

EXCURSION TO HADLEIGH.

Members of the Institute visited Hadleigh on Thursday, 21st July. They assembled at the Church, where the Very Rev. Dean Carter acted as guide to the party, first giving an account of the development of the building. There was a church at Hadleigh in the eleventh century, as was shown by Domesday Book; but the earliest features of the present building were Early English. These included the tower, which had some particularly fine windows of that period. Scattered through the church were traces of Early Decorated work, notably the so-called tomb of Guthrum in the south aisle. The great part of the church was, however, Perpendicular, although of a rather more delicate style than usual for this date. The font had been ascribed to the same period, although its detail was of the Decorated style. It was considered to be a deliberate copy of earlier work. The church was said to be the fifth largest in Suffolk and had a pleasant spaciousness.

The Dean proceeded to describe several 19th century restorations, referring to a picture by Benjamin Colman in the Rectory library, which showed the interior as it was in 1627. There was then a stone bond across the middle of the nave, of which the corbel tables alone remained. Original beams were preserved in the roofs of the north and south aisles, but the roof of the nave was entirely modern. The oak screens of fifteenth century workmanship had been moved to their present position at the instance of the late Sir William St. John Hope, so that they might be correctly placed in line with the former position of the rood. Colman's picture also showed the position

in the south aisle of the doorway, which was recently removed to the churchyard wall. This doorway was reputed to be the entrance to the church commonly used by the members of the gilds.* Attention was drawn to several brasses of the merchant families of Hadleigh, the Alabasters, Beaumonts, and Gaels, and to the palimpsest showing two heads of Flemish work on the one side and an inscription to the memory of the Hadleigh martyr, Rowland Tailor on the other. This last has been placed in a frame on the wall of the chapel of St. John, used as a family chapel by the D'Oyley family of Pond Hall and containing also a fine piscina with an old oak shelf.

The party next visited the Rectory, pausing before the fine gateway built by Pykenham, 1494, and going up into the Library to view Colman's painting of the church. Dr. J. Muriel then acted as guide to numerous old houses of interest. These included the "Coffee Tavern," noteworthy for its fine staircase, and bearing the date 1616 in its window leads, a house, nearly opposite, with plaster-work, dated 1618, and bearing the royal arms and Tudor rose and Sun Court, the house licensed for a reader (Presbyterian) in 1672. This last has a particularly fine oak ceiling in a room at the back; but the linen-pattern panelling, which formerly existed there, has recently been removed. Passing the Boys' National School, formerly the site of the Hadleigh Grammar School, the party visited Sunny Court, a house standing back from the Stowmarket Road, and formerly the property of Anne Beaumont, wife of William Beaumont, one of the great clothiers of Hadleigh in the 17th century. She left it charged with rents for charitable purposes, for Christ's Hospital, and also for Bedlam, for the maintenance of any Hadleigh lunatic, but these bequests were subsequently repudiated. Turning back to Toppesfield Hall, next

* Probably was the Priests' door before the present chancel was added.



THORPE'S, HADLEIGH.

the churchyard, the party examined the panelled rooms and staircase, much of which had been pieced together or restored.

Luncheon was taken picnic-fashion in the gardens of the Hall, and members then assembled on the lawn to hear an address from Mr. Richard Ferrier, F.S.A., of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society on the origin and objects of a trust for the acquisition and preservation of ancient buildings. Mr. Ferrier described the methods adopted by the Great Yarmouth Historic Buildings Society, Ltd., in purchasing the remains of the Grey Friars' house at Yarmouth and opening them out for visitors. Another Renaissance house in one of the Yarmouth Rows had also been acquired and the care of the Yarmouth Towers had been taken over from the Corporation. Subsequently the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society had proposed to take similar steps in regard to other local antiquities, and finding they had not legal power to do so had decided to form a special Norfolk Society for the purpose. It was then considered possible to acquire the site of Burgh Castle, one of the finest of the Roman remains in the country. Since the castle lay over the Suffolk border, the promoters of the scheme were now inviting the co-operation of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, in the formation of a local trust. It was suggested that the Trust should follow the lines of the National Trust for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, that the funds should be raised by means of annual life subscriptions, and that a council should be formed to consist partly of *ex-officio* members, such as county and borough officials, and the officers of the local archæological societies, and partly of members elected by the general subscribers from their own number. The Secretary asked the meeting for authority to circulate to members of the Suffolk Institute an invitation to co-

operate in the objects of the Trust. H.H. Prince Frederick Duleep Singh then moved an amendment, which was carried unanimously by the members present, acting as a general meeting of the Society.

A visit was then paid to the Gildhall in the churchyard, under the guidance of Dr. Muriel, who pointed out the site of the school, where Overall and Boise, translators of King James's Bible were educated. This occupied the west-end of the building, the great chimney stack of which had been blown down in the eighties. Passing through the lower rooms to the long hall itself the party entered the courtyard at the rear and examined the chimney stack, which was generally ascribed to the late 16th or early 17th century.

A paper on the Origin, Purposes, and Development of Parish Gilds was read upon the lawn of Toppersfield Hall by the Rev. H. F. Westlake, M.V.O., F.S.A., Custodian of Westminster Abbey, and the party then partook of tea in the Gildhall.

The tour of the town was next resumed. Dr. Muriel pointed out the birthplace of Thomas Woolner, the poet and sculptor, born 17 December, 1825. A visit was paid to Place Farm, the home of the Martin family. On the site of the former house there stands a modern cottage, but the fine Tudor barn and gateway still stand, although the wooden gates from the latter have recently been sold to America. At Row Chapel in George Street, the foundation of Archdeacon Pykenham about 1494, the question whether the building was intended primarily as a chapel to Pykenham's Almhouses or as a mass chapel on the roadside to the market was discussed. Note was taken of the old woodwork in the chapel and of the carving, evidently removed to the modern porch from an inner door.

Stone House Farm, just below the chapel, built of flints and narrow bricks, was probably the only existing remains of the property originally bequeathed for the almshouses. At "Thorpes," owned by Robert Martin and afterwards by Joseph Dunningham, the fine mullion-windows were examined and note was taken of the linen-pattern panelling and the pomegranate moulding on the beams of the upper rooms. The tour ended with a visit to Mr. Rudd's house in George Street, where a considerable collection of china and other objects of interest are housed in a building much resembling the Gildhall in the general details of its features.

BRAMFORD EXCURSION.

We visited Bramford on Thursday, May 19th, and met at the Church, where Mr. (now Sir) Edward Packard read a paper on its history, mentioning a complete list of Vicars from 1299 to the present day, the destruction by Dowsing of 841 superstitious pictures, and drew attention to the stone Rood Screen, with its three arches and battlemented top.

The Chancel arch is modern, having been erected when the Church was restored in 1863.

On cutting into the walls to admit the War Memorial, a stone with Norman characteristics was found among the rubble, indicating that there was once a Norman Church on the present site. The floor of the Church has been raised on two occasions, and originally there were two steps from the porch to the floor.