

REVIEW.

WINGFIELD: ITS CHURCH, CASTLE and COLLEGE,"*

BY S. W. H. ALDWELL.

With lamentable voice Archæologists declare that the cost of producing Village Histories is prohibitive. Happily this pessimism does not apply to all, for with the publication of Wingfield, Its Church, Castle and College, the Vicar of Wingfield dares the danger.

In his Preface the Vicar states that the book does not profess to be in any sense a *history* of Wingfield. But "What's in a name?" His story is history and history is his story.

Few villages can boast so great a wealth of historical personages and associations and the writer is to be complimented upon keeping his main points clear and not wandering into a labyrinth of generalities.

Archæologists are instinctively artistic and in the arrangement, production and finish of this book there is a pleasing artistic touch. The type, paper and illustrations are good and a credit to the Publisher, Mr. W. E. Harrison, our Financial Secretary and Publisher.

It is a mistake to think that "Good wine needs no bush." Eloquence is unavailing to an empty house and a book must be attractive to be thoroughly appreciated. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver." It is the filigree work of the Publisher that conveys the "Word" and causes it to be "fitly" spoken.

Wingfield derives its name from one Winga, who "felled" out a clearing and settled here leaving nought but his name as a legacy. The historical Wingfields of that ilk could not have been lineal descendants of the Founder. They acquired the property and assumed the name, possibly before the Conquest, but more probably some two hundred years later. To this family is due the founding of the Chantry College in 1362, but there was no Castle until 1384, when the Wingfield property passed into the hands of the De la Poles and Michael de la Pole obtained a Royal permit to Castellate his Manor House.

The de la Poles were originally Merchants living "at the Pool," where Hull now stands, William the "Beloved Merchant" of Ed. III., was Knighted by him and we are told by Burke "laid aside his paternal coat of Arms, three Leopard's Heads and assumed in the pride of his calling," Azure, two bars wavy, argent, "allusive of his maritime employment."

*Wingfield: Its Church, Castle and College, by the Rev. S. W. H. Aldwell, Vicar of Wingfield, crown quarto, with many illustrations 15/- net. Published by W. E. Harrison, The Ancient House, Ipswich.

As these Arms do not appear at Wingfield, possibly the family pride in their mercantile origin, abated. This is hinted at by Mr. Aldwell on page 9, and seems to be supported. In the first place, by these beautiful and emblematic Arms of Two silver wavelets on an azure Sea not being found at Wingfield and also from the Arms of Sir John de la Pole on his tomb at Chrishall Church, Essex, being Two Bars Nebulee. There is little or no difference heraldically between Wavy and Nebulee, but in this case, if intentional, is a clever method of obliterating any connection between the arms and a marine origin. Symbolically, however, there is a vast difference, for as the one represents Waves, on a blue sea, so the other represents cloud effects, on a blue sky. Heraldry is born of symbolism and is the letter of its spirit.

The one connects the Bearer with the Sea ; the other denotes the Aspirant to the Heavens. And truly the de la Poles aspired and attained, for it is said that " Henry VI. reigned but Suffolk ruled."

" I came like water and like wind I go.' might well be said of the de la Poles. Via water they ascended to the clouds. And had Bosworth Field dealt more kindly with them, a Suffolk dynasty of the de la Poles would have reigned in place of the Tudors.

Mr. Aldwell has most kindly lent us a few Blocks of Wingfield Castle for this issue of our Proceedings, to illustrate our Excursion last summer to Wingfield and district.-

H.A.H.