

The Proceedings of the Society during the year 1917.

Thursday, June 7th.

REPORT OF Meeting, a ramble was taken through the Conisford district. Members assembled at St. Peter Parmentergate Church, of which the Rev. William Hudson, the well-known local historian and sometime the valued Hon. Editorial Secretary of the Society, was for many years Vicar. Here Mr. Walter R. Rudd sketched the evolution of King Street, which he described as being the most ancient, the longest, the most important, and, during the 16th century, probably the most fashionable street in Norwich. Leaving the Church the party, under the able guidance of Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke, proceeded on their pilgrimage. At the corner of St. Faith's Lane commences the precinct of the Austin Friars, and the precinct wall is still standing for a considerable distance down King Street. None of its conventual buildings now remain standing with the exception of the Watergate next the river. Until a few years ago this was visible from the tow-path near Thorpe Station but is now hidden behind a corrugated iron erection. It is clearly depicted in a picture by John Crome in the Castle Museum. At the Dissolution the possessions of the friars were granted to Sir Thomas Heneage and afterwards came into the hands of the Howards. At the south-east corner of St. Faith's Lane is a house erected by Mr. Henry Howard, afterwards Lord Howard of Castle Rising, Earl of Norwich, and 6th Duke of Norfolk. In his journal for the 1st January, 1663-4, Mr. Edward Browne, son of Sir Thomas Browne, says: "Mr. Howard hath lately bought a piece of ground of Mr. Mingay in Norwich by the water side in Cunsford which he intends for a place of walking and recreation, having made already walkes round and crosse it, forty feet in bredth: if the quadrangle left be spacious enough hee intends the first of them for a bowling green, the third for a wilderness and the forth for a

Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society.

At the Annual General Meeting held on June 5th, 1919, the following alterations in the Laws of the Society were passed.

The attention of Members is particularly directed to Law VIII, which will come into force January 1st, 1920:—

V.—The President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, but shall not hold office for more than five years in succession, and at the end of that period shall not be eligible for re-election until a year has elapsed. The Vice-Presidents and other Honorary Officers shall be elected annually, and shall be eligible for re-election.

VI.—Six of the eighteen Members of the Committee shall go out of office by rotation annually, but shall be eligible for re-election, provided that such retiring Members have attended at least one of the meetings held during their term of office. Members of the Committee not so attending shall be removed therefrom, unless they give reasonable explanations for their absence.

VIII.—The Subscription of each Member of the Society shall be ten shillings annually, due in advance on the 1st day of January in each year, and on payment of that sum, a Member shall be considered to become a Member of the Society until he withdraws from it by a written notice to the Honorary or Assistant Secretary, or until his name is removed by the Committee. A Member shall only be entitled to the ordinary publications of the Society issued during the year for which his Subscription has been paid. A Member elected before the 6th day of October in any year, shall be liable to pay the Subscription for that year.

Members are requested to inform the Assistant Secretary (Mr. Frederic Johnson), the Norfolk and Norwich Library, of any change in their address.

garden." In pursuance of his project, Mr. Howard probably built the present house, with its beautiful staircase, as a sort of glorified summer or garden house. For many years these

St. JULIAN'S grounds were known as "My Lord's Gardens."
CHURCH.

A little further along the street stands the Church of St. Julian, tucked away behind some houses which are built upon what was formerly glebe land belonging to the benefice. Here the Rev. J. Murray, the Rector, read some interesting notes on the Church, its dedication, and celebrated anchoress. Dealing with the dedication, Mr. Murray said:

First of all, who was the St. Julian to whom the Church is dedicated? That is a question more easily asked than answered. Blomefield says that the Church is not dedicated to St. Julian the Bishop, nor St. Julian the Virgin. This he thinks is proved by a mediæval record (I suppose in a will) which speaks of a certain Nicolas Page as being buried in the churchyard of St. Julian the King and Confessor. On the other hand, Albert Butler says that our St. Julian is the Bishop and Confessor of Le Mans, a Norman Saint well known in England, at least after the Conquest, as is shown by his office on January 27th contained in a Norwich Antiphoner and a Sarum breviary in the British Museum; both of the 14th century.

I can only say that I went to the trouble of consulting the Bollandist lives of the Saints, and found many St. Julians recorded there; but no King and Confessor. I think we may be fairly sure that the Church is dedicated to St. Julian the Bishop; and I need hardly say that there is no ground for the popular idea that the dedication is to the famous Mother Julian of Norwich, who has never been canonized.

As with all buildings of flint rubble, there are difficulties in determining the antiquity of the Church. Certainly it shows signs of the work of various centuries. The tower is supposed to be Saxon, as is shown by the small lower belfry windows, which are in the thickness of the wall. The arch, which opens now into the small sacristy, is Norman, though restored in the middle of the last century in Roman cement. A contemporary description says: "The outer moulding is entirely gone, it is difficult to ascertain what the second has been, and only a small portion of the inner moulding is perfect." One can only say that the stone is still there, in part at least, under the cement coating.

The arch of the north doorway is, I think, 14th century, as is also the window on the south of the chancel. The window on the south side of the nave, the font, and the chancel arch are Perpendicular, and I suppose the fine wooden bosses of the chancel roof are of the same period. The fragment of stone coffin now in the porch was one of the coignes of a corner which had to be recently restored.

Just before the restoration, commemorated on a tablet in the chancel, the east wall of the chancel had fallen, and there was a proposal to dilapidate the Church, but, happily, it was decided to restore it instead. The last restoration took place a few years ago, and was chiefly concerned with the tower, which was in a very bad state of decay. I trust it is now safe for many years to come. The tower contains a bell of the date c. 1450 inscribed: "AVE GRATIA PLENA DOMINUS TECUM." It bears the mark of Brazier's Norwich foundry. In the tower also are some boards of an old coffin, which I suppose served the purpose of a common parish coffin in the time of the plague.

I may be pardoned for calling your attention to the exceedingly beautiful modern glass of the east window, and the painting of our Lord in the Wilderness, a copy of a painting in St. John's Church, Bergen. This painting was presented to the Church by Mr. Moxon of Manchester, some of whose ancestors were buried in the churchyard, as recorded by an external tablet in the church wall.

Altogether I think we may look upon St. Julian's as a survival of a type of small city church once doubtless common, but which for the most part disappeared in the church building era of the 15th century.

According to Blomefield, the advowson was given to the nuns of Carrow by King Stephen; in the 14th century St. Edward's was annexed, and in the 15th St. Clement's in Conisford; and in 1737 St. Julian's with St. Edward's and St. Clement's and the Chapel of St. Anne annexed were consolidated to All Saints', an arrangement which still holds. It had really begun in 1688, when Stephen Griggs held All Saints' and St. Julian's together. During the Commonwealth Robert Tyte, the Rector, was sequestered and forced from his wife and two children, but lived to be reinstated and died Rector.

St. Julian's has a special title to fame from its connexion with the famous anchoress, now known as Mother Julian or Juliana of Norwich. Mother Julian is apparently the first anchoress here of whom we have record, and the date of her birth is about 1342. References to anchoresses here are found up to the year 1524; the Anchorage would be demolished on the dissolution of Carrow Nunnery. Two small fragments of its foundation are still to be seen in the churchyard; they were rediscovered at the last restoration of the Church.

The churchyard has in it many foundations of old walls; what these were it is impossible to say. Blomefield is mistaken in his citation from an old MS. of the "Revelations," saying that Mother Julian was yet living in 1442. That would make her then 100 years old; the MS. was long lost sight of, but reappeared in 1910 in the Amherst collection acquired by the British Museum. I have

seen the MS. there, and the date in question is 1413. The mistake arose from reading a rather curly 1 as an L.

The Book of Revelations of Divine Love by Mother Julian exists in four MSS.; three of which are in the British Museum the fourth in the National Library at Paris. The oldest is the Amherst MS., early 15th century. The Paris MS. is 16th century, the other two are 17th and 18th century respectively. The Amherst MS. is different from the others, which are much longer.

The 17th and 18th century MSS. are doubtless copies of earlier originals, and I do not profess to be able to solve the problems presented by these differing versions.

The printed editions in existence may be seen in the Sacristy of the Church, with two exceptions: the first printed edition, issued by Serenus de Cressy, a Benedictine monk, which appeared in 1670; and an edition by Collins of Dublin in 1877. The other editions are a reprint by a Leicester publisher in 1843, now very rare; Miss Warrack's edition, 1901; Fr. Tyrrell's edition, 1902; Dom. Meunier's French translation, 1910; and Mr. Dundas Harford's edition of the Amherst MS. There are besides two volumes of extracts for devotional reading.

It may be noted that there was a certain Julian Lampyt, who was anchoress at Carrow in the 15th century. This Julian could not possibly be the authoress of the "Revelations of Divine Love," for there is a legacy left to Julian Lampyt as late as 1478. The evidence of the Revelations shows that our Mother Julian was born in 1342.

This is not the occasion to speak of the high place which is accorded by universal consent to the book of Mother Julian in the mystical literature of the middle ages, it is sufficient to say that the lustre of her name makes this little church of special interest not only amongst the churches of Norwich, but amongst the churches of England, one may even say of Christendom.

A word in conclusion may be added about the annexed parishes and churches. St. Clement's by the Well stood, I understand, in what is now called Abbey Lane; and the advowson was given up by the city, after some difficulties, to the Prioress of Carrow in 1482. In 1744 St. Clement's was still standing, though converted to secular uses.

In the same year the ruins of St. Edward's, which was near St. Etheldred's, were still visible in the garden of a certain Mr. Webber. Joined to its west end was the Chapel of Hildebrond's hospital, a foundation for the poor, to which one of my parishioners, Robt. Staynton, gave a bed and other furniture, in the year 1440. (I may note this Robt. Staynton was buried in the chancel here before the image of the B.V.M. at S.E. corner of the High Altar). In 1744 the remains of a cell attached to this hospital chapel were still extant.

On the south side of the churchyard here at St. Julian's in the 13th century was a Friary living under the rule of St. Austin; they originated about 1288 and were called Friars of Our Lady. They had their home here in 1290 as is proved by legacy of that date. They disappeared about 50 years later in the time of the Black Death.

Visits were next paid to those interesting old houses, known as "The Old Barge Inn" and "The Music House."

On the opposite side of the street and extending past the Music House and Messrs. Youngs' Brewery is a rather fine row of gabled houses, one of which has a beam with "Princes In" carved upon it. The house of the Pastons in Prince's Street in St. Peter Hungate, was known as Prince's Inn, so that this King Street house is either one of the same name, or the beam has been removed from the Paston house and inserted here.

At the bottom of Holgate or Mariner's Lane stood the house of Sir Robert de Salle of which the existing malthouses may have formed a part, as there appears to be a coat of arms carved on the gable end. Sir Robert de Salle was slain by the rebels during Litester's rising in 1381.

The adjoining Church of St. Etheldred is dedicated to St. Etheldreda, the founder and abbess of Ely, where she died in 679. A walk round the outside of the church will show that much Norman work still exists in the nave: for instance the shallow buttress in the south wall and the south doorway into the Church under the Perpendicular porch, the rounded Norman moulding carried over the blocked-up north door, and the traces here and there of a chevron string course. The tower also is Norman in the lower portion, the octagonal belfry stage being added in the 15th century, and also much of the nave walls, where the uncut flints are laid in regular courses just as bricks are laid now-a-days. The windows are Decorated and Perpendicular insertions. Inside there is not much to interest. The octagon font is decorated with carved heads at the corners, now much defaced. On the south side of the chancel arch lies a stone coffin lid. The blocked-up doorway to the rood stair is on the north wall. The brass to Roger Clark, priest 1487, was removed from St. Peter Southgate Church and is illustrated by Cotman. All the furniture is new, but formerly there was an old three-decker pulpit and sounding board, and the chancel has been much restored. The plate is very good, especially the Lynn cup from St. Peter Southgate.

The dilapidated Church of St. Peter Southgate was a small plain building of late Perpendicular, which, with the exception of a portion of the tower, was pulled down in 1882.

Behind the Church at the west end stood the old Rectory House, and one can imagine no more beautiful site for a house with the church in the foreground; St. Olaves' Chapel (now the Albion Mills),

on the other side of the street, the river with its meadows beyond, and Thorpe Wood in the far distance.

Between St. Peter's Church and the City Gates the Butter Hills sloped down from the high ground of Ber Street. The small tower can still be seen among the trees half way up the hill.

Conesford, or King Street, Gate was a plain square tower gateway of flint with stone groins and loopholes on the outside. It was of one arch only and had a bold embattled parapet.

The two boom towers may just be seen on either side of the river below the site of the Gate which was taken down in 1794.

The perambulation of King Street ended, the party proceeded to Carrow Abbey, where they were hospitably entertained to tea and where Mrs. James Stuart read the following notes on the remains of the Priory:—

It has been truly said that "the history of a
 CARROW Nunnery of which next to nothing except two or
 PRIORY. three rooms of late date (and a few broken fragments of walls) remain, and which was never of any great importance, is rather difficult to tell."

Demolished and ruined as the buildings are, it is yet possible to trace the general plan of the Priory. Up to 1881 the ruins of the Church were buried in débris, but that year workmen struck down on a Norman column. This led my father* to undertake the systematic excavation of the ruins. He received valuable help from Mr. Walter Rye, Mr. Beecheno, Mr. A. J. King, and others.

It appears that King Stephen gave by charter
 FOUNDATION the ground on which the Priory stood and the
 OF PRIORY. adjacent land to the nuns of a church or hospital dedicated to St. Mary and St. John (now lost sight of) and desired them to found a church on it.

"In 1146 two of the nuns, Seyna and Lescelina, probably sisters, founded this Benedictine Priory, which consisted at first of a prioress and nine nuns, but these had increased at the time of the Dissolution to twelve. It was dedicated to the Virgin and St. John."

The Priory became very popular, indeed embarrassingly so, for in 1273 Pope Gregory X., at the request of the inmates, inhibited them from receiving more nuns than their income would enable them to maintain "upon the representation that the English nobility, whom they could not resist, had obliged them to receive so many sisters into the Convent that they were unable to support them." (Loftus Brock.)

As Mr. Phipson points out: "The ruins are clearly of different dates, from the 12th to the 16th century."

As to the size and plan of the buildings: the Church was cruciform; the nave was about 100 ft long. Mr. Phipson remarks

* Mr. J. J. Colman.

of the Church that "its superficial contents were about one-fifth larger than St. Peter Mancroft." There was a north chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, and a south chapel to St. John the Baptist. The oldest part of the Church (*i.e.* Norman) is the east end. Next to the south transept came a slype or passage, then a chapter house, and still more to the south, the day-room of the nuns, 95 ft. long and 23 ft. wide, vaulted with a row of columns down the middle. Above the day-room is believed to have been the dormitory of the nuns—two steps of a staircase leading thereto remain *in situ*.

To the north of the Church were found two blind wells and one live one. Among articles found in these wells were a pair of spurs and a handmill for grinding corn.

Various graves and skeletons were found. Traces of colour were found on some of the moulded stones. Also tiles, some in relief. A few years since my husband and I, when altering a flower border, came on a few green and brown tiles *in situ*, which seem to mark the level of the cloister.

On the south side of the cloister garth are believed to have been the kitchen, the refectory and other offices, but no traces of them remain.

There is a story that the nunnery was used as a school for the education of the daughters of the chief families of the neighbourhood, who boarded with the nuns, but this is doubtful.

Various kings (*e.g.*, John, Henry III., and Richard II.) conferred privileges on the nunnery. Thus King John granted the nuns of Carrow a four-days' fair, *viz.* the right to take toll on all who came into the city. Not unnaturally this led to disputes, and "in 1289 the then prioress surrendered such rights for certain considerations." (W. Rye.)

Among other rights conferred by charter on the Priory was the use of a gallows at Ber Street Gates.

This nunnery is almost the only one which has been excavated. Several monasteries have been unearthed, "but hitherto no nunnery has been investigated." (Brock, p. 172, on Excavations at Carrow, Brit. Arch. Assoc.)

The architecture of the ruins is Norman. Much of the stone used in the building came from Caen in Normandy—this may be accounted for by ease of water carriage.

The floors seem to have been formed of reddish brown and yellow tiles. Various portions of pattern tiles were met with.

The nuns seem from time to time to have entertained a number of high-born people who came to visit Norwich.

Fragrant memory remains behind of these nuns and sisters. The convent was probably never so flourishing as when Isabella Wygan built the prioress's house. One prioress seems to have been pensioned off (Lady Alice Waryn) under somewhat suspicious circumstances—but nothing is known of the cause.

In 1492 the reverend father examined singly the prioress and all the sisters concerning the **EPISCOPAL VISITATIONS.** house. "In the first place, it was found that the younger nuns were restricted to eight loaves—a quantity far too little. It was arranged that an inventory of the priory goods should be made. Also it was found that ill-disposed servants of the prioress caused great loss of goods of the priory. Next, that the prioress confides more and has greater faith in a certain Margaret Knight, now absent, than in the other sisters of the house, who, whilst she was in the house, did much harm to it, and therefore it is for the good of the house that she be not recalled. Also that the prioress lends too ready an ear to some of the sisters, and that thus great discord arises among them. Next, that there is very often scarceness of bread, contrary to the honour of the house."

On August 25th, 1514, the episcopal visitor hears replies to his questions:

Dame Isabella Wigan (prioress) says that "All is well."

Dame Ann Martin (sub-prioress) says that "Dame Margaret Kidman is unkind."

Dame Joanna Green: "The rations are scanty."

Dame Margaret Carrow: "All is well."

The remaining six sisters agree with her.

On June 14th, 1526, Dame Isabella Wigan again declares that "All is well."

The sub-prioress (still Anne Martin) says "the sisters sing quicker than they ought." Besides this, she complains of the thinness of the liquor. The precentress (one Catherine Jerves) agrees that the liquor is thin, but for the rest all is well.

Dame Anne Swanton complains that they do not possess a clock.

Injunctions: The nuns are to get a clock. Also a laundress is to be got who shall be more equal to her task. Also that Divine Service be celebrated with greater devotion.

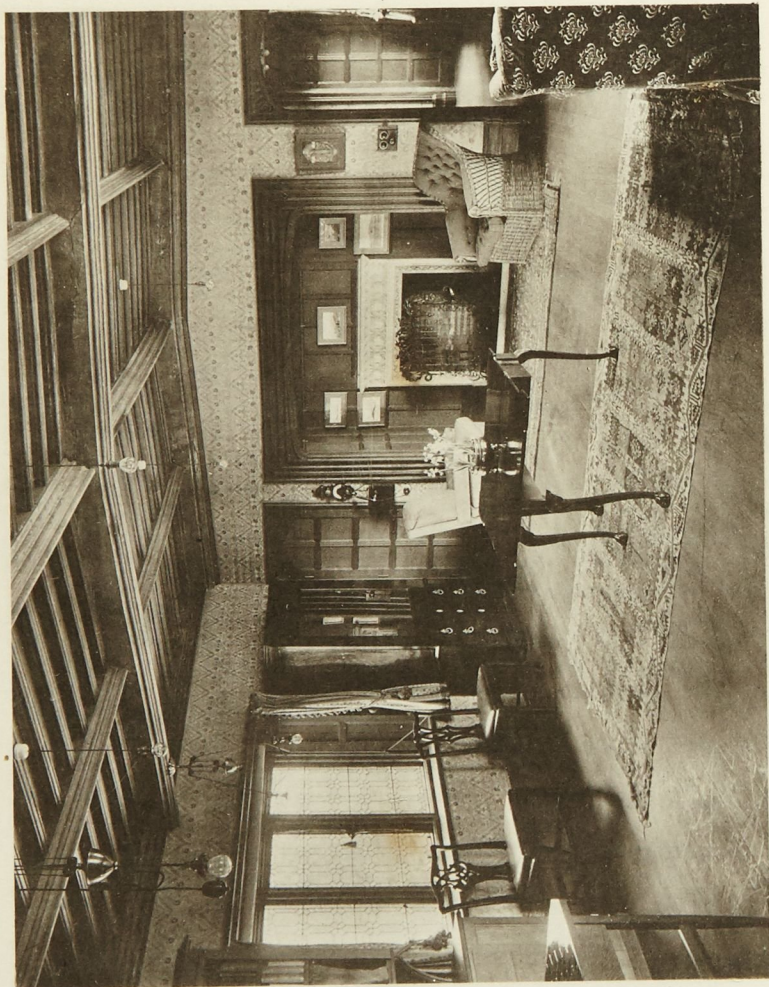
On June 10th, 1532, the prioress (I. Wygan) again declares "everything is duly done and observed."

The sub-prioress thinks that every sister ought to wear a girdle or belt of silk.

Some of the nuns complain that from where they sit the lay congregation can stare at them.

Various episodes seem at intervals to have disturbed the even tenour of life. Thus Lady Edith Wilton, prioress in 1395, was prosecuted for harbouring in sanctuary the murderers of William Koc of Trowse. She was committed to goal, tried and acquitted.

John Skelton, poet, born about 1460, died 1529, seems to have been a native of Norfolk. He was tutor to Prince Henry, afterwards Henry VIII. He became Poet Laureate and lived in Diss. In his poem, the playful "Boke of Phylp Sparowe," Jane Scrope,



THE PRIORESS'S BEDROOM, CARROW ABBEY

a pupil of the Black Nuns at Carrow, mourns the slaughter of a pet sparrow by a cat. The poem immediately won popularity. The nursery rhyme "Who killed Cock Robin?" is possibly an adaptation of Skelton's account of the sparrow's funeral. (*Dictionary of National Biography*.)

Jane Scrope excommunicates the priory cat, one Gilbert or Gib:

"That vengeance I ask and cry
By way of exclamacion,
On al the whole nacion
Of Cattes wild and tame
God send them sorrow and shame;
That cat specially
That slew so cruelly
My litle prety sparrow
That I brought up at Carrow."

Picture the simple daily life of nuns in the midst of all their splendid pageantry and state, quietly following their simple daily work—rising with the sun and generally retiring after it had set, joining in chant and anthem, giving instruction, attending on the sick, and giving alms to the needy at their gates.

As Wordsworth says:

"The world is too much with us; late and soon
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers."

And so it may be well to let our thoughts dwell for a time on "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report," in the life led long ago in these quiet haunts.

Among articles found in the grounds are an iron ring, fragments of stained glass and pottery, a silver penny of the time of Henry V., iron keys, a knife, a brass thimble, a pair of shears, a pair of spurs, a bone pin of Roman date, two amber beads, and fragments of Delf ware. Sir Hercules Read, of the British Museum, kindly catalogued these and other articles in 1915.

I have recently received a gift from Mr. Yates Thompson of copies of illustrations in a book now in his possession, which originally belonged to Carrow Priory. Mr. Yates Thompson considers this missal dates back to about 1200. The paintings in it seem to refer to scenes in the life of Olaf, a Norwegian Saint. (See Lecture on some English Illustrated Manuscripts, H. Yates Thompson.)

In place of the original apartments of the prioress, the dwelling-house (now known as Carrow Abbey) was erected in the time of Isabel Wygun or Wigan, the last prioress, or the last but one, in about 1514. Her rebus may be seen in various places of the building. In the spandrels of guest room are—in the two most southern ones, a rose; the next two, the Wygun rebus; the next two, an eagle (emblem of St. John); the next two, the letter M crowned for the

Virgin; the next two have shamrocks; and in the two northernmost the roses are repeated. In Blomefield's time the windows were filled with coats of arms, now gone. The original part of the house, which still exists, consists mainly of the guest room or strangers' hall, the prioress's parlour and her bedroom above. (See Illustrations of two latter rooms.)

At the time of the Dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII. in about 1538 the Church "shared the common fate of our Conventual establishments. Whatever could be turned into money was sold. The timber, iron, lead, glass, rapidly disappeared. The best of the stone work was torn down for building purposes, the ruins disappeared from view and even from memory." (*Saturday Review*, Feb. 23rd, 1884).

Prior to the Dissolution the Commissioners reported well of the Abbey. "The eight nuns were persons 'of very good name by report of the country,' and the house was 'in very good and necessary reparation.' Besides the nuns there were two priests, seven 'hinds' for husbandry, and eight women servants." (Rye and Tillett).

In 1539 the Prioress's house was given to Sir John Shelton, and so escaped destruction. His wife was aunt to Anne Boleyn, who had been beheaded three years before. Perhaps this gift was to make peace with her relatives. Lady Shelton leaves to her son "all my tables, hangings, cupboards in my great parlour."

The rare *Aristolachia Clematitis* or Birthwort grows in the garden. Is it a straggling survivor from the herb garden of the nuns?

Various modern stories float about. Thus, in 1860 there lived in a cottage in Carrow garden, now pulled down, an old man named Wright. He told how a cowkeeper, who formerly lived in the kitchen part of the Abbey, pulled up the skirting board under a window and found there a considerable sum of money. He was also full of stories of subterranean passages, down one of which a pig wandered and was lost. (W. Rye.)

On October 9th, 1912, some workmen who were repairing a piece of wall on the east of this house came upon a small plastered recess, such as might have held a lamp. In it my husband (who died in 1913) and I placed a soldered-up tin containing some coins, newspapers, one or two books of the day, and a short statement of the circumstances under which it was found. In it we expressed the hope that those who found the packet would love Carrow Abbey as much as he and I did, and that the happy days in which we lived might be the dawn of a still happier day for those who come after. And in spite of the tragedy of the present war, it is upon this note of hope that I should like to end these scattered and fragmentary notes.



THE PRIORESS'S PARLOUR, CARROW ABBEY

Monday, July 30th.

The summer excursion took place on the 30th July, in the Waveney Valley, extending into several Suffolk parishes, and thus exploring a border region which the Society had not covered since 1861. The day was far from favourable as

SUMMER rain fell at intervals in the morning and in the
EXCURSION. afternoon. For obvious "war-time" reasons the journey had to be made in horsed brakes where the railway was not available. In the absence of the President, Lord Orford, the party was headed by Sir Maurice Boileau. The practical working of the itinerary was controlled by Mr. Walter Rudd, the Hon. Excursion Secretary.

The first place of call was the Guildhall of Beccles, where the Town Clerk (Mr. Brian Forwood) received the party on behalf of the Mayor. Mr. Forwood is the author of a schedule of the Charters, Properties, and Documents of the Borough together with an historical preface. This work is in printed form and it made the basis of his address.

Dr. W. M. Crowfoot (an ex-Mayor of Beccles) read some most interesting notes on the street and other placenames of the town enshrining a good deal of local history.

Mr. Frank Farrell conducted the visitors over Beccles Church. This magnificent structure overlooks a vast stretch of flat pasture land to the west. It is built mainly in the Perpendicular style and it has a lofty detached tower at the south-eastern angle. The south porch is a beautiful example of florid Gothic and presents prominently the arms of Bury St. Edmund's Abbey. These arms, together with those of Garneys, Bowes, and Rede appear on the campanile.

Dr. Beverley produced some photographs of Beccles and Mettingham, taken by him when a medical student, nearly sixty years ago. These prints had required an exposure of from half to three-quarters of an hour.

Roos Hall, the seat of Mr. F. W. D. Robinson, was next visited. This charming mansion was built between 1575 and 1583, by a Thomas Colby, whose initials are still to be seen on the heads of the water pipes. Mrs. Robinson kindly gave a description of the building and its history.

The party then journeyed to Barsham Church, where the Rev. Alan Coates furnished the necessary explanations. The structure is built of flint in the Decorated style. It has a round western tower, containing five bells, one dating from 1530. The chancel screen, pulpit, and font are Jacobean. The other treasures of the Church include a fine 14th-century brass of a knight.

Mettingham Castle was next visited. — Mr. W. R. Rudd in the course of a paper read by him, stated the Castle, which evidently

had been a place of considerable importance, was built by Sir John de Norwich, who died in 1362. Sir John obtained permission to castellate as a reward for his services in the French wars. He was a son of Walter de Norwich, of a family believed to be descended from the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk. For generations they had a mansion in Norwich on the site of which now stands St. Mary's Mills. When an adjoining building was demolished a few years ago, to enable the mills to be enlarged, a fine Tudor mantelpiece was discovered. This was generously presented by Messrs. Fras. Hinde & Sons to the Norwich Castle Museum, where it now embellishes a Tudor room.

Sir John was Governor of Angoulême, where he saved his garrison by a stratagem related by Froissart. The form adopted by Sir John for Mettingham Castle was a parallelogram of which the eastern and western sides were rather the greatest. The area, including all the moats, excepting the outlying one on the west side, was 5 acres 16 poles. A moat surrounds the whole castle, and the parallelogram is divided into two by a cross moat, running east to west, each portion measuring about 88 yards from north to south but about 110 yards from east to west. The northern parallelogram formed the castle itself, and was completely surrounded by walls, much of which remain on the north side or front, and some on the south side.

Sir John having been compelled to return to France, entrusted the completion of the castle to his wife, Dame Margaret, who built the keep—the keep meaning in this case not the most fortified part but the “keeping place” of the family, *i.e.*, the inhabited part of the castle.

During the 18th century a Mr. Safford pulled down an old farmhouse, which occupied the interior of the fortifications, and built the present mansion. Mr. Suckling, the historian of Suffolk, who was curate of the parish at the time, says he saw much of the work of Dame Margaret laid open. Several of the long-hidden decorations were in excellent preservation, the color and gilding of the arms being fresh and brilliant. All this priceless work the vandals of the time seem to have destroyed. In 1843 six silver bells were found in the moat. It is stated these were taken to Yarmouth.

Owing to “war-time” limitations it had been found impossible to arrange for the usual luncheon, with the result that the members had to carry with them their own provisions, which they spread in the Church Rooms of Holy Trinity Church at Bungay, which was the next place visited. After lunch the members inspected various points of interest in this fine old border town, mainly remarkable for its ruined castle. It was there that Hugh Bigod, who was chiefly responsible for the accession of King Stephen and later took sides with Matilda, sustained a famous siege that in the end resulted in his surrender.

Ditchingham Church was next reached. The Rev. J. C. Scudamore kindly described the edifice, which is of flint and stone in the Perpendicular style. A brass to Philip Bosard, Margaret his wife, and nine children appears in the chancel. Roger Bosard is commemorated by a brass in the nave. By the kind invitation of Mr. William Carr the members took tea at Ditchingham Hall, where they spent a very agreeable hour. Now turning towards Norwich they called at Kirstead Hall, a delightful old house, characteristic of the style of its period (1614), and finally they called at Poringland Church, where some useful notes were read by the Rev. Edgar T. Edwards.

The party arrived at Norwich about 7 p.m. Thus ended a pleasant and interesting excursion.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH

Archæological Society.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1916.

*To the Members of the Norfolk and Norwich
Archæological Society.*

The President and Members of the Committee beg to present their Report for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

The Society has lost through death during the year the following members, whose loss is greatly deplored:

The Duke of Norfolk, one of the Patrons of the Society, whose enthusiasm for Archæology is well known.

Mr. Robert John Woods Purdy, of Foulsham, who joined the Society in 1888 and was for eighteen years a most valued and enthusiastic member of the Committee.

Mr. Richard Howlett, F.S.A., a noted antiquary, who has contributed several valuable papers to our publications.

Mr. W. J. Birkbeck, who was for many years a valued member of the Society.

The Rev. J. G. Cheshire, Rector of Trunch, who took considerable interest in the work of the Society and who had been asked to join the Committee.

Mr. F. W. Haldinstein, a young and most promising member of the Society, who was engaged on a paper for the Society when he met his untimely death at the War.

Mr. Victor M. Cubitt, another valued member lost at the War; and

Mr. Henry Cockett, a frequent attendant at the excursions of the Society.

After the last Annual Meeting the members present, under the guidance of Mr. W. R. Rudd, the Society's

Hon. Excursion Secretary, visited Sucklings' House, St. Andrew's Hill, near the east end of St. Andrew's Church. Mr. Rudd read a paper in St. Andrew's Church on the Sucklings' House and family. Later in the afternoon the members visited the Cathedral, at the west entrance of which Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke described the antiquities of the precinct between the west door and the Erpingham gate, and the chapels of the Cathedral, in one of which the Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich read a very interesting paper on those chapels. By kind invitation of the Rev. W. F. Brown, Headmaster of the Norwich Grammar School, the members were entertained by him to afternoon tea in the crypt of the School, when he read a most instructive paper on the history of Norwich Grammar School. A paper on the Sucklings' House by Mr. F. R. Beecheno will be issued in the forthcoming number of our Proceedings.

On the 22nd September, 1916, the members visited East Harling, Kenninghall, Old and New Buckenham, and Quidenham Hall. The Earl and Countess of Albemarle most kindly explained Quidenham Hall and its objects of interest. Mr. Lionel Robinson, High Sheriff of Norfolk, courteously entertained them to afternoon tea at Old Buckenham Hall.

One hundred pounds, part of the Society's Reserve Fund, has been invested in the purchase of an Exchequer Bond for the like amount.

The Committee have pleasure in reporting that Mr. Charles Candler, of Garrick House, 27, Southampton Street, London, formerly of Harleston, has presented to the Society his collection of documents relating to Harleston and neighbourhood.

They have also pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Peck, of The Cedars, Brockford, near Stowmarket, the mother of the late Rev. C. W. Peck, who was for many years Curate of Diss, has presented to the Society the late Mr. Peck's collection of rubbings of brasses made by him. The rubbings are very numerous and appear to be of considerable interest. The warm thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Candler and Mrs. Peck.

The annual volume of the Proceedings of the Society is being published and will be issued to the members very shortly. The delay of issue is due to difficulties caused by the War. The thanks of the Society should be accorded the undermentioned gentlemen for papers contributed by them to the Society's publications:—

Mr. F. R. Beecheno for his paper on "The Sucklings' House at Norwich."

Mr. J. H. F. Walter for his paper on "Church Plate in Sparham Deanery."

Dr. Montagu R. James for his paper on "The Lives of St. Walstan."

The Rev. W. Hudson for his paper on "The Camera Roll of the Prior of Norwich in 1283, compiled by Bartholomew de Cotton."

Mr. W. R. Bullmore for his notes on "The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall."

Mr. Tingey, on the completion of his transcript of "Blackburgh Cartulary," 380 folios, has been good enough to present his transcript to the Society. Mr. J. H. Gurney kindly permitted the transcript to be made. The Committee intend to have the transcript typed and bound. The cordial thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Tingey for his generous gift.

The Dean of Norwich has been appointed to and has joined the Publications Sub-Committee, of which he has become Chairman.

The Committee have agreed to exchange publications with the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire and the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society.

The following members of the Committee retire by rotation, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election:—

The Rev. H. J. Dukinfield Astley, M.A., Litt.D.

F. R. Eaton, Esq. T. Barrett-Lennard, Esq.

C. S. Tomes, Esq. W. E. Stephens, Esq.

and the place of the late Mr. R. J. W. Purdy has to be filled.

ORFORD,

President.

Dr. **Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society.—The Treasurer's Account.** Cr.

		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
1916					
Balance at Messrs. Barclays Bank :—					
Current Account	...	3	11	7	
Deposit Account	...	133	5	4	
		133		16	11
Subscriptions :—					
1 for 1911	...	0	7	6	
1 for 1912	...	0	7	6	
1 for 1913	...	0	7	6	
6 for 1914	...	2	5	0	
22 for 1915	...	8	5	0	
153 for 1916	...	57	7	6	
2 for 1917	...	0	15	0	
				69	15
186				0	6
Sale of Publications	...			0	6
Int rest on War Loan	...			1	11
Interest on Deposit Account	...			1	19
				7	
				£210	
				9	3
1916					
Messrs. Goose & Son, Ltd. :—					
Printing "Original Papers," Vol. XIX., Part II.	...	32	12	0	
Illustrations for Vol. XIX., Part II.	...	1	3	0	
Wrapping and Postage of Publications	...	2	15	0	
Sundry Printing and Stationery	...	10	1	9	
				46	11
Messrs. Coe & Son for Illustrations	...			1	13
Fire Insurance	...			0	9
Aircraft Insurance	...			0	6
Carriage of Parcels	...			0	2
Expenses of Meeting and Excursions	...			1	13
Expenses re Bryant's "Churches"	...			0	9
Norfolk and Norwich Library—Use of Room	...			3	3
Assistant Secretary's Salary	...			12	12
Balance at Messrs. Barclays Bank :—	...			8	4
Current Account	...			35	4
Deposit Account	...			11	
				43	9
War Loan	...			100	0
				£210	
				9	3

Examined and found correct,

(Signed) F. H. BARCLAY.

June 4th, 1917.