

## Archaeological Intelligence.

Brasses which have been for some time loose have been recently replaced in the churches of Necton and Great Cressingham, Norfolk, as under :—

1. At *Necton*, two shields belonging to the brass of Philippa de Beauchamp, daughter of Lord Ferrers of Groby, and widow of Guy de Beauchamp, eldest son of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, 1383, bearing respectively Beauchamp, with a label, impaling Ferrers of Groby; and Ferrers of Groby, which have been long loose at Necton Hall. These have been replaced on the original slab in connection with the interesting effigy engraved in Cotman's *Brasses of Norfolk*. It now occupies a position in the north chancel known as St. Catharine's Chapel.

2. Also the effigies of William Curteys, notary, and his wife Alice, both deceased 1499, the former effigy having been loose at Necton Hall, and the latter having been one of the brasses formerly in the possession of Mr. J. B. Nichols, and now given up for replacement by Mr. Cleghorn, of Shooter's Hill, through the kind intervention of Mr. Mill Stephenson, F.S.A. Probably this latter effigy has been out of the church for at least a century, as it was gone when Cotman's (very inaccurate) sketch of the male effigy and inscription was taken in 1815. The male effigy is remarkable as one of the few representations of a notary, a pencease and inkhorn being suspended at the girdle. The brass is a good example of the work of a Norwich craftsman of the date. Both effigies after their long separation are now relaid in their original slab and indents, in connection with the rather remarkable inscription which has remained in the church throughout, and reads as follows :—

Orate p̄ anabꝫ Willi Curteys Notarii t̄ Alicie ux̄'is ei' q' obierut  
V° Kaledas Martii a° Jhu M° cccclxxxix quor' anabꝫ pp̄ciet' de' ame.

William Curteys by his will, proved in 1500, founded a chantry in Necton Church, and desired to be buried in that church "upon the south side of the rode auter," a position nearly corresponding with that at present occupied in the nave by the very large slab in which his memorial is inlaid.

3. Also the effigy of Mary Rust, widow, 1596, which has also been preserved at Necton Hall. This is a fair ordinary example of the late Elizabethan effigy, with ruff, hood, rich petticoat, &c. It is engraved by Cotman. The inscription which remained when Blomefield's *History* was compiled, but is now lost, stated Mistress Rust to have been the daughter of Robert Goodwyn, gent., who has a brass in the church dated 1532, and therefore a sister of Ethelburga Goodwyn who has another brass dated 1527, and also wife of John Bacon, gent., who has a brass dated 1528, after whose death

she remarried Robert Rust who died in 1558. Surviving till November 1596, she would seem to have lived through nearly the whole of the eventful sixteenth century. No indent of this brass remained, but it has been relaid in a new slab, probably in almost its ascertained original position in St. Catharine's Chapel.

At *Great Cressingham* the effigy of William Eyre, Esq., "juris peritus," and J.P. in civil dress, which has been long loose in its indent has been securely refixed, together with a portion of the inscription which has been long missing, and which came to light in the possession of the village wheelwright, who had acquired it with other items at a local anction. The brass is engraved by Cotman. The above replacements have been carried out by Messrs Hardman of Birmingham, at the sole cost of the Rev. C. G. R. Birch of Brancaster, Norfolk.