

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire and
Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society.

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900).

VOLUME I. PART I.

[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1900-1901.]

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Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

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PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY
G. H. TYNDALL, THE MINSTER PRESS,
1901.

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) TEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

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, *qrte*; 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 burying place." [*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

IV.

- * Vesey, The Venerable Francis Gerald, LL.D., Archdeacon of Huntingdon, Castle Hill House, Huntingdon.
- * Vidler, Rev. Arthur Coleman, M.A., Swavesey Vicarage, Cambridge.

- * Wallis G., Esq., 106, Birchanger Road, South Norwood, S.E.
- * Webb, Conrad E., Esq., Wildwood Lodge, North End., Hampstead, N.W.
- * Webb, Mrs. C. E., Wildwood Lodge, North End, Hampstead, N.W.
- * Whymper, Chas., Esq., F.S.A., (Scot)., 7, James Street, Haymarket, London, S.W.

Yorke, Rev. Alexander Campbell, Foulmere Rectory, Royston.

The Society which is affiliated to the Congress of Societies in Union with the Society of Antiquaries of London is represented by the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White, F.S.A., and Chas. Whymper, Esq., F.S.A., (Scot).

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