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EDITED BY THE REV. C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

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Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS. VOL. I.

THE ALDRETH CAUSEWAY, ITS BRIDGE
AND SURROUNDINGS.

It need cause little surprise that few known British trackways are familiar to us, seeing that in most cases they have passed into disuse consequent upon long neglect and the opening out of new ways. In a few instances, *e.g.* the Icknield Way in Norfolk and Suffolk touching the borders of Cambridgeshire, the road remains wholly or in part as a recognized highway, but generally speaking such a course is now little more than a name even where there is evidence of its existence. Instances are not wanting where it would be manifestly advantageous to utilize an old British trackway. Those who planned such courses were eminently practical men, gifted with a foresight with which I often think we are slow to credit them. They not merely concerned themselves with the necessities of the moment but provided against any likely emergency. The conditions of life now may be different, and the requirements of the present not what they were, but it will be often found

difficult to improve upon the settled and deliberate plan adopted by the ancient British in the choice of sites and formation of their roads. It is incumbent upon us as far as possible to safeguard such parts of the country as the unique locality selected for a visit on the occasion of the first Excursion of the newly-formed Cambridge-shire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

In point of interest I venture to think that there are few spots calculated to interest us more than the ancient Aldreth Causeway, (with its continuation, the *Mere* or *Mare Way*), the historical associations of the Aldreth High Bridge that spanned the water of the Old West River, and the circular fortified Camp called "Belsar's Hills" situate in the immediate neighbourhood. Such hill-forts would be of special importance in the maintenance of a free passage that meant supremacy, and probably formed only a part of a series of like military occupations. Here the fort, which I shall characterize as a British earthwork, guarded the bridge that forded the stream, and kept the way. To the S.E., further evidence of a series of earthworks occur in some important elevations at Rampton and Cottenham which if of less pronounced British construction must undoubtedly at one time have formed part of a similar line of defence. The Aldreth Way was consequently from the early days of its construction greatly valued as a highway, and if maintained at one time for strictly military purposes, came in process of time to be used as a common means for facility of intercourse between the Isle and the County.

In regard to the several matters which these subjects suggest to us let me remind you of the character of the immediate neighbourhood, in those far off days when the vast Fenland was a watery waste, covered with sedge and reed, and the uplands more or less wood and forest through which outlets would be made with difficulty. The present aspect of the broad and level expanse of the black peat land, only relieved here and there by willows near the water courses, or scanty rows of poplar trees, with the opening out of some well nigh

disused road, gives but the faintest idea of the former condition of the country, when the Fens were "like a great inland sea in the winter and a noxious bog in the summer." Even a road like the Aldreth Causeway would be subject to periodical inundations before the days of systematic embanking and drainage, and owing to the violence of the waters such visitations would make short work of any but the hardest and best of roads. It is this which leads me to the opinion that the Aldreth Causeway was until comparatively recent times an excellent road, and if I am not much mistaken it would prove on investigation to be of superior construction, and formed of good material, although its surface appearance and the neglect it has suffered may scarcely seem to be confirmatory of this impression. It is however highly probable that the somewhat narrow water course at Aldreth was kept well in bounds, and in a measure this natural advantage, strengthened by human appliances, may have led to its selection as a spot eminently fitted for the passage across the stream.

In the Fen country and other out-of-the-way spots, touched in former days by bridges that forded a stream, and causeways that led to convenient centres, the want is frequently felt of these old-time conveniences which have been allowed to fall away, and which the authorities (brought into existence by recent legislation for this very purpose of settling *inter alia* the particular question of roads and bridges) are negligently slow to re-instate. It was not always that landed proprietors and their subordinates responded to the call of duty, during troublous and trying times, in the matter of bridge maintenance and road repair, and it frequently happened, as in the case of the old Aldreth bridge, that for a long period, bridges were allowed to remain broken down or dilapidated. Or, as was often the case, it devolved upon tenants to carry out the repairs (in a superficial manner) in respect of a structure or way, which however essential to their well-being, was by reason of poverty and inefficient workmanship being irretrievably ruined to the great loss of the neighbourhood. But generally speaking the oblig-

ation was respected. It seems to be most essential, as the twentieth century opens, supplying us with a network of parochial, district and county organization, that care should be taken to develop and open up the country which in numerous districts has been allowed to deteriorate in consequence of the lack of ready communication caused mainly by its worn-out and neglected bye-ways and broken down or completely destroyed bridges. While the main roads are generally in an excellent state, what are commonly designated 'private roads' or 'bridle-ways' and the like (often of the greatest convenience and importance), are allowed to remain in such a deplorable state, that under the most favourable circumstances they are well-nigh impassable, and sources of discomfort and danger. Yet very frequently these are ancient ways, at one time maintained in an efficient and becoming manner, supplying means of communication and transport, the restoration of which to their proper use and condition would exercise an influence, in every way good and salutary. If disused roads, in some cases once spanned by bridges that served to connect village and township to their mutual advantage, have become so many causes of strife and contention, either in regard to the authorities themselves or in respect of the question of the status and liability of supposed owners (thereby delaying most vexatiously the execution of necessary work), it is high time the obligation, wherever it may chance to rest should be recognized, and if need be, enforced.

The Fen district has peculiar needs in this direction, Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely specially so. The latter in former times was chiefly entered by the causeways at Aldreth and Stuntney, and seeing that the safety of the monks largely depended on the difficulty of getting to Ely across the fens, we can well understand the desire to maintain an isolation more or less complete and to preserve the Isle as a "Camp of Refuge." The other entrances into the Isle were at Littleport and Earhith (or Earith) bridge respectively. Consequently little was done in those early days in the way of developing

uninterrupted intercourse with the County, and roads remained unformed and bridges were not placed. A commission issued as early as *temp.* Henry V., to view "the several causeys . . . Haddenham and Wyvelingham (Willingham) then broken and decayed, and to take order for their repair"* seem to point to a disposition to allow these common ways to pass out of use.

We have passed (shall I say unfortunately?) out of the period when men vied with each other in the business of bridge-erection and road-making as a *religious duty*, when work of this character was esteemed a privilege that brought its own reward, when side by side with a well-directed effort to further and sustain the work of the Church, men would bequeath their worldly goods for the purpose of making or repairing a causeway or fashioning and mending a bridge. We have fallen upon times wholly different it is true to the days when facilities for travel were extremely few and hazardous, but it is mainly in the centres of large populations and business enterprize that opportunities exist for easy and convenient passage from one place to another.

I may mention, as affording some evidence of business communication being facilitated between such a village as Rampton and the Isle owing to the then existence of the High Bridge and a passable road, that on a quarry in one of the windows of the South Aisle of that Church there is scratched

*William | Brown | Glazier | haddenham |
March 11 | '27†*

Now that the bridge has wholly disappeared and the way neglected, I do not for a moment suppose that Rampton would go to Haddenham for a Glazier! It would mean a circuit of many miles.

The Isle of Ely afforded the security of a safe retreat being only accessible by water; consequently after the defeat of Harold and the exercise of William's tyranny

* Dugdale History of Embanking, 1st Ed., p. 360.

† 1827, Dec. 10. Pd. a Glazier's Bill for Church £1 13 8. (*Rampton Book of Church Accounts.*)

towards the English nobles, many fled to this harbour of refuge. A leader was found in the person of Hereward to resist the King in his attempt to force a passage into the Isle where the people held out stoutly against him. To accomplish this end it became necessary to construct a bridge or causeway across the fen, some two miles in length, but the work was so far hindered that William's attempt again and again proved futile. Early in the following year (A.D. 1070) William took up the position at a point opposite to Aldreth, and formed a dam across the river, which however was soon broken down by the weight of water.

It has been assumed that the cause of such tardy movements on the part of William the Norman at the time of his invasion, when an army of sixty thousand were engaged for more than seven years in reducing the Isle of Ely, were owing to the Causeway having been partially destroyed by floods. But although periodical inundations may have caused considerable trouble it is far more likely that the road and its several approaches being very strongly garrisoned, the Conqueror's troops were kept at bay simply by strategetic means. Touching William's choice of Aldreth as the point of attack the *Liber Eliensis* (ii. 104) however has the following:—

“Nimium commotus, ad Alrethete, ubi aque insulæ minus latæ sunt, per pontum quem pridie paraverat suum iterum adplicuit exercitum; tamen ad spatium quatuor stadorum earum illic extenditur latitudo.”

The Fenland stoutly resisted the Norman intrusion, and was the last to yield to the usurpation of the invaders of England. The natural features and peculiar conditions of life were such, that so far as the Isle of Ely was concerned the advance of an enemy had been hitherto effectually warded off. In fact the fen waters were veritable barriers, and constantly stayed the progress of a mighty force of armed and determined men. In the reign of Henry III the Isle was conjectured to be one of the strongest military positions in England, and this opinion had likely enough been formed long before as the result of practical experience.

The late Professor Babington in his *Ancient Cambridgeshire* (2nd Ed. 1883 p. 79), thus refers to the causeway, and his words will be sufficient to introduce the several points that will come before us in this paper :—

“Aldreth Causeway is an ancient road . . . almost parallel with *Akeman Street*, and served like it, as a way from the drier lands near Cambridge to the islands in the fen . . . the Mare Way is probably first seen about half way between Rampton and Willingham at a spot marked by a sort of square on the ordnance map . . . it may be faintly traced as a raised road (but with two singular breaks in its continuity . . .) until it reaches Belsar's Hill. This is a large nearly circular Camp inclosing about six acres, the ramparts of which have been much lowered since the enclosure of the district, and seem to be gradually disappearing under the plough. This Camp is supposed to derive its name from Belisarius the Roman General, and to have been occupied by him in his War with the Vandals whom Probus had planted in Cambridgeshire. It seems improbable that he made it ; and if Aldreth Causeway and the Mare Way are Roman as some reasonably believe, the Belsar's Hill was probably a British fort, altered and occupied by the Roman troops. From Belsar's Hill to Aldreth the Mare Way is more distinct. It crosses the Old Ouse River at High Bridge, which is now in a very dilapidated state, for I learn that it has not been repaired since I was there a few years since, when both abutments of the wooden bridge were gone, and it was with much difficulty that it could be crossed. I was informed by the late Mr. C. H. Cooper that a piece of land near the bridge is legally charged with its repair. . . . It would be a misfortune if this ancient and valuable means of access to the Isle of Ely was totally destroyed, as seems not improbable. From the High Bridge the road is continued under the name of Aldreth Causeway. It need scarcely be added that the name is a corruption of Etheldreda, the foundress of the Abbey of Ely. The existence of this name adds, in my opinion, to the probability of William I. having found a road here, and not made it, as some have supposed. His chief attack upon the Isle in his war with Hereward seems to have been made there (see *Freeman's Norman Conquest*, IV. 472). This causeway, although now but little used, was once of such importance that various parishes in the Fens were liable for its repair. It is nearly certain that this line of communication was connected at its southern end with Cambridge along what is called Cuckoo Lane, and through the village of Histon.”

Further on Mr. Babington refers to “the great wooden bridge upon the Audrey Causeway.”

It is usually taken for granted that the name *Aldreth* is in some way a corruption of *Etheldreda*, and there can I think be very little doubt of this. But I am not so

confident that the *original* form of the word had any such close connection. 'Aldreth' is variously written, and in relation to the different forms it has assumed, I may suggest the following :—

- (1) *Alre—hythe*=the Alder shore
- (2) *Ald—reche*=the old 'reach' of the Ouse or West River, which run close by.
- (3) *Ald—vidr*=old Wood.

The termination 'reth' appears in other place-names in the County viz. in Shep-reth, and Meld-reth, and again in the Huntingdonshire Ea-rith; in some way these *hithes* or *reths* (landing or fortified places), qualified for their particular endings but how, I must leave.* We are familiar also with the cognate term *Aldyr-Kyr* (*Aldercar*), signifying a wood of alder or other trees in a moist boggy place. In the *Hundred Rolls*† the name is given as 'Aldreheth.' Another early form is 'Alherede' In A.D. 1272 one Geoffrey de Alderheth was Incumbent of the Holy Sepulchre Church at Cambridge, his name appearing in this form in a deed at S. John's College, relating to property in the town. In the Chesterton *Inquisitiones Nonarum* we have the name of Joh'is de Alderheth. The following extract furnishes the only early instance I have found of the name rendered '*Etheldredæ*' or '*S. Audreyes*' "Eo sedente strata est illa via Etherdredæ quæ vulgo vocatur S. Audreyes causeye."‡ If we are to content ourselves with the one meaning, *Audrey's-hythe*, or landing place (near which in Haddenham parish there is I believe a 'Holy Well' known as 'St. Audrey's Well'), there is no reason why we may not associate the actual landing place in A.D. 673 of S. Ætheldrythe and her companions, with this spot. They travelled southward it would seem through lanes and bye-ways to avoid

* The position &c. of Erith and Greenhithe in Kent will occur to the reader's mind. An *earthen fort* or *mound* may be signified in the ending, or, (A.S.) *running water*.

† Exchequer Inquisitions (7 Ed. I.) respecting rights of manor, warren, waters, pontage &c., forming a general survey of all such matters relating to Cambs., Hunts., etc.

‡ Br: Mus: *Vesp.* B. xv. f. 48.

pursuit, and perhaps directing their steps along the causeway, crossed the old channel of the Ouse, and landed in the fen that surrounded their island home, where on marshy ground the feet of the future Abbess at least stood firm in the faith of Christ. At all events we shall not be far wrong when we indulge the surmise that the Aldreth Way was a famous crossing to and from the stately shrine that commemorated the saintly Queen, the foundress of the magnificent Church and Convent of Ely.

The earliest mention I can find of the Aldreth bridge is in connection with the appointment of the first Bishop Hervey of Ely (A.D. 1109). In his care to maintain the rights and privileges of his See, the Bishop found that several estates and manors had fallen into the hands of tenants who held (*inter alia*) the custody of this bridge (the chief way of access into the Isle), and that, against his will and approval. By certain of the King's Charters subsequently granted, all such rights were restored to the Bishop and consequently we find the bridge and (it is reasonable to conjecture) its approaches, in the possession of the Bishop. Later on we see his successor, Nigellus (A.D. 1133), repairing the Castle at Aldreth wherein he had placed a garrison. The defences at Aldreth were repaired at the time when Ely was fortified consequent on the death of Henry I. (A.D. 1135) and the state of anarchy into which the Country was thrown:—

“Contra regem munitionem in Ely ex lapide et cæmento statuerat firmissimum quod virtute S. Etheldredæ crebro dissolvebatur Unde ad aquam prope machinas construxit munitionem de lignis factam, aggere cinxit et Alderde nihilominus reparatum custodie mancipavit.*

Stephen marched his troops into the fen, and passing the river close to Aldreth by means of a bridge of boats and hurdles seized Aldreth (the Earl of Essex having charge of the Castle) and became master of the Isle. Nigel the Bishop, who sided with the disaffected nobles fled to Matilda at Gloucester, and the Bishop's soldiers were compelled to surrender Aldreth to the King.

* Ang. Sac. I. 620.

It seems that the Aldreth causeway was at this time the most convenient approach to the Isle, and here Nigel had an 'agger' which was doubtless in connection with the Castle at Ely, and known to have been adjacent to the river having a bridge called Castelbrigge.

It was in the year 1071 that William returned to carry on the seige, when the Causeway near Aldreth was skilfully laid down and all impeding causes removed. The army however had to contend with innumerable difficulties, mainly owing to the treacherous nature of the soil, but in no slight degree augmented by the valour of the fenmen, who used every means in their power to repel the attack. The end of the struggle was brought about, not so much by a failure on the part of the dauntless Hereward and his brave companions in arms, as by the yielding of the monks, who were at length induced, probably by sheer force of circumstances, to open a way of entrance to the invading army. A strong desire for peace is much more likely to have led to the monks' submission than the treachery that has been imputed to them. I am much inclined to think that the collapse of the once vigorous repulse of the Conqueror may be attributed less even to temerity and lack of resources than to a weariness born of an ardent desire to pursue the occupations of the cloister life.

We find the bridge at Aldreth (7 Hen. V.) in the charge of the Sacrist of Ely (*vide* Sacrist's Rolls):—

"De piscaria iii partis in alta ripa in Strethamere et alti pontis de Alderheth voc' Almanywater:—nichil."

This entry is repeated (5 Hen. VI.) Possibly a Toll-keeper paid over to the Sacrist annually the tolls collected or paid a yearly rent in respect of the same. The repair of the bridges owing to heavy traffic must have required a considerable outlay. Bishop Northwold made over to the Sacrist of Ely a part of the revenues of Wentworth Church by way of provision for the repair of the bridges between Ely and Soham, and probably some such course may have been adopted in respect of other bridges, Aldreth among them. In this way, too, the burden of bridge maintenance, etc., got shifted.

To repair the bridges that appertained to the Convent of Ely, Henry III. gave oaks from his forest of Warboys, Hunts. This doubtless was some special gift. The Sacrist's Rolls are sufficient to show that Aldreth bridge and causeway were regularly repaired 'at the charge of the Church of Ely. In 1348, notwithstanding the necessities of the mother Church owing to the fall of the Great Tower money was set apart for the repair of all the bridges around Ely.

The *Hundred Rolls* (*temp.* Edw. I.), contain the following:—

“Dicūt q' calcet' & pons de *Alderheth* est regal' via & fuit facta & dissolut' jam p' sexdecim annos elapsos & debet repari p' Ep'us Eliens' & p' tenentes suos & ibidem pasiag' suo ob' & homo sine Equo q'” & aliquid illa passag' fuit ad firma dimissa p' ball'os Epi p' xx^s p. annu' & modo dca calcet' & pons repata est de novo p' Ep' Eliens'.

“*Alderheth Pons*. Dicu't sicut p' dixēnt Itm dicūt qd' mariscā de COTEHAM incipit ad CLAYBREGG & extend' usq' ad magnā ponte de HALDERHETH & de d'co ponte p' magnam ripam usq' ad CHAR' and de la CHAR' extend' usq' ad Tyllinge.”*

It is here clearly stated that the Bishop, and his tenants were then answerable for the repair of both the causeway and the bridge and the sixteen years neglect was not held to relieve them of the responsibility. The bridge tolls presumably were paid to the farmer or his officers, who rendered to the Bishop's servants the annual payment or rent of twenty shillings.

In the *Abbreviatio Placitorum* (*temp.* Edw. I.), is the following:—

Lib'tas epi' Eliens' allocatur p' Aldreth in insula Ely et dictum est ei q'd fac' p'tibus justiciam alioquin q'd redeant &c. et record testatur q'd idem conceditur (Term' Pasche Anno 33 Rol. 58).

In pli'to p' pace Reg' fracta in Aldreth existen' infra libtatem Epi Eliens' senescall Epi' vend' & petit & ei allocatur quorisq' &c. (Rot. 56)

* The Tyllinge (a broad and deep canal running through Waterbeach, Landbeach and Cottenham) really forms the southern extension of the Car Dyke and connects the Cam with the Old Ouse. (*Vide* the papers in this Vol. on *The recently discovered earthworks at Cottenham*, and *The Car-dyke*.)

Not only in respect of the maintenance of bridges and causeways, but in the actual cleansing of streams, the responsibility also rested with the Bishop or the Church officials. By an inquisition (21 Hen: viii.) the stream "from Earith Bridge to Parkhall Weare" was found "to be cleansed and scoured by the Bp. of Ely," and there can I think be little doubt but that in such a case the obligation carried with it the sustentation and repair of any bridge or bridges found in the course of the waters. Before the dissolution of the monasteries the passage of the water in the Fens was kept clear and the banks maintained at the cost and charge of the religious houses. It is interesting, if saddening, to note what has hitherto been unnoticed by writers on the subject of the draining of the Fens, that in the great pillage during the short reign of Edward VI. drainage work was occasionally carried out by means of funds obtained on the confiscation and sale of the Church goods. The efforts of the privileged (!) laymen into whose hands so much Church property passed to maintain its rights inviolate was clearly of a very restricted character, and the Church of the Reformation in the person of its dignitaries had a poor conception of its responsibilities, leaving the cost of making a common way into the Fens and the reparation of banks and the restraint of waters as in the case of the parishes of Wilburton and Downham in the Isle of Ely to be borne out of a fund wickedly acquired from the sale of Church goods.* In the case of Wilburton, out of the net result of the Church plate (£14 15s. 10d.) the sum of £9 3s. 2d. was

"payd for the rep'acon of our banks to defende and kepe the wayter fro' surrowndyng of o' ffenes."

At Downham £6 was expended

"for the cariage of viii. hundreth loods of gravell for making a com'on Way Into our ffennes called Westmore."

In the Diary of Celia Fiennes, (written in the time of William and Mary,)† she mentions the tediousness of the

* *Inventories of Church Goods, Temp.*, Ed. VI. (*East Anglian*, Vol. ix.)

† *Through England on a Side-saddle in the time of William and Mary*. (London, 1888.)

last eight miles of her journey to Ely "ye wayes being very deep, etc., etc. A mile distant from ye town etc. . . . a Bridge . . . a Causey . . . ye Bishop is at ye charge to repaire, etc., (pp. 127—131). In view of the great lapse of time, change in respect of property obligations and ownership, etc., the responsibility that at one time rested upon ecclesiastical dignitaries and Cathedral Chapters, has largely ceased; where such liability now remains it is with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, but generally speaking it may be assumed that it has no longer any force of law, certainly not in respect of Aldreth, *vide* p. 16. The owners of a farm in Aldreth are or were supposed to be liable for the repair of this ancient public bridge, and the Lord of the Manor of Haddenham and occupiers of land copyhold of the Manor have also been accounted responsible, but amidst so much uncertainty and vain speculation it may be taken for granted that in the present state of things the duty now devolves upon the District and County Councils. It is at all events for these bodies, without adopting a do-nothing policy of delay, which is all too frequent, to proceed with the business of re-erecting a bridge in place of the one that has disappeared, and re-making the causeway rendering it passable on both sides of the river.

In Wells' *History of the Drainage of the Bedford Level* (1830) Vol. I. p. 27., we read concerning the liability to repair both bridge and causeway:—

"This river is crossed by a Bridge called Aldreth High Bridge, which connects the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely. The Bridge is repaired by the owner of lands in Haddenham Parish, which lands in the year 1766, were the property of Mr. Micah Coulson. In early times this was the only entrance into the Isle of Ely, and was much contested during the time William the Conqueror laid siege to that place. The bridge is approached by a celebrated Causeway, called Aldreth Causeway, which was heretofore repaired by certain parishes and individuals within the Isle, but is now wholly neglected."

The repair of the causeway it is said became in some way a charge upon the tenants of Downham and other Manors, but I can find no verification of this and similar assertions.

The following document preserved among Cole's MSS., in the British Museum is presumably authoritative. In it appears the name of Mr. Coulson probably the same mentioned in the extract taken from Mr. Wells' history, as possessed of the Haddenham property:—

“A copy of the places and length, where towns, people, and places are obliged to repair of Aldreth Causeway.

	Poles or Roods.	Feet.
Doddington Parish (begins at Aldreth End)	20	
Mr. Castle, now Mr. Gifford		20
March parish, with the heads and coffens of the team bridge	30	
Whittlesea bridge	30	
Mr. Castle, now Mr. Coulson, Cheesemonger of Peter- borough	15	
Chatteris parish, deep whells, coffens and heads, and then part of causeway	7	
Thomas Castle, Esq., beyond deep wheel	15	
Tidd St Giles parish	7	
Leverington do.	12	
Wisbech do.	12	
Elme parish, causeway with Mr. Coulson of Peter- borough's pole-bridge, heads and coffens and other parts interfere, Elm Causeway, 33 feet.....	12	
Lord Hardwick for Hinton	40	
Newton Parish.....	9	
William Drury, Esq., now Farrin	2	
Stuntney Parish	11	
Haddenham End.....	8	
Ralph March, Esq., for the Manor of Gray's	2	
————— for Manor of Chewells	3	
Heads and Coffens of High Bridge to Mr. Coulson ..	5	

Chains 60 1 3½

I am unable to say from what source Mr. Cole acquired this information, but it is difficult to account for the liability resting upon the particular parishes and persons named. It was customary in many districts for persons receiving direct benefit from the convenience offered by a bridge to be charged with 'Pontage' in respect of their holding. This impost was usually payable by the Lord of the Manor and not by his tenants, but disagreement as to apportionment and the endeavour to lay part of the charge upon the tenantry, frequently led to pontage money remaining unpaid and various compli-

cations resulted. The maintenance and repair of causeways in like manner must have given rise to frequent disagreement.

The late Mr. E. A. Freeman* referring to the last bridge at Aldreth says "when I was there it looked very much as if it had been broken down by Hereward and not mended since" so dilapidated was its then condition. Ordinary wear and tear, accelerated by want of attention to the structure have done their work. It has now for several years been a thing of the past, and not a vestige of it remains in sight, the place however where it once and always since its existence as a bridge has stood, ought to be worth investigation. I shall be surprised, when the time comes for rebuilding, provided the work be carried through under qualified guidance, if discoveries then made do not more than compensate for all the trouble and expense involved in fitting up a new bridge. The ancient piles at any rate upon which the original bridge was built are in all probability there and may as likely as not be found in good condition. I have myself taken from the watery soil of the Lake Dwelling near Glastonbury, fragments of perfectly sound oak piles that had been driven in by the ancient British. Excavations in the neighbourhood of the Aldreth Bridge would most certainly result, sooner or later, in a rich harvest of archæological treasure. It is much to be hoped that these suggestions may not be forgotten.

A great cattle market which was formerly held at Aldreth had to be abandoned, in consequence it is said of the decay of the bridge. The inhabitants of the Isle petitioned Dr. Matthew Wren, Bishop of Ely, to lay the case before Charles I. Clearly the See of Ely was in no way held responsible at that time for the maintenance of the bridge for it was alleged in the petition that the Lord of the Manor of Haddenham (the Earl of Suffolk) was liable for the repair. Among those signing the petition to have the bridge mended and the market re-instated was Oliver Cromwell.

* *Norman Conquest*, Vol. iv., p. 465.

In the visitation of Archbishop Laud, A.D. 1638, the following presentment was made relating to

“The State of Ye Bishoprick of Ely^e concerning Audy and Erith Causeys.

“Ever since ye reigne of King William the Conqueror there hath bene a long causey over the Fenns and other low grounds, called Alderhec, vulgo Audy Causey, whereby ye King’s highway for horses and foot from ye town and county of Cambridge into ye Isle of Ely hath been maintained. At ye East end of Audy Causey there was a great bridge over ye River Ouse with sundry smaller bridges in severall parts of ye said Causey over other deep places and passages for water. These Causeys and Bridges were anciently all maintained by ye Bp. of Ely by right of sundry great manors belonging to ye said see; and the said bishoprick lying void Elizab. 23, for 20 years together, ye same were repaired by ye Queen’s officers.

“Elizab. 40 The Queen had taken away 15 great Manors from ye same bprick, and upon a second alienation of 33 great Manors more, made Eliz. 43 under ye great seale of England, it was covenanted with Bp. Heaton to acquit and save harmless ye Bp. of Ely for ever from ye new making or repairing ye two great bridges of Audry Bridge and Erith Bridge, and of Audrey Causey and Erith Causey, and all ye smaller bridges in or upon either of ye said Causeys.

“Eliz. 44^o: Thomas, then Lo. Howard, purchasing from ye Queen ye Manor of Haddenham, upon wch ye reparation of all those bridges of Audrey Causey was charged, had an abatement of £300 allowed on ye purchase, and so covenanted to discharge ye Crown from reparation of ye said bridges for ever. But about 25 years ago ye high bridge over ye River Ouse called Audry Bridge, for want of due reparations, fell down and there is yet no new bridge erected for his Ma’y’s subjects to passe by.”

This sufficiently explains why the Bishop of Ely is no longer liable for repairs either in respect of bridge or causeway. We are without information as to whether or no the Lord of the Manor has in any way rendered satisfaction in respect of his abatement, but we presume not.

In a report upon the condition of the highways of Haddenham, published recently, it is stated, in respect of the Aldreth road, that the repair is very bad, but that, many years back, this was a metalled public carriage road leading to the Old West River and to Aldreth Bridge, traces of Lakenheath shingle and Sutton gravel being still visible. Having been a public highway before

1835 the duty of repair devolves upon the Haddenham Highway Committee.

“Approaching danger” (the advance of a horde of “plunderers” from the North) led to a proclamation being issued in 1643 to fortify the castle and town of Cambridge “for preventing of y^e enemies inroade” by making provision for securing all the passages (bridges) upon the river Ouse, and this was duly published with a view of raising £5,000, in the parish Churches in order to effect the desired object.* This “proclamation” gives some idea of the disturbances of the Commonwealth period and the stir that would be caused in guarding the approaches in this district, the Aldreth way among them.

In an old book of Church accounts in the custody of the Rector of Rampton mention is made (A.D. 1832) of the “Portway, Cam-end,” the “Portway, Aldreth end,” the “Isle end,” and “Haddenham end,” all lying in “Bellsier’s Field;”† also “Sand Pond Haven Aldreth end” and the “Cam end.” These several designations, which I cannot pretend to exactly identify (for they occur at a time previous to the Enclosure Award), give some indication of the recognition of prominent points in connection with the causeway. On the Ordnance Map the road leading S. from the Cottenham side of the river at the Aldreth Bridge site is called “The Causeway”; it runs in almost a straight line through Willingham parish, but now in its altered course completely dividing the site of Belsar’s Hill Camp in two. From a point beyond, it passes in a twisted direction as far as the house on the Rampton road in that parish, known as “The Fox and Hounds,” under the name of “The Haven Drove” through what is familiar as “Belsar’s Fields,” ‡ partly in Willingham and partly in Rampton Parish. At this second ‘break in its continuity’

* *The East Anglian*, Vol. vii. 117.

† There are, as may be supposed, quite a number of ways in which ‘Belsar’s’ is spelt in these accounts—‘Bolcher’s,’ ‘Bellsess,’ ‘Belcher’s,’ ‘Bellers,’ etc., etc. Several of the place-names occurring here are interesting.

‡ These fields are so called in a Manorial Survey of the time of Henry III. and would I imagine be included as appertaining to the Camp proper, the whole forming ‘Belasisse.’ (*Rot. Hund. Ed. I.*)

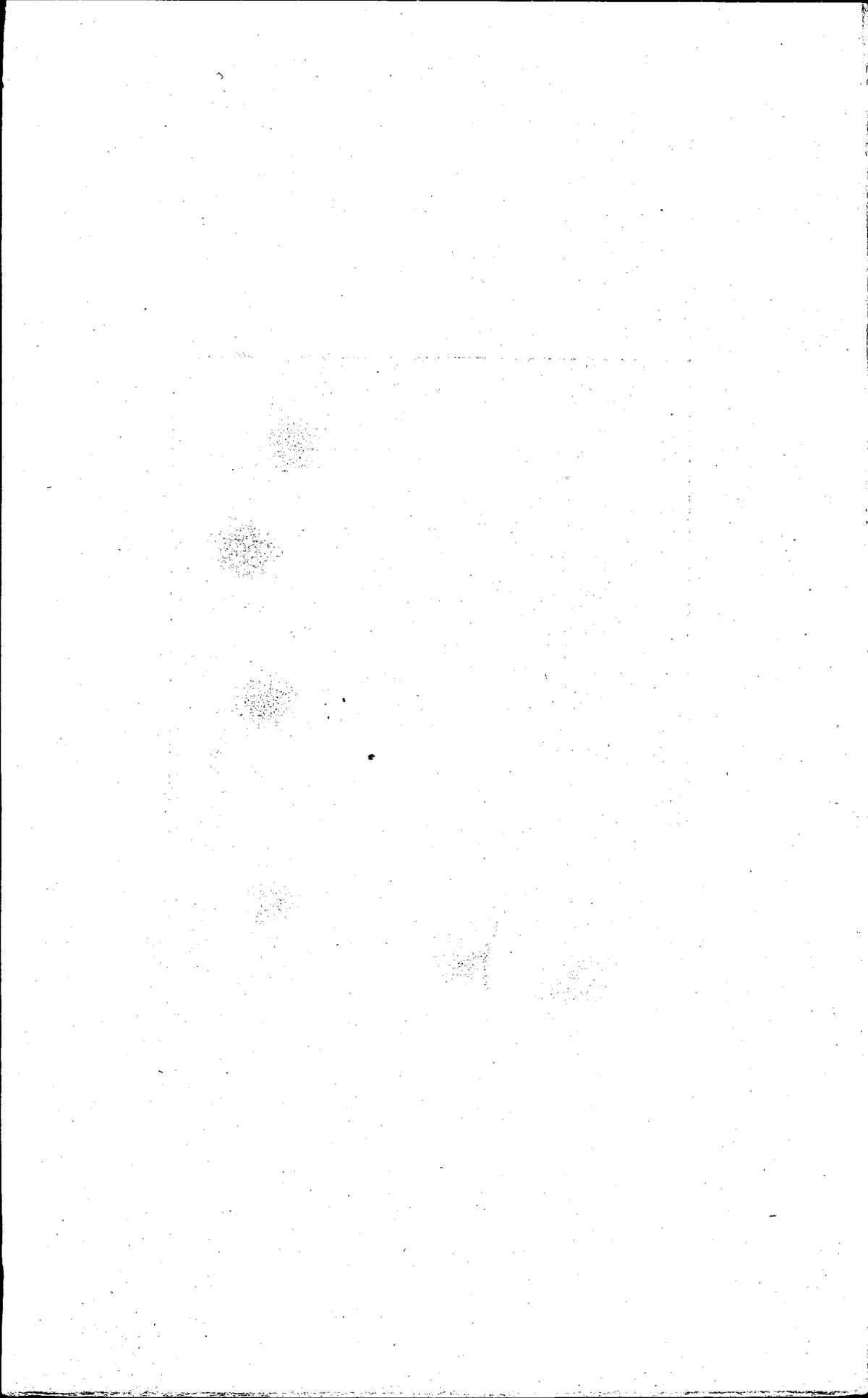
caused undoubtedly by the ramifications necessitated by the Enclosure Act) we have some difficulty in following its circuitous course, and the only thing that can be said with any degree of certainty is that a way passed through "Mill Field" along Cuckoo Lane' and what is known as the "Rampton Drift," as far as "Lamb's Cross"; from thence the line of communication went through the village of Histon to Cambridge. The difficulty of tracing ancient ways of this character, especially in the Fen country, as I have already intimated, is considerable, but in the case of this southern prolongation of the Aldreth Causeway we have sufficient data to guide us to approximate conclusions. We may at all events conclude that the road in question was a *direct* route, a military thoroughfare in fact even before the days of the Roman conquest, of which the British earthworks (*Belsar's Hill*) standing in the regular line, gives sufficient proof, if necessary, to establish the assertion. As to the antiquity of this causeway there can be no doubt, and possibly Britons, Romans and Normans, to say nothing of later military enterprize, down to the commonwealth disturbance, traversed the way and often made good an escape to the stronghold that was at hand, or found ready access to one of the several well-fortified positions or hiding places in the neighbourhood.

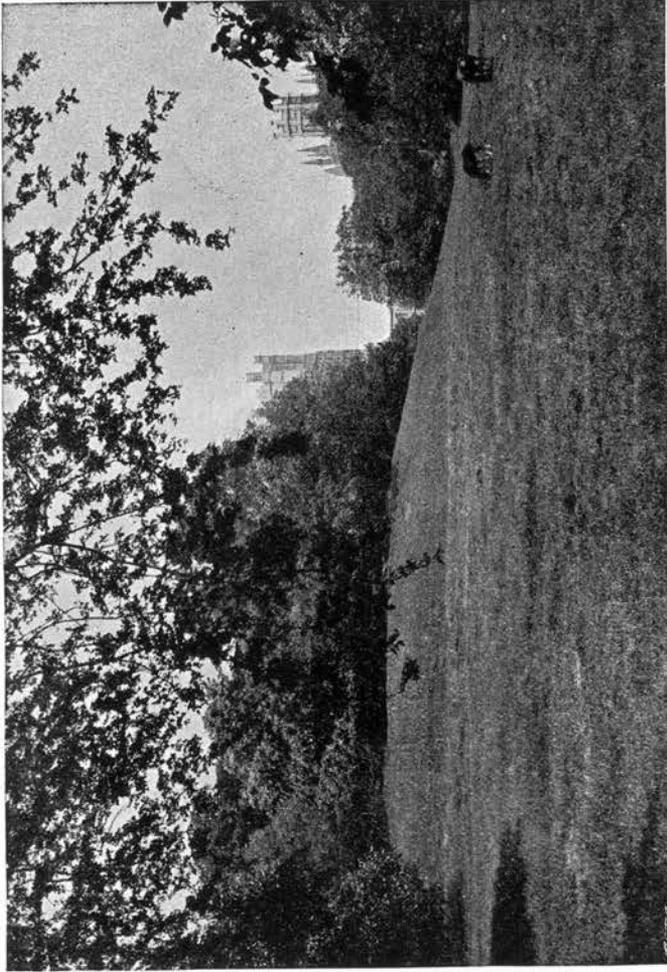
It is now time to take some notice of the hero of the fens, Hereward, whose remarkable exploits are largely associated with the Aldreth bridge and causeway. An eminently historical personage is Hereward, in himself most certainly no fictitious character, but surrounded with so much which is legendary that it is hopeless to disassociate the false from the true except as a mere matter of opinion.

The *Gesta Herewardi Saxonis*, a Latin MS. of the twelfth century* and the *Historia Eliensis*,† which furnish us with accounts of Hereward, have alike a mythical

* Printed in a Caxton Society volume by Mr. T. Wright, who has also given us in his *Essays on the Middle Ages* (Vol. ii.) something of a free translation.

† Edited by Rev. D. J. Stewart, (there is no English translation of this book.)





HEREWARD'S MOUND AT ELY, THE SUPPOSED SITE OF THE LAST STAND.

tendency. In conjunction with certain of the chroniclers we mainly owe to these several sources the information we possess relating to the leader of the gallant stand made against William in the defence of Ely. The *Gesta* (xxv.) introduces Aldreth to our notice in the following passage:—

“Rex autem . . . omnem suum exercitum conducens ad Alreheche; fecit quoque illo etiam advehi multam struem lignorum et lapidum, atque ex omni materia aggerationem et omnes piscatores provinciæ cum naviculis ad Cotingelade* adesse jussit ut illuc quæ adduxerant transfretarent unde globos et montanas eis Alreheche facerent, super quos bellare deberent. . . . At illi qui ex insula erant antemuralia et propugnacula contra statuentes valde rebellabant.”

The mounds thus thrown up on this side of Aldreth, on the heights of which William's men were to fight, and the resistance offered by the men of the Isle, is strong confirmation of what we know of the course of events, and history was but repeating itself. The mounds and bulwarks raised by the inhabitants of the Isle may now perhaps be only discerned in the solitary instance of the mound at Ely* where on the summit of Cherry-hill within the confines of the monastery, Hereward is supposed to have taken his last stand,† but the entire line through which the attack had to be met was more or less a garrisoned way, stoutly defended until the Norman gained complete mastery and possessed the Isle, although it was not until the reign of Henry I., that the invaders acquired undisturbed possession. There is not very much remaining in the way of relics of the past, but from the peat of the Fen at Aldreth, either in the vicinity of the bridge, or where some sharp encounter took place, a leaf-shaped bronze sword, 23½ inches in length, now in the Museum at Cambridge, was some time since taken. There may have been numerous finds of this character from time to time of which we have no exact account; ‡

* Cottenham.

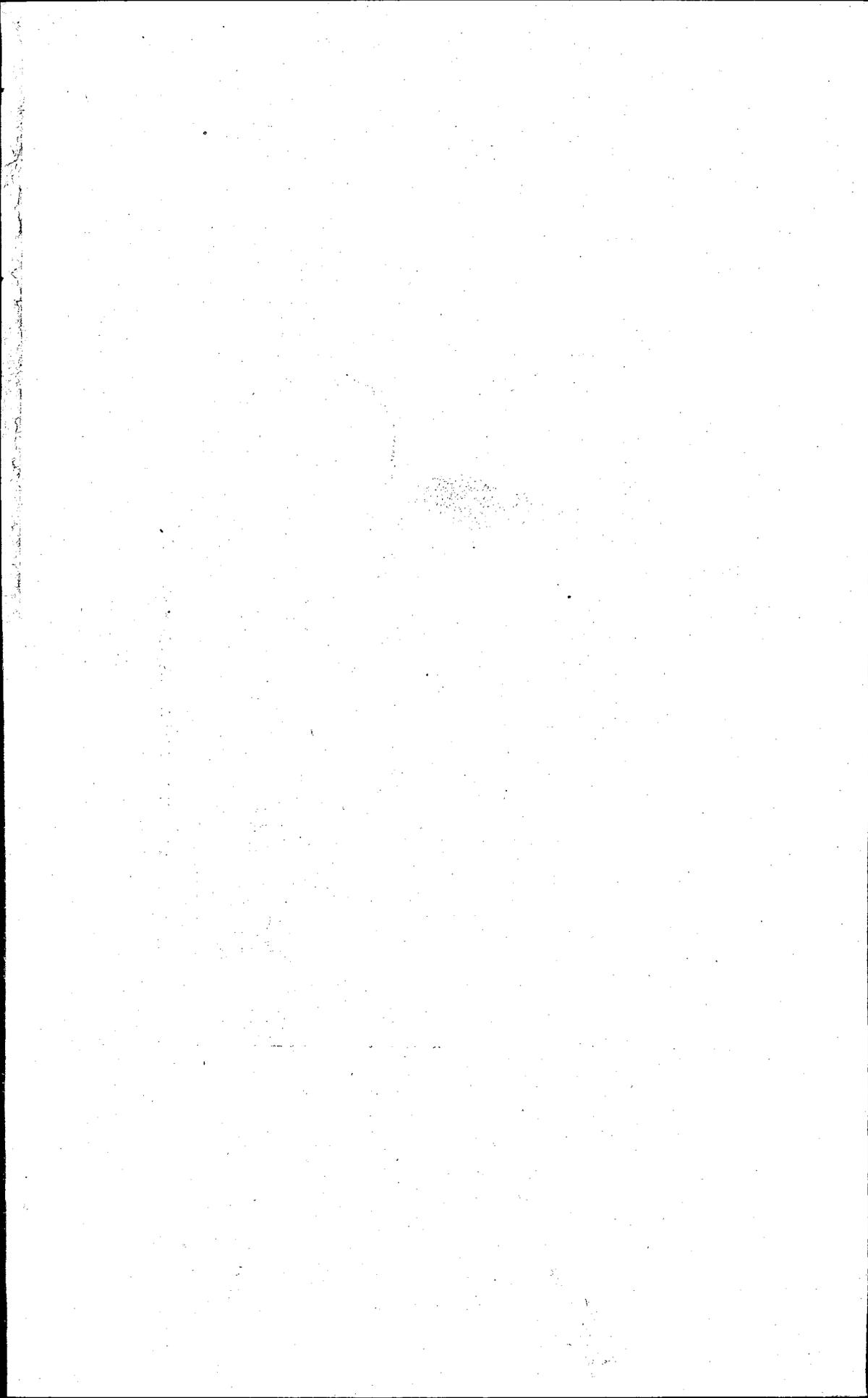
† In all probability an earthwork of much earlier date. We are indebted for the illustrations in this paper to the kindness of Messrs. Constable.

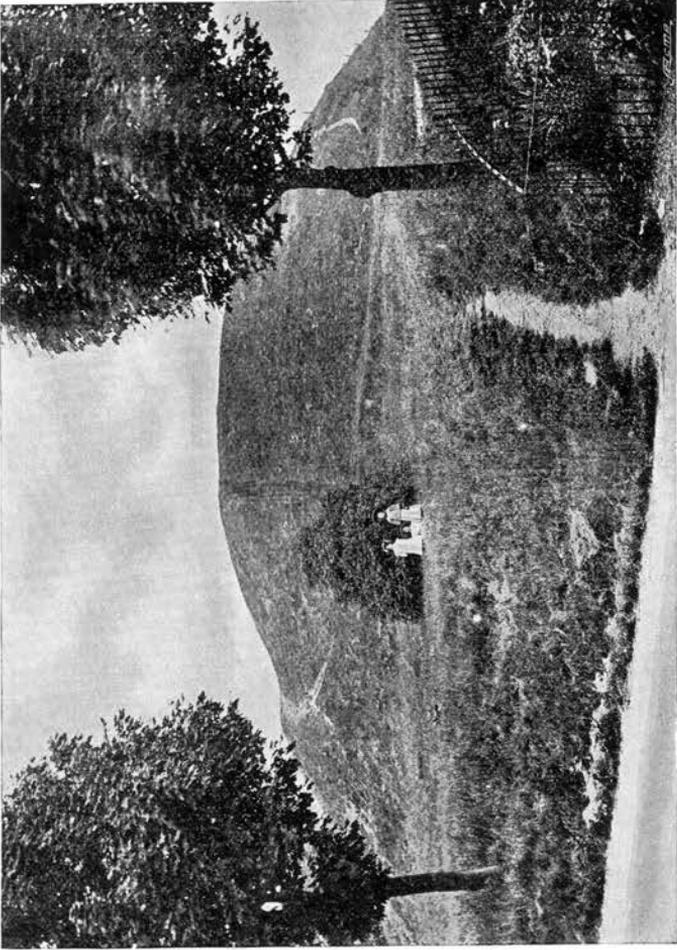
‡ The Rev. J. G. Cheshire, Vicar of Witcham, tells me that he has been informed that a former Haddenham farmer had some such finds in his possession.

Kingsley's allusion to the find of weapons* and armour in the Old West River and parts adjacent as continuous to his own time is wanting in preciseness and can have no real bearing on Hereward's conflict, for such objects as the leaf-shaped sword would in all probability belong to the British period. However at Wilburton Fen, close to Haddenham and Aldreth, several interesting specimens of bronze swords, spear heads, etc., now in the possession of Mr. A. J. Pell, have been found; we may certainly conclude that the struggle between opposing forces for mastery in the Fens was at different periods of a fierce and sanguinary character. It was in this district that the powerful tribe of the Iceni dwelt, and being driven from the woodlands by the Romans under Ostorius they were at length defeated with immense slaughter; consequently we should expect to find indications of this early warfare.

Of Hereward's exploits little need be said here, they are at hand, in every variety of literary work, chronicled, not so much, it must be said, in the page of history as in that of story and song, but the incidents in which the bridge at Aldreth figures must not be allowed to pass unnoticed. At the time during which the English nobles held the Isle against the Conqueror two unsuccessful attempts were made, it is said, to carry a bridge or ford over the stream at a point where the Fen waters were half a mile in breadth. The bridge (or what I suppose we might call a fen passage) was formed of wood, stone and faggots, with great baulks of timber fastened by cowhides. As the soldiers were crossing, the entire structure gave way and a large number of men were drowned. This is recorded in the *Liber Eliensis* of the monk, Thomas, and it is further added "in testimonium hujus rei ex ipsis fundaminibus sæpius arma extrahi cernimus." A second bridge was afterwards constructed of material conveyed as we have seen in boats by fishermen, among whom was Hereward in disguise. When the erection was nearing completion Hereward set light to it

* *Hereward the Wake*, ("How they fought at Aldreth.")





CASTLE MOUND AT CAMBRIDGE. (I.)

and the men fired the reeds, with the result that the enemy's forts were destroyed and their assailants were completely awed and put to confusion. The King greatly disconcerted at this disaster, retired to the Castle at Cambridge. Much doubtless that has come down to us concerning Hereward is pure fiction, but the statements relating to bridge and causeway need give us little or no such concern. The myths of an age that delighted in recounting legend regardless of facts, developing mere shadows of truth into substantial fabrications, and encouraging flights of fancy, irrespective of the restrictions of surroundings, invariably leave a substratum of truth in the prominence given to localities in the mention of place names. Matthew Paris who lived in the reign of Henry III. informs us that a wooden fortress existed in the Fens at Aldreth which was in his time known as "Hereward's Castle." At all events a Castle as we have seen built by Nigellus, Bishop of Ely (who was attached to the cause of Matilda) at Aldreth, was sufficiently garrisoned to withstand King Stephen's assault. Stephen is known to have sailed with a fleet of small vessels to Aldreth, and having made a temporary bridge, passed over with his horses and obliged the Bishop's soldiers to leave Aldreth Castle which he garrisoned with his own men; thus he made his way to Ely. The Bishop escaped and for some two years or more the Isle was in a state of revolt and the vicinity of the bridge in no small commotion. Ultimately the Bishop returned, and with the help of his people once again possessed himself of Aldreth Castle.*

We have now to deal with another 'famous General,' but how far he had any real existence I must leave. For

* I cannot refrain, now that I am speaking of bridges and of Matilda, from referring to a note in the Life and Letters of Herbert Losinga first Bishop and Founder of the Cathedral at Norwich, (Vol. i., p. 300, 1.) The Queen was a great bridge-builder, and erected it is said *the first arched bridge ever known in England*, she directed special attention "to making new roads and repairing the ancient highways, and generally facilitating communication between different parts of the country, one great condition this" adds the writer of the note "of civilization." It is not unlikely that this spirit may have possessed the Bishop in an eminent degree and led to bridges and roads in the Fen district being specially cared for.

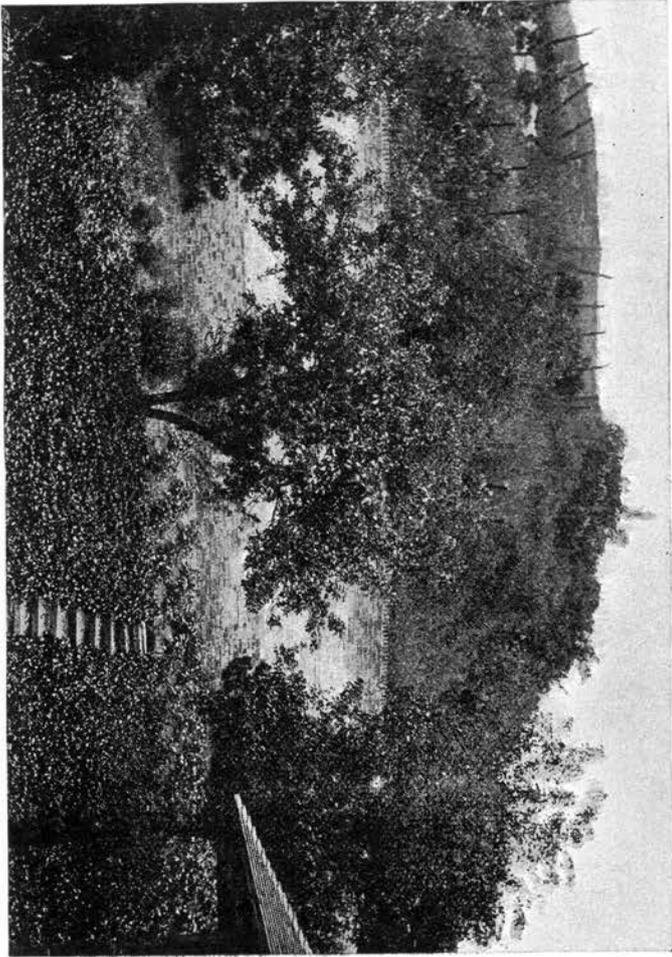
my own part I doubt if the 'Belsar' we commemorate in connection with the camp near Aldreth ever lived, at all events we have no historical or other reliable proof that such an individual was *ipso facto* ever among us in the flesh. Respecting 'Belsar,' or more properly 'Belisarius' very little is known, and as I have intimated much uncertainty surrounds his personality. While one writer says of him that he was "famous among the rebels in the Conqueror's time when he built Cambridge Castle," it is alleged of him that he was "an unknown person."* Thus Belisarius a conjectural Roman General becomes the Norman officer in the difficulty experienced in suitably placing him. I can find nothing that satisfies me on the point that such a person as our Belisarius ever existed. In the Hundred Rolls (*temp.* Ed. I.) I find the following:—

"Dicūt q' dns Rex h't warena p'tinente ad Castell' Cantebr' in manu sua q' warena Rex Johes p'mo p'cepit & incipit ad Castellu' Cantebrig' & extend' p'regale via' Huntingdon usq' Serebrige & de Serebrige usq' Westwychebrige & de Westwychebrige p' via' de Bompton (Rampton) usq' *Belasisse* & de *Belasisse* usq' ad magna ripam & rev'tit p' illa ripam usq' Squasselode & de Squasselode p' magnā ripā usq' ad ponte Cantelbrig'."

This extract while introducing us to other localities of interest in connection with our investigation, mentions *Belasisse*; this reference is made not as I conceive to the bare six acres covered by the camp, but to the larger area. This spot presumably formed the *rendezvous* of the Conqueror's army at the time of the Norman intrusion, and up to this point, at any rate, the approach towards Ely had been unopposed and so far successful. What more natural at that time than the application of the no-meaningless epithet (*Bellasise* = de bello situ, the Norman character of the name is clear) to designate the place where the army rested so long, the Conqueror too, bent upon success, which however much delayed was regarded as eventually sure and certain? Here in all probability was the field of council, where after frequent attacks had been persistently made upon the Isle to no purpose, and all other means

* Carter *History of Cambridge*.





CASTLE MOUND AT CAMBRIDGE. (II.)

of access found unavailing, resource was had to a successful and unimpeded march from the castle at Cambridge to this fine situation *Bellassise*. I venture also, to think that the glowing description given to William of the country by one of his soldiers, as related in the *Liber Eliensis* ought to strengthen this contention as to the excellent impression made upon the not too impressionable minds of the Norman soldiery. I have somewhere seen it stated that the supposed Belisarius probably obtained the estate designated *Belsar's Fields &c.* as a reward from his royal master, but of course this is purely conjectural and in the then condition of things unlikely. Camden* thus refers to the name and place:—

“There is a rampart nigh Audre, not high, but very large, called Belsar's Hills from one Belisar; but what he was I know not.”

Stukeley refers to the earthwork as “a Roman Camp, repaired by the Conqueror's soldiers,” and the ‘Audrey Causey’ “a Roman way originally into the Isle of Ely.” To this, says Bentham:—†

“I have nothing to object, but that no authority is cited to support it, I should rather think from the account given [of the Conqueror's invasion] that Aldrey causey was first made during the seige and that it has been from time to time occasionally repaired, and so continues a common way into the Isle to this day.”

Neither Stukeley or Bentham weighed the best possible form of evidence in coming to a conclusion respecting the origin of the Camp, which is clearly a work of British construction. That it was utilized by the Romans is undoubtedly true, for in the immediate neighbourhood are traces of an extensive Roman settlement. If any doubt exists on this point, the discoveries in the district of Roman remains‡ should go far to obliterate any hesitancy to accept a pre-Norman origin. The ancient character of the causeway as an old British road is on all sides in evidence, and long before the great Roman roads

* Camden's *Brit.* Ed. Gibson, 409. † History of Ely, Vol. i., p. 104.

‡ Vide the writer's paper in this Vol. on “The supposed site of a Roman Encampment at Cottenham.”

(*Akeman Street* and *via Devana*) were formed, this was the principal, if not the only land approach from Cambridge to the Isle. Even in the attack made by William, the Roman way to Ely through Stretham was for some cause or another inaccessible, and the old 'war path' with its military adjuncts, was deemed the better way. This may surprise us a little as we regard either the long neglected and somewhat circuitous and distorted passage today as it runs from, say, what is known as Gunn's Lane in the parish of Histon to Belsar's Camp in Willingham parish, or the line of direct advance along the Aldreth causeway* on the Haddenham side, now almost wholly disused and inaccessible from the county side. But it needs very little discrimination to understand the wisdom of following a way that offered among other advantages that of the security of cover, and the distinct gain found in traversing a kept and tried way that had before proved the path of military success. The way doubtless needed re-making, and the bridge possibly required to be newly constructed, for we must remember that between the period of the Romans leaving the country and the coming of the Normans, the fens became greatly neglected and this was followed by the overflowing of the waters, with its consequent results. The old fen roads where they exist will be generally found, on the removal of surface soil that has been allowed to accumulate, exceedingly well made. They were largely built up of alternate layers of clay and gravel forming a hard substance similar to concrete, beneath was a thick bed of brushwood, possibly not less than three feet in thickness. I cannot gather that the last Aldreth bridge was of any special interest, a mean wooden structure tottering to its fall is all that the memory of man can recall of its state and condition, but the foundations would undoubtedly disclose important features for upon the original and subsequent piers the later bridge had doubtless been raised.

* Causeway=*Chaussee* (Norman Fr.) a way constructed across a watery marsh. As the word (sometimes *Causey*) is now used, it means an extension from an highway.

Fuller* refers to Belasyus "one of the knights quartered in the monastery of Ely." This statement is of course founded on the famous *Tabula Eliensis* in the Palace at Ely (*said* to be a copy of the ancient one formerly in the monastery hall) which appears to commemorate the departure of the Norman knights who had been placed by William in the monastery after its surrender. In this *Tabula* the name, &c., of a Belisarius occurs, but it is not improbable, that this curious and interesting work of art (I trust I may be pardoned for adding, and legend) is founded upon monastic story as incorporated in the *Liber Eliensis*. The designation attached to the assumed arms, *Bellasius Preces Militum versus Elye* may be thought at any rate to establish the existence of the Norman General and point to his particular achievement, but the painting which is probably not older than the early part of the 16th century is without doubt quite an original work and of no value as historical evidence. The Rev. Wm. Cole in his remarks on the *Tabula* appended to Bentham's *History and Antiquities of Ely Cathedral*,† says

"The arms sufficiently intimate that they belonged to the name of *Bellesis*, the famous General who gave his name to the works south of Aldreth Causey, still retaining the name of Belsar's Hills; though against every authority Dr. Stukeley‡ has given the honour of that achievement to a phantom of his own raising, a mere ideal or imaginary person, who never was heard of before in this manner '*Ursois, Master of the Conqueror's military Engines, bore Argent, a Cross Sable; (Ely Tablet;) he repaired the Roman Camp South of Audrey Causey.*' Why he chooses to call his hero, *Ursois*, instead of his true name *Opsal* or *Opsalus*, I know not: sure I am, that the family of Opsall bear the aforesaid arms."

In an inquisition of the manors of the see of Ely

* Church History, Cent. xi. p. 168. Bentham also quotes from the MS., referred to by Fuller, called the *Story found in the Isle of Ely* (Br. Mus.) It is of no historical value and only to be regarded as 'curious, ingenious and interesting!' The extract bearing on this is as follows:—"We endured the violent threats of the Normans 7 years together, untill such tyme as Belasyus Generall of the King's Army in thys service, of whom certain Hylls, which at the South-end of Aldreth Causey were built for the Safety of the Armyes, took their names, which we nowe by corrupt speech call Belsars Hills, getting a great company of boats, passed the waters on a soddayn, and set us at our wit's end, &c." *MS. Tiberius*, Br. Mus. B. II.

† Vol. i. app. p. 8. ‡ Palæograph. Britan. *ut supra*. p. 38, 129.

made in the thirteenth century are the following references to Belsar's fields :—

“Dominicum hujus manerii distinguitur in tres partes; scilicet in campo de belasise quarterviginti una acre mensur per parc' septendecim pedes et dimid * * *

“Preterea sunt ibi sexdecim acre que qu' arantur et sec'antur qu' propter nimiam pluviam jacent in pratium et pasturam. Scilicet infra Belasise sex acras.”

A few words remain to be said relating to the guardianship and care of bridges in these parts and of Aldreth bridge in particular. A bridge-reeve or guardian of the bridges was formerly appointed by the authorities at Ely, and if I have been correctly informed the organist of that Church still holds that office or rather I suppose receives the emoluments. Travelling in the Fens it must be remembered was in former days attended with many obstacles and dangers, and the neighbourhood of a bridge was frequently the scene of robbery and violence, and necessitated good government. To mitigate in some degree vicissitudes of this kind, hermitages were placed at spots likely to prove advantageous to the wayfaring man, and sometimes the tolls received at an adjacent bridge would go to the support of the hermit and the maintenance of his Chapel. Earith causeway had its hermitage, the site and name of which are familiar enough. An indulgence for Richard de Grymston, a poor hermit, and for repair of Earith causeway was granted in 1397 during the Bishop's pleasure. One Henry Bourne was hermit there in 1401. Aldreth had its hermitage under the care of John Spencer the “poor hermit of Haddenham” to whom a year's indulgence was granted in 1406, for all contributing towards “the repair of ‘Herhith’” causeway. The hermitages on Swavesey highway, at Roucehill (Ely), that between the two Shelford's (“for repairs of bridge and causeway”), were similarly benefitted, while for repairs of causeway between Howes and Cambridge Castle, for the repair of Hauxton bridge and causeway, for repair of Brandon ferry bridge, are a few other instances in which indulgences were granted with the object of benefitting directly

or indirectly those travelling in the neighbourhood of the fens. The tolls taken at the ancient bridge of Ballingdon hamlet in Sudbury in the diocese of Ely went to the adjacent hospital of the Order of S. John of Jerusalem.* The bridge was repaired at the cost of the town, the borough being responsible for one half and the County for the other. The piles of this old wooden bridge are still visible below the water level.

In closing these brief notices relating to the Aldreth way and its surroundings, I am conscious of having very imperfectly accomplished what I originally intended; I think however I have succeeded in bringing together a number of details of some interest and importance, and of having treated the subject for the first time in a connected form. Although in a paper of this character one is concerned more with the antiquarian side of the subject, yet I am not disposed to dismiss from my mind a broader view in face of the fact that the much needed bridge has disappeared and the ancient but convenient way of St. Audrey and its extension is a neglected waste. The authorities are lamentably slow in dealing energetically with the subject, which is being continually discussed in their councils to no useful purpose. Local prejudice and personal feeling are endangering the opportunity that presents itself of renewing the road and erecting the bridge. With an utter disregard for plain and historical facts it is urged that the roads on both sides of the river at the site of the Aldreth bridge are merely peat roads, but long neglect and disuse can scarcely reduce roads of this character to the consistency of a quagmire, certainly not at the behest of a few theorists. The roads are now in a bad condition, that on the Haddenham side (some fifty-nine chains in length) is I am told particularly so, but it is a well-established fact, whatever its present state, that it is really a thoroughly good road and only requires making

* This I doubt not was the case in regard to the very beautiful but sadly desecrated Chapel by Whittlesford bridge, now used as a barn and appendant to the "Red Lion" Inn, but, as a part of St. John's Hospital, of Sir William Colville's foundation, once apparently possessed by the Knights Templars.

up. The remark of a County councillor after having visited the spot, that it seemed "very little short of a scandal that there was such defective communication with the county from that part" should not be allowed to remain an utterance only. It is but too evident that repeated delays in dealing vigorously with the subject will prove disadvantageous to any scheme calculated to remedy this glaring defect in county government, and thereby further the ends of an hostile or indifferent opposition.

C. H. EVELYN-WHITE, F.S.A.

[Since this paper was written the *Cambridge Antiquarian Society* has issued the Rev. Dr. Skeat's "Place-Names of Cambridgeshire." I observe respecting the derivation of the name *Aldreth* that no allusion is made to any connection with St. Etheldreda, which omission is not without significance.]

SWAVESEY PRIORY.

The Priory of Swavesey was a Norman foundation. Before the Conquest the village had belonged to Edith the Fair, but was given by William the First to Alan, Earl of Britany. Between the year 1086 when the Conqueror died and 1089 when Alan died, the tithes of Swavesey with other property in the neighbourhood, were given by Alan to the Benedictine Abbey of SS. Sergius and Bacchus at Angiers in France. The deed of gift which is printed in full in Dugdale's *Monasticon** states that he gave the Church of Swavesey with all the burial fees and all offerings, free of episcopal exaction, service or custom, except sixpence at Easter for chrism.† Also that when the Archdeacon celebrated synodals, a monk should attend on one of the days, not according to custom, but for love of the Archdeacon and honour of the Bishop.† The gift also included the tithes of all things in Swavesey and the other villages belonging to the Earl, namely Barham, Papworth, Wimpole, Toft, and Beche (Waterbeach). The tithable things specified are the year's field produce, calves, lambs, pigs, wool, and cheese. But the priest of each village was to have one field each of wheat and oats. The gift also included the Earl's property in the village called Drayton (Fendrayton) and the beasts belonging to the monks were to be allowed to feed with his own in the Swavesey pastures.

Alan was succeeded in the earldom by his brother Stephen, who confirmed these gifts, and also, at the request of Abbot Walter gave to the Abbey the tithes of

* Vol. vi. pt. 2, p. 1001, No. 1.

† These conditions, which are unusual, might be held to exempt the church from episcopal jurisdiction at the present day.

his fishery in Swavesey and of his mill at Newnham, and the piece of land before the Priory gate. In return for which, it was promised him, that when he died, he should be prayed for as if he was a professed monk.*

The estate thus granted to the French Abbey continued in its possession for three centuries. But it is by no means certain that there was ever a Priory at Swavesey, in the same sense as there was at Ely. For reasons stated elsewhere, it seems more probable that a monk of the French Abbey was instituted Rector of Swavesey and he administered the estate. However that may be, towards the end of the 14th century the monks of Angiers were willing to transfer or sell their Swavesey property. Perhaps it had not been of much value to them during the reign of Edward III., because whenever France and England were at war, it was usual for the King to seize all the revenues of property in England belonging to French religious houses. For instance in 1340, war having been declared between the two countries, all the alien priories in England were sequestered and receivers of their revenues appointed by the King. The Priory of Swavesey was given into the custody of William Fraunk, who was, out of the profits, to repay himself for a debt of £322 9s. 8d. due to him on bills of the wardrobe.† The King also had the possessions of the Priory surveyed, so that there might be no doubt, as to the amount Fraunk received.‡ In 1379, the countries being again at war, a pension of £33 6s. 8d. out of the Priory was granted to Thomas of Woodstock the King's Uncle 'to help him keep up his position.' And in 1384, the Priory was let to the Bishop of Durham and Henry Englyshe for 80 marks yearly, being £20 more than it had been let for before.§ In 1393, the Manors of Swavesey and Drydrayton, with the advowson of Swavesey Church, were with the King's licence transferred by the French Abbey to the Carthusian Priory of S. Anne, lately founded near Coventry.|| The transfer was apparently a temporary one, while the

* *Monasticon ut supra.* † *Patent Roll.* ‡ See *infra.* (*Survey at the end of this paper.*) § *Patent Roll.* || *Patent Roll,* 17 Richard II.

war lasted, for in 1396, the licence was renewed 'while the war lasted.'* Meantime, in 1395, the Prior of Swavesey had leased his interest in the estate to S. Anne's.† In 1399 the new King, Henry IV., confirmed the right of the Coventry religious house to the custody of Swavesey Priory during the war, and gave them also licence to acquire it together.‡ Accordingly in 1401, Guy, Abbot of SS. Sergius and Bacchus, executed an instrument by which all the rights of his Abbey in Swavesey were sold to the Priory of S. Anne's, Coventry, for 2500 francs of gold, legal weight, French money. In the preamble the Abbot states that for fifty years and more this estate had been an expense to the Abbey rather than a profit, on account of wars and its great distance from the mother house.§ At the next change of dynasty in 1461, the Priory of S. Anne's got a further confirmation of their rights to Swavesey.|| In 1534, this Priory fell with all the other religious houses in the kingdom, and its possessions including Swavesey, were seized by the King's servants. In 1539 the King granted the Swavesey and Drayton estates to Thomas, Bishop of Ely, in exchange for the Manor of Hatfield, Herts., which grant was confirmed by Elizabeth.¶

The advowson or right of presentation to the Prior of Swavesey was really exercised by the Abbey of Ss. Sergius and Bacchus and afterwards by St. Anne's, Coventry. But as a matter of fact, the Abbey nominated a brother for the post, and La Zouche presented him, except when the alien priories were in the King's hands, and then the King nominated him.

It was hardly to be expected that very voluminous records would be found about a Priory which never existed, nor was the titular Prior likely to have left much record, since he ceased to exist when the church was appropriated in 1411. And a prolonged search amongst

* *Patent Roll*, 20 Richard II. † *Additional MSS.*, 5849 p. 42. ‡ *Patent Roll*, Henry IV.

§ Bishop Fordham's Register, transcribed in Cole *Additional MS.* 5825, p. 248, &c., where are also the Royal Licences mentioned above. For an estate which was a loss to the owners the price seems a very good one.

|| *Patent*, 1 Edward IV. ¶ *Patent*, 4 Elizabeth, Part I.

documents printed and unprinted has resulted in very few finds. No chartulary or register of the Priory of St. Anne exists. A register of Swavesey is quoted by Dugdale in the seventeenth century and from an entry in Francis Blomefield's collections in the Bodleian* he seems to have seen a 'Book of Swavesey Priory' in Caius College Library. But there is no mention of it in the present library catalogue. There was a chance that some records of the Prior or Rectory might have come with the estate into the hands of the Bishop of Ely, but only one rent roll is in existence now. Nor are there any court rolls or bailiff's accounts in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The most valuable records relating to our subject are to be found amongst the collections of Rev. William Cole (*facile princeps* of Cambridgeshire antiquaries, past, present or to come.) Certain documents were taken out of the archives of Ely and brought to Cole to be deciphered for use in a law suit. Before returning them he made careful transcripts and added notes, some of which are quoted in this paper.† Tanner also saw these deeds and made transcripts of them, they

* Gough, *Cambs. MS.* 2. p. 488.

† The following is Cole's account, in characteristic language, of how he came to see these documents. "The following original deeds taken by Dr. Warren from the archives of Ely were put in my hands, Sept. 9, 1776, in order to read them, they being in various old hands. They were taken out of the archives of Ely to be examined on account of a new claim of tithes by Mr. Palmer, steward to the Duke of Bedford, on the new purchased estate of Mr. Cockayne of Soham, who bought it as being tithe free. The case is, Mr. Berry Dobson and his family have rented this manor and another in the same town for these 60 or 70 years, but on Mr. Cockayne's purchase about 2 years ago he raised the rent of his manor and purchase over £100 per annum, which Mr. Dobson refusing to comply with, it is let now to Mr. Mason's son of Waterbeach and it is supposed that the late tenant, who never paid tythes himself as holding another manor, gave the information, and that he is expected to repair the chancel and church-yard fences." Additional MS., 5849. p. 36. In another volume 5825 p. 249, following a transcript from Bishop Fordham's Register, he has this note. "This I added April 19, 1777, having the Register to me, at Milton in order to copy the whole of this appropriation for Mr. Cockayne of Soham, who bought the manor of Swavesey about 1775 on a supposition that it was exempt from tithes, and he applying personally to Mr. Green of Hemingford, who told him his son had been registrar 16 years, but that neither he nor his son, nor Mr. Smith the deputy Registrar at Cambridge could read the writing, so he came to me, not being able to get anyone else to copy it for him, I undertook it very unwillingly, having a great deal of writing and especially as the master of Queen's College had just lent me a MS. containing the Statutes of the College, lists of Presidents, Fellows and Benefactors, &c., which I wanted to copy in order to return soon."

were then at the Episcopal Palace.* Some further particulars concerning Swavesey, Cole obtained from the MS. collection of the Rev. Brock Rand. He also had access to the Bishop's archives and has made abstracts of documents which were not produced to Cole, notably the twelfth century award concerning tithes of Benington and the convention of 1271 with the seal of Prior attached. The abstracts of the Episcopal Registers published by Rev. J. H. Crosby in the *Ely Diocesan Remembrancer* have been largely used. In Bishop Fordham's Register, fo. 130, there is an official return of all the Priors of Swavesey who had been admitted by the Bishop since 1272. In the quotations from Patent Rolls, when no particular reference is given, the printed calendars are referred to.

It seems, from a study of the documentary remains, that there never was a real Priory at Swavesey, that is, a community of monks living under the rule of a Prior. The earliest charters, it is true, speak of the Church of Swavesey and 'the monks serving God there,' but that may have been merely a formal phrase of the charter. For there is no evidence of the presence of monks there, although there are several points against the probability of a Priory. For instance, as early as 1340, we find the Prior getting a licence for non-residence. In 1369 he leases his church and other possessions for three years. In 1379, when a clerical poll tax was taken of which record remains, there is no mention of Swavesey Priory but the Rector, a monk, is on the list, as are also the name of all the monks at Ely, Thorney, Anglesey, &c.† In 1407, William Penreth was appointed Rector 'or Prior' of Swavesey, which looks as if the second title was more a matter of form than anything else. In the proceedings ending in the appropriation of the church to S. Anne's, Coventry, there is no mention of any monks at Swavesey.

It was called a Priory perhaps because a monk was

* *Notitia Monastica.* † Clerical Subsidy, 23/1.

rector.* The name Priory survived for a long time. As late as 1693, the estate was leased as the parsonage or priory of Swavesey.†

Since the existence of a Priory is doubtful, but of a Prior is certain, the best way of presenting the facts which have been gleaned concerning Swavesey, seems to be in a list of Priors.

The earliest mention of a Prior of Swavesey is in a charter of St. Bernard, Abbot of Citeaux dated 1150—3. There had been disputes between the Abbots of SS. Sergius and Bacchus Angiers, and the Abbot of Savigny, concerning the tithes of Benington, Lincolnshire. St. Bernard directs that the former Abbot, 'that is, the prior and church of Swavesey,' shall receive 32 shillings of English money every Michaelmas as their right for ever.‡ We have found no further notice of this payment, but it is to be noted that this document was in existence at the beginning of the 18th century, when Rand made an abstract of it.§

Before 1198, there was a Prior whose name began with R. He is mentioned in a record referred to under the next prior who held the office in 1198.

1198. In this year Benedict Prior of Swavesey and the monks of the same place, bought the advowson of Fendrayton, of a certain Ansell and Ingrith his wife, for 2 marks and a virgate and a half of land.|| In the year 1200, the Abbot of Sawtry and the Priors of S. Ives and Royston were arbitrators in a suit between this Benedict and Ivo of Cambridge and Simon his son, concerning the tithes of Wimpole and Toft. When it was decided that the latter were to have two tenths in the year 1200,

* The priory of Swavesey was what is usually called a 'cell' to the French Abbey.

† Cambridge University Library, *Additional MS.* 71, skin 5. ‡ Round's *French Documents*, p. 356.

§ *Additional MS.* 5846, p. 145. A complete transcript is also given in the *Cartulaire de la Basse Normandie*, Vol. iii., p. 67. This is a MS. in the Public Record Office.

|| Feet of Fines, 10, Richard I.

and at the same time quit claimed Benedict of all conventions which they said had been made between them and R. formerly Prior.* Two grants of land to the church during this Prior's time are recorded. Richard Olf of Swavesey gave a virgate of land in Ertemanelot and half a virgate in Oxendale, which Ivo his brother held, also he gave the homage of his nephew William son of Ambrose. These he gave for the good of the souls of Ingrith, his wife, &c.† And Gervase son of Robert Torgcanelle gave a croft. The Prior is called Benedict Rem in this deed of gift.‡

1232. John was Prior. He is mentioned in the following charters. Simon of Wendy granted a messuage in Swavesey with a croft called Fissecroft to the church of St. Andrew and the monks serving God there, for the support of a lamp burning before the altar of S. Mary, wherever it should be in the church, at mass and all canonical hours, which messuage, John brother of Simon bound to the Church for the same purpose in the time of Prior Benedict.§ In another document dated 15th Aug. 16 Henry III., Roger la Zouch granted to John Prior of Swavesey half of the following holding;—a messuage and lands, three shillings rent, toll of Swavesey bridge and the meadow of Gosholme.||

1257. Roger was Prior. Cole¶ has transcribed a letter from the Papal chancery approving of a composition made between him and Carlin Scriba, merchant of

* *Additional M.S.* 5849, p. 44. "The size of this parchment is 8 inches by 4, it had three pendent seals now stolen or lost, and has Bishop Tanner's mark on it."

† *Additional M.S.*, 5849, p. 40. Cole calls this a curious deed for its antiquity, writing and contents. It had a flesh coloured seal attached with the figure of a man on horseback holding a bird in his left fist, on it.

‡ *Additional M.S.*, 5846, p. 145.

§ *Additional M.S.*, 5849, p. 40. ". . . . 7 inches by 4. It hath 5 pendent seals, the 3 middle ones cut off. The first oval of green wax has an imperfect figure in profile of a naked person in an oblong form and the legend round it is utterly defaced, the last also is of green wax, round and small and has an obliterated device in the middle and the letters round it imperfect."

|| *Additional M.S.*, 5846, p. 154. Transcript of Brock Rand's notes. The document had attached to it in his time 'a very fair seal' of la Zouch.

¶ *Additional M.S.* 5849, p. 43.

Florence, dated 3 Alexander IV. In 1249 he had special authority from the Pope to deal with the privileges of crusaders in England, of whom Stephen, rector of Cottenham was one.* During the Barons' war, the Prior of Swavesey, following his patron Alan la Zouch, would probably be a royalist, in which case he must have found his nearness to the rebel fastness of the fenland very disagreeable. There is indeed, on record, a complaint that Richard de Argentine and other rebels broke open a chest in Swavesey Church, and took therefrom thirty marks, four gold rings, and various rolls tallies and writs belonging to Alan la Zouch. The Prior however is not mentioned.†

1272, December 10th. Geoffrey de Brynkeley, monk of SS. Sergius and Bacchus was appointed on the resignation of Roger.‡ He granted a corrody to his man Andrew Scot, in return for a message and two roods of land. Scot was to have for life food and drink at the servant's table and six shillings yearly for clothes.§ In the *Hundred Roll*, Scott is stated to have held 10 acres of land of the Prior, paying four shillings yearly and doing three days' work. In 1285 this Prior got into trouble for overstocking his farm at Dry Drayton: It was complained to the justices itinerant at Cambridge that, whereas, this village contained 15 hides, each of seven score acres, of which the Prior owned one hide, and whereas, according to the custom of the village, the tenant of each hide was allowed to have pasturage for 6 oxen, 2 horses, 6 cows, 80 sheep and 13 geese, the Prior had much exceeded this number, and had a herd of 120 cattle of various kinds and a flock of 600 sheep. The justices ordered the land to be measured, with what result is not recorded.||

* Matt. Paris *Chron. Major*, Vol. VI., p. 170. † *Assize Roll* 83 m. 8.
‡ *Bishop Fordham's Register*.

§ *Additional MS.* 5846, p. 146. Collections of Rev. Brock Rand. The record is dated by him 1271. It had attached to it 'part of the seal of the Priory, pretty fair.'

|| *Assize Roll* 86 m. 12. From another suit on the same roll, it appears that Cottenham contained 18 hides, each of six score acres, the custom with regard to the pasturage of a hide being the same as in Drayton.

1286. John de Seys or Ponteseye. There is no record of his appointment in the Ely Register, but this date is given in Brown Willis's collections in the Bodleian.* The earliest mention of him otherwise is in a tithe suit between him and John de la Haye, Rector of Papworth Everard, 1301. The Prior claimed half the tithe, but the case was decided against him.† Alan la Zouch gave to this Prior ('Brother John de Punteseie') an acre of land in the Brokhaveden in Swavesey field in exchange for $2\frac{1}{2}$ roods of land which had been converted into a new ditch at Hale.‡ In 1306 he obtained from Alan a rood of land for the enlargement of the churchyard, but as this was against the statute of Mortmain, he had to obtain the king's pardon for so doing.§ In 1310 the Prior of Swavesey was asked for a loan of victuals for the use of the army in the Scotch expedition.|| He resigned in 1311.

1311 March. Oliver Britonis de Fulgeriis, a monk of S. Sergius was appointed.¶ In 1313 he appeared in a suit at the King's Bench. That Court was called upon to decide whether three messuages in Swavesey were the sole property of the church, whereof the Prior was parson, or were the lay fee of Pellagia daughter of William Legg, Roger Vicar of Swavesey and others. The prior's attorney stated that a certain Geoffrey, formerly prior was seized of this property during the reign of the King's father in time of peace.** He died before August, 1314.

1314, August. Richard Burgeris monk of S. Sergius was appointed. In 1325 when the possessions of alien priories were seized and their revenues confiscated by the King, the Prior of Swavesey was excepted.†† In 1339 we learn from the Patent Roll that two men abducted the Prior and some silver vessels belonging to him, but they brought a pardon from the King for the outrage. Next year he obtained from the Bishop, licence of absence

* *MS. Willis*, 46, p. 128. † *Additional MS.* 5849, p. 41. ‡ *Additional MS.* 5849, p. 41. "Seal of arms of Zouch, of white wax." § *Patent Roll*. || *Close Roll*. ¶ *Fordham's Register*. ** *De Banco Roll*, 201, m. 293. †† *Ministers Account*, 1125/2.

from his rectory for two years.* Whether he died or resigned is not stated in the appointment of his successor.

1344, Jan. Stephen Guyntrand, monk of S. Sergius appointed. He is so styled in the Ely Register, but in a petition to the Pope dated 1343 he is described as of Conques in the diocese of Rhodes. This petition states that he had for 25 years, in the monastery of S. Faith's at Horsham, in the diocese of Norwich, which is subject to the monastery of Conques, discharged the office of Custos in the cloister, and at personal risk defended the rights of the monastery. But as no benefice can be assigned to him by the monks, he prays that provision may be made to him of the priory of Swavesey, void by the death of Oliver Britonis de Faugeriis.† Whereupon in December 1343, the Pope issues from Avignon a mandate to the Prior of Horsham and another, to make the said provision. The mandate mentions that Oliver died at Carpentras, two days journey from the Papal Court, and that the Priory of Swavesey was at present held by Richard Bozionis.‡ It is not stated how or why Richard was to be deposed. In 1347 Stephen obtained leave of absence for two years.§

1362, Augt. 31. John Walkelyn, a Benedictine monk of Westminster was collated by the Bishop through lapse.|| In 1363 he successfully petitioned the Pope to be allowed to keep it although non-resident.¶ In 1369 he leased the Priory and all its possessions to Almaric, parson of Boxworth, for three years at £100 a year.**

1369, Jan. 22. John Goldale, monk of Selby, presented by the attornies of Hugh la Zouch.††

1370, December 6th. Laurence Russell, monk of St. George Hulse, presented by la Zouch. In 1374 he refused with many other Cambridgeshire clergy to pay the tenth lately granted to the King. On March

* *De Montecute's Register.* † *Calendar Papal Petitions*, I. 30. ‡ *Calendar Papal Registers*, II., p. 124. § *Ely Register.* || *Fordham's Register.* ¶ *Calendar Papal Petitions*, I. p. 422. ** *Close Roll*, 43 Ed. III. m. 32. †† *Fordham's Register.*

12th, 137 $\frac{4}{5}$ he had been excommunicated for sixty days and was still obdurate. In July, 1377, the Priory was ordered to be sequestered because the Prior, having been appointed by Papal provision, had not yet paid the customary 'provision' fees. In 1386 he is called the 'possessor' of Swavesey and is ordered to be sequestered for not having paid the provision due to John Walkelyn.* He was prior when the Poll Tax was levied. He was evidently non-resident, for the tax collector was unable to give his name in the roll,† but returned his benefice as being worth 100 marks. He resigned in 1389.

1389, September 6th. John de Thorndon, a monk of Ely, was presented by la Zouch, on nomination of the King as holder of the possessions of aliens.‡ But amongst Rand's Collections is an abstract of a letter from Guy, Abbot of SS. Sergius and Bacchus, to la Zouche, nominating Thorndon. It is dated 24 June, 1390, Rand had seen the original for he adds "The seal is very fair."§ In 1390-1 he was threatened with sequestration for not having paid his first fruits due by reason of the provision made to John Walkelyn.‡ The first fruits were still unpaid in March, 1401, but the sequestration was released on May 14th. In 1395 Thorndon leased the Priory to the Carthusian Priory of S. Anne, Coventry. He was to receive a pension of £10 annually, and was to renew the lease every five years during his life. The Coventry Priory was to pay £43 6s. 8d. into the Royal Exchequer annually and were to keep up repairs.¶

1401, May 28th. John Judde D.D., presented by John Knightly and others "said to be patrons of the church."‡ The Prior of S. Anne's Coventry had now become possessor of Swavesey, Judde was an official of the Bishop and a pluralist, and seems to have dealt with matters at Swavesey with a very high hand. On the Parliament Roll for the sixth year of Henry IV., there is a long petition from the Prior of S. Anne, first setting forth the

* *Bp. Arundel's Register*. † *Clerical Subsidy*, 23¹. ‡ *Fordham's Register*. § *Additional MS.* 5846, p. 146, No. 6. ¶ *Additional MS.* 5849 p. 42 "The parchment is 17 inches by 12."

conditions under which they became possessed of the Swavesey estate and then going on to complain that one Master John Judde, nothing regarding their privileges, had forcibly taken away their goods and accounts therefrom. Parliament ordered them to be put in possession again.* Cole found a reference to this affair amongst the documents lent to him from Ely, "on a long slip of parchment 11 inches by 3." It has no date or title. The following is a translation 'The aforesaid John came with armed force, to wit with bows and arrows, swords and small poinards and daggers, clubs and choppers and with a great multitude of men in a warlike manner, to to the village of Swavesey and Dry Drayton and the Priory aforesaid entered and seized the goods and chattels of the said Prior, to wit, 40 quarters of wheat, 40 quarters of flour, 200 quarters of beans and peas, 5 large chairs, 6 brass pans, 2 'lavacra' and basins of macelyn, a dozen vessels of pewter, and woollen clothes and all the utensils of the Priory house to the value of £200, and certain records of agreements and grants made by the Abbot and Convent of SS. Sergius and Bacchus to the late Prior of Coventry, predecessor to to the present prior and touching the prior of of Swavesey.' † This seems like a slip cut off a transcript of some proceedings in the Court of Common Bench. But as the De Banco rolls of Henry IV. are quite unindexed, it would involve great labour to find it.

1407, March 2nd. William Penreth, presented to the Rectory or Priory by the Prior and convent of S. Anne. It was afterwards alleged that the presentation was fraudulently and surreptitiously obtained, and that when the brethren knew of it, they all exclaimed against it. The case was tried before the chancellor of the diocese, 27 May, 1411, John Judde, official of the Archdeacon being present. The presentation was annulled and the church declared vacant. ‡ Penreth was the last Prior, for on the same day, the Priory or Church of Swavesey was united or appropriated to the Priory of Coventry.

* *Rolls of Parliament*, Vol. III., p.-551. † *Additional MS.* 5849, p. 44.
‡ *Fordham's Register*.

They were to pay the ordinary and extraordinary services and to provide a portion for the vicar according to the custom of old.*

The church of Swavesey is a fine one for a village, but not finer than many others found in or on the borders of the fenland. There is nothing in its construction to show that it was ever anything more than a parish church. A full architectural description of it will be found in Hill's "*Churches of Cambridgeshire.*" The inventory of church goods in the Archdeacon's Book in Caius College Library shows that it contained no more than the ordinary furniture of a village church. This inventory is of various dates from 1300 to 1350. It contains a portiforium given by Dominus Walter vicar, and a missal given by Dominus Luke vicar, but no gift of Dominus Prior. In the last edition of the *Monasticon* it is stated that there were some small remains of the Priory on the north side of the church. There are still some irregularities of the meadow in that situation, where the Rectory buildings probably stood. Not many notices of Swavesey church during the time of the Priors have been met with. In 1285 there is a record of its having been used as a sanctuary. The Crown Plea Roll states that Patrick (Patricius) of Galewey struck Roger the Parker of Colchester in the belly with a certain 'Knyplo,' Roger straitway died, Patrick took refuge in Swavesey Church until the coroner came, before whom he acknowledged the deed and abjured the realm.† In 1352 and 1353 the Bishop held ordinations in the church.‡

The value of the Swavesey estate varied very much at different periods. We have been fortunate enough to find two surveys and valuations dated 1325 and 1340, the existence of both of which we owe to the fact that it belonged to a foreign religious house. Two rent rolls are also forthcoming, namely, the Hundred Roll of 1278, and a roll dated 1467, when the estate belonged

* Ibid. † *Assize Roll*, 86 m 48 ‡ *Ely Register*.

to S. Anne's, Coventry. Besides these, there are the usual sources for value of the tithe, namely the taxation rolls of 1255 and 1291, the 'nonae' roll of 1341, and the valor ecclesiasticus of 1534. To take the tithe first. In 1255 the Rectory was worth £13 6s. 8d., the Vicarage £5. In 1291 they were worth £33 6s. 8d. and £8 13s. 4d. In 1341 the tithe had sunk to half its value in 1291, the chief reason given being that the Lenten seed (*semen quadragesimale*) had perished. From which we may understand that the floods had been very bad that winter. In 1534 the farm of the Rectory was worth £30. It is not easy to separate the value of the tithe from the profits of land owned by the Rector. In 1369, Prior John Walkelyn leased the whole estate for a rent of £100 a year, which seems excessive, considering that in 1456 the same was leased for £32 a year.*

The Records called *Hundred Rolls*, are full surveys of all the landed estates in the county. They were made by order of Edward I in 1279. They give the name of every tenant on each estate, his condition, the amount of land he held, and the rent he paid. Some of these records were printed by order of the Government in 1818, in two large folio volumes. The following is an abstract of the Swavesey Priory portion. The Prior held the Rectory on his own account, and 2 virgates (about 60 acres) of land of Lady Eleanor la Zouch, paying her eight shillings yearly for holding his own Court and having the survey of the gallon and bushel measures of his tenants, who nevertheless had to take their measures for examination twice a year at the Lady Eleanor's Court. The Prior also had a fishery in the River Use (Ouse), a weir and fishhouse. There were 22 tenants, of whom 12 were freeholders, renting from 5 to 25 acres at money rents, 6 were serfs, with a 5 or 10 acres holding, for which they paid a small money rent, and also did several days' work for the mistress without wages, and the remaining 4 were cottars, who held a 'cotestede,' for which they paid in labour and

* *Additional MS.* 5846, p. 147.

money. The total money rent received from the tenants was £2 1s. 10d., and between them they worked 37 days without payment.*

The other rental is amongst the Episcopal Records at Ely. In the printed catalogue it is dated 16 Edward I., a mistake due to the roll being wrongly so indorsed in a modern hand. The roll is headed "The Rental of John Norton, Prior of the house of S. Anne, of the Carthusian Order, near Coventry . . . in the 16th year of the reign of King Edward." Now the only Edward who reigned whilst Swavesey belonged to Coventry was Edward IV., so the date of the roll is 1467, and the character of the handwriting shows this also. The roll contains the names of 50 tenants and particulars of 97 holdings. A few paid part of their rent in labour, but the majority wholly in money or kind. Some suggestive names occur amongst the holdings such as Market Lode, St. Mary holme, Castell Croft, Le Market place, Chapellane, Le Row sub montem, Swyneslake, John Skinner chaplain of the Chantry of B.V.M., John Bellett late vicar. The document is not legible enough to estimate the value of the rental.†

A yearly payment by the possessors of the Swavesey estate is several times mentioned during the 14th century, which we are unable to explain. On April 10th, 1353, the Prior of Swavesey appeared before the barons of the exchequer, and exhibited letters patent dated 1351, by which he was ordered to pay to Thomas Powys, Keeper of King's Hall, Cambridge, the 65 marks which he had hitherto paid the King annually for the firm of his priory.‡ There is no mention of this payment in the lease granted by John Walkelyn in 1369, but in 1393, when the first transfer to Coventry took place, the Priory there is directed to pay it as usual after the end of five years, at the end of which time it was

* *Hundred Roll*, Vol. II., p. 469. † *Ely Episcopal Records*, D5/1.
 ‡ *Exchequer of Pleas*, Plea Roll 78, m 72.

commuted on the Prior of S. Anne's agreeing to keep twelve poor clerks in his house, from the age of 7 to 17.*

The two surveys of the so-called Priory of Swavesey which follow give a very good idea of the extent and value of the prior's property. The originals are in Latin, the translation has been slightly condensed. In the survey of 1325 it will be noted that the Prior had been unable to get his dues from outside villages, a trouble which crops up several times. After a list of the 'spiritual' property (i.e. tithes) of the Prior in Simon de Montecute's Register under the date 1339, it is remarked that the portions in outside villages hardly reach the value of their assessment in 1291, and in two cases Papworth Everard (£1 6s. 8d.) and Arrington (£1) it is stated that these sums had not been received for 20 years. As late as 1468, we find Robert Prior of S. Anne's Coventry, recovering, as possessor of Swavesey Rectory, the sum of fifteen pounds as arrears due from John Grobham, rector of Toft.† In 1466 a peremptory letter was sent by the King himself to Robert Kirkham parson of Wimpole, ordering him to pay the arrears due to the possessors of Swavesey.‡ The last mention of this payment is in a receipt given by Thomas Prior of S. Anne's to William Fincham, rector of Wimpole, for £1 6s. 8d., dated 1504.§

I. SURVEY OF 1325.

Extent of the lands and tenements temporal as well as spiritual of the Prior of Swavesey in the County of Cambridge made the 20th of November in the 18th year of the reign of King Edward son of King Edward, 1325. Before John de Crek Kt. and Master Thomas de Garton keepers of the lands and tenements of alien

* *Patent Roll*, printed in Dugdale.

† *De Banco Roll*, No. 823 m. 331. The case is an interesting one because it gives an account of the transactions by which Swavesey passed into the possession of an English Priory.

‡ *Additional MS.* 5849, p. 43. § *Additional MS.* 5846, p. 147.

religious houses taken into the King's hands in the Counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon, on the oath of honest and legal men of the neighbourhood of Swaveseye, namely; William Beneyt, John de Conyngton, John de Boleygne senior, John Grett, William Dorant, John de Eure, John Maryot, Thomas de Fevre, Henry Waryn, Henry Kyng, John Asser and John de Stanton, who being sworn say that the said Prior has in the village of Swaveseye five acres of ecclesiastical glebe, mowable and each acre is worth yearly 12d. and not more on account of the floods. There are also in the same fixed annual rents of freeholders and villein tenants worth 16s., and the fees and perquisites of the manor courts are worth yearly beyond the expense of the Steward 10s. There is also a separable fishery worth £20 yearly according to its true value. They say also that the Prior receives an annual payment of 12s. from the Church of Arnyngton, and another of 18s. from the Church of Lynton. They say also that he receives 20s. annually from a watermill at Newenham near Cambridge, and that he used to receive 33s. 4d. annually from the Church of Waterbeach, but has been deprived thereof by the Prior of Barnwell. He used also to receive 20s. yearly from the tithe of Wympol, but has been deprived thereof by the Rector. He used also to receive tithes of four acres and four roods of meadows in Fendrayton, which is now wholly under water so is worth nothing. They say also that the Prior has in Woldrayton in the said County, a capital messuage, which is worth nothing beyond the repair of the buildings. And there are with the same messuage six score acres of arable land of which four score acres can be sown yearly, and the true value of each acre is 4d. Total 40s. There is also a windmill, worth beyond expenses 26s. 8d. a year, and fixed rents of tenants worth 18s. a year. Total £29 3s. 8d., of which the prior pays 8s. to William de la Zouch according to ancient custom to his manor of Swavesey. And so the sum of this extent is according to its real value 27li. 5s. 8d. clear yearly. In witness of

which thing the aforesaid jury have affixed their seals. Dated at Swavesey, the day and year aforesaid.*

II. SURVEY OF 1340.

Appraisments of the goods and chattels and extent of the lands and tenements of the Priory of Swavesey in Swavesey, made there before John de Lascy sheriff of Cambridgeshire, on Sunday, Christmas eve, 14th year of Edward III., (1340,) on the oath of Nicholas atte Brigge, John Prikke, Thomas Osbern, John Andrew, Thomas le Smyth, William Duraunt, Robert de Wycham, John Goky, John de Rokesham, Simon Gernet, Reginald le Fisshere, and John Cutbright, jurymen, who say that the Prior has the following goods and chattels; two hundred and twenty quarters of wheat by the greater † hundred, worth 3s. per quarter, 39li; two hundred and sixty quarters of barley by the greater hundred, worth at 2s. 8d. per quarter, 40li.; 11 score quarters of peas worth at 2s. per quarter, 22li.; eight acres of land sown with wheat and now growing up worth at 2s. an acre, 16s. There are 5 horses (*affri*) worth 8s. each, 4 oxen (*boves*) worth 12s. each, 4 calves (*boviculi*) worth 40s. each, 4 calves (*boviculi superannati*) worth 20s. each, 8 heiffers (*juvence*) worth 6s. each, 19 pigs worth 13s. each, 18 geese worth 2½d. each, 4 capons worth 2d. each, 10 hens worth 2d. each. Also hay, forage, straw and *palleum* worth 53s. 4d. And they say that the above corn is for the last three years. Total value of the above goods 113li. 11s. 7d. Also they say that the Priory of Swavesey is worth nothing beyond expenses, and there are in the same 40 acres of arable land, worth 4d. an acre, and 3 acres of meadow worth 3d. an acre, and no more because it is watery (*acosum est.*) And fixed rents worth 36s. yearly, and Courts worth 2s. yearly. Total 54s. 4d. And they say that the tithe of corn and hay

* *Additional MS.* 6164, p. 228. The original is in the Public Record Office amongst the Miscellanea of the Exchequer.

† The greater hundred means 120, so that two hundred and twenty by greater hundred equals 260.

belong to the Priory and are worth 20 marks yearly. In witness whereof the jury have affixed their seals to this appraisalment and extent.

Extent of the lands and tenements of the Prior of Swavesey in Dryedrayton and appraisalment of the goods and chattels of the same, made before John de Lascy at Dryedrayton on Sunday Christmas Eve 14 Edward III. by virtue of a King's writ, on the oath of Reginald le Taillour, Thomas Warlok, John le Smith, Ralph Cokerel, John le Porter, William Goky, John le Ber, John Reynold, Thomas atte Pond, Geoffrey of Trumpington, William Colman and Robert Campion jurymen, who say that the said Prior has in Dryedrayton a messuage with a farmhouse and sheepyard, which are worth nothing beyond expenses. There are also one hundred acres of arable land, by the greater hundred, worth per acre 4d.; and an old windmill worth 40d. a year beyond expenses; fixed rents of free and native tenants 29s. 9d.; a rent of 13 capons worth 2d. each, of 13 hens worth 1½d. each. The Prior has also from Michaelmas to the first of August 609 works (*opera*) done by the hands of his native tenants, worth of each work a halfpenny (*obolus*). Also he has autumnal works called 'Bedrepes,' namely five score and one works worth for the time annually 12s. 7d. each work being worth 1½d.; and also of the same native tenants he has autumnal works called 'Daywerkes,' one hundred and thirty in number by the greater hundred, worth each 2d., total 25s. Sum total of lands and tenements 7li. 4s. 10½d. The Prior also has 4 horses worth 9s. 6d. each, 4 oxen worth 8s. 6d. each, 8 geese worth 2¼d. each, one cock worth 1d., 6 hens worth 1¼d. each, 45 quarters of wheat worth 3s. a quarter, 33 quarters of barley worth 2s. 8d. a quarter, 20 quarters of peas worth 2s. a quarter, 5 quarters of oats worth 20d. a quarter, 40 acres sown with wheat and now growing up, worth 12d. an acre, hay worth 40d., forage, straw and *palleum* worth 33s. 4d. There are also two ploughs with fittings worth 3s., and two old carts not iron bound, worth

35. Sum total of goods and chattels 211i. 8s. 6d. In witness whereof, &c.

* On the back of the King's writ, ordering the survey to be made, is this note. "I have delivered over to John de Pappeworth, attorney of William Fraunkes, all the goods and chattels of the Prior of Swavesey in my bailliwick, by a reasonable appraisement of the same in the absence of the said Prior, because he was sufficiently forewarned of the same by Roger de Jakele and Robert Goky and did not appear. And also the Priory, possessions of land and tenements for the debt in this writ contained, according to the tenors of the said writ, &c."* The debt was £322 9s. 8d., due on bills of the wardrobe (see supra, p. 30).

W. M. PALMER.

CATHERINE PARSONS.

* *Inquisition P.M.*, 14 Edward III., first numbers, No. 44.

THE CARDYKE.

I cannot better introduce this subject than by quoting from Professor Babington's "*Ancient Cambridgeshire*." He says, p. 105, 2nd ed., "indeed it may be doubted if any antiquary, except Stukeley, has felt convinced that it (the Cardyke) really did extend into Cambridgeshire" and perhaps he might have added "or Huntingdonshire." While I cannot pretend to treat the subject from the standpoint of an antiquary I am glad of an opportunity of calling attention to a few facts and some suggestions connected with the question.

Professor Babington says—"any persons who have carefully examined the country will I am convinced agree with me in believing that Dugdale was here depending upon incorrect information. Stukeley remarks that the country people had a notion that the Ouse originally ran by this course into the Cam, but adds that it has not the least appearance of a natural river, and I quite agree with him." No doubt Dugdale's information is correct, *viz.*, that the Cam originally ran "from Beche to Chare fen in Cottenham and so into Ouse"; and it is difficult for anyone acquainted with the country to hold the notion that the Ouse ever ran into the Cam by this route, at any rate in Stukeley's time, seeing that the watercourse in question, for nearly the whole distance from the Cam to the Old West river did, and still does, convey its waters in the direction here indicated.

Perhaps this is the best place to clear up the difficulty Babington felt as to the local names in Cottenham fen; of course he is referring to the "Old Survey" when he

speaks of the Ordnance Map, and this for many reasons is the most convenient to use in considering this subject. Starting from the south boundary of the sheet in question ($\frac{1}{4}$ sheet having "DGES" in "Cambridgeshire," the county name) the "supposed south part of the Cardyke" runs along the right hand side of the road leading from Cambridge to Ely (about one mile west of the letter S) to a place marked "Goose Farm," where the road turns to the north-east. The Cardyke continues in a more or less direct line through Cottenham Common to Lockspit Hall on the Old West river. The Chare fen of Stukeley and Dugdale is marked on the map "Chaff fen," which latter name, though sometimes locally used, is wrong, both as to spelling and to its position on the map. Chere, Chare, or Chaff fen is the N.E. part of the parish of Cottenham, and is bounded on the N. by the Old West River; on the E. by the Ely road; S. by "Hundred acres" (Undertakers' or Adventurers' land); and extends W. as far as Twentypence ferry, on the same river. To any one acquainted with old maps and descriptions it need scarcely be said that although very interesting and useful, they are not to be relied upon to the same extent as the modern Ordnance maps. To take a case in point, can Hayward's *Survey* of 1636 and the map of the fens belonging to it be made to fit into the parishes to which the descriptions refer? More than that, does not the New Survey Ordnance Map, with all the skill and care bestowed in its preparation need the revision that is now taking place?

The object of this paper will have been attained if antiquaries are induced to look into the question, and as a small contribution I would venture to suggest, may it not have been possible, or probable, that at some time in the distant past, perhaps before the depression of the surface over the large area now known as the Bedford level took place, that the waters of south Cambridgeshire found their way to the sea from Cambridge *via* Cottenham, Aldreth High bridge, Earith and Benwick, &c., &c.? The following is an attempt by one, who (to vary Babington's term) "is intimately acquainted

with the (drainage) of the country in question" to consider (1) some local facts and (2) to offer some general suggestions.

(I). *Local.* Lodes, that is, channels for the conveyance of the local upland waters through the adjacent fens to the rivers, it may be assumed, were included among the works undertaken by the Bedford Level Corporation, though in some cases probably already existing watercourses were used and improved. Details on this point are scanty in the usual sources of information, for instance, Dugdale, Cole, Wells, Watson, and others, as distinct from historians and archæologists generally.

Cottenham Lode receives the waters from the highland parishes of Rampton, Westwick, Oakington, Girton, Madingley and Dry Drayton; the greater part from Stanton St. Michæl, Histon, and Impington; with a small quantity from Hardwick and Caldecote. That is to say the "hinterland" from the old west river to the Watershed south of the road leading from Cambridge to St. Neots. These waters are all collected in the Oakington brook, and, when they took their natural course, formed the boundary between Cottenham (on the E), and Rampton and Willingham (on the W), and joined the old west river near Aldreth High Bridge. This course was diverted early in the last Century, at a point near what is known as "Giants Hill" in Rampton, and was turned into its present course, east, past Cottenham Church and into the "New Cut" and Cottenham Lode, along which its waters join the Old West river near Twenty-pence ferry. Cottenham Lode, as part of the South level drainage system, ends at a bridge over it, between "n" and "e" in the word 'new' on the map. The origin of the term "New Cut" is obvious. This course for the waters of Oakington brook, by the new cut and Cottenham lode, runs through highland, land that drains by gravitation viz:—the part marked on the map as Smithey fen, with which is connected a track through part of Cottenham Common to the village.

Similarly, it appears to the ordinary observer that the highland waters of the Willingham "New Cut" at one time took a more westward course (at the word "Cut"), formed the boundary between Willingham and Over, and joined the Ouse in Crane fen. The same term "New Cut" lends authority to this.

Before the formation of the Cottenham Lode the natural outlet for the small part of the highland waters of the parish that drain this way, for about nine-tenths of these fall into Beach-ditch, which forms the boundary between Landbeach and Cottenham, was by a drain opposite the Church, running in N.W. direction to Mow fen in Rampton.

(II). *General.* It seems to me on reading the old authorities on the state of the country in the north part of Cambridgeshire, the "surrounded lands" as they are usually called, that it is all relating to the district between the highlands of the Isle of Ely and those of the country about Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. It appears that the Ouse, Nen, and sometimes the Welland, poured their waters into the large district containing Whittlesea, Ramsey, and Ugg Meres, and which extended eastward to below Littleport, from whence it made its way to the sea, as best it could, either by Lynn or Wisbech, or even Spalding: although which is the more "ancient" outlet is not so clear. The district south of the highlands of the Isle of Ely to the highlands of Bottisham, Waterbeach, Cottenham, Willingham, and Over do not seem to be so much in question. The waters of the Ouse are in the earlier accounts described as falling by the West Water to Benwick and so joining the Nen and taking the same course to the sea. If it is only in comparatively later times that references to the Old West river and the Cam joining their waters at Harrimere are made, is it too much to infer that this part of the great level was the last to be depressed? Further, if the "Akeman Street" was a Roman Road what had become of it at the time of the Norman Conquest, that it did not afford a passage to Ely? The distance from

the highlands on each side of the fen in the lines of the two routes, Akeman Street and Aldreth Causeway, is altogether in favour of the former, this being less than half of the latter.

The sea overflowed the fens many ages before the Roman occupation, in times which are outside the field of this enquiry; but, is it possible that the depression of this outer edge of the level, which is farthest from the sea, may have occurred after the construction of the "Roman Way" which, again, may have been one of the first of those formed in Britain, being near the south-east of England, the seat of their earliest occupation.

In the "*Fenland Past and Present*" a law is referred to which treats of the angles at which tributaries enter rivers. This paper does not profess to deal with the scientific part of the subject, nor does the writer claim to have any opinion on the question dealt with in Chap. VII. of that work, but certainly the angle at which Oakington brook formerly entered the Old West river is a very unusual one, if the river always ran in the same direction as at present. The same remarks apply in the case of the Willingham "Cut." This latter drains the village and part of the land beyond, to the shaded contour south of it on the map, only.

It may further be noticed that the irregular triangles formed by the diversion of these three streams, the Willingham Cut, the Oakington brook or Cottenham Cut, and the river Cam bear a remarkable proportion to the area drained by the respective streams.

The suggestions made in this paper briefly are:—

(1). The Cam took the course described by Dugdale* "The river of Grant by a fair channel passing from Beche to Chare fen in Cottenham and so to Ouse, was diverted, and by a straighter course turned down by another branch of the same to Harrimere, where it loseth the name."

* *History of Embanking*, chap. liv.

(2). The Cam, Oakington brook, and Willingham "New Cut" formerly *all* took a more westwardly direction, and their united waters were then passed by the West Water to Benwick.

(3). When the West Water had decayed to such an extent that one authority states that the waters ran *to* Earith, instead of from Earith to Benwick, the whole upland waters of the Ouse were forced *up* the Cam on to the lowlands of Haddenham, Cottenham and Stretham, and the depression of this part of the level being more recent they soon cut a regular course to Harrimere, where they met the newly diverted Cam.

(4). The area included in the angle of diversion (if that is an allowable term to use) corresponds to the area drained by the respective streams.

The Cardyke, with the earthworks at Cottenham, to which our attention is elsewhere directed, would together with the earthworks in the neighbourhood of Denny Abbey be well worth a visit. Perhaps at no very distant time the Society may find an opportunity for investigating a subject that leaves much room for speculation and is full of interest.

ARTHUR BULL.

EARTHWORKS AT COTTENHAM,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE, THE SUPPOSED SITE OF
A ROMAN CAMP OR SETTLEMENT.

Immediately to the north of the parish Church of Cottenham is what is known as the Cottenham 'Lode,' a word used to signify a watercourse (A.S. lād, a way). This channel running in a N.E. direction joins the Old West river at what is familiar to the neighbourhood as "Twentypence Ferry." Alongside this 'lode,' or rather abutting upon it to the N.W., is an unploughed field, in which there are some remarkable earthworks, spread over a large area. Although of slight proportions so far as their present appearance is concerned, these raised ridges were doubtless at one time much more pretentious in regard to their formation and character. In this locality, from a point in the adjoining parish of Waterbeach known as Mason's farm, and within a hundred yards or so of the river Cam, there rises so as to skirt the fen above its level the ancient artificial waterway or canal, the Car-dyke, the extent and character of which has been differently viewed, and even the existence of the southern portion below Earith questioned. In the one inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1895 the Car-dyke is represented as commencing a short distance above Waterbeach where it is made to join the river Cam. A little to the S.E. of the Church, near the railway, its depressed bed crosses a field. It again appears by the "Old Tillage," a deep artificial cut, then it takes a course by the village Street, on to "Akeman Street" (the road from Cambridge to Ely), along which it runs for about a mile. After turning to the right it continues in a more or less direct course through a part

of Landbeach and Chayre Fen until it crosses the Cottenham Lode where all trace of it is lost, although as a matter of fact it continues its way until it joins the Old Ouse or West River. The latter part of its course follows a modern fen engine drain, which by somewhat altering the contour of the land has led to the omission of this part of the course on the Ordnance Survey Map. The course of the channel here seems to be identical with the Old West River, certainly as far as Earith and Benwick. Separating the County of Hunts. from Cambridgeshire it takes its way from Bodsey going on to Horsey near Peterborough skirting the high land bordering on the fens.

At the outset the particular name of the Car-dyke demands attention. It is a matter of no slight importance in regard to our investigation of the site in question. *Caer* is I imagine a corruption, or perhaps it would be more correct to say a modification of the Latin *Castra* which among the Saxons appears as *Caster* or *Chester*. It is not a little singular that we have a confirmation of this diversity of place-name in our own neighbourhood, e. g. the *Caer*-(dyke), *Chester*-ton (village), and the *Cair-graunth* of Nennius i.e. the walled city standing on high ground at Castle End, N. of the river Cam, known as Cambridge a corruption from *Granta*-bridge, *Graunth* being presumably a Celtic river name. Or, it may possibly be the case that the word *Caer* is purely Celtic and finds its true meaning in regard to a 'fortification' theory. There are quite a large number of related words chiefly place-names. Indeed I think we may find an explanation of the Celtic form in the adjacent *Chare* (or *Caer*) fen, where the Car Dyke after passing through a part of Landbeach and Cottenham, joins the ancient channel of the Old Ouse or West River. *Chare* fen is possibly so called from the distant *Caer* or town of *Caer-graunt* known to us in the modernized place-name Cambridge. *Car* is ordinarily understood to mean fen, marsh or hollow place, and there is an abundance of illustration to substantiate this. *Car* (Sansc:)=to move, implying both rapidity and circuitousness, associated in

this latter sense with Gaelic *Car* or *Char*=tortuous and A.S. *Cérran*=to turn or bend are interesting as affording some insight into probable explanations. It is also curious to mark the Gaelic and Welsh *Cam*=to bend, although no importance need to be attached to this as in any way explanatory of the quite modern *Cam* in Cambridge. It is also interesting to observe that in the name "Grunty Fen," an expanse of ground at no great distance from the Car Dyke, the '*Graunth*' of "Cair Graunth" reappears, receiving its designation in a similar way, as I conceive to be the case in respect of the Car Dyke and Chare Fen. Dr. Stukeley who particularly describes the Car Dyke, imagined that *Car* was a contraction of the name of Carausius, the Roman Emperor of Britain, (A.D. 291) to whom he traces the origin, or it may be the recovery from an inefficient condition of this ancient ditch, which is generally esteemed the work of the Romans. We are indisposed to accept the somewhat strange idea that the Car Dyke received its name from the first syllable of the cognomen of the Roman governor. Dr. Stukeley* in attributing the construction of the Car Dyke to Carausius according to his custom in respect to most works of this kind, was not adverse to acknowledge the plausibility at all events of an earlier origin than that commonly suggested. It is not unlikely that the Car Dyke may be older than the ancient road (Akeman Street) which passed this way, indeed where it meets it, the Car Dyke is not found to have cut through the old Roman road, which may therefore be taken as plain evidence of pre-Roman date. It has been regarded by some as the last of the Roman military works. There is perhaps a tendency to overlook the earlier and less frequented ways that were traversed by the Romans when they first entered Britain, in the effort to investigate the particular line followed by the great military roads, and the vexed question of stations and distances. There are numerous indications in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, as elsewhere, of the existence of byeways and waterways in connection with the

**Medallic History of Carausius.*

encampments that were widely formed by the Roman legionaries ; these have been very slightly investigated or even noticed, and scarcely anything done in the way of elaboration. It is a matter for congratulation that so far as tabulation is concerned, excellent archæological Surveys now being compiled under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries will go far to remedy this, but what is greatly needed is distinct treatment by specialists who would undertake to cover a district, with the desirable end in view of laying bare the testimony of what is now hidden from view, and gathering up all the traces we can find of military advance which appears to have been actively pursued during long occupation. For my own part I very much question whether the Roman occupation was primarily any other but a military one—agriculture together with so-called drainage work being throughout subservient to the one ruling passion for conquest. Respecting the word Dyke (A.S. *dic*) it appears to be used alike of the mound, and the excavation or hollow. It is probably this latter use of the word 'dyke' which is here followed, although the embankment being originally of sufficient breadth and height throughout its entire course to resist the pressure of the water may have been the prominent cause of the designation. The dyke must of necessity have been so constructed as to allow for the gradual and unimpeded rise of the current. We probably owe to the successful engineering skill of the first Roman settlers an effective system of embanking which, perhaps without any leading aim in the way of restraining the waters, served the admirable purpose of preventing inundation to a greater or less extent. In this way the uplands would as a rule be secured from any overflow of water, and consequently by some the Car dyke is regarded first and foremost as a Roman drain.

The gigantic character of the Car Dyke may be understood from the fact that it was apparently no less than sixty feet wide and doubtless on either side, there were broad ways for land traffic. Villages appear to have taken their names from proximity to such dykes, *e.g.*

Ditton, (Ditch-town) is present with us in the names of at least two Cambridgeshire villages, viz., Fen Ditton and Wood-Ditton, (where there are Roman remains), which stand on the Fleam Dyke, and the Devil's Dyke. It may fairly be assumed that the comparative late use of the word 'dyke' does not prevent the assumption that this class of work was of Roman construction *e.g.*, we have in connection with the wall of Antoninus *Grimes Dyke*. Stukeley has made the bold suggestion that *Granta* (Cambridge) was founded by Carausius at the southern end of the Car Dyke, and I am not disposed, while marvelling at that antiquary's ingenuity, to question the probability of the assertion. Indeed, I am strongly inclined to think from all that we know of the actual condition of affairs in the time of the Romans, Stukeley was not far wrong (the opinion of eminent antiquaries to the contrary notwithstanding), and that from the point named, the Car Dyke had its commencement*. Stukeley says, "Just below Cambridge, the artificial cut opens into the river, runs along the side of it, taking the benefit of higher water, for half a mile," but elsewhere † he says "a little above Waterbeche begins our famous *Car Dyke*. The bed of this artificial cut is very plain from hence, quite across the Fen, through Cottenham parish until it enters the Old Ouse"; passing on to Earith by Lockspit Hall, it proceeds according to Stukeley "by Ramsey to Suard's Dyke . . . then the boats passed by Benwick, where Roman coins have been found; so by Whittlesey Mere, or some cut by the side of it, to Horsey bridge, where Roman coins too are found, and so to Peterborough river." In the second part of his *Medallic History*, Stukeley further says, "At Waterbech . . . it begins with a fair and large artificial channel proceeding Northwestward." He also remarks on a prevalent notion that the Ouse originally ran by this course into the Cam. ‡ Dugdale also regarded the Car Dyke as a branch of the Cam. It is

* *Medallic History* Pt. I. (pp. 199, 200). Pt. II. (p. 137.) † *Paleographia* II. p. 38. ‡ *History of Embanking*, pp. 373.

right to state that the late Professor Babington * (I think without sufficient reason) demurs to this conclusion. I must however quote from the last named writer some remarks which I deem important. "Near Waterbeche the channel of the supposed Car Dyke is still very apparent, and, after leaving the fenny land by the Cam, consists of an enormously broad and deep artificial cut, having not the least resemblance to a natural watercourse. It seems undoubtedly to be a very ancient and magnificent work." Stukeley further says that the Car Dyke "runs by Chare fen in the parish of Cottenham . . . and passes into the present river called the Old Ouse, going to the great wooden bridge upon Audrey causeway, whence it goes along the present channel of the river westwards to Earith."† Stukeley may be right in assuming that this was a navigable canal along which corn was conveyed to the great military district of York, but it can hardly have been as he suggests, formed for that express purpose. The Car dyke runs even now from Peterborough, along the edge of the upland passing the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire fens to Lincoln, and may be traced up to Torksey on the River Trent while the more southern portion here and there furnishes much more slight indications, being in parts well nigh obliterated. This latter, while keeping the upland waters in bounds, may be regarded as only a part of a complete system of defence. It was no uncommon occurrence in former days for a vast line of communication to be adopted, having at stated distances military outposts. It is difficult to say precisely what the defensive works were, but the raised earthen lines to which I have referred, and which we are well able to distinguish, will convey to our minds some idea of the character of such an enclosure or camp as would probably be repeated throughout the entire length of the course, affording a regular chain or network of fortified places each of considerable importance.

The site to which I desire to draw attention is one of much interest, for however difficult it may be to describe

* *Ancient Cambridgeshire*, p. 108. † *Carausius*, i. 133.

the peculiar formation of the slight elevations to be seen in the raised earthlines, there can I think be little doubt but that they are indications of warlike contention marking an entrenched position designed for the protection of the fen district against invaders.* Along the line of this wisely planned dyke having on the one side the impassable fen and on the other the thick woodland which effectually controlled access and restrained the foe that endeavoured to advance, were earthen fortifications calculated to frustrate the designs of an enemy. The ditch and the rampart formed the means of defence alongside of the thickly wooded district. "The Britons" writes Julius Cæsar "call it a town (*Caer*) when they have defended their intricate woods with a rampart and ditch whither they congregate in order to avoid an incursion of their enemies."† The proximity of the forest must not be lost sight of in our view of the stretch of fenland beyond; this will serve to clear up much misconception that prevails relating to the proportion of forest to fen.

In the work of fortification and clearing such woodland as stood in the way of successful military enterprise, the Romans employed such of the Britons who were brought into subjection, as the passage in Tacitus, quoted by Dugdale, seems to imply. "The Britains complained that the Romans wore out and consumed their bodies

*The covering of a line of country by a long extended vallum and ditch appears to have been a tactical device with the Romans. The hills known as the Gog-magog hills, show traces of a triple entrenchment, with a lofty vallum and two circular ditches, enclosing $13\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It is called 'Vandlebury' (on the authority it would seem of Gervase) and Dr. Stukeley was of opinion that it was so named on account of the Vandals and Burgundians, who when the Emperor Probus transferred them from the Continent into Britain (A.D. 277) formed a Camp here. Roman antiquities have been unearthed on this site. Mr. Gough believed *Vandlebury* to have been "the fourth of the chain of forts which begins at the large camp on the hill where the hunting-tower stood, opposite to Audley Inn; *Littlebury* Church stands in another; the walled town of *Chesterford* is a third. To Vandlebury succeeded Grantacaster; then Arbury; and last *Belsar's Hills*; all within sight of one another, reaching from the woodland of Essex to the fens, and crossed by several parallel ditches quite to the Devil's ditch."

† Oppidum autem Britanni vocant cum silvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt quo incursionis hostium vitandae causa convenire consuerunt. Caesar, *Bell. Gal.* v. 21.

and hands in clearing woods and in banking the fens.”* The population of Roman Britain was of a very mixed kind formed from various races, but the adoption of the Roman language, manners and customs rendered the country essentially Roman in character. After the so-called departure of the Romans in the middle of the fifth century, that people were doubtless for generations co-existent with the Teutonic settlers. Severus, one of the Roman Emperors, is said to have visited Britain as others had done, and was the first to make causeways over the fens to enable warfare to be successfully waged. It is indeed highly probable that all embanking work even to the making of causeways such as we generally attribute to the Romans was carried out mainly with the object of defence and for strategic purposes. Much that is apt to be associated with drainage and such like work is undoubtedly to be put down to the period when the waning power of the Romans led to the raising of artificial defences or earth works, calculated to withstand the refractory hordes that poured forth from places of retreat. In order to garrison so large a number of stations, an enormous army must have been employed. The site in question at Cottenham, supposing it to have extended over, say, eight acres of ground probably had accomodation for between three and four thousand legionaries (twelve hundred being the complement of a legion) who would be occasionally relieved from the principal station at Cambridge, with which the Cottenham contingent would be in close communication. An instance of what we may I think regard as the prevailing conditions then observable may be seen in other localities that were brought under Roman influence. When Gaul in the first half of the fourth Century became a Roman province, it was necessary to defend it against the barbarians who were ever intent on crossing the boundary line that divided Rome from Germany. Consequently an immense army of Roman legionaries was told off to

*Bona fortunasque in tributum egerunt, annum in frumentum. Corpora ipsa ac manus silvis ac paludibus emuniendis verbera inter ac contumelias conterunt. *Agricola xxxi.*

occupy the left bank of the Rhine from Mayence to Cologné. They possessed no less than fifty fortified camps while two fleets were continually passing, bent upon taking advantage of any movement on the part of the adversary.

Although outside the Car dyke range, traces of entrenchments are not wanting at several neighbouring places in Huntingdonshire on the Ouse, *e.g.*, Godmanchester (Durolipons), Eynesbury, Holywell, and elsewhere, all at fairly equal distances,* these I imagine would be similar to the "chain of forts" in Cambridgeshire along the course of the Car dyke, following the lines of continuous fortification, until the southern limit is reached just below the Castle Hill at Cambridge in the garden of Magdalene College, where a terrace walk is formed upon the vallum and near the undoubted head of the fens.

It was in this locality in the days when Rome was practically supreme that the ancient Britons withstood the advancing legions of the empire, failing to hold their own save only in a partial way. Extensive military operations on the part of the Romans were necessary on the one hand to maintain a position that was at all times held none too strongly, and on the other hand to resist the subtle approach of an ever wakeful people intent upon regaining undisturbed possession.

The lapse of seventeen hundred years is sufficient to obliterate traces of such military occupation, as would be seen in earthworks and the like. Many important stations indeed, have disappeared which were mighty erections, and this fact in itself is sufficient to invest the recent discovery of the Cottenham earthworks, with more than ordinary interest and importance. It is strange that the settlement of Roman legions at Cottenham should have been so entirely lost to sight. The late Rev. W. K. Clay † in dealing with the question of a

* Along the banks of the Nen (which separated the Iceni Cenimagni from the Iceni Coritani are remains of the fortifications thrown up by Ostorius, when he found the plan of separating these two great and powerful clans. (Gorham *History of S. Neots*, on the authority of Hutchinson's MS).

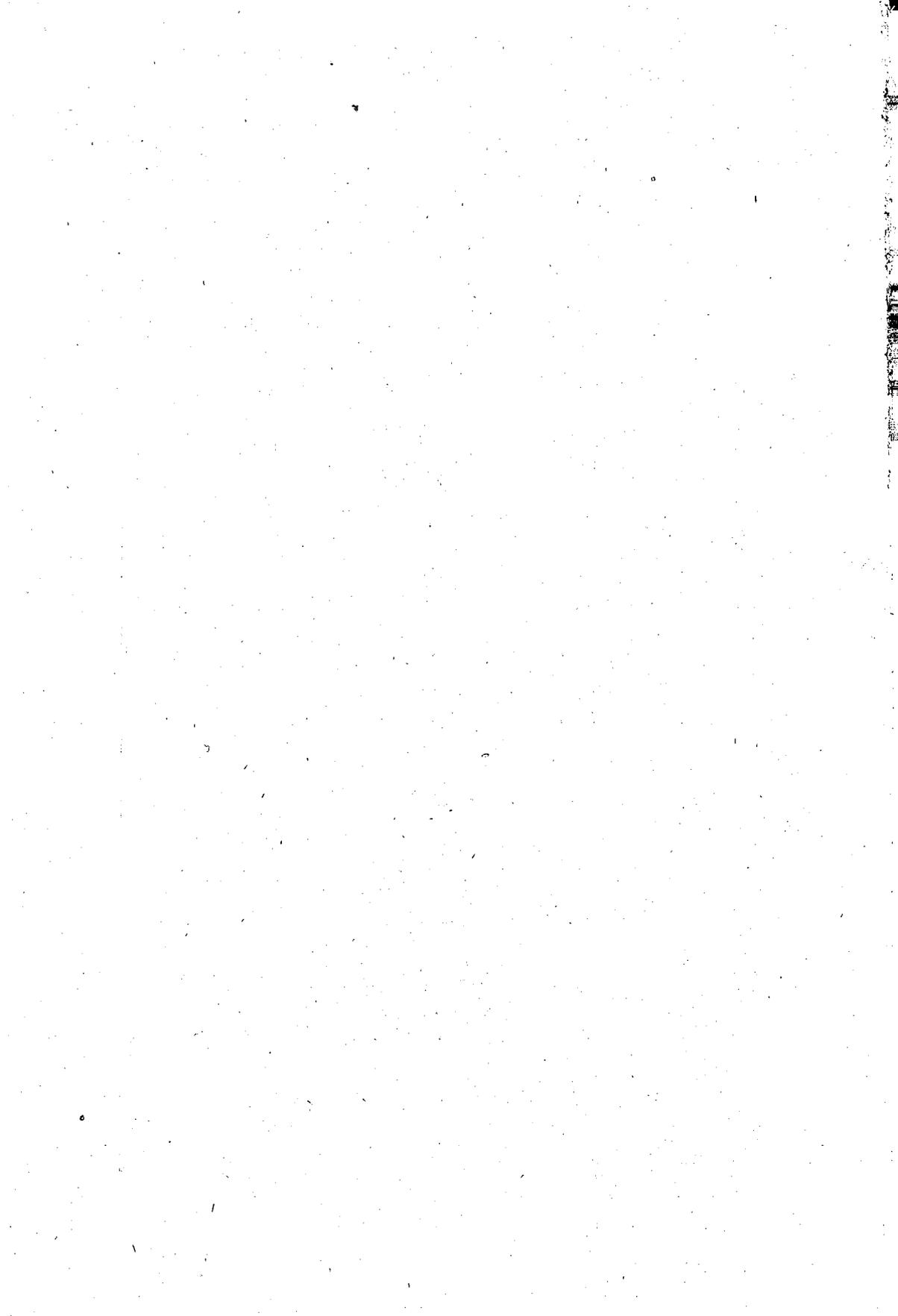
† History of Landbeach Parish. (*Camb. Antiq. Soc.*)

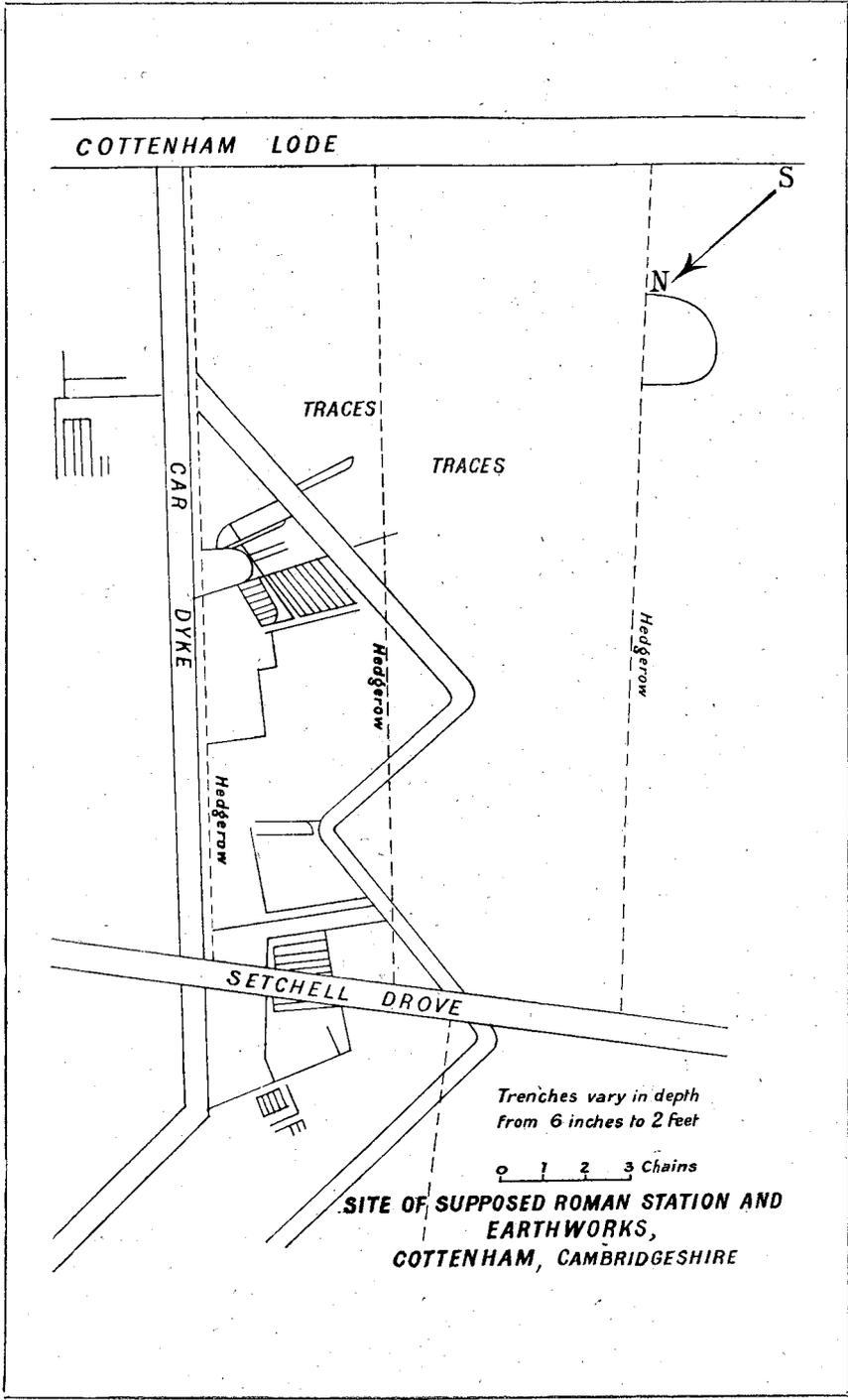
Roman settlement in this neighbourhood, says, "Roman antiquities of any kind do not often occur, so as to furnish their testimony upon the point." A former Rector of Cottenham, the late Rev. S. Banks, was possessed of several Roman vases, &c., found near the spot where our interest now centres; the site of these former discoveries is alluded to by Babington* as "some gravel pits, rich in Roman pottery, in the parish of Cottenham, near to the borders of Landbeach parish, adjoining the supposed line of the Car dyke." Unless the site in question is identical with the place where these earthworks are found, which is improbable, seeing that there are certainly no 'gravel-pits' here, (and it is not easy to understand the earthworks being overlooked), the statement would point to the fact of a considerable extension of the settlement to the site of our present inquiry.

It has not, I believe, been sufficiently recognized that the Romans maintained considerable stations or fortified camps at various points along the borders of the Fens, least of all along the Car dyke which served the purpose of an effectual barrier. It appears to me that this was one of several such stations that existed along the entire southern boundary of the fens, for no other purpose than to keep in check the bands of Britons who lurked in the fastnesses and to protect the line of communication that extended with more or less regularity from Cambridge to Earith and of course northwards to its extreme limit by Ramsey, Worlick, Bodsey, &c. The fen district afforded opportunities of shelter and the Britons for a considerable time were consequently able to withstand their foe and in common with the outlaws of a later period, to give much trouble in attacking these exposed military outposts. This continued, more or less, long after the Romans had practically withdrawn.† Wood, thicket and marsh doubtless covered the face of the fen borderland and enabled lawless bands to congregate until

* *Ancient Cambridgeshire*, p. 82.

† The Romans quitted Britain about A.D. 425, (they arrived under Julius Caesar, B.C. 44), and constant turmoil between Briton and Saxon ensued.





COTTENHAM LODE

TRACES

TRACES

CAR

DYKE

Hedge-row

Hedge-row

Hedge-row

SETCHELL DROVE

Trenches vary in depth from 6 inches to 2 feet

0 1 2 3 Chains

SITE OF SUPPOSED ROMAN STATION AND EARTHWORKS, COTTENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

such time as they found opportunity to sally forth with a view to plunder and harass the enemy.

It may, I think be taken for granted that among the many fortified posts scientifically placed at strategic points, e.g., Colne and Earith, the Cottenham site formed no insignificant station. It would be difficult to establish any theory of Roman occupation at Cottenham were it not for very considerable finds of Roman pottery, which without any particular search or excavation work have been brought to light. The earthworks in question furnish no precise clue as to the character of the fortified place. As far as can be ascertained from their formation and surroundings they seem to be unique, and it is difficult to express an opinion concerning them. The field containing the principal portion is known as part of "Bullock's Haste Common," and if, as I imagine, the word *haste* is identical with '*hurst*' (signifying a thick wood) it would point to the former condition of what is now a bare tract of country. The sketch plan that serves to illustrate this paper (the preparation of which I owe to our friend, Mr. Arthur Bull of Cottenham, who has evinced a lively interest in this investigation, and to whom I am indebted not only for first directing my attention to the subject, but for numerous details he has furnished and much personal attention), shews the 'Cottenham Lode' on the south-east, and the Car Dyke on the north-east, with the hitherto unploughed field of about eight and a half acres, lying between these two boundaries, and a wide road-way known as 'Setchell Drove,' (which is the way of approach from the village), running almost parallel with 'Cottenham Lode.' The large rectangular zigzag rampart which appears to have enclosed what I may designate a camp, or, if the rampart be of the nature of a community stockade (which I scarcely think likely), the homestead, extends into another field of about the same size in a southern direction, cutting the dividing hedge in several places. It also extends across the above-mentioned road, enclosing between the Car dyke and the rampart about three and a half acres of a field of about thirteen acres and a half. Outside the area of this plan in the several mentioned

fields, and also in one north of the Car Dyke, which lies beside the 'Lode,' there are traces of exact geometrically formed parallel entrenchments, terrace within terrace, in what, to some of us, appears nothing less than a vast angular outline of military defence, covering an area of over twenty acres. Thus a very extensive tract of land furnishes incontrovertible evidence of some very particular undertaking, and is without doubt at the very least an indication of early occupation, either for defensive purposes, for navigation or trading enterprise, or for habitation. If we assume the trenches to have some connection with a settlement formed on British lines then we have in one way or another to account for the zig-zag character of the rampart which seems specially to be intended for military occupation or it may be navigation purposes. Such a rampart may have been thrown up within an outer stockade on an emergency for defensive purposes, but there is not, as far as I am aware, evidence of any such construction. The sketch plan it must be remembered has no pretension to completeness of detail and furnishes no exact survey of *all* the ground which is more or less covered with indications of these unaccountable and strangely diverging marks of maze-like entrenchment lines, which may be said to resemble the bars of a grid-iron more than anything else. The outer rampart may be regarded as enclosing a definite portion, while that outside the zig-zag, whether parts of the same work, of more or less ancient origin, offer no definite plan. What seems to be a continuation, or at all events to bear a strong resemblance to these particular earthworks, may be found in a field near "Causeway End" Farm in the adjoining parish of Waterbeach and close to Denney Abbey. There are clear indications of an external ditch of irregular form and a well defined square camp with external ditch and inner bank. On its west side there runs a long narrow band of 'grid-iron' trenches parallel to and joining the bank on that side. On the south side of the camp and contained within the angles formed by the south and west in one case, and the south and east sides in the other, are two rectangular 'forts' surrounded by a single ditch. The remaining angle of

a chevron-shaped entrenchment, or what seems very much like one, cuts through the northern side of the field.† This is confirmatory of the assumption that similar defensive works were repeated at stated points throughout the entire line of communication. The irregularity of British earthworks is fully recognized, such entrenchments, forming convenient means of shelter in an emergency are by no means unlikely as an expedient. The Britons indeed made use of no particular system of fortification, and as a rule would content themselves with tribal fastnesses. The Iceni in their flat country had however many resources in regard to fortification, in which the narrow entrance to hinder the approach of cavalry was conspicuous. The Romans at the first formed all their camps as exact squares, later however, they assumed other forms. If the chevron form is as I believe unrecognized in the construction of ancient camps, it is clear enough that battles were fought on this plan and it would be difficult to devise a better method of attack. In the Chronicle of Crowland, attributed to Ingulf, we read that the few Christians who withstood the desperate onslaught of the Danes, formed themselves into one troop "*in shape like unto a wedge*, and all day long they stood firm and still, holding their wall of shields against the foeman's arrow-flight, and the dense line of the enemy." Michael Drayton in one of his *Heroical Epistles* describing the battle of Bosworth field, writes :

"Into two several fights the king contrived his strength,
And his first battle cast into a wondrous length
In fashion like unto a wedge."

It is quite possible that the Cottenham earth-works formed an outpost to the adjacent camp (originally British) at Belsar's Hill. An earth-work of a somewhat similar character was found in the parish of Hartford near Huntingdon, where some interesting discoveries of British and Roman antiquities were made a few years since, (prominent among which were earthworks never I believe properly

† At Denny Abbey, what might at first sight appear to be the remains of earthworks surrounded by a deep and broad moat, undoubtedly form part of the foundations of the Abbey buildings, and the embankments are probably those thrown up to control the incursion of fen waters.

investigated). In character it would appear not unlike those at Cottenham, they are described as but little above the ordinary level of the pasture, yet similarly retaining a very distinct outline. A particular formation there is said to have resembled "a turtle flattened and elongated," reminding one of the curious mounds of the valley of the Mississippi.* There can be very little doubt but that from the North bank of the Ouse at Hartford, where there is reason to think a conflict between the Britons and Romans had been waged, a way was opened into the Fens by means of a ford.

The irregular and labyrinthine character of these earth works would be very effective in the event of an attack; if made from corresponding points in one direction and a like resistance offered from an opposite quarter, the assault would be vigorously repulsed. The trenches as far as I can make out, would seem to be well above the old water-level of the Car Dyke, and consequently if such be the case, we ought perhaps to dismiss from our minds any thought of their use as wharves or for such like employment, not to mention the apparently unsuitable nature of any such formation. Yet if I am not greatly mistaken, it was at this very point (Cotinglade) that the material for the construction of the Aldreth Causeway was brought at the time of the Conqueror's assault upon the Isle of Ely.†

A correspondent, Mr. R. M. Ivatt who resides at Cottenham, from a cursory examination of the entrenchments has expressed to me his opinion that they owe their origin to some form of commercial undertaking and that they were not defensive works. The reasons advanced for this view are as follows:

I. No weapon beyond a sling or bow and arrow was in use during the early period, and against weapons of this description, a barrier of reeds or something similar would have been just as effective as a trench, in fact more

* *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 2nd Ser. Vol. V. pp. 34-5.

† What is known as "The Tyllinge" is a southern extension of the Cardyke, and may possibly indicate a place of lading (Twilade). It was known as "the Tyllinge" so far back as the time of Henry V.

so, inasmuch as a soldier with a spear in the bottom of a trench, would be placed at a disadvantage as against an enemy on the bank.

II. As defensive embarrasments, the trenches of so small a breadth could be easily traversed by an active man.

III. No system of defence can be devised from the plan of trenches as appearing at the present times.

IV. If the level of the bottom or floor of the trenches be taken it would be some foot or two below the normal level of the water of the Car Dyke (at that time) and therefore unsuitable for trenches as understood in our present profession of warfare.

My correspondent inclines to the opinion, that this 'encampment' was actually what might be called a 'port' on the marshland shore, by which boats of, say, two to four tons burden, could deliver the produce or merchandise of the Isle of Ely, Crowland, &c., to a point of convenience for further overland travel to Belsar's Camp, North Road, and other places. After having docked here, the boats would then continue the journey by the Car Dyke to Denny Abbey, then on to Cambridge, &c., &c. To establish this theory it would of course be necessary to ascertain the precise depth of the excavations as originally formed, and if possible the normal height of the water in the Car-Dyke. The boats, being probably flat-bottomed, would hardly draw more than eighteen inches of water. If this 'dock' theory be deemed probable we are still left in doubt as to the particular period when these earthworks or trenches were constructed. That the site was at one time a place of lading, etc., I think there can be no manner of doubt, but this in no way militates against a British or Roman, occupation for defensive purposes, seeing that although the discovery of pottery has up to the present been mainly confined to that part of the locality not actually covered by the earth-work formation, viz. to the bed of the Car Dyke, yet signs of such occupation are very much in evidence, although of course it would completely upset the idea of the trenches, &c., having

been constructed with a military end in view. In favour of the works, having been made in Roman times, even if originally carried out for commercial purposes, we have very significant testimony, I think, in the use of such terms as *e.g.* *Port-Way*, and *Short-port-way*, not to mention '*haven*,' &c., still used to designate localities in the adjoining parish of Rampton, that led through the southern prolongation of the Aldreth Causeway, by Belsar's fields, either to or close by the site of these earthworks. And, as I have already stated there can be no question as to the use of the site, in ever so limited a way, for wharfing and such like use, at the time of the Norman Conquest, if, as I conjecture we may identify the place in question with the '*Cotinglade*' of former days. This at any rate is sufficient to establish the importance of the site as a convenient spot for military and other like purposes.

In endeavouring to decide the question as to which people we owe the origin of these singular earth works,—whether to Britons, Romans, or Normans, or to any joint enterprise—we must necessarily defer to the judgment of experts. Earthworks of a similar character cannot be altogether unknown in other localities, and it would be well if we could pass beyond the region of conjecture in our estimate of these singular remains. This much may be broadly stated; we have here extensive remains of what we may safely characterize as earthworks hitherto unnoticed; on all sides there is being continually discovered Romano-British pottery of various descriptions, some pieces, which are nearly perfect, being very fine. An ancient waterway that forms the boundary separating the site from the fens, was flanked by a range of strongly entrenched fortifications. It is sufficient for our purpose to regard only such as may have occurred in the course from Cambridge (Magdalene College), to the '*Bulwarks*' at Earith, a strongly entrenched bastioned fort doubtless of Roman origin, that unquestionably was in close connection with the Cottenham outpost. It occupies a portion of land thrown up for defensive purposes and close by there seems to have been a projection on the

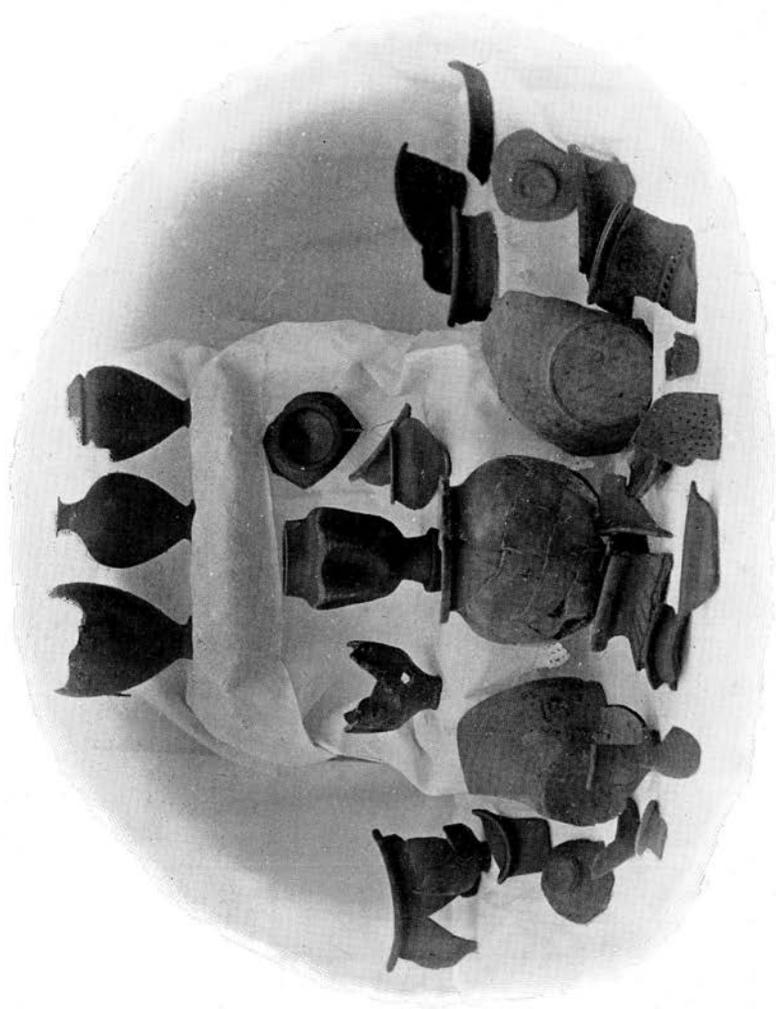
bank of the river Ouse that may have served the purpose of a landing stage. At Earith considerable remains of Roman pottery and other objects of antiquity have been found, including a remarkable bronze statuette, now in the British Museum. Singularly enough a very fine Roman bust, perhaps representing Marcus Aurelius (together with other lesser Roman antiquities) was discovered some years ago at Cottenham (a parish be it remembered that joins Akeman Street). The helmet has a human face, possibly representing an ancient Briton, with other characteristic ornamentation wrought upon it, in itself an interesting feature when it is remembered that the site where this object was found was closely related to British and Roman life as seen in conflict. The discovery of two such objects at these two connected points is remarkable and corroborative. Between Earith and Cottenham similar art work from Roman hands, consisting of beautiful bronze objects, chief among which may be named a fine military *baton*, have been found at Willingham, an adjoining parish. Roman coin in vessels, and pottery in abundance have also been unearthed at this last named place.

Extensive and continuous finds of pottery of well-nigh endless variety, in and about the dry bed of the Cardyke, adjacent to the site where the earthworks occur, form an indisputable evidence of Roman occupation. Within the ground covered by the trenches no considerable discovery of pottery or other remains worth mentioning have been made. There has however been only a very slight disturbance of the soil made in a recent examination by Mr. Arthur Bull, with the object of exposing anything in the nature of foundations, &c. With the exception of establishing the dimensions, &c., of the trenches nothing occurred to reward the enterprise of the workers. The trenches on being opened to their original depth were found to be from two feet in the 'grid-iron' trenches to three and a half feet in the larger ones, viz., below the present level, the breadth at the bottom being about one foot and a half. This would afford ample shelter and security for men in an emergency.

Probably the smaller trenches would have been from five to five and a half feet deep, when first thrown up and the larger ones six to eight feet deep. The trench marks are discernible all over the upper parts of both fields. They are mostly single, but mainly follow the same lines and angles as the marks inside the rampart. The construction of the entrenchments would be such, that the men could issue forth from the resourceful shelter at any fitting occasion, acquiring a well-nigh unassailable position. An efficiently garrisoned camp at this point would command the passage into the Isle of Ely and guard all approaches within a considerable area. It may be that this entrenched position was originally constructed as a British shelter, and subsequently appropriated, as we have good grounds for thinking, in regard to the British hill fort known as 'Belsar's' in the immediate neighbourhood, by the Romans. At one time I was a little disposed to view the site in question as a possible example of something in the nature of what we know as the Common Field system, but the conditions of the locality are unfavourable to the adoption of any such theory. We have moreover, not the narrow and regularly planned strips alone, methodically divided into several portions, but an intricate pattern worked out with apparent foresight and ingenuity. The surrounding rampart or fosse is of so severe and angular a form that it is difficult to imagine it was ever designed for any other use and purpose, than that of attack or defence, unless we regard it as a part of some kind of dock construction. It is noticeable that a raised mound exists close up to the bed of the Car-dyke, which while it may indicate some kind of fortress or stronghold into which men might pass from any point along the trenches unobserved, may point to some feature of interest in connection with a dock arrangement.

The officials of the Ordnance Survey department, have in the preparation of their new Map, very suitably indicated the characteristic outline of the earthworks, and have at my request, distinguished the ground thus covered, by the words "*Supposed site of Roman Station or Earthworks,*" a sufficiently broad description to allow of





ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY FOUND IN OR NEAR THE SUPPOSED BED OF THE CAR-DYKE,
COTTENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

any slight difference of opinion respecting their character and purpose. There need then be no apprehension lest the subject of our investigation should altogether pass out of mind. It is to be hoped that additional evidence in the way of further discovery may enable us soon to arrive at some more complete and satisfactory solution of what is at present involved in considerable doubt and obscurity. Since the first preparation of these notes the site has been visited by several distinguished antiquaries, but they confess their inability to throw any light upon the subject, and content themselves with regarding the remarkable features to which I have alluded as unaccountable and very singular.

Some of the pottery already found here seems to indicate a certain measure of refinement in the daily life of the settlers. The elegance of the Durobrivian ware is seen in certain fragments, ornamented in relief with what may represent either the hind legs of an animal *courant*, or those of a large bird, dolphin or snake, and scroll work, or it may be a mythological subject. Several pieces of the lustrous Samian ware have indications of the name of the potter. Three mutilated bottoms of such vases have the potter's stamp, wholly or in part. Upon the largest piece (diameter four inches) within an oblong (one inch) appears 'IVINVMLM' on a base that rises slightly to the centre.* Another has the oblong stamp within a circle, but the only remaining letter that is at all distinct is a single 's.' a further portion has the concluding letters 'NIM' in part of an oblong. Other fragments of Samian ware have marks of ornamentation and are of varying degrees in point of quality, the lesser pieces probably being portions of Durobrivian imitations.

The illustration that accompanies this paper will serve to explain the character of much of the pottery that has been found. Two or three of the pieces are very nearly perfect, but for the most part the pottery is

* *Vide* Potter's marks upon Samian ware in the collection of Hon. R. C. Neville in Wright's "Celt, Roman and Saxon." Similar fragments have been found at Comberton and Foxton, Cambs.

very fragmentary. Sufficient however has come to light to make it clear how very diverse the ware is both in material and character, ranging from the large coarse *amphoræ* of dull yellow-grey colour with heavy overhanging rims, occasionally ornamented with bands of vertical lines, or wide-mouthed, full-bodied vessels of slate-grey and unglazed, sometimes decorated with a diamond pattern formed by the intersection of lines, below which is a single band of indented holes, to the fine and delicate ware, both black and white, the latter with a dark grey coating. In one or two specimens the ornamentation is of a ribbed or fluted description with horizontal varied by oblique lines. One fragment of an amphora has an unusual type of ornament in the form of a series of straight lines going up from the collar. Then there is another example in the small wide-mouthed vessel of light or dark grey (*Query*, Upchurch) ware, from three to four inches high, the base being small and the body of the vase of considerable dimension, with a small round rim. This class of vessel standing on a flat and perfectly plain bottom with wide mouth and plain circular rim is also found of thick black ware. Other examples include vases from which the body springing from a neat base gradually swells into globular form, the sides receding, forming a short neck with overlapping rim. Such ware is usually of a dark slate hue or cream colour. One all but perfect specimen of a handsome vase of elegant form, is seven and a half inches in height and three and a half inches across the mouth. The base is about one and a half inches high and greater in diameter at the bottom than where it joins the body of the vessel. The hexagonal body itself is some five inches high, each of the six sides being deeply indented by the hand of the potter. Around these indentations there runs a band of two parallel and lightly marked lines. The upper part of the body falls in a little, in order to receive the collar or rim and is ornamented with two sharply cut lines. The colour is dull brown. The lower part of a similar vessel is of white ware coated with dark pigment. Portions of *patervæ* and other like

articles have been found, one of which is of a bright yellow colour with broad flat rim. A single fragment of an "unguentarium" of dark red colour has been found; this is ornamented with broad raised rings, having a plain and small mouth. One large portion of a colander is of dark grey ware and the holes, which apparently were made by a punch, radiate from a common centre. I venture to think that the discovery of pottery of this character affords undoubted evidence of extended occupation at a time which we may regard as the flourishing period of Roman ascendancy in Britain.

It may be worth while mentioning that at some little distance from the Cottenham site in a direct line leading on to Earith, (on land known as "Hempsall's" in Willingham parish, which has long been under the plough), we have found a large quantity of small fragments of pottery. Except so far as this mere surface yield is concerned, there are here no other traces of occupation of any kind, unless it be a kind of coarse gritstone or conglomerate also found on the surface, that would almost appear to have been at one time used for building purposes. This material is found in small broken pieces. I must confess I do not attach much importance to the matter, only that the discovery here of various Roman antiquities, to which reference has already been made, lends colour to the idea that a settlement of some importance was continuous from the position by the side of the Car-dyke at Cottenham. In a field of original pasture at Hempsall farm there is also a bank running completely through it (lost however on the cultivated land on either side), which in all probability was the work of the Roman settlers. This site is within a short distance of the Aldreth Causeway and Belsar's Encampment.

I may mention that we found a portion of what appears to be either a bone "stylus" (such as would have been used for writing on the wax tablets which the Romans carried with them) or a hair pin, that has been broken

off in the upper part where a series of notches commence. With the exception of a Roman hand-mill found in this neighbourhood some years ago, this is really the only object (barring of course the pottery) of personal or domestic use that has been found. Some pieces of Roman money have also come to light in the character of brass coins, but the only specimen in our hands is hardly decipherable.

During the progress of this paper through the press, I have visited Somersham, Hunts., which is within two miles of the Cambridgeshire boundary and on a line with the Cottenham site, and found there undoubted indications of the course of the Car Dyke in its passage towards Ramsey and onwards, together with such a continuation of the earthworks as I had all along anticipated. The peculiar angular form and "grid-iron" trenches are however wanting. Some good specimens of Roman pottery and other antiquities have been found there; indeed both in slight excavations on hitherto undisturbed pasture and on adjacent ploughed land, fragments of pottery of all kinds are plentiful.* It is quite probable that considerable discoveries at this site await the industrious antiquary intent upon the unravelling of what is certainly something of an enigma. It would above all else be interesting to trace the continuous line of Roman occupation, and this ought now to be possible.

The entire subject must be regarded as still under investigation. It is quite possible that ere long further discoveries may lead to the elucidation if not the clearing up of some of the more difficult matters now brought forward, and it is much to be hoped that an explanation of the peculiarities of the earthworks may not remain for any length of time so completely hidden from view as at present appears to be the case.

C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.

* The particular spot is adjacent to a small stream known as the 'Cranbrook' near the road leading from Somersham to Chatteris, close by which Dr. Stukeley made some interesting discoveries in 1757, (vide *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. xxxvi., pp. 118—121,) and subsequent important 'finds' have been made in the same locality.

THE BRIDGE AND BRIDGE CHAPEL OF ST. IVES, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

The bridges constructed wholly or in part by conventual houses and corporate towns have a history peculiarly their own, not the least interesting aspect of which is the connection and inter-relationship that frequently serve to distinguish them in respect of many features that touch the social life of the people. Controversy and litigation in regard to certain bridge rights, privileges and responsibilities, were rife in the middle ages, and formed no unimportant element in the spirit of discord that too frequently prevailed.

It may however be taken for granted that the Church was foremost in the great work of bridge building. The religious order of bridge builders that existed on the continent of Europe* in very early times undoubtedly gave an impetus to similar undertakings in England. Although we have no trace of the existence here of any such particular brotherhood, yet there is abundant proof that the religious houses scattered all over the country, largely engaged in the work of bridge building, not only as a religious work but with a view to the public good and general convenience. In former days when the blending of the religious and social life centred in the monastic bodies, and pilgrimages to places of reputed sanctity were frequent, it was specially necessary that the several approaches to the particular neighbourhood should be interrupted as little as possible and an easy passage through difficult ways facilitated.

There is no record as far as I am aware of any early construction of a bridge at St. Ives, but it may be fairly assumed that at some very remote period a bridge of wood existed, a mere horizontal roadway of timber supported on piers.

* The Order of bridge-builders at Avignon with a proneness for punning that characterised mediæval scholars were not only distinguished as *fratres pontis* and *factores pontium* but *fratres pontificales!*

From the *Placita de Quo Warranto* Rolls (43 Henry III. A.D. 1259) I extract the following, giving in place of the abbreviated Latin, an extended version together with a translation. It serves to show the nature of the structure of the then "great bridge of Saint Ives," from which a way-faring man would be probably precipitated with the greatest ease. It is interesting also as showing the jurisdiction of the Abbot of Ramsey, as well as furnishing other particulars of the locality.*

Presentatum est ecclesia per eosdem quod Ricardus filius Lucie Sancto Edmundo cecidit de ponte Sancti Ivonis et submersit—Et testatum est quod predictus Willelmus de Stowe ballifus Abbatis de Ramesey fecit officium coronae et ultra pontem Sancti Ivonis in quodam prato quod est in villa de Stauntonis ubi corpus defuncti inventus (sic) fuit in terra praefati Abbatis, scilicet in quodam hulmo qui est usque austrum magni [pontis] Sancti Ivonis inter ipsum pontem et pontellum quemdam quod apud Staunton et dicitur quod quidam rivulus transit sub pontello praedicto et circumrigat hulmum illum et desuper cadit in magna ripa de Use, et quia sanctum istud principality tangit praedicti Abbatis, praeceptum est quod facit venire Abbatem ad praedictos diem et locum, &c. Idem dies datus est eidem Willelmo, &c. Willelmas de Stowe obiit.

It was presented in the church by the same persons that Richard son of Lucy of St Edmund's, fell from the bridge of St. Ives and was drowned. And witness was given to the effect that the aforesaid William of Stowe, bailiff of the Abbot of Ramsey performed the office of Coroner, and further, that the bridge of St. Ives is in a certain meadow which is in the town of Staunton where the body of the deceased was found on the land of the aforesaid Abbot of Ramsey, that is to say in a certain island which is to the South of the great bridge of St. Ives between the bridge itself and a certain small bridge which is at Staunton, and it is said that a certain rivulet passes beneath the aforesaid small bridge and flows round that island and falls down on the great bank of the Ouse, and because that touches the sacred principality of the aforesaid Abbot, it was ordered that the Abbot be made to come at the aforesaid day and place, &c. The same day was appointed to the same William &c., William of Stowe died.

* The St. Ives Priory was but a cell to Ramsey, (founded A.D. 1017,) and remained subordinate until the dissolution.

It is highly probable that an improved bridge was made towards the close of the same century when the Charter for a Market was granted (*temp.* Ed. i.) about A.D. 1290, and subsequently assumed its present form.

It is not unlikely that "the great bridge of St. Ives" as it existed early in the thirteenth century was erected by the Ramsey monks on land which they possessed in their own right, being mainly designed by them in order to facilitate the progress of such as desired to perform religious obligations or had business relations with the Abbey at Ramsey or its dependencies. In due course the old bridge work would give place to improved construction, the timber frame work would disappear before the solid masonry, and elegance would mark a structure that hitherto had nothing but bare utility to commend it. Possibly new conditions created new interests, and the town may have thus acquired certain rights and responsibilities that previously were solely enjoyed by the religious house. There were doubtless occasions when the township vied with the opulence of a powerful monastery, not only in the actual construction of a bridge, but also in its adornment. Conflicting interests, for example, are apparently seen in the particular ornamentation which marks that side of the fine bridge over the Ouse at Huntingdon (probably erected in the reign of Edward I.) for which the Prior of Huntingdon was responsible. It connects Huntingdon with Godmanchester, and it would seem that frequent disputes arose between the County and the burgesses of Huntingdon, and between the Prior of Huntingdon, the Abbot of Ramsey, and the men of Godmanchester, as to where the responsibility for bridge repair and protection rested, with respect both to the large and certain smaller bridges, and led to much litigation. Contentions as to territorial rights often resulted in the display on the part of the stronger party of petty tyranny, which in turn found expression in the very character of the bridge itself. In some such way we may doubtless trace the development of the St. Ives and many another similar bridge.

The meadows by the channel of the Ouse adjacent to the bridge, forming part of the estate of 'Slepe' (as St. Ives was formerly called)*, together with the connected causeway and the bridge itself, including the manorial rights, were evidently possessed by the Prior and brethren of Ramsey. With the ownership was the obligation presumably, to maintain the bridge and its approaches. This duty may have been shared either as a matter of mutual understanding, or for some consideration, with the burgesses of St. Ives. In due time, differences, too often the outcome of joint possession, and the waning power of one of the parties (not always resulting in the survival of the fittest), may have arisen. Pontage and other like dues would in course of time be sure to engender strife and lead to aggression and violence, which even the influence of the Church could scarcely restrain. But presumably the Church maintained a general hold, in one form and another, upon the revenues whatever they may have been, until the dissolution, when the town it may be conjectured would assume full responsibility.

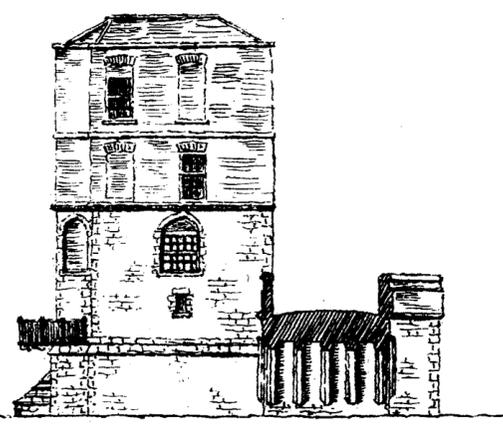
When bridges were subject to the individual jurisdiction of some private landed proprietor or Lord of the Manor, the obligation to repair or reinstate was frequently disregarded, and the religious duty ignored, but certainly in the best days of the mediæval Church the good condition and support of bridges, where the claim existed, was recognized as a religious duty second only to the maintenance of Church fabrics.

It is impossible to say with respect to the S. Ives' bridge what provision was anciently made in regard to the payment of toll, &c., by passengers, but in all probability voluntary offerings made in a religious spirit were received, either by the Prior and Convent of St. Ives, or the Abbot of Ramsey, who as a matter of course undertook the work of maintenance.

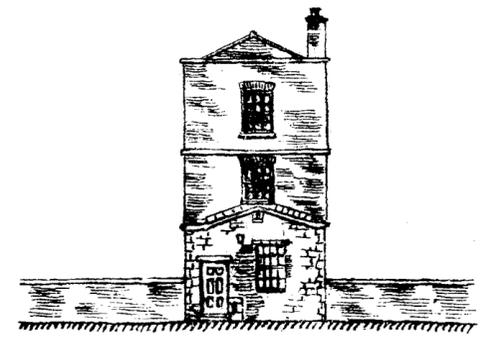
* It was near the channel of the river that the supposed relics of St. Ivo, the Persian Archbishop, were discovered.

St. We's Bridge. Hunts

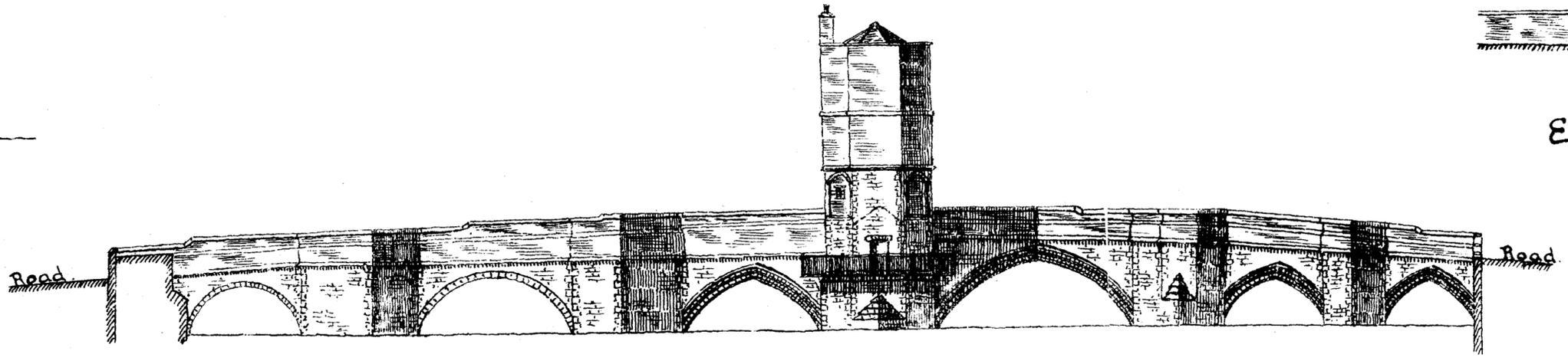
Scale, 16 feet to 1 inch.



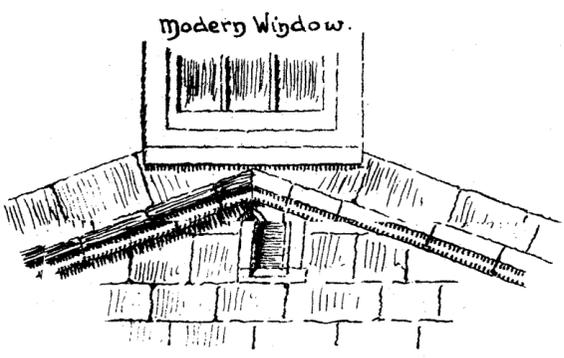
Elevation & Section. A.A.



Elevation. B.B.



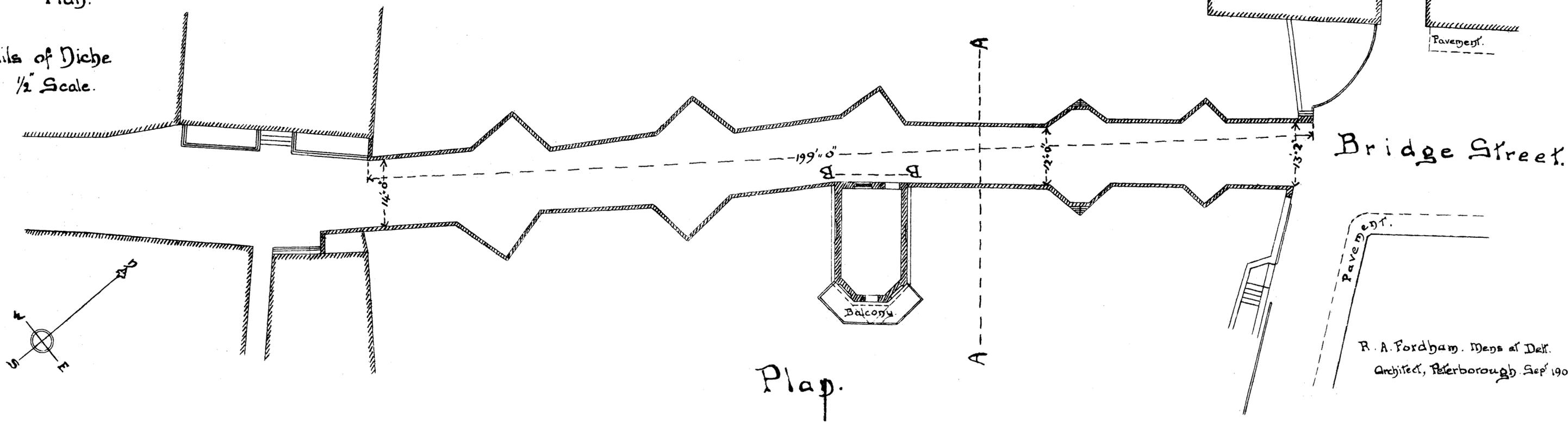
East Elevation.



Elevation.



Details of Niche
1/2" Scale.



Plan.

R. A. Fordham. Mens at Delt.
Architect, Peterborough. Sep. 1901.

The St. Ives bridge is mainly built of Barnack stone* and is supposed to be the work of the monks of Ramsay, having been erected early in the fifteenth century, at a time when the art of bridge-building was in a high state of perfection. Together with the bridge at Huntingdon it may be regarded as one of the oldest and most interesting bridges in the district.

Of the six arches of which the St. Ives bridge is formed, the two semi-circular arches next the "Dolphin Inn" are modern having been rebuilt from the foundation in the year 1716. The remaining four are pointed and of varying dimensions; the irregularity may perhaps be attributed either to the fact that the piers are buttressed against the stream and formed so as to be in a direct line with the current, or as possessing an element of additional strength. Anyhow the diversity gives a quaint touch to the structure. The brick parapets of the bridge are modern. The bridge is 199 feet in length, with an average width of 13 feet, the narrowest part being but 12 feet wide, but an ingenious contrivance for the convenience and safety of passengers is found in the nine curious irregular recesses of angular form, on either side. No central recess exists on the South-east side of the bridge owing to the fact that the space over the pier is occupied by a building; now a three-storied dwelling house with a balcony on the three projecting sides facing the river, and cellars in the thickness of the piers below. The lower portion, previous to the dissolution, was the ancient bridge Chapel of St. Leger or Leodgarius.† At Wilburton Church, Cambs., the Saint is commemorated in a fresco on the North wall. The rood-screen of St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge (Suffolk), has a representation of St. Leger, who is generally seen in sacred art with eyes or tongue plucked out, a bodkin, hook or

* The Abbey of Raucey had a right in the Barnack quarries, subject to the Church of Peterborough in whom the actual ownership rested.

† I am indebted to the Rev. W. M. Noble for this dedication to this little known Saint. The information is derived from the Will of one, James Fuller of St. Ives (11th Sept., 1779), who directed that a priest should celebrate for his soul and the souls of his parents and relatives in the Chapel of Leodgarius on the bridge of St. Ives.

pickaxe being in his hand. The recognition of St. Leger in this locality, seems to point to some foreign influence and a connection with marshy surroundings. I am at a loss fully to understand the connection, unless we are to regard St. Leger as a travellers' patron Saint; the Chapel would thus be suitably placed under his particular protection.

The bridge Chapel of St. Ives is the only like structure remaining in eastern England. Formerly there were bridge Chapels in this immediate neighbourhood, on Huntingdon bridge (St. Thomas of Canterbury) and on Earith bridge (St. Mary), and probably others. The actual remains of the St. Ives Chapel are of no particular importance, but enough remains to establish the interesting character of the main structure. On the three several sides a bricked-up arch may be seen, and I am told by Mr. R. A. Fordham of Peterborough, that the apsidal end of the Chapel is towards the east, so that the position of the altar may be conjectured. The basement below the road level, has also traces of mediæval work. Over the present entrance to the house is a small niche, and a trefoil-headed opening of Barnack stone which may have originally served a like purpose, is now relegated to the mean position of a door-scraper opening. There are traces of former windows, and indications of the pitch of a previous roof appear at the west elevation where the slope of the original roof is shown by the inclination of the stone string course. A stone bearing the initials T. D., and the date 1735, may indicate the time when the modern additions were made.*

The bridge of mediæval days, especially when found at or near the entrance to a town, frequently had a Chapel and sometimes the addition of a tower either for the purpose of defence or to carry a beacon light. I think it extremely likely that the upper part of the

* An engraving of S. Thomas the Martyr's Chapel on the great pier of London Bridge, facing the Tower of London, (*Gent. Mag.* xxiii., 482, A D. 1753,) affords an excellent example of what the St. Ives Bridge Chapel may have been. It consists of (1) a lower Chapel (converted into a paper warehouse), (2) a Chapel above (subsequently chambers) and (3) additions above, dating from A D. 1209.

building which was destroyed by fire in the year 1639, was originally devoted to this latter purpose.* The present structure in its modernized form offers no clue to any such definite object, but the advantage of a friendly light to assist travellers across the marshes, and navigators in following the river course, is sufficiently evident to make some such arrangement probable. Offerings in recognition of mercies received would be presented at the altar of the Chapel by the grateful. Occasionally the bridge Chapel would assume the character and importance of a Chantry with one or more Chaplains whose special office would include intercession for benefactors and others. Such chaplains receiving revenue from the bridge, may, under the supervision of the religious house, have incurred the responsibility of providing all things necessary for Divine Service.†

The following petition entered on the Rolls of Parliament (A.D. 1334,) may serve to explain the position in which a bridge Chaplain was sometimes placed, both with respect to the bridge and the Chapel.

"To our lord the King and his Council, Showeth, their poor Chaplain Robert le Fenere, parson of the Church of St. Clement of Huntingdon, of the diocese of Lincoln, that there is a little Chapel lately built in his parish on the bridge of Huntingdon, the keeping of which Chapel our lord the king has granted and delivered during pleasure to one Sir Adam, Warden of the house of St. John of Huntingdon, who receives and takes away all manner of offerings and alms without doing anything for the repair of the bridge or of the said Chapel, as he is bound to do. On the other hand it seems hurtful to God and Holy Church that offerings should be appropriated to anyone except to the parson within whose parish the Chapel is founded. Wherefore the said Robert prays, for God and Holy Church and for the Souls of our lord the king's father and his ancestors that he may have the keeping of the said chapel annexed to his Church, together with the charge of the bridge, and he will take heed

* In *Rot. Parl.*, Henry vi., 6, 7, 8, reference is made to a tower, kept by a hermit in a similar exposed situation, having a beacon light.

† Plutarch derives the word *Pontifex* from sacrifices made upon bridges. An indispensable part of the priest's office in Roman times was keeping the bridges in repair. The later annexation of Chapels to bridges (under Christian influence) may be traced back to this remnant of antiquity. But both such customary observances were the outgrowth of a religious spirit that recognized the obligation of bridge provision, and the advantages and benefits likely to accrue.

with all care to maintain them well, with better will than any stranger, for the profit and honour of Holy Chureh, to please God and all people passing that way."

Bequests in old wills, and other forms of religious beneficence to aid the work of bridge maintenance and the like are frequent. The entire revenues (possibly merged in the priory of St. Ives) were confiscated upon the dissolution (36 Henry viii) when the last prior of St. Ives (Robert Hutchinson) had a yearly premium of £12 per annum assigned to him "over and besyde the Chappel and Chamber standing on the brygge of St. Ives during his lyffe." This would seem to indicate that one story only (the Chamber) surmounted the Chapel proper, but of course a lantern, or hold for a beacon light for use as already indicated, may have been placed above this.

Mr. R. A. Fordham, to whom we are greatly indebted for the excellent plan drawn to scale (copies of which he has generously furnished for the illustration of this paper) has bestowed much attention upon the structure in its present condition, and has made some excellent suggestions with the object of a probable widening of this narrow and (in view of the necessities of the times) inconvenient bridge.* He proposes to extend the arches river wards, so that they impinge on the piers, thereby making the recesses shallower; the arches would in fact work out on the piers exactly as the inside arch of a church window does when there is a wide splayed jamb. This would of course necessitate setting back the front wall of the dwellinghouse; then it is proposed to take off the two upper stories and restore the roof to what may have been its former state, but my own conviction is that originally there was not only the story above the Chapel but surmounting it the lantern for a beacon light. While meeting the difficulties with respect to the requirements of the present day the suggested plan offers the distinct

* Accidents, occasionally fatal, have not been infrequent on this bridge owing to its narrowness. Visiting the bridge some time since a man told me how his father who was accustomed to bring goods from Kettering to St. Ives by waggon, and return with other produce, met his death, as did not a few others, owing to the limited space available for a waggoner.

advantage found in the retention of the old landmarks and the conservation of the structure in the beauty and entirety of architectural features as well as antiquarian interest, matters of the greatest importance.

The St. Ives bridge is a structure of which the county may well be proud, and its historical associations and importance alike call for that careful and discreet handling which while mindful of the wants of the present generation shall do no violence to past traditions.

C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A.

The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE FORMATION AND EARLY WORK
OF THE SOCIETY, WITH NOTES RELATING TO THE PLACES VISITED,
PAPERS READ, ETC., 1900—1901.

With the object of meeting a long-felt want and to satisfy a general desire on the part of many actively interested in local Archæology, a movement for the establishment of a Society for the promotion of antiquarian study and research in connection with Cambridgeshire (including the Isle of Ely) and Huntingdonshire, to be called "The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society," was initiated towards the close of the year 1899. A sufficient response to a circular letter encouraged the promoters to take counsel with others, and it was arranged that the Society should be formed as from January 1st, 1900, that as far as practicable there should be two excursions yearly, one in each county, and an issue of "Transactions" at convenient periods, the annual subscription of 10s. 6d. (due January 1st of each year) entitling members to all privileges. In accordance with this resolution the first General Meeting of members and their friends took place on Thursday, July 5th, 1900, when both counties were visited, the following being the programme:—

a.m.

10.45—SWAVESEY CHURCH—(*St. Andrew*).—[Fine E.E. Structure with D. and P. work. Chancies. Stone Altar Slab. Piscina (remarkable low example. Low-side Window. Early Coffin Slabs. Good Carved Work and benches.]
PRIORY REMAINS.

11.40—OVER CHURCH—(*St. Mary*).—[Very fine D. Nave Piers with stone corbels and canopied niches carrying figures. Low-side Windows. Rood Screen. Good P. Font. Gurgoyles, remarkably bold and curious. Carving of Assumption over W. door.]

Thence by Over-Court (cross-Ferry) to

12.15—HOLYWELL CHURCH—(*St. John the Baptist*).—[Good E.E. features, particularly Chancel. Flowered Corbels in Nave and within Tower. Roof Carvings. Unique Font].
The Holy Well in Churchyard claims special attention.

- 1.30—ST. IVES—(*anciently SLEPE.*)—LUNCH at *Golden Lion*, followed by a short meeting for transaction of the Society's business.
- 2.40—ST. IVES PARISH CHURCH—(*All Saints.*)—[Chiefly Perpendicular. E.E. window in S. Aisle and old remains in Tower Pier. Cromwell's signature appears in the Vestry book.]
- THE BRIDGE and BRIDGE CHAPEL (St. Leger). THE PRIORY REMAINS.
- 3.50—BLUNTISHAM—(*St. Mary*)—[Apsidal (semi-hexagonal) Chancel with Pointed Windows of an uncommon character. Remains of painted screen. Piscina with Niche above].
- 4.30—ALDRETH CAUSEWAY (Scene of Hereward's valour in resistance offered to the Conqueror) and BELSAR'S CAMP (Circular Earthworks).
- 5.30—RAMPTON CHURCH—(*All Saints.*)—[Ancient building. Norman Piers of Chancel Arch. Thatched Nave. De Lisle effigy, *temp.* Hen. iii. Coffin Slab with *Cross-fleury* to Sir Nicholas de Huntingdune. Wall paintings. Font (two) and Commonwealth pewter Baptismal Basin. Low-Side Window. Remains of Coffin Slabs and other ancient stone fragments. Jacobean Pulpit.]

TEA in the Rectory Garden.

At the various places visited, brief papers and notes were read and at the several churches, the Incumbents gave facilities for the inspection of the BELLS, CHURCH PLATE, REGISTERS, etc.

The Programme which was drawn up subject to such variation as might be found necessary, was much too long and consequently the visit to Aldreth and Rampton had reluctantly to be abandoned. The programme was issued by and in the names of the REV. W. M. NOBLE, B.A., Wistow Rectory, Huntingdon (Hon. Sec. for Hunts.), W. M. PALMER, M.R.C.S., Meldreth, Cambs., (Hon. Sec. for Cambs.), REV. C. H. EVELYN WHITE, F.S.A., Rampton Rectory, Cambridge (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer).

With the Programme there was issued an AD RERUM Paper relating to the proposed constitution, objects and aims of the Society, of which the following account may be given:—

The need that exists for the formation of a County Archæological Society, for Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, concerning which something more may be said later on, is self-evident. Even though there may be a reluctance to join such a newly constituted body on the part of some who might reasonably be regarded as interested in the matter, yet even an attitude of this kind only tends to strengthen the conviction that it is at least necessary to awaken, if not to create an interest in the special work which the Society seeks to further.

In addition to the collection and publication of matters of ordinary antiquarian interest, it is hoped that special attention will be paid to parochial and other records. The old Wills of County people, containing all the facts and quaint sayings, without redundant verbiage, may well be taken in hand. The local Lay Subsidies, which form so many directories of various dates relating to the inhabitants of each parish, are so important that systematic attention ought to be paid to these and similar documents. Considerable way has been made with the Church Inventories, *temp.* Edward VI., for Cambs.,* and it is proposed in like manner to issue under the auspices of this Society any such connected with Huntingdonshire. Then again various MS., Collections offer a large field of interest which ought not to remain practically unexplored: these MSS., the Society will endeavour at least to utilize. The records of Religious houses are not yet exhausted. This is specially the case in regard to the Preceptories of the Knights Hospitallers and various Hospitals of mediæval times. It seems specially important to investigate the antecedents of bygone ecclesiastical parishes, wayside chapels, hermitages, &c., and to gather information respecting features of interest in ancient ecclesiastical buildings which at the hands of the iconoclast or Church spoiler have been allowed well nigh to pass away. The Earthworks of the district have been very insufficiently explored, and in the absence of proper oversight and intelligent interest, much levelling and breaking up of the soil, which frequently means destruction, goes on apace. It will be one of the aims of the Society to pay special attention to any such defective or injudicious procedure as far as it may be possible. Then again the ancient roads, ditches, causeways, meres and bridges offer ample scope for further investigation, while the ethnology of the Fenmen of old time, traces of their ancient dialect, customs, and even their religious and domestic life, ought not to be beyond the power of the diligent student to elucidate. The results of a careful investigation of the mediæval village guilds will, it is hoped, be embodied in an early paper in the Society's *Transactions*. Attention will also be paid to Liturgical subjects so far as they may have any bearing on local or diocesan use. It is proposed to issue as soon as possible a first list of members, together with the names of officers, as may be arranged at the meeting to be held at an early date. At the same meeting the draft of rules will be submitted, to be referred for final settlement to the Elected Council. It is further proposed to ask the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to become Patron, and the Earl of Sandwich, to be President. It is also suggested that Vice-Presidents, not exceeding twelve in number, shall from time to time be elected, and that a Council, shall be elected from the general body of members. Ladies shall be eligible as members of the Council. Also that there shall be three Honorary Secretaries,

* Published in the *East Anglian* (Vols. v., vi., vii., viii., ix.) and shortly to be issued, with considerable additions, in a separate form.

one for each of the two Counties, and an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer who shall act generally and take special oversight of the Society's affairs, and edit the Society's *Transactions*, etc. Also an Hon. Librarian, who will take charge of the surplus copies of printed *Transactions* and of such stock as the Society may in future possess (under the direction of the Secretaries), the publications received from Societies in Union, and other books, etc., when added to the Library. The Library will be accessible to members. It is proposed that the Society should avail itself of the kind readiness of Mr. G. H. Tyndall, Minster Place, Ely, to act as Hon. Librarian and Curator. Mr. Tyndall will also allow the members the use of one of his rooms for the general purposes of the Society.

The Second Meeting of the Society which formed the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Members was held at ELY, by the courtesy of the Honorary Curator, Mr. G. H. Tyndall, at Minster Place, on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16th (*Eve of S. Etheldreda*), at 2.30 p.m., when the suggested rules as adopted by the Council were submitted for approval, together with a report of the Society's work. Plans for future operations, excursion arrangements, &c. were discussed. At the conclusion of the Meeting short papers were read on

- (I.) *A Norman Church in the Isle of Ely and its work of restoration.*
- (II.) *The term 'Galilee' as applied to the Western portion of a Church building, and its possible connection with Sanctuary use.*
- (III.) *The investigation of ancient Earthworks in Cambs. and Hunts., particularly some hitherto unnoticed in Cottenham and the neighbourhood.*

The following are particular and summary accounts of the several meetings to which allusion has been already made.

(1.) At the stately Parish Church of Swavesey, a party of about thirty members and friends were welcomed by the Vicar (Rev. A. C. Vidler) and at once proceeded to inspect the building under the guidance of the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A. After a few brief allusions to the manorial history, Mr. Evelyn White said that Alan de la Zouch who held the principal Manor, gave the Church of Swavesey to the Abbey of SS. Sergius and Bacchus in Normandy, and this donation led to the establishment of an allied monastic house, which about A.D. 1393 was given to the Carthusian monks of St. Anne near Coventry. Dr. Palmer would enlighten them in some subsequent remarks on matters connected with the Priory, which have in large part hitherto been unnoticed.

The Church is one of several in the neighbourhood dedicated to St. Andrew, and its architectural features no less than its size render it one of the most interesting and important in the County. Commencing at the west end, where a very striking view is

obtained, one is impressed with a leading characteristic in the Early English arches. In the tower the arches are remarkably good and the work is very massive. Specially noticeable are the three tower arches opening into the Nave and Aisles, prolonged as these Aisles are to the western wall limit. The piers are octagonal having deeply moulded caps, the mouldings of the abaci so formed as to make a very effective ornamental string.

The double lancet window in the N. Aisle shows up in contrast to the other two perpendicular insertions. The Nave is of six bays; the piers of the arches (Perpendicular) are formed of two small shafts. The piers have divisional mouldings, each spandril formed of two equal parts, with a small ascending shaft. The piers are without bases in the jambs. The caps which cut the string course of the Clerestory at right angles are formed by the corbels above. The high-pitched open Perpendicular roof having tiers, is without ornament. The Chancel arch is Early English with a hood moulding. The floor of the Chancel has been considerably raised, so as greatly to interfere with the original design, *e.g.* placing the interesting doorway on the north side that anciently communicated with the Priory buildings (the foundations of which may still be traced), at a strange elevation. Another door leads into the Vestry. The Chancel windows are Perpendicular insertions, but the original Early English string course remains. There were Chantry Chapels north and south of the Chancel, that on the north side communicating with the Chancel through an arch, the north chantry being a prolongation of the Aisle. Above the site of the altar are two late canopied niches. The south Chantry Chapel is considerably elevated and is even larger than the Chancel. It is mainly Early English; the east window is composed of five lancets within an outer arch, which has jamb shafts. This window was restored in 1852. The Sedilia are late-perpendicular having four centred arches with profuse cusping. The Piscina reveals some ancient work, which marks the vicinity of the old altar steps. There is a very singular square opening low down in the south wall at the extreme east, probably a low-side window, opening to the habitation of an anchorite or recluse. The outer wall has been re-built, so that no traces remain of any external buildings. An examination of the opening within discloses on one side a pair of iron hooks upon which the wooden shutter was formerly hung, and on the other side is an iron staple for a bolt. Curiously enough the socket, &c., are on the reverse side making it evident that in the rebuilding of the wall the several stones were turned. The floor of the Chapel having been considerably raised causes this low-side aperture to have a very much lower appearance than it originally presented.* The windows in this

* Dr. Palmer read a memorandum made by Cole when he visited the Church in 1742 calling attention to this "square hole in the wall." Although Cole must frequently have noticed in the neighbourhood this interesting feature of a low-side window, yet of this Swavesey example he candidly confessed that he had never seen the like before and for what purpose it was intended he could not possibly say.

Chapel have Early English jambs with Perpendicular tracery. Lower down in the thickness of the wall are some remains of choice Early English work, possibly a part of the arch of a monument to a member of the de la Zouch family who may have endowed the Chantry. The lancet window at the east end of the Aisle, having perpendicular tracery, is a noticeable object. It may be regarded as of the nature of a low-side window at an uncommon elevation. There is an adjacent Early English piscina. The position is remarkable. The north Aisle is separated from the Chancel Aisle by the low wall which doubtless originally carried a screen of wood, against which stood a Chantry or other altar. Between the altar and the piscina was the low-side opening where the officiating priest would take his station. The window has a trefoiled head, and without, a square dripstone. The two light windows lower down the Aisle were originally Early English lancets but afterwards filled with Perpendicular tracery. The Early English string beneath the windows follows the entire course of these several lights. The Perpendicular windows have transoms near the heads. The timber roof of this Aisle is a good feature.

Returning to the Chancel the *mensa Domini* claims special attention. It is formed of an inlaid altar stone, apparently of Purbeck marble. It has two crosses roughly and unskilfully cut upon its face, at one of the angles and in the centre of its western side. These marks have not the appearance of ancient workmanship. The stone is said to have been found beneath the altar and I should not be surprised to learn that it was originally a monumental slab. It has a central incision other than a cross mark. An aumbry at the extreme end of the Chancel has the unusual feature of a modern locked door which has not been opened for a considerable time. The piscina and sedilia are very rich Decorated having quatrefoil arches and clustered shafts, the arcading in four compartments terminating in so many carved finials. The south Chantry is approached by two Early English arches the central pier being circular with large moulded cap. The responds are octagonal. The very beautiful modern reredos is truly a work of art. The carved work is good throughout. The carved heads of the benches at the upper end of the north aisle are original, the remainder are excellent copies. The Font which stands upon a modern base is very good perpendicular. The basin which is octangular and displays shields sunk into panels, rests upon a bold shaft with prominent ribs. At the west end of the north Aisle is a very large stone coffin with the double Omega emblem on its lid. Similar covers, one very small for a coffin that must have enclosed a young child are laid by the wall on the south side near the Font. Probably these were disinterred at the time of the restoration work. The early monuments of all kinds, whether of stone, glass, or brass, have disappeared. There is however in the south aisle a monument to the Cutts family (A.D. 1631), principal owners in Swavesey for many years. It has a long inscription and is characteristic of the

period. The south Porch (Early English) has a richly moulded inner door (Early Decorated), with a number of small bases to the main jamb moulding. The hood of the outer door terminates in the ornamental marks peculiar to work of this character. The Early English arches of the South Aisle windows have the mask dripstone terminations. The Tower is a noble structure but its Early English character is well nigh lost in the later Perpendicular. The uppermost two-light windows and the well carved gargoyles are noticeable. The buttresses on the south side deserve attention as good Early English work. The present ring of six bells was cast at St. Neots' Foundry some time between 1770 and 1825. Of course the ancient inscriptions have disappeared, but one of the bells is said to have had an Arabic inscription. The period indicated is answerable for much bell desecration. Inscriptions of historical importance and value have thus slipped away, together with much superior bell metal. At the Churches of the adjoining parishes of Willingham and Over, other peals of five and six bells are to be found, cast at the St. Neots' Foundry, and consequently similarly treated. Speaking of inscriptions, Mr. Evelyn White said that his notes on this Church had been to some extent derived from Hill's *Architectural and Historical Notices of the Churches of Cambridgeshire*, where he found mentioned a 17th century Chalice belonging to this Church "which" says Mr. Hill, "seems to have come from Sawston by the inscription on it, HONOR GOD SAUCE TOWNE." Mr. Hill possibly copied this piece of information, neither wisely nor too well, from some questionable source for although nothing is now to be heard of this inscribed Chalice there can be but little doubt that the inscription should read "HONOR GOD, SUAVĒ TOWNE," in other words, *Honor God Swavesey Towne*, which was a very ordinary form and distinguished this vessel as the property of Swavesey Church with which Sawston had nothing to do either one way or another. The Register dates from 1576.

From the Churchyard the site of the old Priory (now intersected by the G.E.R. line) was pointed out, the foundations of the former buildings being plainly discernible. Dr. Palmer gave some interesting information respecting this religious house which will be found embodied in the paper, "Swavesey Priory," compiled by Miss Parsons and himself.

There was anciently a more important building in the village than the Priory, and that was the Castle of the Zouches, who came into possession of the estate here by marriage. The site of their Castle is still called Castle Hill, and there are traces of large earthworks in the neighbourhood. The Zouches had very extensive privileges, such as whipping and hanging criminals, and there is still a tradition that people were hanged on the Castle Hill. There was formerly a market at Swavesey every Tuesday, and a fair for eight days at Michaelmas.

Dr. Palmer contributed the following notes:—

In Swavesey there were in mediæval times *four Gilds, i.e.* (1) *Our Lady*, (2) *St. Andrew*, (3) *St. Katherine*, (4) *Holy Cross*.

In 1547 six *obils* were being celebrated in the church at an annual charge of 17s. 5d., and there were two *lamp rents* of 5s. and 22s. 10d. [*Ministers' accounts in P.R.O.*]. In 1548 William Ward and Richard Venables of London, gentlemen, bought of the King, land, bakery and stables, in Swavesey and Dry Drayton value £3 11s. 6d. a year, left for obits, and 29½ acres of arable land, and meadows containing 3 acres and 2 acres, and 2 sections of land belonging to the *Chantry* of Swavesey, [*Pat. 2, Edw. VI., pt. 5*]. And in the same year, Ward and Venables sold 60 acres of land and meadow in Enesbury, Hunts., (belonging lately to Swavesey Chantry) to Stephen Bull, yeoman of Enesbury. [*Bodleian Miscell. Chart. ii, No. 62*]. The value of the Chantry in the King's Books was £4 16s. In 1571 a piece of land called the *Church Hoult* lying near the Middle fen and the Mowe fen containing one acre, in the tenure of the church-wardens, was sold by the Crown to Richd. Hill and Wm. James. [*Pat. Roll 14, Eliz., pt. 2*].

The following are comprised in *Layer's Church Notes*, taken before the year 1635:—

"In Ecclesia de Swavesey. This is a very faire and large county church as any is, and standeth upon an ascent to the Fenward. In the windows of this church are no arms saving in a faire side chappell, is the coate of Zouche, viz. G. 10 Bezants, who were lords in former tymes of the manor. In the same chappell are also cut in wood upon the roof the arms of Zouche, and of Zouche paleed with Spencer, and also with Hastings: Spencer, qrtie; Hastings a Maunche. This chappell is of late beautified by Sr. Jo. Cutts, Kt. now lord of the said manor having raised a curious monument of black and white marbie after the Forme of a faire table or frame with leaves held open by two Angels, under this chappell is a faire large vault sunck, intended for a burial place for the family of Cutts. Under the porch is a vault arched, upon the roof of it is seen the arms of Zouche, seemeth to have been their buryingplace." [*Addl. MSS. 5819 f. 31-2.*]

(11). Leaving Swavesey the members proceeded to the adjoining parish of Over (*Ofer* A.S. a shore, indicating that when the Fens were inundated Over was on the shore). The principal Manor in this village, said Mr. Evelyn White, was given to Ramsey Abbey by Ednothus, Bishop of Dorchester. There are several Surveys of the Manor of Over amongst the Exchequer records. After the suppression of the Monasteries it remained for some time in the Crown, and it was during this period that the surveys took place. They give much information about the fenland. Certain Exchequer depositions taken by Commission (17. and 18. Elizabeth) give the name of every tenant and describes his holding. Over or Willingham Mere, consisting of eighty acres, and 16½ ft. deep by pole, is mentioned. There is also allusion to an officer

called " the fenne Clerk who is commonlie the Clerk of the parish Church and his office is to keepe the booke whereby the inhabitants make division of their forder fennes and at such tyme as he is commanded to bringe the book to the fenne greaves for the tyme beinge, to goe with them till they have divided the fenne".* James I. gave the Manor to his favourite George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, since which time it has been in the possession of several families.

The Church is dedicated to S. Mary and is certainly one of the best Decorated examples of ecclesiastical architecture in the County. The Nave has six arches somewhat small but well moulded, all of the Decorated period. The piers are a principal feature in the building being formed of four octagonal shafts separated by a section of the arch moulding which descends to the base of the pier. The caps are of a very uncommon character being octagonal and the principal hollow is occupied with grotesque heads. The abaci are enriched with a battlemented moulding. The arches are richly moulded having hoods and good label heads. The Decorated clerestory windows, six on each side, are of two lights and have moulded jambs. It may be observed that these windows do not, as in the Perpendicular style pass quite into the head. It is the same with the Chancel windows. The Nave roof is high pitched and of six bays, forming a good and well-preserved example of Decorated work. The corbels have each a canopied niche containing a figure. The parapets are embattled, the bases being formed of cleverly designed figures of a grotesque character. The Chancel arch is Early English. The shafts were apparently cut away when the screen was erected in the fifteenth century. This screen is an excellent piece of work still possessing the groined loft, but it has been seriously injured by indiscreet painting and graining. It was doubtless at one time resplendent in gold and colours, and formerly had a cove towards the west as well as towards the east. The roof is in design similar to that of the nave and appears to have been originally painted. The Chancel itself is chiefly Perpendicular but is rather a severe mixture of different styles. The Perpendicular insertions somewhat mar the earlier work. The east window supplies an instance of the insertion of good Perpendicular tracery in the old Decorated arch and jambs. There is a modern string running under the sill, a number of angels holding scrolls, but this feature is not altogether pleasing for it affects the proportion of the east window. The north wall has three arched recesses, divided by singular shafts with partial band mouldings. In these several arches is a three light perpendicular window. The south side is similarly treated, but has two windows only. There is an Early English piscina, trefoiled, with a square head built into a projecting portion of the wall, and surmounted by an embattled crown. There is also an aumbry. On either side is a small priest's door. There are two

* We are indebted for this reference to Dr. Palmer.

early Decorated low-side windows north and south, facing each other, of the form known as the 'Carnarvon' or square-headed trefoil window. These are probably not later than the time of Edward I.* There are stalls on the east side with carvings beneath the seats. The pulpit is very good Jacobean, standing upon a fourteenth century pedestal, and there are traces of original colour. The sounding board renders the pulpit a very imposing object. The north aisle has an arcade of semi-circular headed arches on single Early English shafts with circular moulded caps and bands. In the arcades are three Decorated windows of three lights of different design. These are early examples. The tracery of the windows is simple and graceful, notably the easternmost segment headed windows. At the west end of the north aisle the wall presents an appearance indicative of the remains of a narrow aisled Church with long sloping roof earlier than the present Perpendicular roof or the Decorated roof marked on the outside of the tower. The south aisle is similarly treated, the westernmost windows being especially good, with deeply moulded tracery and Early English banded shafts. There is a piscina—twelve-foiled bason—in the usual position. This was connected with a Chantry of Our Lady, founded in the year 1391, "*divina celebraturi* for the universal Church, for the whole realm, for the departed, and in particular for Robert Muskhams and others departed of this place." The order of this direction is worth attention. There is a list of the Chaplains officiating at this Chantry and bequests are found in old wills. The endowments have become secularized. At the west end is a very fine Perpendicular Font, octagonal, with shields sunk in the side panels, not unlike the example at Swavesey, only the corbelling of the bason is formed of angels with open wings, the base being enriched with panelling. The stone wall seat round the Church—as at Sutton in the Isle of Ely—should be observed.

Dr. Palmer informs us that there were formerly three gilds here: (1). In 1523 Rose Cock left 3s. 4d. to the making of the tabernacle of *Our Lady* and half a dozen pewter plates and a table cloth to the gild. In 1524 Thomas Worcester left 6s. 8d. to the painting of the Assumption of Our Lady and 10s. to Our Lady's gild. (2). In 1523 Robert Loder left 6s. 8d. to the Corpus Christi gild. (3). In 1552 rents as well as the gild hall appertaining to the Holy Trinity gild were granted to John and William Doddington (*Pat. Roll.* 5, Edw. vi., pt. 6.)

Passing to the grand exterior of Over Church, one of the finest examples of a Decorated porch is on the south side. The outer door has deep mouldings and jamb shafts. The two side buttresses form a group of engaged shafts with an embattled cresting above, from which rises an octagonal pinnacle with small shafts at the angles. The gable over the outer door is embattled and ornamented by a string profuse with the ball flower, and this

* An engraving appears in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. iv.

pattern is continued along the wall plate round the sides. There are side lights formed of two light open windows with central shafts and good tracery. The arches above these windows, seen from the inside, are of excellent design. The Nave and Aisles have battlemented parapets of fourteenth century date, with a profusion of ball-flower and leaf ornament. The buttresses are chamfered and have gable tops. The south aisle has a number of bold and cleverly designed gargoyles, notably a lion walking on the sharp gable of a buttress, a monkey with a club, etc.

The tower which is in three stages with fine buttresses, is surmounted by a lofty early Decorated spire with dormer windows, the whole rising to a height of 156 feet. The four curious little buttresses at the angles where the spire joins the parapet are noticeable. They are attached to the masonry by their whole length unlike most flying buttresses. The west doorway is very good Perpendicular. It has a series of canopies in the jambs. Above is a mutilated representation carved in stone of the Assumption, showing the Virgin Mother of our Lord surrounded by angels. The door and hinges are original work. On either side are the defaced arms of Ramsey Abbey, patrons and probably builders of the Church, and what seem to be the arms of the Drapers Company, viz : three tiaras. The Decorated cot for the sanctus bell (and bell) remains and is an interesting example. The six bells to which reference has been already made were cast out of a peal of five. The Church was restored in 1864, at a cost of £600 derived from the Town Lands Charity. The Register dates from A.D. 1577.

Before leaving Over, Mr. Evelyn White said, that as their thoughts were turned to Hereward in reference to Aldreth and the immediate locality, it would interest the members to learn that a pitched battle is said to have taken place at Over between the valiant hero of the fens and William the Norman, Hereward having found on his return to England that the invaders had taken his father's possessions at Bourne in Lincolnshire. Traces of these military operations are alleged to be found in a field near the Church (the "Bury Close") and in another field at some distance known as the "Mill Pits." Also at the "Bridge Causeway" about twenty rods from the Church, on the way to Overcourt, various objects of antiquarian interest were found some years since, including human remains of men of large stature. Mr. White mentioned that he was not acquainted with these several places, but he had a suspicion that these would be found on investigation to be really Roman outposts or some like ancient sites. At all events a locality is traversed that is full of interest.

Passing to Over Court (*Over*, on the opposite side, and *Cote* a cottage or habitation), after a pleasant drive the party was ferried over the Ouse (Kingsley in his *Hereward* refers to to this picturesque ferry), through the village of Needingworth to

(III). HOLYWELL, a place that derives its name from a spring of soft water that rises near the bottom of the hill on which the Church stands. Tradition says, that here formerly stood a beacon light to enable navigators to find their way across the fens. Such lights were doubtless of frequent occurrence in the fen district at the more elevated points. To this fact we probably owe the origin of the lanterns that distinguish Ely Cathedral (not by any means to be solely associated with giving light to the interior) and Sutton Church tower, also the beacon that burned from the height of the bridge chapel at St. Ives. At a short distance to the south-east of the Church, a field adjoining the river has the name of Flag-holme. It is a stretch of flat land that abounds with flag plants and the like, being occasionally flooded. The river is known to have altered its course in recent years.

The Rev. W. M. Noble contributed the notes in the two following paragraphs on Needingworth and Holywell:

"NEEDINGWORTH.—Oswald, Abp. of York bought Needingworth of King Edgar, exchanged it for Wistow, and then presented Wistow to Ramsey Abbey. The Abbey by an exchange secured the Church of Needingworth. William de Gomecestre, Abbot of Ramsey, 1268-85, bought the Manor of Needingworth. Many bequests were made to the Chapel of Needingworth, that of William Freeman who left 5/- to it in 1554 being one of the latest. This proves that the Chapel was then standing, but it has long been destroyed. The font was a few years ago in a carpenter's shop."

"HOLYWELL.—Richard James of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, who died in 1638 mentions the gift of the patronage of Holiwell as remarkable. Goda the priest of the parish had apparently built and endowed the church himself, and he bequeathed it and all the land he held with it to the Monastery of Ramsey. Land at Holiwell had also been given by Alfwara, a noble lady. It is noteworthy that to this day the endowment of the living consists mainly of land. In 1542, Robert Newman left to the repairs of the Church at Holiwell, 3/4, and Thomas Scott in 1544 left 4/- towards the making of the steeple of Holiwell; John Fyley left ten quarters of wheat in 1554 towards building the steeple. In 1546 Bernard Harbrigh left towards making of the steeple of Holiwell 6/8., indicating the date of the building of the steeple, i.e. the upper part of the tower."

The Church of Holywell, dedicated to St. John Baptist, is an interesting structure, possessing features of some importance. Within the Church, the tower (Early Decorated) has arches now filled in, that are supported on flowered corbels of considerable beauty. The whole is suggestive of some sort of arrangement which seems to characterize certain Churches in the neighbourhood; e.g. Swavesey, where the prolongation of either Aisle is indicative it may be supposed, of the existence of western Chapels or some such object as we are accustomed to associate with what may be termed 'Galilee use,' of which further may be learned when there is opportunity to speak more at length of the latter aspect of this feature. The flowered corbels occur also in the

clerestoried Nave, where the roof carvings of figure and foliage claim attention. The nave piers are octagonal, having moulded caps and bases. The E.E. Chancel has several attractive and beautiful features, notably the piscina and two-light lancet windows which have central inter-twining columns. The aisles have E.E. windows and the roofs spring from fanciful corbels. The middle arch of the south aisle is much wider than the rest. There are remains of the rood staircase on the north side. The Norman Font is singularly interesting, and in its present condition certainly unique. The bason is of octagon form and it stands upon legs (restored), and there is a curious drain arrangement. The west doorway is Perpendicular with good tracery. The embattled tower has pinnacles, and in the upper stage good two-light windows, and contains four bells. The Church is much disfigured by yellow wash applied to the walls throughout. Beneath this wash on the west wall of the south aisle, a black letter inscription was espied, which would doubtless have been deciphered had not time been pressing. The early Registers are wanting; those remaining date from 1667, and some of the entries therein were made by Thomas Tenison, a (former Rector), (1667-1680. Tenison, who was born at Cottenham, where his father was Curate, after filling many important positions in the Church, was made Bishop of Lincoln in 1691, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. An earlier Rector (A.D. 1512-17), was Walter Huke or Hewke, Master of Trinity Hall in the University of Cambridge, in the reign of Henry VIII. In the Chapel of the College is the Master's very fine monumental brass. The Rev. W. M. Noble and the Rev. Kenelm H. Smith furnished some notes and interesting reminiscences of former incumbents, among whom in the last century (A.D. 1788—1804) was Benjamin Hutchinson, F.R.S., whose MSS., of a *Collection for the history of Huntingdonshire* (the work of thirty years or more) have unfortunately disappeared, and more recently the Rev. R. I. McGhee, who sought to improve the occasion of a very disastrous fire in 1847 by an account of the conflagration* bearing the ominous title "The Needingworth Fire, or Are you insured?" Special attention was directed to the "Holy Well," which has over it an archway of brick erected by a former Rector (Rev. S. B. Beckwith) in 1845.†

(IV). From Holywell the drive was continued to ST. IVES, where at the conclusion of the lunch held at the *Golden Lion* Hotel, a general meeting of the members was held under the presidency of the Rev. J. P. Sharp, M.A., Vicar of Long Stow, Cambs., and Rural Dean. Those present included the Rev. L. F. Clarkson, Rural Dean (Molesworth) and Mrs. Clarkson, Rev. A. C. Vidler (Swavesey), Rev. Alfred Peskett (Long Stanton St. Michael), Rev. W. M. Noble, Hon. Sec., for Hunts (Wistow), Rev. Kenelm

* Published by Seeley and Co., London, 1848.

† *Vide a Short Account of Holywell-cum-Needingworth*, by Herbert E. Norris, which contains interesting particulars.

H. Smith (Ely), Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A., Hon. Sec. and Treasurer (Rampton) and Mrs. Evelyn White, Miss Parsons, Miss Nixon, Mr. M. Sheard (Sutton), Mr. Arthur Hope, Mr. Arthur Bull (Cottenham), Mr. C. B. Tebbutt (Bluntisham), Mr. Andrew Howard (Meldreth), Mr. A. J. Palmer (Whaddon), Dr. W. M. Palmer, Hon. Sec. for Cambs., Mr. Mark Palmer, &c., &c. The Chairman having called upon the Honorary Secretary to say something in reference to the formation of the Society and the occasion that had brought them together, Mr. Evelyn White in reply referred to the wide spread feeling that prevailed in both counties, as to the apparent lack of interest in matters archæological, which was largely due to the fact that while in Huntingdonshire there was no kind of Antiquarian Society, the Society which existed in Cambridge concerned itself too much with general archæology to the neglect, as it seemed to some, of matters affecting the County. Moreover the subscription was too large in these trying days, and the Cambridge Antiquarian Society was so closely bound up with the University that the members generally had no practical share in its management and work. It seemed to him that the Cambridge Antiquarian Society was in danger of overlooking the fact that it existed for the County as well as the University. The antiquities of remote places ought not to be allowed to usurp the functions that strictly speaking belonged specially to a local Society. It was not the object of the promoters of the Cambs. and Hunts. Archæological Society in any way to come into conflict with the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, but to work harmoniously side by side in the endeavour to promote archæological study and research. It was in this spirit and with this desire that he (Mr. Evelyn White) had taken counsel chiefly with Dr. Palmer (to whom Cambridge-shire was greatly indebted for much patient investigation into the history, etc., of the County), and together they had been jointly concerned in the endeavour, that appeared likely to prove successful, to found this Society. Its constitution had of necessity been left very much in his (Mr. Evelyn White's) hands, and if it should be thought that anything unconstitutional had been done, the members were in a position to set matters right. He was glad to say that the Bishop of Ely had consented to become Patron of the Society, and it only remained to secure an influential President with a body of Vice-Presidents. He was asking a number of gentlemen to act on the Council of twelve, and in response to his particular request, Miss Catherine Parsons, of Horseheath, who had done much useful antiquarian work, had consented to join that body. This Council would be subject year by year to such change in respect to its composition as the members generally might desire. In forming the Council his object was to secure interested and representative members from the several localities in the two Counties. He was himself willing to act as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and also in the capacity of Editor of the Society's 'Transactions.' He was also glad to have the assistance, especially in matters relating to excursions

&c., of two such able helpers as the Rev. W. M. Noble and Dr. Palmer; the former would act as Hon. Sec. for Hunts., and the latter for Cambs. The Rev. W. M. Noble said he would be only too pleased to forward the Society's interests in every possible way. He had approached the Archdeacon of Huntingdon in the hope that Mr. Vesey might be induced to take office as President or Vice-President, but he excused himself on the ground of ill health. The Rev. Evelyn White expressed their indebtedness to the Rev. J. P. Sharp for presiding, and to the Incumbents of the Churches visited that day, for the kind readiness they had shewn in receiving the Society. The Chairman in reply said their thanks were specially due to Mr. Evelyn White for the immense pains he had taken in regard not only to the formation of the Society but for his efforts in bringing them together and making such excellent arrangements.

A move was then made to the great bridge of St. Ives, under the guidance of the Rev. W. M. Noble who gave interesting information. Owing to lack of time, Mr Evelyn White, who had prepared a paper dealing with the Bridge, contented himself with giving it into the hands of the Hunts., press representatives, promising that it should appear at length in the Society's 'Transactions.' A few of the party inspected the scanty remains of the old Priory buildings, and afterwards the members visited the parish Church where the Rev. W. M. Noble read the following notes:—

“In the reign of King Edgar certain lands at Slepe (the ancient name of St. Ives), belonged to Ethelstan Manessune, who died between 969 and 975; bequeathing these lands to Ramsey Abbey, but the Abbey was not to have possession till after the death of the testator's younger daughter, Alfwenne, and if she had an heir, of him also. After some dispute it was agreed that Ramsey Abbey should have the property at Alfwenne's death; part of the land, was, however, usurped by Oswald, a priest, brother of Ethelstan's widow, but after a time this fell into the hands of the Abbot, and it would seem that the Manor thus became Abbey property. In the year 1001, a ploughman is said to have turned up some human remains in the parish of Slepe, which were decided on the authority of a supposed revelation to be those of S. Ivo, a Persian Archbishop of great sanctity, who travelled through England, about the year 600, preaching the Gospel. These remains were carried by Ædnoth, Abbot of Ramsey, and the Abbot of Selsey to the Abbey of Ramsey, where a shrine was made for them which was stripped of its valuables, when Wm. de Mandeville seized the Abbey of Ramsey, in 1143; a new shrine was made for them by Abbot Hugo de Sulgrave, who was Prior of St. Ives in 1254, when he was promoted to be Abbot of Ramsey. But though the archbishop's remains were taken to Ramsey, his name clung to the place of discovery, and Slepe gradually became St. Ives. Between the years 1102 and 1107, gifts of land were made to S. Ivo, in the town of Slepe; Sewin, the Hawker, gave a portion of this, which seems to have been situate between

Needingworth and S. Ives. On the spot where S. Ivo's bones were said to have been found, Abbot Ædnoth built a church, and in 1016 or 1017, Earl Adelmarr erected there a Benedictine Priory which belonged from its foundations to Ramsey Abbey. In the year 1207 the Priory church of S. Ives was burnt, and in the seventh year of Ranulph, Abbot of Ramsey, 1237, the new Priory church was dedicated. On Jan. 23, 1227, the Church of All Saints, Slepe, with its chapels, was confirmed to the Priory of S. Ives, and on June 4, 1229, a Papal Bull was issued in confirmation. Possibly there were two Churches at S. Ives; one the parish Church of Slepe, the other the priory Church of S. Ivo. Some think this is confirmed by Domesday Book, which appears to allude to two Churches at S. Ives. If so, after a time one of the churches disappeared, and the other remained as parish and conventual Church, but the Incumbent was Vicar not Curate, as he would have been if the Abbey had founded and endowed the Church. The remains of the conventual buildings consist of a barn and dove cot, and stonework in Mr. Warren's garden. Very little is known of even the names of the Priors of S. Ives, the following are culled from various sources:—

William, circa 1143. Benedict. R ()1200.
 Richard Scotte. Hugo de Sulgrave, circa. 1246-54, afterwards Abbot of Ramsey. Walter de Lilleford. Richard de Raveley, in 1348. Robert Stamford, temp., Hen. vi. Robert Huchyn or Hutchinson was the last Prior, to whom was assigned the chapel and chamber in the bridge and £12 per annum. The Advowson of the living most probably came with the Manor during the tenth century into the hands of Ramsey Abbey. We find from the Lincoln Episcopal Registers that Ramsey Abbey exercised the patronage as early as 1235; which continued until the Dissolution in 1539, when it passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Awdley, and was still in the hands of that family in 1667, but in 1704 it had passed to the Dridens' of Chesterton, and after that to the Pigotts' and others. The Church, dedicated to All Saints, and mostly in the Perpendicular style of architecture, is of stone, having chancel, nave with clerestory, north and south aisles with porches; the tower is at the west end. The date of some part of the work is suggested by the following notes from wills:—

Agnes Elyce wife of John Elyce, (Will made 4 Ap., 1466, proved 21 January following) leaves money to the building of S. Ives Church, (*P.C.C.* 16. *Godyn.*) William Judde, senr. leaves 'to the Church work when the parishioners will make it' £5. (Will made 2 Aug., 1451, proved 15 Sep., 1467). (*P.C.C.* 17. *Godyn.*) William Judde, probably a son of the above, wished to be buried before the altar of S. Katharine in the parish Church of S. Ives; he owned property at Lynn, Huntingdon, Peterborough and S. Ives. (Will made 2 Mar., 1467, proved 15 April, same year. (*P.C.C.* 17. *Godyn.*) The second of the above wills plainly shows that some work was contemplated in 1451, and the first that it had not been completed in 1466: the third is interesting as giving

the dedication of one of the altars in the Church. Robert Palmer who died in 1539, mentions also 'S. John's Chappell', which he wishes to be painted with the story of Job. It is worthy of note that the east window of the south aisle is of exactly the same character as that of Hemingford Abbots and one in Steeple Gidding Church. The pillars with moulding to the ground resemble those of Wistow Church. All these four Churches were connected with the Monastery of Ramsey. On the panels of the west door are a coney's head and tail, probably referring to a man of that name resident in the parish or neighbourhood in the 16th century. Coney was a Huntingdonshire name one gentleman known to belong to the Huntingdonshire family is buried in the church-yard of S. Margaret's, Rochester. The *Gentleman's Magazine* (Vol. xi p. 498) says that on Tuesday, 8 Sept. 1741, about 11.15 began a very violent hurricane of wind from the west and continued half an hour. It blew down S. Ives spire, which broke through the Church. The damage was computed at £1500. The present spire was built in 1879.

Among the Vicars were Richard Bromhall 1514—45, a connection of the Lawrence family, to be mentioned hereafter, On March 19th 161 $\frac{1}{2}$ Job Tookey, M.A., was appointed Vicar. In 1617 he witnessed the Will of Sir Nicholas Gascoigne of Hurst, and in 1620 gave some evidence about it. Another Vicar, Henry Downhall, who was afterwards Archdeacon of Hunts, was appointed in 1631, and was summoned by the House of Commons for not admitting Job Tookey as Lecturer, 1642. Later on, one bearing this remarkable name was a sailor on His Majesty's ship *Newport*; his will was proved 11 Dec. 1696, at Boston, New England, and, if not out of place, it may be mentioned that the most celebrated American detective of the 19th Century was named 'Job Tookey.' S. Ives was, as is well known, for some time the residence of Oliver Cromwell, and also of some members of the Laurence family; the last Abbot of Ramsey, John Laurence, had a relative also named John Laurence, who died at Ramsey in 1534. This latter had a son William who purchased the Manor of Slepe in 1545, he was buried at S. Ives in 1572. One of his descendants was Henry Laurence, was President of Cromwell's Council. This Henry Laurence was Cromwell's landlord, being proprietor of a mansion and grazing farm at S. Ives. An old wrought iron sign now attached to the Oliver Cromwell Inn, Wellington Lane, is said to have belonged to the Ship Inn, which stood further [west?] in the same street."

Mr. Noble added the following notes on THE HURSTS. "From time immemorial Wold Hurst and Wode Hurst have been 'members' of S. Ives, but not without dispute. Between June 24 and July 8, 1272, *i.e.*, in the reign of Hen. iii., Roger de Seyton and other itinerant Justices held a Court at Huntingdon. The patronage of the living of Wold Hyrst was claimed by John Morwyn, who said that he had been deprived of the right to present by the Abbot of Ramsey and the Prior of

S. Ives. John Morwyn said his grandfather Radulph, whose heir he was, in the time of King Henry, the grandfather of Henry iii., presented one William to the living, that William was admitted and instituted on Radulph's presentation and that he died "Parson" as presented by the Patron. The case was to be heard at Westminster, but John Morwyn did not appear, and judgment went by default in favour of the Abbot of Ramsey. Once again, Thomas Page was said to be instituted to the Vicarage of Old Hurst, 10th August, 1612. S. Ives Vicarage was then held by Job Tookey who had been instituted 19th March of that year. Woodhurst Church was originally dedicated to All Saints. In 1539, John Edwards, whose will was proved in that year, leaves to the High Altar of All Hallows in the church of Woodhurst, xiid. The dedication has since been changed to S. John the Baptist. A bequest was made to provide a chaplain to celebrate for the souls of Edward, King of England, and of Simon, Abbot of Ramsey, 1316-42, in the chapel of Derhirst, in the town of Slepe. Derhirst is difficult to identify, it could scarcely be either Wold or Wode Hurst, which had already received their names."

The following notes on St. Ives were furnished by Mr. S. J. Ladds, F.R.I.B.A. :

"The Church of St. Ives has Chancel, Nave with Clerestory, Aisles, N. & S. Porches, and W. tower and spire with a modern Vestry on the North side. The greater part of the church is Perpendicular, of good character, the windows have very good tracery, and the roofs of oak, and of the same period: that to the Nave being hidden by a modern plaster ceiling. The Nave is of four bays; the arches are moulded and rest on lofty piers, the sections of which are partly continuous with the arch. Each bay has a clerestory window of two lights. Some of the Nave piers have stone brackets worked upon them, and upon these brackets carved figures painted and gilded, were set up in 1897. The East window of the South aisle is a very fine example of Decorated date, and on each side of it are niches of similar character. This window seems to have been inserted to add greater dignity to the Chapel (the Lady Chapel) situated in this part of the church, probably by one of the Abbots of Ramsey; similar windows, but of less size and importance, having been inserted in the corresponding position in the Churches of Hemingford Abbots and Steeple Gidding, both Churches like this at St. Ives, belonging to Ramsey Abbey. More, they both belonged to the Priory of St. Ives. That an altar stood in this aisle before the insertion of this window is proved by the existence of a fine double piscina, of Early English date, having intersecting circular arches, finely moulded and enriched with the dog-tooth ornament. At the West end of the North aisle, in the N. E. pier of the tower, may be seen a fragment of the Nave arcade, the predecessor of the present. This is probably of 13th century date. The font which stands at the West end of the Nave shares with these the honour of being the oldest parts of the existing church. It also has

intersecting circular arches on the sides of its octagonal bowl, which rests upon a central and four angular shafts, all octagonal. The tower stands upon Arches upon the East, North and South sides. It is of excellent Perpendicular workmanship, and is surmounted by a lofty spire. The West doorway is enclosed in a square hood moulding, and has rich spandrils; on either side are good niches. The oak door is chiefly modern, but some older parts have been worked in, notably some tracery of good design, in one of the spandrils of which is carved a rabbit's (or cony's) head, while in another the tail is represented. The lower part of the West wall of the Tower seems to be rather earlier than the rest. Above the door is a good four-light window. The belfry windows are double two-lights under a square hood mould. Brayley's *Beauties of England and Wales* (published 1808), states that the spire has blown down twice. One of these occasions was the memorable storm of September, 1741: the date of the other calamity we know not. The spire was rebuilt in 1879 and restored in 1886. Until one of these years, the corners of the parapet had pinnacles with round balls on the top, not unlike those at Hemingford Grey, and probably, like them, erected after the storm of 1741. The present screen and organ were erected in 1894, and the vestry was built in 1896. The Church has 8 bells. (See *the Church Bells of Huntingdonshire*, by Rev. T. M. N. Owen). Six of the bells are dated 1723; the other two 1796."

(v.) BLUNTISHAM—Proceeding to Bluntisham the members were received by the Rector, the Rev. H. Sayers. No special paper or information had been prepared and 'a tour of inspection' of the several points of interest was consequently made. It was generally felt that the Church well merited close attention and the hope was expressed that some member would prepare a descriptive paper which might find a place in the Society's 'Transactions' at no very distant time. The fine embattled tower at the west end, with spire of three tiers of lights, springing from behind a battlement was specially noticed, while the Chancel termination, semi-hexagon, each division of which, carried up pyramidically, with buttresses at the angles, is severally lighted by a pointed window separated by a mullion into two parts with a trefoil head, was much admired. This uncommon feature seems to point to some foreign influence, the style reminding one so much of Continental examples. Below the parapet of the tower there is a profusion of ornament (ball-flower and similar devices) with gargoyles placed out of the centre so as to avoid injury to the lower masonry by running water. Within the tower are arches opening into the north and south aisles. The west end walls of each aisle have a Perpendicular window within a large arched space, and there are three light windows on either side, with transoms. On the north side there is an indication of a buttress probably placed there with a view to strengthen and give support to the walls, and signs are not wanting of some alteration having been here made in the pitch of the aisle roofs. We learn that formerly on the north side of

the tower there was a Charity School. The south porch has angular buttresses, good gargoyles and a niche over the doorway, with some fine tracery about the outer arch. This porch seems to have been more lofty than at present, but no sign remains of any former chamber. The slender shafts in the hollow of the inner doorway are noticeable. A holy water stoup in the porch by the south entrance is much mutilated and worn. The Chancel (Decorated) has a good priest's door, the windows are in part Perpendicular insertions. There is a low-side window divided by a stone mullion, somewhat lower than usual in appearance. It has the iron bars, but not in the original settings. It is plastered up, but the deep splays are seen in the thickness of the wall. In the south aisle, at the east end, are some hidden away mediæval tiles. Here in an opening in the south wall, within an ogee arch, terminating in small corbel heads, was possibly at one time an alabaster carving or some such work, depicting probably an incident in connection with the Mother of Our Lord. There is a piscina below; also to the east a wall opening, apparently designed to receive the sacred vessels. The position points to the Lady Chapel. The Church possesses some interesting Jacobean carved wood work placed in the front of a pew in the north aisle at the east end. A portion of the rood screen has been worked up into the reading desk, and two of a series of painted panels (probably re-used), are within the desk, facing east, and so quite hidden from view. They have been severely varnished in dark oak colour. One of the panels represents St. George in conflict with the dragon. The Font which is of octagon form with bold and characteristic carving is of Perpendicular character. The lower portion or plinth is of softer stone, and is divided into double panels delicately treated. The two parts are apparently distinct.

Owing to the lateness of the hour and the requirements of the train service, it was with much regret found necessary to abandon the remainder of the day's programme. But a few of the members and their friends found the way to the Aldreth site, and others passed on to Rampton for tea, Mr. Evelyn White promising that the papers which he had prepared should be printed and illustrations given in the Society's printed 'Transactions.'* He was very sorry that the opportunity of visiting Rampton Church should be lost, at all events for the present, because there was much which was interesting that had been recently brought to light in connection with somewhat extensive repairs. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the parish the work had been only partially carried out, and that after much patient endurance on his part as Rector, in having to contend with exceptional difficulties.

The proceedings of the day were fully reported by the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire press, and the excursion was

* It is found impossible to include the Rampton paper in this Part I., of the 'Transactions,' but the several illustrations are already prepared and the printing is being proceeded with in readiness for Part II., which it is hoped an increase of members will enable the Council to issue in 1902.

on all sides pronounced to have been a complete success that augured well for the Society's future. The length of the programme was the only drawback, this if in anyway a disadvantage was more than atoned for in the efforts made to arrange a full as well as an attractive day.

At the well-attended Annual General Meeting, held at Ely under the presidency of A. J. Pell, Esq., (Vice-president), the subjects named (p. 89) were brought forward.

The Rev. C. H. Evelyn White introduced the subject of a peculiar form of Earthworks found in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, that had for the most part been hitherto unnoticed, and more particularly the very extensive and peculiar formation found in the parish of Cottenham which had been brought to his notice by one of the members (Mr. Arthur Bull). As a full description of the Earthworks appears in the '*Transactions*' (Vol. i., pp. 55—76), it is unnecessary to say anything in this part of our proceedings. Mr. Arthur Bull, who had brought with him a sample of the fragmentary remains of Roman pottery thrown up in great quantities by the plough, where the land is cultivated, (and indeed, where-ever there happens to have been any disturbance of the soil in and about the bed of the supposed Car-dyke), read some notes on the subject, which he illustrated by reference to a specially prepared plan and the Ordnance map.

The second subject dealt with the term 'Galilee' as applied to the western portion of a Church building. After some introductory remarks relating to the Galilee transept at Ely Cathedral, the porch and upper hall, &c., Mr. Evelyn White said that he desired to find some more satisfactory interpretation of the term 'Galilee' than that which had been already advanced. He endeavoured to do this by an attempt to discover the particular use to which the Galilee and its adjacent parts had been formerly put. He was strongly inclined to regard the Galilee as chiefly intended for sanctuary purposes. The laws of Ina, King of the West Saxons (A.D. 693), provided that the life of a capital offender should be spared on his escape to a Church, and that one deserving stripes should be forgiven on entering this harbour of refuge. Alfred the Great, (A.D. 887), set out the privilege of Sanctuary, and expressly ordered that if divine service was proceeding and the safety of the criminal claiming sanctuary endangered, the Clergy might cause him to remain in a lodging that had no more doors than the Church had. The privilege of sanctuary is clearly defined in the ecclesiastical laws of Edward the Confessor, as confirmed by William I., in 1070. Doubtless then in mediæval times all Churches enjoyed the right of granting sanctuary, although some Churches appear to have possessed special privileges in this respect, which, if time allowed, could be enumerated. The subject is full of interest. Although he could offer no evidence concerning the privilege of sanctuary, he was strongly of opinion that at Ely, a Church like

the mother Church would possess special rights of sanctuary which in such a district as the Fen country, would be very frequently claimed. Just as Durham, a famous Sanctuary Church, may be regarded as privileged in a marked degree on account of the shrine of St. Cuthbert, so Ely in all probability was in like manner eminent as a place of refuge, owing to the fact that it contained the shrine of St. Etheldreda. Criminals fleeing to this hallowed place would thus pray for the immunity of the Church and the *liberty* of St. Etheldreda. This view it will be observed gives a very emphatic turn to the expression still current among us. If all this is largely conjectural, yet it must be remembered that it is drawn from well established facts that affect places no more entitled to be otherwise regarded as places of sanctuary than Ely, indeed, in most cases, less so. Documentary evidence concerning sanctuary rights may be wanting, and certainly no Church knocker, mis-named a 'Sanctuary Knocker' remains at Ely to invest the theory with what some might regard conclusive proof. But he ventured to think that the existence of a so-called Galilee at Ely pointed to distinct evidence in favour of his contention. During the course of the Baron's War, a number of turbulent marauders from Brabant laid the country waste, and invaded the Isle. In the process of plundering the Cathedral, the Galilee seems to have been a special object of aversion, and a heavy ransom had to be paid in order to turn aside the incendiaries. He was inclined to attribute this not so much to the fact that the work was beautiful and costly, as to the desire to override every restriction, in fact that the very place of sanctuary should neither know or receive protection at the hands of the assailants. Mr. Evelyn White dwelt at some length on the several door escutcheons, misnamed 'Sanctuary knockers' especially in regard to their connection with well-known Sanctuary Churches, possessing both Galilee porch and Sanctuary Chambers, and structurally having points of resemblance in common with Ely. This was particularly the case when the conditions under which the ruined upper portion of the Ely Galilee, together with its northern and southern arms was considered. Most, if not all large Western porches with rooms above, Mr. Evelyn White was inclined to think, were originally designed as places of Sanctuary for the accommodation of fugitives. At all events an intimate connection between the Galilee and adjacent sanctuary chambers was evident, and had in fact suggested, he thought, the derivation and meaning of the word 'Galilee' here advanced, which in brief is this. The Hebrew root, '*Gaal*' primarily means '*to redeem*'; and followed by the Hebrew word '*dam*'=*blood*, it carries with it the meaning '*to avenge bloodshed*'. '*Gaal*' in the sense of redemption or buying back is very frequently used of God as redeeming man, *e.g.*, Israel redeemed from Egyptian bondage and Babylonish captivity, &c. The requisition of a penalty consequent on the shedding of blood found in the use of '*Gaal*' (followed by '*dam*') puts us in possession of the leading idea connected with sanctuary. '*Gaal*' again, is used to express the

idea of pollution, *e.g.*, as it occurs in respect of the removal of a priest from the sacred ministry. This emphasizes the custom of placing penitents apart, and expresses an interpretation that Mr. Evelyn White ventured to think was full of meaning. Thus 'Gaal' (the original term) would in process of time (it might be), become corrupted and assimilated into the somewhat meaningless expression 'Galilee'. Instances of like assimilation are extremely common. In response to a request made to Mr. Evelyn White some time since by Dr. Stubbs, Dean of Ely, for some reasonable derivation of the term 'Galilee', the interpretation here set out was suggested, which it is right to add interested, but did not convince. The Dean remarked that the mediæval monks were "certainly innocent of Hebrew," but Mr. Evelyn White pointed out, in reply, some striking exceptions to this, for at Ramsey several of the monks, including prior Grégory (died A.D. 1280), were famous Hebrew scholars, and a valuable Hebrew library belonged to the famous Huntingdonshire monastery. Dr. Stubbs might be correct in regarding this as a "somewhat fanciful suggestion" *but he (Mr. Evelyn White), could not help thinking that it was a meaning instinct with life.† The late Dean Hook in his well known *Church Dictionary* was led to speak of the Ely Galilee as having little in common with that of Durham, the former being denominated "a mere porch of entrance" while that at Durham is "a spacious building with five Aisles and three Altars", but it is manifestly a mistake to regard the Ely porch as the complete Galilee. The entire west transept formed the Galilee, the southern arm of which, as completed by Bishop Ridel, was a continuation of the Norman work. The north end of this west transept was built by Bishop Eustace, and was distinguished as "the new Galilee" ‡ Of this portion of the Galilee, Bishop Tanner, at one time a Canon of Ely, wrote, "From this tower southwards there now extends a large building as high as the top of the Church, and the like seems to have reached as far northward, though part is now down." Further, Tanner in his *Survey of Cathedrals* (published in 1727) applies the term 'Galilee' to the whole western cross side of the

* *Ely Cathedral Handbook*, (21st Ed. p. 65), Ely: Tyndall. (*Origin of the term 'Galilee'*).

Thomas the Monk who in the twelfth Century completed the ancient record or *Liber Eliensis* draws upon the Hebrew tongue for a derivation of the place-name *Ely*. This in itself not only is as plausible as Bede's *nomen accipit a copia anguillarum*, but gives countenance and support to the contention that mediævalists were accustomed in their choice of words to borrow occasionally from the Hebrew.

† In a paper "The Galilee as a place of Sanctuary; with a suggestion as to the term Galilee" read before the British Archæological Association at their Newcastle Congress in July, 1901 (in connection with a visit to Durham and the Galilee there), which will be published in the *Journal of the Association* and already reported in the *Yorkshire Post* (July 25th), I have dealt with the whole subject at greater length. C.H.E.W.

‡ *Ipse construxit a fundamento novam Galileam ecclesiæ Eliensis versus occidentem sumptibus suis.*"

Church. In the plan of the Cathedral the southern portion is distinguished as 'the south Galilee' "now the church work-house," and the corresponding area on the north side of the tower is marked "ruined part of the Galilee." This was a prevalent view a century-and-a-half ago, but it has become the practice to regard the present West Porch as the 'new Galilee' which evidently took the place of Bishop Eustace's earlier work of about A. D. 1200. Of the destruction of this older Galilee we know nothing; it was probably built without any foundations. The pitch of the present modern Galilee roof was probably much higher, rising to the height of the lowest gallery in the tower, and enclosed a room over the vaulting of the porch. This chamber was approached from the south by an external staircase. The doorway, still visible in the upper arcade of the south wall, points to this communication. The entire structure, Mr. Evelyn White could but think was not only highly suggestive of a forgotten use, *viz.*, that connected with sanctuary purposes, but went far to establish his theory in the close relationship of the term 'Galilee' with the idea involved in the usages of sanctuary. In no other suggested interpretation or derivation of the expression 'Galilee' was the combined meaning or double sense of the idea to be found. The various meanings attached to the term 'Galilee' have been so often brought forward that there is no need to touch upon a matter that is outside the present inquiry. All are really suggestions only, which in the main are derived from the place-name *Galilee* * although seeing that dead bodies were allowed to be placed in the Galilee when awaiting interment, and that there also penitents assembled, the ideas suggested in Mr. Evelyn White's explanation, that told of *bondage, pollution and redemption* were not, he held, 'far-fetched,' and certainly not inconsistent in respect of the interpretation whatever might be thought of the derivation or origin of the term.

The third subject for consideration was suggested in the announcement "A Norman Church in the Isle of Ely, and the work of its 'restoration'". The Church referred to was Stuntney, concerning which Mr. Evelyn White made the following remarks:—

"The Church of Stuntney I venture to regard as altogether unique. It certainly has a very interesting past with which however, I cannot now at all adequately deal. It must suffice to give the barest outline, leaving that outline to be filled at some future time. The very name 'Stuntney' (D.B. Stuntenei) is interesting as it is indicative of the former character of the place, when as one of the several fen islands it stood out from its acclivity high above Ely, from which it is separated by the Middle Fen, having around it several outlying hills or islands, *e.g.*, Quanea, Thorney, Nornea, &c. All these place-names affirm in the common

* After all the place-name 'Galilee' comes to us through the Hebrew, *Galeel*, a circuit or region.

ending 'ey' or 'ea' that the several heights were at times completely surrounded by water, and among these island promontories, Stuntney (probably A.S. *stonde*=station or situation) stood prominently forward.* There are several beaches of the old tidal river on the slope of Stuntney hill, the highest being only about ten feet below the present surface of the hill.† There is yet another suggestion as to the origin of the name Stuntney that we may be excused for putting forward before leaving this particular consideration. The Church of Stuntney it would appear was originally known as "the Chapel of the Holy Cross." It is so designated in the *Taxat. Eccles. P. Nicholai*, A.D. 1291. (CAPELLA SCE CRUCIS) when reference is made to the 'Spiritualities' of the Diocese. ‡ In the other reference to the '*Bona temporalia*', the place is called 'MOUNTENEYE'. There is little doubt but that the height was surmounted by a Cross of stone previous to the actual erection of a Chapel, which when built was dedicated as mentioned. In this connection the prefix may be allied to the M.E. *stoon*=stone, except that the final 't' is wanting. But this is simply tentative and suggestive. Dugdale referring to the second foundation of the monastery of Ely, says, "I must not forget the gift of *Staney* (Stuntney) thereunto". This use of the A.S. *stan* (*Staneie* in *Liber Eliensis* throughout) would seem to sanction the last named meaning, but we should hesitate before accepting it. The ancient *Liber Eliensis* ii. caps. 18, 19. records how that one, Wulstan of Dalham, in the reign of King Alfred, (A.D. 946—955) gave Stuntney with its fishery or fen to the house of Ely, which possession came to Wulstan through the grant of one Escuuen de Staneie a widow. The monks demised the fen to certain kinsmen of the said Escuuen at an annual rent of two thousand eels. They continued to hold their possession (of which they had been formerly tenants) without any sentence or law of the citizens or hundreds, during the life of King Edgar (A.D. 958—978), subsequently the holding became the subject of litigation and the Abbot of Ely was not only placed in full possession but awarded all arrears due in respect of a term of six years. Thus Stuntney was acquired by the predecessors in title of the Church of Ely, and this is, as far as we know, the earliest reference to Stuntney that we possess. The Manor of Stuntney formed a part of the revenue that fell to the cellarer of the Ely monastery. The Chapel of Stuntney (which in the supplement to Bentham's *Ely*, and in many less reliable books of more recent date, is

* Since the above notes were compiled Professor Skeat's *Place-Names of Cambridgeshire* has been issued by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. It has caused us much surprise that so able and learned a philologist should have thought of no other derivation than the A. S. *Stuntia*=foolish. We cannot help regarding this interpretation as the outcome of a disregard of the physical conditions of the localities which is apparent throughout Dr. Skeat's work. The 't' that closes the prefix ought not to be an insuperable difficulty.

† This on the information of the Rev. H. J. Fry, vicar of Stuntney.

‡ The Chaplain enjoyed the title of Arch-priest.

referred to as one of the few *Saxon (sic)* buildings remaining* occupies the site doubtless of a still more ancient structure. The present Church which still possesses its main characteristics as a Norman building, has of late years suffered incalculable harm at the hands of incompetent church restorers. The work of ancient times has been rudely set at nought or otherwise treated in so barbarous a fashion that no words of condemnation could be too severe. As one of the objects of this Society is to oppose and prevent as far as possible the execution of any injuries with which ancient buildings and monuments of every description within the district may be from time to time threatened, it is incumbent upon us, especially in view of work now contemplated, ostensibly to remedy or in some measure to undo the havoc wrought less than twenty-five years since, to review the past and present condition of this interesting structure, in the hope that the attention of the authorities may be drawn to the advisability of safe-guarding the ancient features, and generally, by diligent over-sight, as well as by effort, to secure that judicious treatment which hitherto has been lamentably wanting, with a view to avert the utter ruin that seems to threaten the building. Under the fostering care of the mother Church of Ely, we have a right to expect that at least the ancient character of their Chapel at Stuntney will be respected. It would seem however that those responsible for the actual carrying out of the details of the work, certainly in connection with the former 'restoration', were allowed a free hand, and appear to have wrought without any supervision or control on the part of the authorities. This is a very real danger, which alas! is too little appreciated. The painstaking efforts of those who are zealous to repair the breaches of many a village Church that has long laid waste, are often so sadly crippled by uncongenial surroundings and lack of means, that adequate attention to numerous details of importance may be well nigh impossible. But in the case of Stuntney, the funds of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have been and are again available, and the personal and sympathetic influence of the Dean and Chapter are at hand, so that those severally responsible are without excuse. The weakness or otherwise of a system that allows a Church building of singular interest to become after the expenditure of considerable sums of money, little better than a wreck of what it formerly was, requires attention. The character of much so-called 'restoration' work is exceedingly painful and humiliating, although not necessarily so. Churches are despoiled of their ornaments, divested of their antiquity, and deprived of their interesting features at the caprice, very often, of those, who entirely ignore the fact, that they are thereby doing violence alike to religion and history. Too frequently the want of anything approaching conscientious action and thoroughness of investigation with regard to such points as atmospheric conditions,

* "One of the three Saxon buildings in the County ** entirely of Saxon architecture and supposed to be one of the most ancient in the Kingdom." Gardner's *History of Cambs., &c.*, 1851.

the nature of the soil, foundations, &c., (preliminary to the drawing up of plans), is very evident, and tend to work incalculable mischief, while the habit of an architect in making a mere casual visit while the work is in progress, instead of personally superintending and satisfying himself on the many important matters, too often entrusted to perfectly uninterested builders and their men, who cannot be too closely scrutinized in all their methods and ways, is a fruitful cause of disaster. Perhaps the danger is greater when architect and builder alike, are responsible only (or imagine themselves so to be), to a body constituted like the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with whom the direct representatives of the particular Church may have little influence. Stuntney Chapel it may be taken for granted was at one time in its way a little gem of Norman ecclesiastical architecture, partaking to some extent of the character of the glorious minster of St. Etheldreda; to-day we can only discern in the mutilated and disturbed walls, a vestige of its former beauty. The Church of flint and stone (strictly as we have seen a Chapel) consists of Nave and Chancel with interesting Norman doorways having zig-zag and billet mouldings with foliated caps. So much "care was taken to preserve" these ancient features in the process of the destructive restoration of 1876, that the North doorway (which had been blocked) corresponding to that in the South side, was actually taken bodily out of its original position and placed on the south side of the Chancel, while the semi-circular Chancel arch, also Norman work, was placed a little lower down, where it forms a sort of apology for an opening into an organ chamber. Needless to say this choice Norman work is completely overshadowed by its less worthy surroundings, and the very stones seem to cry out for restitution and replacement. The name of Oliver Cromwell is associated with Stuntney, where he for some time resided. I can imagine no destructive work wrought by Cromwell's agency so atrocious in degree as that accomplished during the latter part of the nineteenth century in respect of this Chapel of Stuntney, by such as were most certainly, 'without excuse.' In the MS. Collections relating to the County of Cambridge, formed in 1748, by the Rev. Wm. Cole and now in the British Museum, *Add. MS.*, 5821, (Vol. xx., f. 26) this Norman Chapel is represented in a pen and ink sketch, giving the north-east aspect.* The Chancel has a square three-light E. window supported by a buttress on either side, and a square headed Perpendicular window of one light with hood moulding is shewn in the north wall. To the east of the north door is a lancet window, but the whole is of mean appearance. There are the remains of gable crosses at the end of Chancel and Nave. When Cole visited the Church (14th October, 1748), there were two small bells hanging in the wall at the west end, and the roofs were covered with tile. Within the Church, the altar was raised one step and the

* There are also notes together with a plan of the Church, drawn up by the Rev. T. Kerrich in 1798, (*Brit. Mns.*, *Add. MSS.*, 6752., f. 222.)

Chancel separated from the Nave by the Chancel arch. Cole remarks upon the fact that there was neither painted glass or monuments in the Church, it being no place for sepulture. The handsome Norman stone Font placed in the centre of the Church at the west end, if of rather late date and somewhat small, has a wide opening. It has a circular bowl with large escallops. An illustration appears in *Archæologia*, Vol. xvi. The present character of the building is completely altered from its former appearance. The west wall has a single-light D. window over which is the double opening in the gable, originally intended for the bells; this has been turned into a two-light lancet window to give light to a former gallery. In concluding his remarks, Mr. Evelyn White referred to various matters of detail, comparing the Church as it probably existed at different periods with its present position and character. It would, he said, be neither safe or politic to seek to 'restore' the Church back again to what it once was, but he sincerely trusted that a projected renovation, which he understood to be imminent, might result in an achievement that would commend itself to those who shared with him a desire to see Stuntney Church fashioned upon the model of the best type of a village Church, and one that would moreover possess some ennobling traces of its association with the past, and with the mother Church of Ely.

The Rev. Kenelm Smith fully agreed with all that had fallen from their Secretary, to whom they were indebted for bringing the matter forward. He had known the Church of Stuntney since he was four years old, and the vandalism from which it had suffered was simply appalling. Other members similarly expressed strong disapprobation of what had been done at Stuntney.

A vote of thanks to the chairman having been tendered, Mr. Pell said he should be pleased to do all in his power to further the interests of the Society.

Shortly after the meeting, Mr. F. T. Mullett, Architect and Surveyor, of Downing House, Cambridge, as a member of the Society, forwarded at the Secretary's invitation, the following paper dealing with STUNTNEY CHURCH, to which building he had devoted much attention in connection with drawing plans, &c., for its proposed restoration.

"It may be well, as far as possible, to make a record of what Stuntney Church once was, and what it now is. In the collections of the Rev. T. Kerrich, (*Brit. Mus. Add. MSS.*, No. 6752, f. 222, A.D. 1797), is a plan of the Church as then existant, with figured dimensions, shewing that it consisted of two parallelograms, a Chancel about 15 feet 3 inches long from east to west, and a Nave about 30 feet long and 17 feet 6 inches wide. I purposely make these figures approximate, as although the plans shews dimensions measured to half inches (and even $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch), yet an examination of the figures proves that they were taken somewhat in haste, and no attempt made to prove their correctness. They are how-

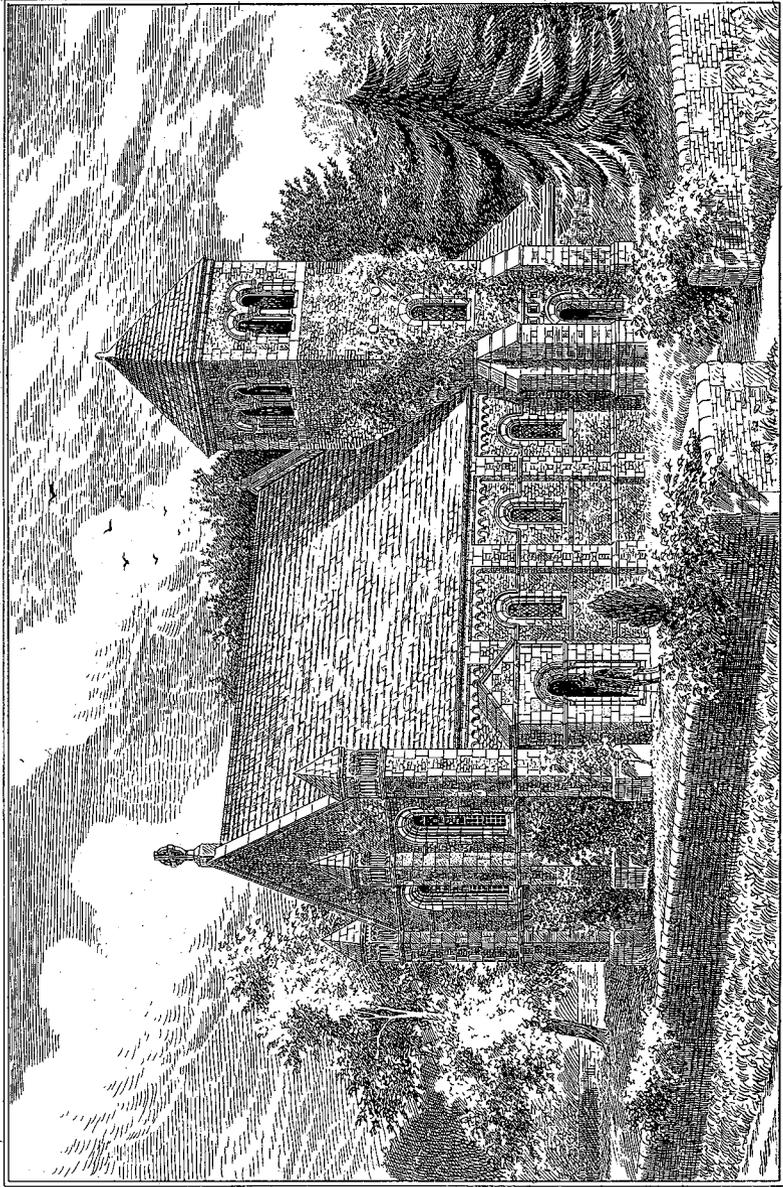
ever sufficiently correct, to shew that the north, east and west walls of the eastern and narrow end of the present Chancel occupy the same site as the old ones, and that the western and broader portion of the present Chancel is the eastern end of the old Nave. The plan does not shew any windows to the Chancel, no east end buttresses, or north and south buttresses in the extension of the western wall of the Nave, but does exhibit western buttresses in extension of the north and south walls of the Nave. These points however only confirm as a fact the hurried manner of the measuring, as Cole's MS; (*Brit. Mus. Add. MSS.*, 5821, page 26), [October 14th 1748], contains a small rough perspective sketch of the Church from the N.E.; which shews the missing windows and buttresses, but does not shew the western buttresses of the Nave. The particulars both of Cole and Kerrich must in consequence be combined to ascertain with any degree of exactitude the position, size, and details of the old Church, and to assist in determining its history. Fortunately both documents contain particulars and measurements of the details of special features of the structure which then existed, and which on examination prove that the same features are still to be found in the present Church. These consist of the great (Chancel) arch, the north and south doorways, and the Font, to which may probably be added the gable Cross. These remains are the only existing constructional records of the date of the original Church, and I think there could never have been any others which possessed anything of architectural design, and these are all of late Norman style. Probably the archives of Holy Trinity Parish in Ely, and also those of the Cathedral, would supply earlier and accurate information as to this building. In my opinion the original Church was the same building as shewn in Cole's sketch and Kerrich's plan; the present Chancel walls are portions of it, and were erected in the latter part of the 11th or the early part of the 12th century. Cole has a memorandum "Query; if dedicated to the Honour of the Holy Cross, as per Bull of Pope Nicholas 3rd, 1279; being there mentioned." This at once implies a foundation anterior to that date. Several characteristic features point to the probability of the place having been a halting ground and scene of preparation for pilgrims more than a village Church. The absence of all buildings except the bare Nave and Chancel, the site at the terminus of the great east road through the eastern counties from the seaports, its commanding position on the brow of the hill, close to ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant) and overlooking the Cathedral City from which it was separated by the river and a wide expanse of Fen, lends aid to this view; while the modern institution of the graveyard, and its recorded dependence upon Trinity Church, are against its independent existence, as also is the entire absence of memorials to Stuntney inhabitants of any degree. Cole notes that in the middle of the 18th century there was "neither painted glass or monuments in or about the Chapel, it being not used for sepulture; only a Chapel of Ease to Trinity Church in Ely."

The existing old work and the records referred to, shew the original Chapel to have been a plain unpretending structure of rubble stone walls with very shallow foundations, the builders having evidently studied the nature of the site and foreseen the inutility of digging deep into the gault with its treacherous nature. The west and east walls of the Nave and the east wall of the Chancel is finished with gables, the Norman gable cross over the present Chancel arch being probably the original one refixed, it may however be a replica of a prior one of clunch as the external masonry with any work in it, seems to have been all clunch. Apparently there were no gable parapets, the tiled roofs overrunning the walls with a right angle pitch. Was the original roof tiled or thatched? it was tiled in 1748. The Chancel probably had north, south, and east windows, but no vestige of them remains. At a later period the Chancel seems to have fallen into bad condition, and new single light windows were inserted in the north and south walls and a three light window in the east end, buttresses being built at the corners. All these appear to have been of Perpendicular design. As already mentioned Kerrich does not shew these windows or buttresses (Cole, a few years earlier does), he seems to have ignored them in favour of the earlier work of which he gives pretty full particulars. Probably at the same time the west end buttresses were built, and inferentially the whole structure must at this time have been materially dilapidated and received a general reparation. The nave possessed north and south doorways opposite each other at two thirds of its length from the Chancel arch, with north and south windows also opposite each other at about the middle of that length of wall. Both windows were swept away when the present Nave was built, but the external masonry of the doorways still remains. Kerrich makes a special note that the north window is "the only original window remaining," and gives a figured sketch of it, shewing square outer jambs which held the glazing, 5 inches wide sight size, and less than 3 feet high, with a semicircular head: inside a set back of 6 inches on each side with deep splays opening to 4 feet on the inner face of the wall, and a corresponding splay to the sill. It was 4 feet wide across the jaws of the splays, 4 feet high to the springing, and 4 feet from the floor to the arris of the sill, the jamb splays being continued around the circular head. No doubt the south window corresponded exactly, and the Chancel window (or windows) were the same structurally and possibly in size. Speculating from this I am inclined to think that the east wall of the Chancel had three such small narrow windows, as may be seen to this day in Addington Church, Surrey. Kerrich's south window was 2 feet 4 inches wide between the jambs, splayed inside to 3 feet 4 inches wide, with a broad flat hollow sunk in each splay carried around the arch and stopped on a shallow splayed sill, the height being about 4 feet 8 inches on the inner face of the wall from the arris of the sill to the apex of the arch, which was flat pointed. The north doorway was of clunch, of late Norman design, as was

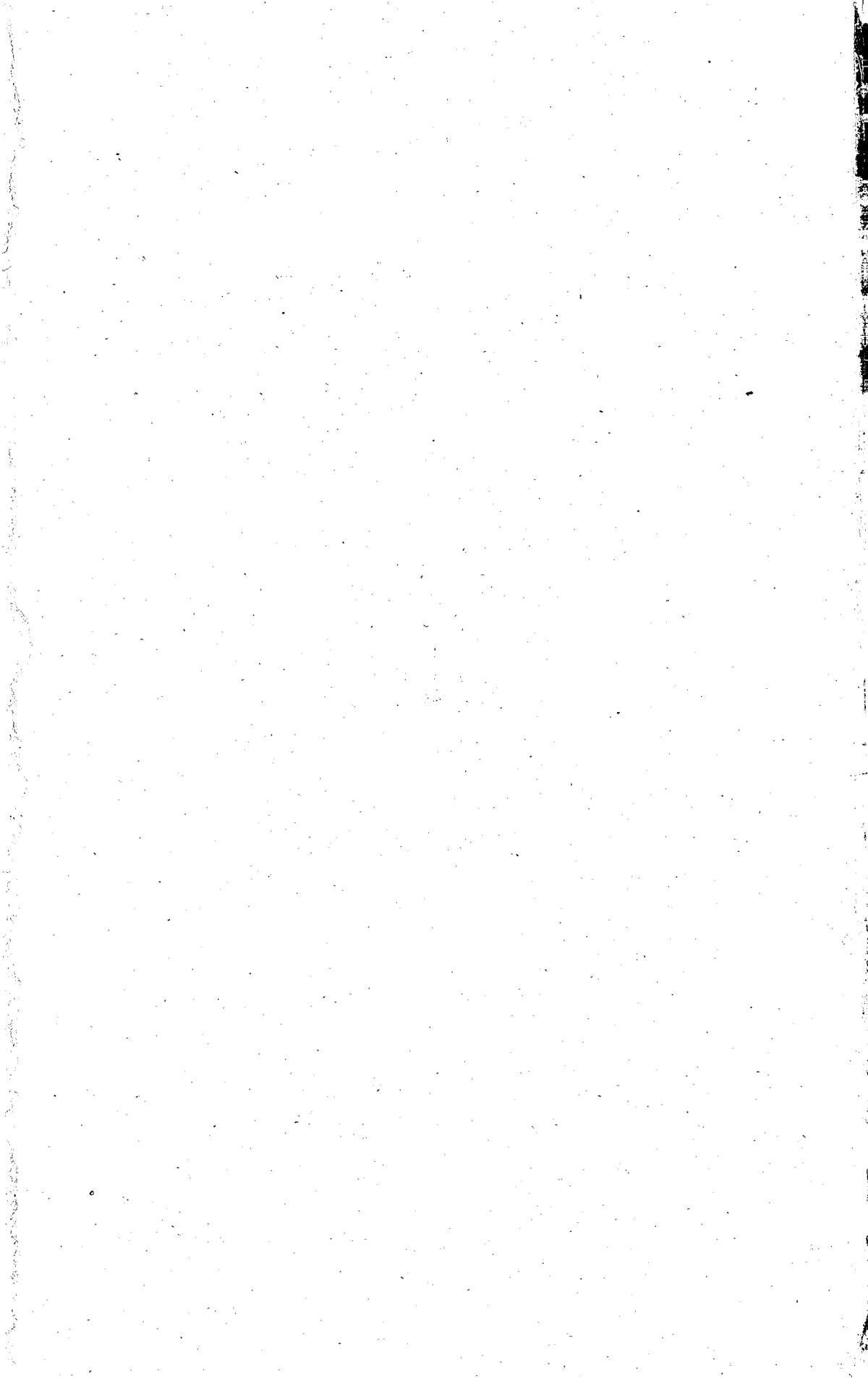
also the great arch. Both are in good preservation and were re-erected when the present Nave was built, the great arch now forming the front of the organ chamber opening to the chancel, and the doorway being built into the east wall, as a recess, at the south end. The south doorway exactly corresponds but is of stone, and is reused as the present doorway. It is possible that it was originally clunch, which perished under the influence of weather and was copied in stone. These three archways agree in date and style, but vary in every detail, though not in facial appearance, having roll billet mouldings, moulded chevrons, and a roll under, foliated caps to the recessed column shafts, and moulded bases. Both Cole and Kerrich give sketches of nearly every detail, but the latter also shews the inner masonry of both doors to have had stone lintels with flat segment soffits, resting on moulded corbel springers which were the top stones of a plain inner jamb. This implies that at some anterior date new doors had been made, and probably they were hung with wrought iron hooks and band hinges in a check work in the new masonry, with or without frames. In process of time it would seem, an urgent general reparation was rendered necessary, buttresses were built to sustain the dilapidated walls, decayed windows were cut out and new ones substituted, and more light being required, the openings were made wider and higher, and it maybe fresh windows were pierced in the Chancel walls. According to the time the characteristics of these features would be Perpendicular, and the building would attain the appearance shewn in Cole's sketch and Kerrich's plan. The Vestry was doubtless erected about this time, and the "two small bells hung in the wall at the west end" as mentioned by Cole, with the rough wooden bell cot shewn in a small print of a subsequent date. Some time after the visits of Cole and Kerrich it appears that the tiles were stripped from the roofs, which were covered with thatch instead. It may easily be inferred from this that the walls were giving way and the object was to lighten the load. Owing probably to the possession of sufficient funds in 1856, this unfortunate Church suffered an alteration from which it can never recover, as it has obliterated a large portion of the older work, and destroyed the simple appearance of the village Church, by the construction of the broad flint faced Nave and the hideous Tower now in existence. At this date a fashion had obtained of constructing new Churches with broad Naves and cross-braced roofs, two principles which have since proved totally incompatible with each other, as the entire weight of the roof is concentrated upon the legs and feet of the rafters and transferred to the top of the walls with the multiplication of everage as a direct outward thrust, tending to overturn them. With the folly of ambition, this fashion was applied to Stuntney Church, and a new Nave was built as wide as the old one was long, and nearly as long as the original Nave and Chancel combined. Thus a very small parish has been saddled for nearly half a century with the maintenance of a comparatively large structure which was designed with all the

seeds of immediate decay inherent in it. In the course of this alteration five-eighths of the length of the old Nave from the west end was destroyed, and the remainder left up to increase the length of the old Chancel. In this position a new east wall and Chancel arch of stone was erected, having the opening equal in span to the width of the old Nave, with a height in proportion. Some attempt was made in the details of the arch to copy the old Norman work with bad effect, especially as it sprung from two conical corbels, reeded and quirked, and with pig-tail scrolls. The original clunch Chancel arch and north doorway were re-erected (as already mentioned) and the stone south doorway also as the sole entrance to the Nave, the north doorway being abolished. The solitary window of the north side of the Nave (of which Kerrich so emphatically remarks "N.B. the only original window remaining") was also swept into oblivion without even a record of it being made for remembrance. Large plain windows with clear glass quarries and having semicircular heads, but otherwise innocent of design or even of 'copyism', were spread all over the place, flooding it with light, whereas the original Church was conspicuously gloomy, thus rushing from one extreme to the other. I have found no records of the height of the original walls, and content myself with inferences only. It is clear that the new walls were raised considerably. They were faced outside with black flints with red brick quoins and bands (an undoubted innovation) and inside with brick, while the heart of the walls (average two-thirds of the thickness) was filled in with pebbles, small broken stone, flint knappings, &c., shewing that all the debris from pulling down was used, and that the original walls were built of rubble, stone and pebbles. The larger of the pebbles were used as external facings below the plinth to save flints; ordinary Gothic buttresses were built to the quoins and side walls, and fortunately, for probably without them the whole place would have fallen down some years since. We possess one reminder at least of the Norman age and character of the original Church in a brick arcaded corbel-table under the eaves, a feature correct in character, but which had never hitherto existed in connection with the building. The roof of this comparatively tremendous span had no tie, but was constructed on the then general principle of cross-bracing, i.e. the length of the rafter was divided into three (about) equal portions, and from the top of the lower length a timber was carried across to the corresponding rafter of the opposite side of the roof and secured at the top of the middle length, and *vice versa*. These braces were each half the thickness of the rafters and were doubled, two to each pair of rafters from each side of the roof, crossing each other at the middle of the height over the central axis of the roof, and were bolted through at each end and at the intersections. Consequently all the strain of the weight and thrust of the roof became a cross strain upon the bolts, and was thus transferred to the top of the walls by the feet of the rafters. The roof, chancel and all, were covered with

thick rough tiles, extra heavy but poor in quality, which were laid in party coloured bands to look pretty. Thus this new building of excessive span had a roof of the heaviest class constructed upon the weakest principle, and carried upon loftier walls of the rottenest build practicable. True, the foundations were carried down deep into the gault, but this appears to have increased the instability on account of its giving and heaving after exposure to the air in excavating. It is not therefore surprising that very early this structure showed signs of giving way, and that it became necessary to insert a very strong wrought iron tie rod across the Nave from the north to the south walls close in front of the Chancel arch to take some of the strain off the responds of the arch and the east wall and buttresses, as the arch had given way and become dangerous. At the present date a settlement has caused a slight fracture all up through the south wall, which has also given way a little along the top on account of the thrust of the roof. The north wall has given badly to the strain of the roof, thereby relieving the south wall somewhat, and is leaning over outwards in the whole height, having the peculiarity of a complete bend in the length along the top owing no doubt to its bond with the east and west walls. But this same strain, bonding, and some settlement in the foundation, has caused two bad fractures through the easternmost and westernmost windows. The west wall with its comparatively lofty gable and great breadth and no buttresses except low down at the north and south ends, is fractured at three places right up and through, that at the north corner being very bad, whilst it is leaning over bodily outwards toward the road and drawing away from the roof. The east wall of the Nave is very badly fractured over the Chancel arch, as already mentioned, the arch being badly distorted, and appearing likely to give way at any time, and the stones of the non-descript cross let into the gable over the arch falling into the Nave. A peculiarity is that the arch and north end of the east wall has come away from the tower as shewn by the very bad fracture up and down the junction with the tower over the south haunch of the arch, and which shews that the gaunt ugly tower still stands upright, as was proved by plumbing it all round. The floor is disturbed, has sunk out of level, and opened, while there is a cavity about 2 inches wide all along the north wall. The Chancel walls, floor, &c., are disturbed, but it appears to be mainly owing to its connection with the new Nave, having dragged it over northwards, and to the great weight of the Tower, which settling down bodily has fractured the south wall. It appears certain, that but for the timely introduction of the tie rod across the Chancel arch, the Nave walls would have given away some time ago under the stress of the roof, and the whole fabric would have collapsed and fallen flat to the ground, dragging a great part of the Chancel with it, and practically destroying every vestige of the old original Church. Such an occurrence was as likely to take place during service as at any other time, and the probable consequent loss of life would have



Proposed Restoration of St. Swithin's Church, Isle of Ely.
as designed by F. T. Muller, Architect, Cambridge.



been very serious. It would have been a grave and unique report that the parish had been deprived of Vicar and congregation at one fell blow; but it was not impossible. It was a serious responsibility to induct a new Vicar, without any arrangement or suggestion for dealing with the risk, or any attempt at raising a fund for the minimum of work which was absolutely necessary; and it says much for the courage of the present Vicar, that he at once boldly faced it. It must not be lost sight of that the place is unutterably poor, and the great tithes sequestered to the Ecclesiastical Commission, so that without the generosity of Mr. Cole Ambrose, a principal inhabitant, it would have been practically impossible to raise sufficient funds even to keep the little Church in condition. The ancient and unique little Church has been nearly wiped out, and the vainglorious fabric raised in its place devoid of every Christian feeling, has become little less than a complete wreck. Could such Churches have audible voices how they would groan at the treatment and want of treatment served out to them, and if deceased founders and benefactors could rise from their graves and see their cherished relics there would be great weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. On survey it was found that the roof must come off, the north and east walls and Chancel arch must be taken down, together with the west gable and part of the wall. The accommodation being considerably in excess of the requirements of the Parish, the Vicar decided to reduce the width, and, to maintain the axial line through the centre of the Chancel arch, that both side walls should be rebuilt 3 feet 6 inches inwards, thus reducing the width of the Nave by nearly one-fourth; and consequently lowering the roof. At the same time it was desired to preserve the Norman character of the original Church, the new work and alterations being in the same style. In result I prepared the accompanying design,* retaining as much as possible of the West wall, but strengthened by the three buttresses as shewn, keeping the south doorway in position and utilising the space between it and the new south wall as a Porch with an inner door. At the same time the east wall and gable were to be rebuilt but with a Chancel arch of reduced width and height to suit the narrower building, and the whole recovered with the present tiled roof having circular trusses and iron ties and a barrel vaulted ceiling. Also the windows were to be reduced in height partly to suit the lower ceiling, partly to be in character, and partly to soften the great glare of light. Every part had to be studied with the view of making most use of the old materials, economy of cost being such an important factor. It was impracticable to reconstruct the original Church, as nothing was then known of it, but what was still standing mixed up with the present building; nor would it have been large enough even for the little village, having been probably first built for a different purpose than an ordinary Parish Church. This design was ultimately set

* For this illustration we are indebted to Mr. Mullett's generosity.

aside, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners having undertaken to provide £500, putting forward at the same time a design by their own Architects which had to be accepted. A contract has been made with Messrs. Rands & Son of Wisbech for part of the work, the cost of which will be about £1,300. The scheme of this design is to rebuild the north wall six or seven feet inwards, lower the height of the south wall, rebuild the east and west walls to the same height, with timber framed gables filled in with lath and plaster, the axial line to be preserved by constructing a timber framed colonnade with arched ribs which will turn the space between it and the south wall into an Aisle with a lead covered flat roof, corresponding timber storey posts being raised against the side walls, with timber trusses for the roof over, having heavy tie beams right across the Nave and Aisle, with collar beams, king posts, and curved struts, &c. Practically the roof is to be carried on a permanent timber scaffold erected inside the walls, which will be only enclosing shells. The side windows to remain unaltered, but the west windows to be very much smaller, with an additional one for the Aisle, and a two-light wood window in the gable. The style will partake of the character of Early English with a determined rustic appearance. The Tower remains unaltered and the necessary reparations to the Chancel have to wait for funds. At the time of writing, the work has commenced, and destruction appears inevitable; the once interesting structure must henceforth be regarded as possessing but a small fragment of local history."

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society.

RULES.

That this Society shall be called the CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The objects of the Society shall be:—

- (a) To collect and publish information on the History and Antiquities of the district.
- (b) To oppose and prevent, as far as possible, the execution of any injuries with which ancient buildings and monuments of every description, within the district, may be from time to time threatened, and to collect accurate drawings, plans and descriptions thereof.

The Society shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members of both sexes. Candidates for admission must be proposed and seconded by Members, and may be elected at any General or Council Meeting.

An Ordinary Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of half-a-guinea to be due in advance on the first day of January, and remain a Member of the Society until he or she withdraw from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary; or fail after due notice, to pay his or her subscription within nine months of it becoming due. A member may compound for his Subscription on payment of the sum of Five pounds.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary (who shall edit the 'Transactions,' &c.) and Treasurer; also an Honorary Secretary for each County, and an Honorary Curator and Librarian, all of whom shall be elected for the year at the Annual Meeting.

The General Management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the Officers and of twelve Members elected from the general body of the Members, four of whom shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election: ladies shall be eligible to serve on the Council.

The Council shall meet to transact the ordinary business of the Society not less than twice a year. They shall have the power to make bye-laws, appoint Committees, frame Reports, and prepare Accounts, duly audited, for submission to the Annual Meeting, &c. At the Meetings of the Council, three Members to be a *quorum*, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.

The Ordinary and General Meetings of the Society shall be held at such times and places, being within the boundaries of the two Counties, as the Council shall determine.

Every Member whose subscription is not in arrear shall be entitled to one copy of such parts of the Transactions as may be issued during the current year of membership, and to purchase one further copy of such publication at half the price chargeable to non-members.

The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of October (Eve of St. Etheldreda), or at such other time as the Council may determine, or convenience dictate.

The Council shall (with the permission of the authors) select such of the papers read at or prepared for the meetings of the Society, or otherwise approved as communications, for publication in the Transactions.

No alteration or addition to these Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting, fourteen days' notice of any proposed alteration or addition having been previously given.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY shall be Patron of the Society.

List of Members.

Those marked with an * are Original Members; those with a † are Life Compounders.

- * Barrow, Frank A., Esq., Newmarket, Suffolk.
- Bishop, Mrs., Hartford, near Huntingdon
- Black, Rev. Robert, M.A., Ramsey Vicarage, Huntingdon.
- Brooke, Major-General, R.C., United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.
(Hemingford Grey, Hunts.)
- * Bull, Arthur, Esq., Cottenham, Cambs.
- * Bull, John, Esq., Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

- Cane, Rev. Alfred Granger, M.A., Great Paxton Vicarage, St. Neots Hunts.
- * Cheshire, Rev. John Griffith, M.A., Witcham Vicarage, Isle of Ely.
- * Clarkson, Rev. Lewis Furnell, M.A., (Rural Dean), Molesworth Rectory, Thrapston, (*deceased*).
- * Clarkson, Mrs. L. F., Molesworth Rectory, Thrapston.
- Coote, Harold, Esq., The Grange, Houghton, Hunts.
- * Cox, Dr. Charles Haydon, Cottenham, Cambs.
- * Crookham, Rev. W. T. R., A.K.C., Haddenham Rectory, Isle of Ely.

- Davies, Dr. Wm. Morrison, 55, Gordon Square, London, W.C.
- * Dawbarn, Miss Annie, Tolcarne, Hunstanton, King's Lynn.
- * Dethick, Miss A. C., 9, Gladstone Road, Chesterfield.
- * De Ramsey, Lord, D. L., Ramsey Abbey, Hunts.

- * Edmonds, Rev. Arthur Jonathan, M.A., Great Gransden Vicarage, St. Neots, Hunts.
- * Ely, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of, D.D., The Palace, Ely.
- * Evelyn-White, Rev. Charles Harold, F.S.A., Rampton Rectory, Cambridge.
- * Evelyn-White, Mrs. C. H., Rampton Rectory Cambridge.

- * Fordham, R. A., Esq., 63, New Road, Peterborough.
- * Frewer, Rev. George Herbert, M.A., Fen Stanton Vicarage, St. Ives, Hunts.

- * Goode, J. M., Esq., Mitchell House, Cottenham.
- * Gould, I. Chalkley, Esq., Traps Hill House, Loughton, Essex.
- Greene, Walter Raymond, Esq., M.P., Nether Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

- * Hope, Arthur, Esq., The Moor, Whaddon, Royston, (Clare College, Cambridge).
- * Hope, E. M., Esq., The Limes, Meldreth, Royston.
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