbouring lands.

Robert Gosnold, the founder of the Gosnold family of Otley, left his seat at Clopton, which he sold to Thomas Rous, and which was afterwards known as "Rous Hall." A John Gosnold, Solicitor-General to Henry VIII., represented Ipswich burgesses in Parliament in 1547; the monument erected to John Gosnold, who died in 1628, declares the family to be one of Royal descent. The support which Robert Gosnold gave to Charles I. brought his family to a state of poverty, so that the Rev. John Gosnold, rector of the parish, was compelled to sell his family possessions.

After the company had enjoyed the tea, kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. F. Miller, on the motion of the Rev. M. B. Cowell, seconded by the Rev. F. D. Brown, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the host and hostess and Miss Miller, for the warm reception they had given their visitors.

The company then proceeded to Otley Church, where they were met by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Gretton. Attached to the church is a baptistry provided for the baptism of adults. There are in the church some extremely beautiful bench-ends, upon some of which are to be seen the letters of the rebus, *PREPARE*, carved round the chancel. Dr. G. F. W. Meadows used the occasion to exhibit an embossed 13th century covering of a steelyard weight, bearing the arms of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, which had been found in his garden several feet below the surface. Illustrations and a description of a similar object found at Claydon appear in Volume VI. p. 131, of the Proceedings of the Institute.

The journey was then made from the Church to Otley Barrow, which rises in a field near Otley Bottom. It is a very prominent landmark even now, although its perimeter is so overgrown with brushwood, that it is difficult at first sight to trace its outline. In appearance and situation its plan resembles that of Eye Castle. (Vol. V. p. 104). Besides the circular mound, forty yards in circumference, with entrenchments on the south, is a deep depression of the soil, known as The Gull, the bed of a water course which carries away the drainage of the land. The Gull, together with a brook flowing parallel with the road, must have formed good natural barriers, adding greatly to the secure defence of the Barrow. The field lying between



*From a Photograph by Aymer Vallance, Esq.*

OTLEY HALL. SOUTH WALL.

the Gull and the mound is called Castle Field, and in proximity to the Barrow articles have been found which betoken an early occupation of the commanding site. The name Barrow seems to imply that the mound was a former burial place.

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EXCURSION TO HADLEIGH, KERSEY, POLSTEAD,  
BOXFORD, ASSINGTON HALL, AND WENHAM CASTLE.

The annual excursion took place on Monday, July 28th, 1902. The weather was not so bright and promising as one might expect in summer time, but a rising barometer inspired members with confidence, for there was a good muster on the Corn Hill, at Ipswich, shortly before ten o'clock, when a four-horse char-a-banc and brakes heavily freighted started for Hadleigh.

The tombstone to the memory of the martyr, Dr. Rowland Taylor, on Aldham Common, so familiar to all travellers along the high road from Ipswich, could be seen from the highway, and it was not necessary to dismount. A halt was, however, made at Place Farm, in the parish of Hadleigh itself, where, hard by the roadside, there is a most interesting old building of the 15th century, resembling in structure the Pykenham Gateway, Ipswich.

The general arrangements were made by the Hon. Secretary, who was assisted by Mr. W. J. Langdon (Salter's Hall, Sudbury). This gentleman acted as guide to the members of West Suffolk who started from Sudbury by brake for Boxford, which was their first stopping place.

BOXFORD CHURCH.

The rector, Rev. J. S. Warman, met the members at the church, and drew their attention to the rich work of the Decorated and Perpendicular styles. Over the beautiful porch was an inscription partly obliterated, beginning with "Ave Maria," the church being dedicated to St. Mary. The font with folding cupboard-top was noted, with its quaintly written inscriptions inside:—"How can a man be born when he is olde," etc. The cover dates back to 1600. The Rector pointed out the middle stone framework of the east window in the form of a cross as being rare. A brass on the chapel floor was noted as (according to the Latin inscription):—"The sleeping place of David Bird, son of Joseph Bird," over this being an ancient engraving of the sleeper in his bed. In the chapel also is a curious mural tablet, "In memory of Elizabeth Hyam, of this parish, 4th time widow, who by a fall that brought on mortification, was at last hastened to her end on the 4th May, 1748, in her 113th year. Some interesting plate was shown, the chalice being about 1665. The original paper registers are in existence. One item of the accounts the Rector read:—"Making of the communion

table, 2s." ; labour, it was remarked, being cheap in those days. Attention was drawn to the memorial stone in the floor of the north chapel:—"Here lyeth William Doggett, merchant of the City of London," with an armorial shield at each corner, including the Arms of the City of London and those of the Merchant Adventurers.

Canon Scott, on behalf of the company, thanked the Rev. J. S. Warman for his kindness. The party then re-entered the brake and a pleasant journey was made to Hadleigh, where the Sudbury party joined the friends from the other side of the county at the Deanery.

### HADLEIGH CHURCH.

The principal rendezvous for both parties was Hadleigh, where the Ven. Dean Blakiston, F.S.A., met the members, and proceeded to point out the principal features of interest at the church. The visitors next inspected the Deanery, a beautiful 15th century building. In one of the rooms was a picture of the church in 1629, and a sketch of the tower before the house was built against it. On the top of the tower the Dean stated that some of the chimneys were new work, which was obvious on a near inspection. In many respects this building reminded one of Melford Hall, with its mellow red bricks.

Great interest was manifested in the old Guildhall, of which the Dean gave some entertaining and instructive particulars. It is a specimen of the ancient overhanging timber buildings, of which there are several similar in Hadleigh, Sudbury, and other towns in the neighbourhood. In Boxford, for instance, one can see these ancient bits peeping out from behind modern constructions.

When the Sudbury party had inspected the places of interest, an adjournment was made to the White Lion Hotel club-room for luncheon, at which Dean Blakiston presided.

After luncheon the Hon. Secretary expressed the regret of all at the loss of Lord Henniker, and of the Hon. Mary Henniker, who was the founder of the "Eastern Counties' Magazine." Since the last annual meeting the Institute had also lost by death Lord John Hervey, who had done so much for this organisation in a variety of ways, and whose place would be most difficult to fill. The Hon. Sec. was, however, glad to be able to state that, while they had lost valuable friends, others had joined the ranks. He announced the addition that day of two members, the Rev. B. S. Fryer, Rector of Rougham, and Mr. Hunt, of Sudbury.

