



SIDE VIEW OF ARMET. (VISOR OPEN.)



SIDE VIEW OF ARMET. (VISOR CLOSED.)

Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History.

THE ANCIENT HELMETS IN EYE CHURCH.

BY JOHN SHEWELL CORDER.

Before beginning the few notes that I have written in connection with these interesting specimens of armour in Eye Church, I should like to express the thanks of the Editing Committee to Mr. Seymour Lucas, R.A., whose knowledge of the subject is so complete, for so kindly lending for publication the beautiful photographs which illustrate this short notice, and also for the brief description of the Helmets themselves which he has sent with the illustrations.

The Helmets, of which there are two, have been removed from their original position in the Church, and it is most probable that they formerly hung over one of the tombs in the South Aisle or Chapel of the Chancel, for on referring to the Second Volume of our Proceedings, published in 1859, we find a reference to them and the position they occupied at that time.

On page 142 of the Second Volume of the Proceedings of the Institute of Suffolk Archæology and Natural History a description of some of the Tombs

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is given, and we learn that against the South Wall of the Sacrarium there was a large Purbeck Marble Altar Tomb, with pillars over supporting a Canopy. All the Brasses have been reaved off, but at the back over the Altar Tomb some alabaster inscription panels of the 16th Century were inserted, the wording being quoted in the 'Proceedings aforesaid verbatim. The writer than goes on to say that at the back of the above monument in the South Aisle or Chapel of the Chancell there is a similar monument, also of Purbeck marble, and of the same design. The details correspond, but the finials of the pillars of this monument each bear a casque or helmet. These latter are probably the helmets referred to. The date of the tombs is about 1568. The Close Helmet is a rare specimen of an Armet of English make, with reinforcing plate on the forehead or front part of the skull of the helmet. The date is about 1520, and this fits in with the date of the monument.

The other piece is a Pikeman's Morion of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and is interesting on account of its large comb, but missing its ear pieces. It is probably not an officer's helmet, but part of the armour belonging to the Train Bands. Both specimens are in good preservation and very interesting.



BACK VIEW OF ARMET.



PIKEMAN'S MORION. (SIDE VIEW.)