

The Proceedings of the Society during the year 1925.

*By the courtesy of the Proprietors of the local Press we are able
to insert the following accounts:*

ANNUAL MEETING. In the absence of the President, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, Mr. R. F. E. Ferrier of Yarmouth presided at the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, when held in the Guildhall, Norwich, on May 28th.

The Chairman referred to the absence through illness of the President. As all of them knew, Prince Duleep Singh took a great interest in archæological matters and particularly in the ancient houses of Norfolk. He (the Chairman) moved a vote of condolence and sympathy with his highness in the severe illness through which he had been passing, coupled with an expression of their earnest hope that he would soon recover and be able to resume the part he so ably took in connexion with their Society.

Mr. A. Batchelor seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Walter R. Rudd (Hon. General Secretary) read the following interesting letter he had received from Dr. Beverley, a very old and valued member of the Society:—

“Overstrand, May 24th, 1925.

“I quite hoped to have made my last appearance at the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society next Thursday, and to have accompanied you in your afternoon perambulation—but my walking powers are now so limited, especially by a recent attack of influenza, that I dare not face it. It may interest you to know that three of the churches you are visiting are associated with my early life in Norwich. To the Old Meeting House I went as a schoolboy, when at Mr. Paul's, Bracondale School. It was customary for the boys to take notes of the sermons as their Sunday lesson, and to

hand them up to Mr. Paul on the Monday morning. I have two or three MS. books of these. Dr. Andrew Read was the minister, a most eloquent man. I have his portrait. To St. George Colegate Church I went regularly with Mrs. Bransby Francis, with whose husband I served my apprenticeship. You will see a mural slab in the Church to his memory—he was killed in the Thorpe railway collision. I found him there and conveyed him home, where he soon died. St. Peter Mancroft—here I had a sitting during the six years I was H.S. at the Hospital, and generally went in the evening. It was in the regime of Charles Turner. I am one of the three jubilee members of your Society."

Mr. Rudd expressed the opinion that the manuscript books should be placed in the Muniment Room in Norwich. There were only four members, he added, who had belonged to the Society for fifty years: Mr. Walter Rye (elected 1864), Mr. C. B. L. Norgate, East Dereham (elected 1868), Dr. Beverley (elected 1870), and Sir Alan Manby (elected 1871).

The Secretary read the Annual Report, an account of which will be found at the end of these Proceedings.

The Chairman in moving the adoption of the Report, in referring to the Archæological Trust, said it was formed under the Companies Acts for the purpose, without making any profit, of acquiring buildings of archæological interest. Once they were in the hands of the Trust they could not be parted with, and were kept for the benefit of future generations. That was not always the case in regard to private individuals, because however zealous an owner of such property might be, one could not say what would happen at the time of his death. It was to be hoped they would be able to collect the sum required for the purchase of Augustin Steward's house and for making it suitable for a shop. It was thought eminently desirable to restore it and let it, if possible to a dealer in antiques. It was not quite suitable as a residence. The reference in the Report to ancient bridges was very important. In these days of motoring these ancient and interesting bridges were perhaps more difficult to negotiate for safety than in the old days. Especially was this the case in regard to Acle Bridge, which, built in the 14th century, was extremely interesting from an antiquarian point of view. The idea was to appoint a committee to confer with the Government authorities responsible for the safety of the public, so that the antiquarian interests should receive full consideration. The suggestion as to local secretaries was admirable. The idea was to elect people in the various districts to act as archæological policemen, who would keep their eyes on all the ancient and antiquarian buildings so that when any attempt to modernise them appeared likely a report should at once be sent to the General Secretary, Mr. Rudd. Pressure of quite a respectful nature would then be brought to bear upon

the owners of the property with a view to the preservation of the points of antiquarian interest. They all highly appreciated, said the Chairman, the public-spirited action of Miss Ethel M. Colman and Miss Helen C. Colman in presenting Suckling House to the city.

Major Evans-Lombe, seconding the proposition, said they were grateful to the Corporation of Norwich for the broad-minded spirit in which they had called for a committee to report upon what was of antiquarian interest which could be preserved in the property mentioned. Local authorities were terribly materialistic—he did not see how they could be otherwise—but Norwich had broken away from the old traditions.

Mr. R. H. Teasdale (Great Yarmouth) emphasised the importance when interesting buildings were in jeopardy of immediate action being taken by the Secretary. Delays in archaeological matters were worse than dangerous.

Mr. W. R. Rudd agreed with this view. Many instances had come to his notice, one of which was illustrated by sketches of wall paintings at St. Faith's Priory. The Priory, as would be recalled, was struck by lightning some two years ago, and considerably damaged. Assuming that something interesting might be discovered there, he wrote to Mr. Warner Cook and asked him if anything turned up to let him know at once. Mr. Cook wrote that some "colour" had been found at the end wall. "It looked to me remarkably like a wall painting," said Mr. Rudd, "and I went over there. I found a wall painting, obscured by wallpaper of many generations and many strata, which Mr. Tristram of the South Kensington Museum says is almost unique. He was so enthusiastic that he came down and stayed with me two days, and took a most excellent water-colour sketch of this wall painting. We have had a reproduction made, which will appear in our next Proceedings. I merely mention this to show by what flukes one gets information. Local secretaries, if they are zealous, can help us a great deal." They could help also, said Mr. Rudd, by getting the Society more into touch with remote parts of Norfolk. It did not want to be concentrated too much in Norwich alone, although the central organisation must be there. The Society wanted its interests to pervade all Norfolk. His ambition was to see during the winter season lectures in the various districts by way of inducing the people to take a greater interest in the beauties which surround them, which very often, he was sorry to say, they did not appreciate.

Miss Ethel M. Colman thanked the members of the Association, on behalf of her sister and herself, for the honour they had done them in electing them Vice-Presidents. The property of Suckling House would be handed to the city, "and after it has been done we hope use will be made of it, and that it will be a source of pleasure to many in our own city and to others further afield."

Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke read the financial statement. The Society financially was very sound, he said, but would be sounder still if only they could get in certain arrears of subscriptions due to the Society, amounting to £40.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. F. W. B. Symons, the President and officers were re-elected. Some of the retiring members of the Committee were re-elected. Mr. W. Edgar Stephens (Town Clerk of Great Yarmouth), Mr. W. G. Clarke (Norwich), and Major S. E. Glendenning were elected to the Committee.

At the close of the meeting the members examined with interest a well-preserved denarius of Constantine found by Mr. H. H. Halls just outside Old Lakenham Churchyard. Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy also exhibited a Bronze Age food vessel discovered in a ploughed-over tumulus in a field at Cley-next-the-Sea.

AN INTERESTING RAMBLE.

After the Annual Meeting on May 28th an afternoon excursion took place, when a large party of members of the Society inspected places of antiquarian interest in practically the heart of the city. The tour began with a visit to St. Andrew's Hall and the conventual buildings, and thereafter the following places claimed attention:—Augustine Steward's House, the Old Meeting House, Bacon's House, St. George Colegate Church, St. Gregory's Church, Curat House, and St. Peter Mancroft Church. Mr. W. R. Rudd, Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy, Mr. E. A. Kent, and Mr. Percy Nash rendered helpful service in their explanatory talks about some of the buildings visited.

In the course of a paper read at St. Andrew's Hall, Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy dealt with the history of the ST. ANDREW'S buildings there, which he said were deemed to HALL. be the best example of Friar architecture in England. St. Andrew's Hall and Blackfriars' Hall must be almost unique. Was there elsewhere a noble Gothic monastic church preserved for civic uses? At the Dissolution of the monasteries these buildings, instead of becoming, as often was a convent's fate, the quarry of the speculative builder, were saved for the city largely by the efforts of Augustine Steward, Alderman, Mayor, and Parliament man, who promoted a petition to the King. The chancel, or choir, was used by Dutch strangers as their chapel, and only recently it changed its name from the Dutch church or hall to Blackfriars' Hall. If the graceful pillars of St. Andrew's Hall had memories, how rich would be their recollection. The ardent zeal of the Friar preachers, the ruthlessness of the reforming iconoclast, the sumptuous civic feasts, the oratory of Windham, Peel, and Cobden and other heroes of political warfare, the

enchanting skill of Jenny Lind and Paderewski; preaching, prayer, pillage, politics, piano, and song inaudibly echoed among the rafters. If only those stones could become vocal and tell their tale!

Something of the present plans and the past
 AUGUSTINE story of Augustine Steward's house, adjoining
 STEWARD Samson and Hercules House at Tombland, was
 HOUSE. related by Mr. E. T. Boardman and Mr. Rudd
 respectively. Mr. Boardman said the house had

now been made safe for a good many years to come. The external features had all been carefully preserved. A good deal needed to be done to the inside of the building. He knew that the Archaeological Trust would be very grateful for any offers of help financially so that they could place the structure in a lettable condition.

Mr. Rudd said that Augustine Steward not only lived in that house, but lived a remarkable life there. He was three times Mayor of Norwich, and was Member of Parliament for the city for many years. He was a very important man in the city when Kett's Rebellion took place, and he received in that very house the Earl of Warwick, who was in command of the troops who subdued that outbreak.

At the Old Meeting House the visitors were
 THE OLD welcomed by the Pastor, the Rev. J. J. Brooker,
 MEETING who gave an interesting account of the building.
 HOUSE. It was, he said, built in 1693. It had not been
 altered very much since its erection. Originally
 there was no organ, and all hymns were started by means of the
 pitch-pipe which he held in his hand. He had heard it said that
 the existing organ once stood in a side chapel in the Cathedral.
 The pulpit was the same as it was in 1693, as was also the clock.
 It still went well. Among the furniture was a chair supposed to
 have been sat in by John Cromwell, cousin of Oliver Cromwell.
 John Cromwell was Minister of that Church in 1645.

From the Old Meeting House the party had a look at the interior of the Octagon Chapel, and also at the exterior of Bacon's House in Colegate Street.

At St. George Colegate Church the Rev. E. T.
 ST. GEORGE Edwards reminded the visitors of the urgent need
 COLEGATE that existed for repairing the roof and tower,
 CHURCH. which might fall in any day. He hoped such
 a catastrophe would not occur that afternoon.
 During the last three years £600 had been spent on repairs
 inside the Church, and £2,000 was now required for the roof.
 Towards that sum he had received £20. The Church was one
 of the finest Perpendicular churches in Norwich, and one of the
 most dignified, spacious and beautiful.

The Rev. G. E. Dawson welcomed the company at St. Gregory's Church. The fine proportions of the fabric were greatly admired. Mr. Dawson directed attention to some beautiful fan tracery at the west end. He said that the Church appeared to have a good deal of association with the Guild of St. George. Some years ago a painting bearing on this fact was revealed under some whitewash, and it appeared that there was a guild house in one of the lanes near. Mr. Dawson pointed out a sanctuary knocker, which it was said formerly hung on the church door.

The visit to Curat House, The Walk, besides yielding a great deal of interest from an archaeological point of view, provided a very agreeable social interval, for here the visitors were the guests of Colonel Back at tea. Afterwards they were shewn over the building and its many historic features were pointed out to them by the Colonel, who in the fine old wine room, formerly the dining hall, read a paper on the history of the house.

Finally the party went to St. Peter Mancroft Church, where they spent some time closely inspecting its many points of interest. An account of the beautiful stained glass windows of the east end was given by Canon Meyrick.

VISIT TO WAVENEY MONASTERIES.

For the first time since August, 1858—when they visited the same district—an excursion, arranged conjointly between the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society and the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Nature History, was made on August 27th to the Waveney monasteries. The Norfolk contingent started in motor cars and charrs-à-bancs from Upper King Street, Norwich, at 9.40 a.m. The Suffolk archæologists were met at Diss at 9.58 and the members of the combined bodies assembled at Earsham Church. The weather was variable. In the morning a drizzling rain made travelling a little trying, but in the afternoon for the tour into Suffolk, the sun came out and the conditions were warm and cheerful.

Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy directed the Norfolk tour, while that for Suffolk was piloted by Mr. Claude Morley. It was observed that among the excursionists were the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Viscount Ullswater (ex-Speaker of the House of Commons), Mr. C. E. Keyser (President of the British Archæological Association), Mr. A. M. Samuel, M.P. (Minister for Overseas Trade)—an old member of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society—His Honour, Judge C. Herbert-Smith and Mrs. Herbert-Smith, and many other well-known archæologists. The Norfolk

Society had a representation of 112, while from the Suffolk Institute came sixty members.

A long but interesting and profitable day was spent, the Norwich visitors reaching home about half-past seven in the evening.

Earsham Church was reached at 10.45 a.m. The
 EARSHAM Rector remarked that the church and churchyard
 CHURCH. were said to be on the site of an oval-shaped
 encampment dating back to the date of the
 Roman occupation of Britain. On that ground had been found
 Roman coins and an Anglo-Saxon urn. The latter was now in the
 museum of Earsham Hall. Upon the encampment, which adjoined
 the churchyard, the Hundred Court for the district was regularly
 held in ancient times. The Church, which was dedicated to
 All Saints, was built of flint and rubble with stone dressings and
 was chiefly in the Perpendicular style of architecture. At the
 entrance to the north porch were the remains of a holy water
 stoup, and on the archway decorations said to include the Tudor
 rose. The embattled west tower was crowned with a wooden
 spire, a most unusual feature in the district. It must certainly
 have been a much later addition to the original structure. In
 the tower were three bells, one probably made by Brasyer of
 Norwich, 1500-13. The stained glass in the east window was
 said to have been inserted by the Rector, the Rev. W. P. Goode,
 in 1863. In the nave some valuable Flemish glass, in two of the
 south windows, was inserted by Joseph Windham, a well-known
 local antiquary, who died in 1806.

Referring to the Throgmerton brasses, the Rector said the
 matrices for these could be seen in the black slabs in the floor
 of the nave, but the brasses themselves had long been lost.
 Rumour said they were to be found in one of the Suffolk churches.
 The church registers dated back to 1559. Describing the
 Communion plate, the Rector said it included a paten which,
 according to Mr. Hopper, was of pre-Reformation origin. The
 font, one of the special treasures, was the pre-Reformation seven
 sacraments font. The Rector read notes on this contributed by
 Dr. Fryer to the *Archæological Journal*.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter (Drayton Hall) expressed disagreement with
 Mr. Hopper's view, and remarked that he was in accord with that
 of the Rev. C. R. Manning, Rector of Diss, who did the church
 plate in that diocese in 1881. He (Mr. Walter) did not believe
 that the paten was pre-Reformation. Originally he considered it
 was the paten cover of the Norwich (Peter Peterson's) cup made
 in 1567. There were about 100 pre-Reformation patens, of which
 thirty-three were in Norfolk, so there was nothing to warrant the
 suggestion that this was anything more than probably the 1567
 paten. Mr. Walter congratulated the Rector on the way the
 church plate was kept.

Mr. Charles E. Keyser pointed out that the Church contained several very unusual features. There were, for example, two very nice old doors—three in fact—on which there was an iron grating opening so that anyone from outside could see or communicate with those inside. He did not know that he could recall any other instance of the kind. Although one of them might be used for confessional purposes, like the low side windows, the other did not support that view, because it was 7 ft. high, so that it would require people of greater stature than Mr. Rudd or himself to get up and speak through that window. It was a great puzzle to know what was the purpose of the gratings. Through one of them the elevation of the Host might have been seen, but one would have had to look round the corner to see that. He understood a good deal of the Flemish glass was brought there in the time of George II. He congratulated the Rector on having a beautiful church. Mr. Keyser also directed attention to the stones of beautiful black marble and wonderfully carved. The date of one was 1660. These were outside the Communion rails. He suggested that for their better protection they should be placed inside the rails and carpeted over, for there was a danger that they might be chipped by people walking over them.

The excursionists next visited Redenhall Church, ST. MARY'S the interesting points of which were described by CHURCH, Mr. A. B. Whittingham, son of the Bishop of REDENHALL. St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The earliest parts of this Church, said Mr. Whittingham, are 14th century, but the foundations of an older church have been found under the arcades, with a round tower at the west end. Blomefield says the Church was rebuilt by Thomas Brotherton, Duke of Norfolk (lord of the manor 1317—1325), the chancel being built by William de Neuport (rector 1319—1326), whose memorial stone lies in the chancel. It has been robbed of its brass, which was very fine, and the inscription round it in Norman-French has nearly all been worn away. His chancel still exists, except for the windows, only one of which is original. The nave arcades are of this date, also the aisle walls, including the doorways. Extensive alterations were made in the later 15th century, the most important being the building of the fine tower, with its flush work and octagonal buttresses. This was begun about 1460, but not finished till after 1518, when Richard Shelton became Rector, as his rebus (a shell and a tun) occurs on the parapet. On the base occurs the badge of Brotherton (a rose), and of de la Pole (a leopard's head). These also appear on the hammer-beam roof of the nave. The roof is painted at the east above the rood screen, but the latter has disappeared, except for twelve panels painted with figures

of the Apostles, and even these have been largely repainted. A large sanctus bell cot remains on the gable. The west doors, of moulded boards, may have been given by farriers, as there is a pair of horseshoes, with hammer and pincers, cut on them. The aisle windows and roofs are of this date, and the vaulted north porch, with flushwork and upper room. The two 15th-century eagle lecterns are noteworthy, the older of wood, the later of brass, with a double-headed eagle. A golden eagle, double-headed, on a red ground, formerly existed in one of the windows, and was apparently a local coat of arms. The eagle occurs again in the nave roof, and formerly in the roof of the Gawdy Hall chapel. This chapel has been rebuilt, but was formerly 16th century, and retains an altar tomb of that date. The chapel in the south aisle was dedicated to St. John. There was another altar in the 15th-century vestry which once had an upper floor, and now contains some good furniture. There is some glass from Gawdy Hall in the Church, and a Venetian chest of cedar wood, painted with the Annunciation. There is a fine peal of eight bells, of which the tenor is the original cast for the new tower about 1514. Of the rood screen the only part that remains are twelve panels, which I am sorry to say are very much painted up and varnished over. They were for some time in the vestry, and were restored when replaced in this screen.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Sancroft Holmes

GAWDY a visit was paid to Gawdy Hall, which was
HALL. described by Mr. Walter R. Rudd in an interesting
paper. After reading Macaulay's account of the

trial and acquittal of the Seven Bishops in 1688, Mr. Rudd said: "Macaulay's glowing periods are always associated with Gawdy Hall by me for the sufficient reason that the mansion remains a very treasure house of relics and traditions relating to Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, one—and the fearless leader—of that historic seven. It was my first official duty (in conjunction with the late Rev. E. C. Hopper) as your then recently-appointed Excursion Secretary, to conduct a visit of this Society to Gawdy Hall in 1911, and there are doubtless here to-day those who recall—that which I shall never forget—the cordiality of our welcome by the late Mr. Sancroft Holmes, and the unstudied eloquence and clarity with which he told us the story of his beloved home. Mr. Holmes said the old Manor House in which the Gaudys formerly lived was situated on the hill near Homersfield Station. This house was pulled down probably about 1570 after the owners had taken up their residence at Gawdy Hall. It was not certain when the latter was built, but it must have been prior to 1568, as in that year one Christopher Watson dedicated a book to his host, Thos. Gawdy, 'From My Chamber in Your House at Gawdy Hall.' In 1650 Charles Gawdy mortgaged the

Hall to Tobias Frere of Harleston, whose son's widow (one of the Longs of Foulden) married John Wogan of Wales. Upon succeeding to the Norfolk property through his wife, Wogan sold his Pembrokeshire estate and took up his residence at Gawdy Hall. His son John married Elizabeth, great-niece of William Sancroft, the Archbishop. The Sancroft properties at Fressingfield in Suffolk were then merged in the Gawdy Hall estate in Norfolk, and passed in 1788 by descent to the Rev. Gervase Holmes, great-grandfather of the late Mr. Sancroft Holmes. Of the original house the only part now existing—as it was built—is the south wing. The building probably formed three sides of a square, the fourth being closed by a wall and gate. The north wing is believed to have contained a chapel, the emblazoned coat of arms from which are now in the Gawdy Chapel of Redenhall Church. When the Hall was restored in 1878 a small moulded doorway was found on the north side of the south wing, which seemed to indicate that access to various parts of the house was across an open courtyard. The Hall was originally moated on three sides. The stone spheres on each side of the main doorway are memorial insignia. John Wogan made extensive additions and alterations to the Hall, removing the mullioned windows and destroying the Elizabethan features of the house. Over the fireplace of one of the reception rooms is a portrait of John Wogan—probably by Kneller. In the Gawdy records it is stated that during August, 1578, Queen Elizabeth came into Norfolk, and according to tradition, stayed at Gawdy Hall. I remember Mr. Sancroft Holmes pointed out with special interest a portrait of Archbishop Sancroft, by Lens, dated 1650, when he was 34 years old. He was born at Fressingfield in 1616, and when quite a youth went to Emmanuel College, of which he became Master in 1662. In 1663 he was Dean of York, in the following year Dean of St. Paul's, and in 1668 Archdeacon of Canterbury. In 1677 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury, and in 1688 he was sent to the Tower with six other Bishops for refusing to order the clergy to read James II.'s 'Declaration of Indulgence.' Being a 'non-juror' he was in 1690 deprived of his Archbishopric, and in 1691 ejected from Lambeth Palace. He then retired to his house at Fressingfield and died there in 1693, being buried in an altar tomb adjoining the south aisle of the Church. Mr. Holmes showed us the Archbishop's chair, his grant of arms, his Bible and Prayer Book, his herbal and common-place book, his clock, a locket containing some of his hair, the medal struck to commemorate the seven Bishops having been sent to the Tower, and other relics. Our kindly host of 1911 is, alas! no longer with us, but to-day we have the honour to be received by one who most fully maintains the family traditions and the best ideals of that section of our 'body politic' which for centuries has had such a profound influence in our national life and which still compels the admiration of other nations."

At the conclusion of his paper Mr. Rudd warmly congratulated the two Excursion Secretaries on arranging and carrying out that combined tour. He had himself endeavoured to arrange a united excursion, but the difficulties were so great that it was found impossible to do it.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter, on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, and Mr. Claude Morley (Excursion Secretary), on behalf of the Suffolk Institute, of Archæology and Natural History, expressed grateful thanks to Mrs. Sanicroft Holmes for her kindness and courtesy.

Mrs. Sanicroft Holmes, in reply, said she was pleased to receive the visitors.

Subsequently the excursionists inspected the mansion and its interesting treasures and relics.

A brief visit was next made to the ruins of Mendham Priory, Suffolk. The ruins are on the original site in the Waveney marshes, and the arcading brought thence to the modern house called "The Priory" were upon view by permission of Mr. J. B. Dimmock.

At Wingfield Church the Rector, the Rev. S. W. H. Aldwell, author of "Wingfield: its Church, Castle, and College," detailed its history and that of the attached College of Priests, founded by the executors of Sir John Wingfield, in the middle of the 14th century. The College, now a farmhouse, retaining the original timberwork, was inspected by the visitors. The Church, the Rector explained, was entirely rebuilt in 1362 according to the will of Sir John Wingfield. In that will he also founded the College of Priests abutting upon the churchyard. The original building was there still, but it was refronted about 1700. The Church was exactly as it was left in 1362 except for the chancel, which was lengthened 14 feet, and the present arches built by Wm. De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, in 1434, who was beheaded by a hostile political party, in the Straits of Dover. The earliest part of the Church was Flamboyant and all the rest Perpendicular. The tombs of the Earls and Dukes of Suffolk—the De la Poles—with their fine recumbent effigies, were observed with interest, although surprise and indignation were felt that these had been disfigured by vandals who had scratched or cut their own initials and names upon them.

Tea was provided by Mrs. Aldwell and Mrs. Groom, who live in the Tudor house built inside the walls of Wingfield Castle. The Castle itself was described by the Rector, who remarked that it had always seemed strange to think that their quiet little village of Wingfield was once the home of one of the greatest and most powerful families in England. The Castle for 150 years was

the seat of the De la Poles, some of whom attained the highest positions in the State, and who in the end became allied to Royalty and nearly succeeded in gaining the throne itself. The Castle was built in 1364. It was something between an old fortress and the ordinary moated manor house. He could not find, said the Rector, that it had ever been attacked in the days of the De la Poles. It had now been sold to Sir Shafto Adair. It was in part dismantled when it came into the hands of Henry VIII. There was no full account of the Castle, which appeared to have been a large structure, nearly square in plan, without any earthworks or defences. The site occupied one-and-a-half acres, and the moat was still 50 feet in breadth. Originally it had a draw-bridge and portcullis. It had been stated that the Castle was never finished, because so little now remained. The Rector, however, did not believe that a wealthy family like the De la Poles, living there for one hundred and fifty years, would have lived in an unfinished house. He believed the Castle came into the hands of Henry VIII., who had no use for it, and ordered it to be dismantled, and a good deal of material had been used in the building of the present Tudor house, which occupied the greater part of the other side of the Castle.

Viscount Ullswater and Mr. J. H. F. Walter offered hearty thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Aldwell and Mrs. Groom for their reception and generous hospitality.

The tour ended with a short visit to Syleham Church, an interesting account of which was related by Mr. Claude Morley, F.E.S., F.Z.S., who said its peculiarity was that it was erected upon an island in the Waveney Valley. He knew of no other church anywhere built upon an island. It was everything from Anglo-Saxon to Georgian, and exhibited every style of architecture. Mr. Morley advanced the view that in the village there had been at one time a castle. Earl Hugh Bigot in 1174 made his submission to the King at Syleham, which finally terminated his two years' civil war. Five hundred carpenters had been dispatched to the King at Syleham at the cost of 73s. 8d. The fact that no masons had been required to destroy the Castle seemed to prove that it was constructed entirely of timber. As for the Church, it was erected when the whole of the Waveney Valley was under water; and was still approached by an elevated causeway, with ditches a quarter of a mile long. The base of the font was of antiquarian interest.

PASTON PILGRIMAGE.

"The real monument of the Paston family is that series of letters which as long as our civilisation endures will be read as giving no ordinary insight into the life of the 15th century." ("Heart of East Anglia.")

On September 10th the members of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society made what was described as a Paston

Pilgrimage, visiting the various churches and residences having associations with representatives of the famous "letter-keeping house." In many respects it was perhaps the most interesting excursion the Society has organised. One thing only marred its enjoyment. The weather almost throughout the day was wet and cold. Archaeologists are, however, nothing if not courageous and enthusiastic, and in the spirit of Lochinvar allowed no difficulties to stop their progress.

The day's itinerary began at St. Peter's Hungate, Princes Street, Norwich, where Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy described the Church, rebuilt by John Paston in 1460, and gave an epitome of the Paston family history. Near by is Paston Place, the site of the house of Sir John Paston, which was briefly inspected, after which the archaeologists travelled by motor car and char-à-banc to Drayton Lodge, where, by courtesy of Mr. E. B. Raikes, they were allowed to inspect some interesting old ruins, and where the connexion of Drayton Lodge with the Paston family was explained by Mr. J. H. F. Walter (Vice-President of the Society). About noon the party arrived at Oxnead Hall, where they were received by Mr. Frank Archer, K.C., and Mrs. Archer. The Hall, which was built mainly by Sir Clement Paston about 1594, was described by Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy. At the pretty little Church of Oxnead, situated in the woods hard by, the members were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. R. H. O. Bankes, who described the monuments to Sir Clement Paston and others. After a picnic lunch, provided by the members, the pilgrimage was resumed, the next place to be visited being North Walsham Church, which, together with the monument to Sir William Paston, 1610, was described by the Rector, the Rev. H. H. Thorns. Shortly after three o'clock the visitors arrived at Bromholm Priory, Bacton, which, by permission of Mr. W. P. Cubitt, was examined with great interest. John Paston was buried here in 1466. Mr. E. A. Kent read an admirable paper, in which he gave a lively account of the events connected with the Priory. The pilgrimage ended with a visit to Paston Church, which Mrs. Bardswell described, including the memorials to Erasmus and Mary Paston and Lady Katharine Paston. The fine barn and the site of the old hall were inspected. The party subsequently took tea at the Church Room, Mundesley, after which they returned to Norwich, where they arrived about seven o'clock.

The following papers were read during the day:—

ST. PETER'S HUNGATE AND THE PASTON FAMILY.	Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy read a comprehensive and illuminating paper on St. Peter Hungate. He said: I have the privilege to-day of introducing you to twelve generations of a Norfolk house. The family of Paston owes its fame not so much, I think, to the achievements of its members as to the good fortune which has preserved to us
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a remarkable collection of mediæval correspondence and papers which is known world-wide as the Paston Letters. It may not be out of place, therefore, to give you a short account of the romantic history of this unique collection. The last representative of the family, the second Earl of Yarmouth, about the year 1729 was in very embarrassed circumstances, and he had to sell a portion of the family papers, which were stored at Oxnead in thirty or forty chests. The purchaser of this portion was Peter Le Neve, of Great Witchingham, the antiquary and Norroy King of Arms, who, however, soon died, having bequeathed his MSS. to Dr. Tanner and "Honest Tom" Martin, with a direction that they should "procure a good and safe depository in the Cathedral Church at Norwich or in some other good and public building in the city" for the purpose of preservation and inspection. The condition of this bequest was not observed, probably because Tom Martin proceeded to wed his testator's widow, and during the succeeding forty years of married life he treated these Oxnead MSS. as his own. His executors tried to preserve the collection intact, and it was sold to a man named John Worth, a chemist, of Diss, who proved to be a speculator. He parted with a great number, but retained the Paston Letters till his death in 1774, when they were purchased by a Mr. John Fenn, of Dereham. Up to this point the history of the MSS. is pretty clear. Until comparatively recently their subsequent history was shrouded in mystery. John Fenn published part of the MSS. in 1787 and dedicated them to George III., who conferred on him knighthood. In return for this honour, Sir John Fenn personally presented the King with two bound volumes of the original MSS., being part of the collection. From that moment for about 103 years they were lost sight of, and no trace could be found of them, though it was a tradition that Queen Charlotte had been seen to hand them for inspection to one of her ladies-in-waiting. In 1890 these two volumes were discovered at Orwell Park, near Ipswich, the seat of Mr. E. G. Pretymann. How did they get there? The explanation probably is that Sir John Fenn's introduction to the King was brought about by Dr. Pretymann, then William Pitt's private secretary, and later Bishop of Lincoln, and it would not be rash to assume that the volumes were either borrowed by Dr. Pretymann for perusal or given into his temporary charge. He then must have forgotten about them, and in course of time they were treated as his own property. For a long while (eighty years) the other originals were likewise undiscoverable, but about 1865 a large number were found at Dungate in Cambridgeshire, the residence of the late Mr. Sergeant Frere, who was Sir John Fenn's literary executor, and some others have been discovered since. The result is that now practically the whole of the original correspondence is either preserved at Orwell Park or safely housed within the Bodleian and the British Museum.

It should be remembered that the value of the letters is at least twofold. First their perfectly simple unaffected character. They were in many cases written for no other eyes than those of the recipient. Secondly, they are illustrative of every-day life, business as well as domestic, in a particularly turbulent epoch, full of wars and rumours of war, large and small, and in a period too of impending transition, for the middle ages were drawing to a close.

Clement Paston, the first of the family about whom we know anything very definite, was in 1400 a well-to-do yeoman farmer at Paston in the Soke of Gyvingham. He owned about 150 acres and a small water-mill. He appears to have been a far-seeing man. He gave his son William a good education, including training in the law at one of the Inns of Court. The son soon made good and became in succession Steward to the Bishop of Norwich, Sergeant-at-Law, and in 1429 a Judge of Common Pleas, and as such he was knighted. His uprightness and impartiality on the Bench won for him the title of the "Good Judge." He acquired considerable wealth, not only by his industry but also by his marriage with Agnes, heiress of Sir Edmund Berry, of Harlingbury in Hertfordshire, and this he laid out in the purchase of estates at Paston, Oxnead, Gresham and elsewhere. Such success as the Judge achieved was bound to excite envy, particularly among those who regarded his rise as an intrusion into land-owning circles. He showed singular foresight, as we shall see, when he warned his son John that anyone who owned the Paston estates would do well to have a knowledge of the law. It is about 1445, four years before the Judge's death, that the letters begin to become really interesting. At that date they introduce to us that remarkable woman, Margaret Mautby, whom the Judge and his lady successfully negotiated as a wife for his eldest son, John. The business of marriage-making in mediæval times, if not now, called for much parental activity and ingenuity. But it is interesting to note how often a marriage of convenience became a marriage of hearts. No man has a more loyal or resourceful wife than John Paston had in his Margaret.

True to prophecy, the Judge had not been dead one year before the family estates were attacked both by writ of summons and by force of arms, and John became involved in heavy litigation, necessitating long sojourns in London. Meanwhile Margaret Paston kept the home fires burning, indeed she took up arms in their defence. She was besieged at Gresham Castle and had to capitulate under superior forces, led by Lord Molyne and a rascal named Sir John Tuddenham. A thousand men attacked her and her small band of retainers. They mined "down the wall of the chamber wherein she was." Then they "bore her out of the gates and cut asunder the posts of the houses and let them fall." The

moat-surrounded ruined walls, with their bastions, are still visible at Gresham. A petition to the Lord-Keeper the following year, 1451, caused the Manor of Gresham to be restored to the Pastons.

The death in 1459 of that great Norfolk magnate, Sir John Fastolf, of Caister, increased John Paston's troubles no less than his wealth. Fastolf appointed him one of his executors, and devised to him large landed estates, so that to his rent roll of Paston, Oxnead, and Gresham, there was added Hellesdon, Drayton, and Caister. Very soon disputes arose, not only with outside claimants, but between the executors themselves, and John Paston had to spend most of his time in London, some of it even in the Fleet Prison, where he was thrown by the intrigues of his enemies. These anxieties no doubt hastened his early death in 1466, leaving, among others, two sons, each named John, surviving him. We shall hear later how just before his death the Duke of Suffolk, John de la Pole, from his seat at Costessey, carried on a guerilla warfare against the Drayton Manor, and how Margaret bravely defended her husband's estates and rights.

Of special interest to us is the connexion of John and Margaret Paston with this Church. In 1458 they purchased the advowson from the Dean and College of St. Mary-in-the-Fields. The old Church being in a ruinous state, they apparently pulled down the larger part and rebuilt. I am led by an examination of the structure to suggest that the present nave and transepts are alone attributable to the Pastons, the tower and chancel being earlier and the porch later. The east side of the tower (which, by the way, was reduced in height within living memory) has some weather moulding, which indicates its existence when there was a higher pitched roof than the present one erected by the Pastons. Furthermore, the external flint work of the nave is faced flint, whilst that of the chancel is rough unfaced flint, evidently designed to be plastered over. The work was completed in 1460, as is shown by a somewhat obliterated carving on the jamb of the north door, representing a young oak branch springing from the roots of a dead trunk—an allegory for the new Church rising from the old one. The lettering appears to be F.I.A.D. MCCCCLX°, which is probably "fundata" or "facta," "in Anno Domini 1460." Let me draw your attention to the Church's special features: The remarkably fine hammer-beam roof, with the special and unusual treatment at the crossing, rendered necessary by the transepts being of the same height as the chancel; the font, which may be a survival of the old Church; the squints towards the side altars in the transepts; the canopied niche in the south transept and the blocked-up squint adjoining it; the doorway to the rood loft is still visible. The windows are typically Perpendicular in their tracery, though differing in design; the porch is said to have been erected by Nicholas Ingham, mercer, who was buried in it in 1497. When some buildings were being

demolished opposite for the erection of a lecture hall two merchants' marks were saved. One of them is being kindly displayed to-day by Mr. George Tyce. It is stated by some, but doubted by others, among whom is Mr. Beecheno, the great authority on this parish, to be the merchant's mark of Nicholas Ingham. The ancient, but fragmentary, glass in the west-north transept and chancel windows is well worthy of close scrutiny. It has been described in detail by Mr. G. A. King in the Society's Proceedings. About twenty years ago the Church was in a very derelict state. Largely at the instigation of our President, Prince Frederick, extensive, though wisely conservative, repairs were effected in 1904.

It is fitting when in 1466 John Paston himself died that part of the obsequies should take place in the Church which was a monument of his pious generosity. The letters disclose the excessive pageantry of a great man's funeral. His body was conveyed by road from London to this Church, attended by a priest and six poor men on either side carrying torches. While it rested here for a night a solemn dirge was chanted by thirty-eight priests, each of whom received 4d.; twenty-six clerks and thirty-nine boys in surplices took part in the observance. The Prioress of Carrow attended with her maid and received 6s. 8d. Four hundred and fifty-nine years later our two Vice-Presidents from Carrow Abbey are present within the same walls to do honour to the name of Paston. Burial amid much pomp and ceremony took place at Bromholm the next day, as we shall no doubt hear later.

Sir John, his son, was a man of different calibre. He was a courtier, fond of love and war. Gay, good tempered, daring and prodigal he pursued pleasure to the neglect of his inheritance. Whilst his mother and brother John were bearing the brunt of defending the hard-pressed estates, he was enjoying himself in royal tournament. He writes to his brother in April, 1467:—

"My hand was hurt at tourney at Eltham upon Wednesday last. I would that you had been there and seen it, for it was the goodliest sight that was seen in England this forty years."

We must needs sympathise with the younger brother, who replies:—

"Whereas it pleaseth you to wish me at Eltham at the tourney, for the good sight that was there, by truth I had rather see you once at Caister Hall than to see as many King's tourneys as might be between Eltham and London."

Caister Castle, "the fairest flower in our garland," as Margaret called it, became very soon the scene of a struggle. The Duke of Norfolk, who had long coveted it, invested it, and after a siege of some weeks, John, the brother, had, after a brave resistance, to capitulate owing to lack of supplies, and was allowed to march out with his garrison.

The next few years of Sir John's life are a tale of squandering, embarrassment, mortgages and forced sales, despite the protests

of his mother Margaret and his brother John. Caister, it is true, was recovered, but Sir John died unmarried in 1479, and was succeeded by his brother John, who retrieved some of the family fortunes. He was made a knight banneret for his bravery in the victory over Lambert Simnel at Stoke in 1487. Margaret died in 1484, and is buried at Mautby. So passed a remarkable woman, displaying through all the changing scenes of her adventurous life deep piety, undaunted bravery, and unfailing resource.

Roughly, the letters cover three generations, and the information about these is naturally greater than that concerning later members of the family. It will suffice for the remainder to say that Sir Clement Paston, Elizabeth's sea commander, and the rebuilder of Oxnead, and Sir William Paston, founder of Paston School, North Walsham, are the more prominent of the next six generations. Sir Robert Paston, who entertained Charles II. at Oxnead, and was soon afterwards made an earl, was a popular courtier. His son, the second earl, was extravagant and soon outran his family resources. On his death in 1732, without leaving surviving issue, the properties were sold to the Circumnavigator, Lord Anson, in order to liquidate the dead earl's debts. Thus the family died out, and its estates, manuscripts, and family treasures passed into other hands.

It had been stated, said Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, that the value of the painted glass was something approaching four figures. He called attention to the danger of injury being done to it by stones thrown from the street. In appealing for financial help to carry out some repairs, the speaker said the Church, which was poverty stricken, was used as a drill hall by the Church Lads' Brigade.

Mr. W. R. Rudd recalled that forty years ago the Church had a popular parson and was always full. He also expressed a belief that Mr. Walter Rye once declared that the last of the Pastons was a prize fighter who died in Ber Street.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy gave the following account
 PASTON of this:—Very little is known about Paston Place.
 PLACE. The Pastons in the 15th century had a residence
 in this parish of St. Peter Hungate, and possibly
 this fact inspired the idea in John and Margaret's minds of
 purchasing the advowson of the Church and rebuilding the edifice.
 Several of the Paston Letters are directed to or from a house in
 this parish.

Mr. Beecheno, in his account of this parish, locates at this spot a house which Sir John Paston and Margery, his wife, in 1493 conveyed to John Crome of the city, mercer. Later on, in about 1545, Augustine Steward lived here, and possibly put the mercers' mark at the entrance to the courtyard. A few fragments of the stonework and possibly some of the long window frames still survive.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter, in a description of these, DRAYTON said he was "indebted to a letter to one of our LODGE AND Society's Vice-Presidents, Mr. Dawson Turner, from "BLOODSDALE." our then Hon. Secretary, Mr. Henry Harrod, and dated Bank Street, January 17th, 1849, and also to Fenn's 'Paston Letters,' for the following information as to the ruined Lodge at Drayton":—

It is built entirely of a yellowish brick of a rather large size (10 ins. by 5 ins. and 2 ins. thick), in the Old English mode of a course of "headers" and a course of "stretchers." Its form is oblong, 22 ft. 6 ins. by 16 ft. 3 ins., with a large round tower of 22 ft. in circumference at each corner. The entrance is by a large depressed arch in the south front, to the left of which a small narrow aperture seems to have afforded all the light to be had in the lower room when the door was closed; the south-western tower appears to have had a staircase. Holes remain in the internal walls, in which the beams of an upper floor were inserted. A capacious flue in the west wall shows the position of the fireplace in the lower apartment, whilst the east wall has a similar convenience for the upper room.

Almost all architectural details are destroyed, and not a fragment of stone or timber is to be found. The arch of entrance is so mutilated as to be made out with difficulty, and on a first glance you would be led to believe the brickwork was of so tender a description that it must have crumbled to pieces. The contrary, however, is the case. The bricks I examined were extremely hard and the mortar good, and such care has been exercised in strengthening it in various parts that the idea of its having been erected for show or pastime will, on a careful examination of it, be at once dispelled.

The yellowish tone of the bricks—the springing of arches in the staircase tower, evidently of a depressed form, a massive arch strengthening the north-eastern tower, and a loop in the western wall—reminded me strongly of portions of the buildings at Caister by Yarmouth.

I found on my return that Fastolf held Hellesdon and Drayton in the time of Henry VI., and that the Pastons succeeded him, and this naturally led me to refer to those valuable records, the Paston Letters.

From these, it appears that, in 1465, a violent attack had been made by the Duke of Suffolk, the John de la Pole whose effigy we saw lately in Wingfield Church, with some 300 men on Hellesdon, where the Pastons then had a residence, and very considerable damage was done by him and his followers. Margaret Paston, writing to her husband, John Paston, Esq., Sunday, 27th October, 1465, says:—"I was at Hellesdon upon Thursday last past, and saw the place there (their house) and in good faith

there will no creature think how foully and horribly it is arrayed but if (unless) they saw it; there cometh much people daily to wonder thereupon, both of Norwich and other places, and they speak shamefully thereof; the Duke had by better than a thousand pound that it had never been done and they made your tenants at Hellesdon and Drayton, with other, to help to break down the walls of the Place and the Lodge both, God knoweth full evil against their wills, but that they durst none otherwise do for fear If it might be, I would some men of worship might be sent from the King, to see how it is, both there and at the Lodge, ere than any snows come, that they may make report of the truth, else it shall not more be seen so plainly as it may now."

I believe, added Mr. Walter, these ruins and the house connected with them had always been known as Drayton Lodge, or Drayton Old Lodge, as Mr. Winter's house further down was also called Drayton Lodge. The field lying below us has always been called "Bloodsdale," and may have been the scene of the battle between the men of the Duke of Suffolk and those of Margaret Paston. The "Place" at Hellesdon was just above the present church, and although Edward IV., in 1469, rode "through Hellesdon Warren towards Walsingham," he evidently did not worry himself at all about the breaking down of the "Place" at Hellesdon or of the "Lodge" in Hellesdon Warren, which must have been the ruin which we are looking at this morning.

A paper on Oxnead Hall was read by Mr. B. OXNEAD Cozens-Hardy:—This Manor once belonged to
HALL. Sir Robert Salle, who took a prominent part in suppressing the peasants' revolt. It was purchased by William Paston, the Judge, in 1425, from Sir William Clopton, who lies buried in the Clopton chapel in the beautiful church at Long Melford. The Judge settled it on his wife Agnes, but a little while before his death a Carmelite Friar named John Hauteyn claimed it. The property had apparently belonged to the Hauteyns before it came to the Cloptons by marriage. The Friar's claim made but little progress during the Judge's lifetime, as so popular was he at the Bar that the Friar failed to obtain legal assistance. Furthermore, as a Carmelite friar, he was precluded from holding property. This disqualification, however, was removed by his obtaining from the Pope a dispensation to renounce his Orders. He then invoked the support of the Duke of Suffolk, an avowed enemy of the Pastons, and his efforts might have been successful but for the death of the Duke, after which the claim appears to have fizzled out.

John and Margaret Paston resided here periodically, and as early as September, 1443, Margaret ends a letter thus: "Written at Oxnead in right great haste on Saint Michael's even." On and

off the house here became an alternative residence to Paston and Caister. It was about 1499 that the Pastons fixed their residence here, leaving Caister either uninhabited or in the hands of a bailiff. We have no information about the house in those days. It was not till the latter part of Elizabeth's reign that this large Hall was built by Sir Clement Paston. He was born at Paston Hall and adopted the sea as a profession and rose to eminence by his prowess in naval warfare. His exploits are recounted in verse in the Church. On his retirement to Oxnead he erected this Hall, one wing of which, with the barn and some cellars, only is left, and laid out the ornamental gardens. The upper terrace had a statue of Cerberus, which was subsequently removed to Thorpe-next-Norwich, and the fountain, which was in the sunken garden, is now at Blickling.

Sir Clement dying without issue, it passed into his brother's line. Subsequently, Robert Paston owned and occupied it. He entertained Charles II., his Queen, and the Duke of York in 1676, and for this purpose erected a banqueting hall at the south end of the surviving wing. It had a chamber beneath, called the "Frisketting room," which probably is from the Italian "frescate," a cool grotto. This Hall had sash windows, and it is claimed that they were first used here in England. About the same time, so we are told, sash windows were placed in the banqueting house in Whitehall.

Robert was created first Earl of Yarmouth soon after the King's visit. His son, the second earl, married one of Charles' natural daughters, but squandered his resources, and on his death the estate was sold to Lord Anson, who, however, never resided there. The Hall, which must have been a fine building of the Elizabethan style, and is so beautifully situated above the river, was pulled down soon after 1809. The estate now belongs to Sir Edward Stracey, Bart.

The Rector, the Rev. R. H. O. Bankes, gave an interesting description of the monuments in this Church to Sir Clement Paston and others. The patronage of the Church, he had read, changed hands so early as 1214. After paying a warm tribute to the interest taken in the Church by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Archer, of Oxnead Hall, and the "tremendous amount of work they have put in with their own hands," the Rector said the great feature of the Church was the effigy of Sir Clement Paston, the famous Sea Commander, who was buried in 1597, at Oxnead, the Hall of which he rebuilt. On the tomb was also a sculptured figure of Lady Paston. Attention was directed to a fine piece of sculptured marble—a bust of Katharine, wife of Robert Paston. The registers of the Church dated from 1573. Referring to the ornaments of the Church, the Rector said the silver-gilt plate lay for security's sake in a certain bank. It was considered to be

worth from £500 to £1,000, and it was feared that if it remained in the Church it might be stolen.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter (an acknowledged authority on such matters) said the so-called Oxnead gold plate was really silver-gilt, and had been described in *Norfolk Archaeology*, vol. xvii. He had been told that there was a legend that this magnificent service of plate was given to Oxnead by Charles I., but could find nothing to justify this idea, but Blomefield states "that Charles II. visited Sir Robert Paston in 1682, and that Paston gave a rich service of Communion plate to the Church of Oxnead." Mr. Walter added, with pleasant irony, that his friends at that Church need have no fear about the plate being stolen. It was too well known for that to happen, and he did not think burglars would take it because it was not gold. The better it was known by publicity in the Press, the less chance there would be of it disappearing. The Rector endeavoured, unsuccessfully, to "draw" Mr. Walter as to the value of the plate. Mr. Walter observed humorously that he once gave an estimate of the value of church plate and his estimate turned out to be correct. But he got into trouble with the Bishop and refused to make any more estimates.

The most interesting features of the fine Church at North Walsham were described in some detail by the Rector, the Rev. H. H. Thorns. Particular reference was made to the magnificent tower, which was now in ruins. There was a fall of the tower 200 years ago, and there had been other serious falls. The splendid alabaster and marble monument to Sir William Paston, the founder of Paston School, who was buried at North Walsham, attracted a good deal of attention.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter made an interesting reference to the church plate. He said that some time ago, in a shop in Bond Street, he saw a paten of Norfolk manufacture. There were no marks, except the silver hall marks—nothing to give him any guide as to where it belonged. He put a letter in the *Eastern Daily Press*, but could not discover anything further. Just at the time, however, a friend asked if he could find a paten. The paten referred to was purchased and presented to North Walsham Church as a memorial.

Mr. Ernest A. Kent gave a full and interesting description of Bromholm Priory, Bacton, where John Paston was buried in 1466.

This Priory, said Mr. Kent, situate in the hamlet of Bromholm, in the parish of Bacton, was founded in 1113 by William de Glanville, as a cell to Castle Acre, for the accommodation of seven or eight Cluniac monks.

The original building was small, and no part of it remains. The oldest portion now remaining is of the Transitional period, and stands apart from the rest of the ruins. It is the north

transept of the Church, and emphasises the solidity of Norman construction, even at a time when this style was showing signs of retirement before the oncoming Early English.

The Pastons, among others, were considerable benefactors; among the letters, there are two of 1460 from Prior John of Tytleshall to Sir John Paston, in one he asks for money, and in the other he requests eight principal beams for his dormitory, which was then being repaired, each beam to be 33 ft. long. The fireplace in the room below the dormitory was probably made at this time; the passage at the south-west corner, presumably to the infirmary, may also be attributed to Prior Tytleshall.

Then, again, Margaret Paston's cousin, Robert Clere, spent the large sum of £100 for new choir stalls.

John Paston in his will left 40s. to the Prior, 6s. 8d. to each nine monks, and 1s. 8d. to a less fortunate monk. Besides this, he bequeathed a sum of £5 3s. 4d. to the Priory itself.

We have seen how Sir John Paston's body rested at St. Peter's Hungate at Norwich. The clerk there was given 12 pence "for his fellowship for ringing when the corpse was in the church." From thence the long procession wended its way, spending 5 marks at churches on the road, and in alms, till it arrived at the spot where we now stand. Here in the Church the Requiem was sung, and here the body was returned to the earth from whence it came. Blomefield had a long narrow roll in his possession in which was written a full account of all the expenses relating to the funeral, and which he believed was in the actual handwriting of Margaret Paston, the widow. It is much too long to quote here, but the following resumé may give some idea of the sumptuousness of the obsequies:—

"For 3 continuous days one man was engaged in no other occupation than that of flaying beasts, and provision was made of thirteen barrels of beer, 27 barrels of ale, one barrel of beer of the greatest assyze, and a runlet of red wine of 15 gallons." All these, however, copious as they seem, proved inadequate to the demand, for the account goes on to state that "5 coombs of malt at one time and 10 at another were brewed up expressly for the occasion. Meat, too, was in proportion to the liquor; and the country round about must have been swept of geese, chickens, capons, and such small gear, all which, with the 1300 eggs, 20 gallons of milk and 8 of cream, and the 41 pigs, 49 calves, and 10 'nete' slain and devoured, give a vivid picture of the preparation that was necessary for the sustenance and entertainment of so large a company of the 'religious' and the laity, each with their followers or retinue. Among such provisions the article of bread bears nearly the same proportion as in Fastolf's bill of fare. The one half-penny worth of the staff of life to the inordinate quantity of sack was acted over again at Bromholm, but then, on

the other hand, in matter of consumption the torches, the many pounds weight of wax to burn over the grave, and the separate candle of enormous stature and girth, form prodigious items." No less than £20 was changed from gold into smaller coin that it might be showered amongst the attendant throng, and 26 marks in copper had been used for the same object in London before the procession began to move. A barber was occupied five days in smartening up the guests at the ceremony; and "the reke of the torches at the dirge" was so great that the glazier had to remove two panes to permit the fumes to escape. Fourteen ringers were employed to toll, and 24 servitors at 4d. a day, and 70 at 3d. a day, were employed to wait on the guests.

"Sir John the Yr" seems to have been very dilatory about the erection of his father's tomb in the Abbey. It may have been lack of money, or it may have been a desire that his mother, Mistress Margaret, should shoulder the expense. At any rate, five years after his father's death his mother told him that his tardiness was noticed—she says: "It is a shame, and a thing much spoken of in this country, that your father's gravestone is not made. For God's love, let it be remembered and purveyed in haste."

It seems that it was in 1478, twelve years after John Paston's death, that the son sold a rich cloth-of-gold covering that had been used at the funeral, and devoted the proceeds to the erection of the long overdue tomb, which he said was to be such that there would be "none like it in Norfolk."

Perhaps now, I ought to say a word or two as to John Paston, who was buried here in 1466 in times so remote from our present day ideas that it is difficult to recall them. We think we have an axiomatic right to security of person and possessions. Then, although such rights existed—Magna Charta stated them—the administration of the law was weak and corrupt: "to have" and "to hold" were two very different things, and to secure your property—if you belonged to the middle class—you must have had either patronage of some nobleman who had influence at Court, or you must have made a valuable present to the King's representative—the Sheriff, or to the Judge. In fact, the position might be said to be just short of that which Wordsworth depicted on his visit to Rob Roy's grave:—

"..... the good old rule
Sufficeth them, the simple plan,
That they should take, who have the power,
And they should keep, who can."

John Paston, the eldest son of William the Judge, was born in 1421, and brought up to the law, and was married by his parents in 1440 to that very remarkable and capable woman, Margaret, the daughter of John Mautby, of Mautby near Caister. After his father's death in 1444, he divided his time between his Norfolk

estates and his chambers in the Temple. The possession of estates was sufficient for him to be viewed with jealousy, and so he incurred the hostility of Sir Thomas Tuddenham, and other officers of the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk. Once his enemies laid a plot to carry him off to the North, and three times he was imprisoned in the Fleet, on the second occasion just after he had obtained Edward IV.'s licence for the foundation of Fastolf's College. The suit against Fastolf's will was begun in the spiritual courts in Canterbury in 1464, and was still going on at the time of his death in May, 1466. He sat in the last Parliament of Henry VI., and the first of Edward IV. as Knight of the Shire for Norfolk, and for some time resided in the household of the latter King. He is, one may say, the central figure of the Paston correspondence.

Here, in the choir, with his head to a pillar, not far off the site of the high altar, six feet deep he lies.

May his bones rest in peace.

The little village Church of Paston, a thatched building of the 14th century, was the last place to be inspected during Thursday's tour. Here an excellent paper describing the Church and the memorials to Erasmus and Mary Paston and Lady Katharine Paston was read by Mrs. Bardswell:—

This Church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consist of chancel, nave, south porch, and western tower. It is probable that it stands on the site of an earlier building, as a church at Paston is mentioned in Domesday. Of this church no remains have been found. The existing church is throughout 14th century, with the exception of the porch, which is 15th century. The most interesting features are the plain font, a good example of its kind of 14th-century date; the iron-bound chest, with three locks, of the same date; the rood screen, dated approximately 1450; the Paston monuments, and the wall paintings. The rood screen is a fine example of 15th-century work. It was originally richly painted and gilded; some of the original painting, a diaper pattern, is still to be seen on the east surface of the panels. There is an undated water-colour drawing, showing the colouring of the screen, in the Dawson Turner collection in the British Museum. Another drawing in the same collection, dated 1815, shows the screen as it is now.

Of the Paston monuments, the earliest is the brass to Erasmus Paston and Mary Wyndham, his wife, in the chancel, dated 1538. The inscription reads:—

“Here Erasmus Paston and Mary his wife enclosed are in clay.

Which is the resting-place of flesh until the latter day;

Of sonnes three and daughters nine the Lord them parents made,

Ere cruel death did work his cruel spite or fickle life did fade.”

Three of the brasses are missing. It is not known when they were removed, but they were not here in 1816, when John Sell Cotman

made an etching of the brasses. There is reason to believe that Mary Wyndham herself, as well as her brass, has been taken away. John Tylnay Spurdens, writing in a flyleaf of his copy of *Paston Letters*, published in 1823, states that he was told by one of the Paston family that on the death of Sir William Paston, buried at North Walsham, it was intended to remove his wife, Frances Clare, from Paston, and bury her with him. By mistake, his mother, Mary Wyndham, was taken and buried at North Walsham instead of his wife. How two of the smaller brasses on the tomb were found and restored, also how five of them have been found to be palimpsest, has been dealt with by Mill Stephenson in *Norfolk Archaeology*, so I need not discuss this. The elaborate tomb of Dame Katharine Paston in the chancel is by the famous statuary, Nicholas Stone, who mentions in his diary: "In 1629 I made a tomb for my Lady Paston of Norfolk, and set it up at Paston, and was very extraordinarily entertained there, and paid for it £340."

He also made the tomb of Sir Edmund Paston in 1633, for which he was paid £100. The railings round the tomb are fine English ironwork.

There are three altar tombs in the chancel, said to be those of some of the Paston family, removed from Bromholm Priory. The largest now serves as the altar. Probably the Paston family placed them here on the Dissolution of the monasteries. The brasses, sometimes stated to have been lost during the restoration of the Church in 1844, were probably missing when the tombs were moved, since examination shows that the brass name-strips are missing on the sides of the tombs that are built into the wall.

The tombs are not put together correctly, some of the slabs of stone being on the wrong tombs. The matrix of one brass shows a knight in armour, with his helmet under his head.

The wall paintings were discovered three years ago and uncovered by Mrs. Lorraine, of Mundesley. They were executed about 1400, and are fine examples of that period. That of St. Christopher much resembles the painting recently found at Seething, which is of the same date. It will be noted, as is usual with the earlier representations of St. Christopher, the Holy Child is supported on the outspread hand, and not on the shoulder, of the Saint. There has been some discussion as to the subject of the other paintings. It is generally considered that the upper portion represents the legend of "Les trois Vifs et les trois Morts"—a subject found in several Norfolk churches. Three kings out hunting in a wood meet three skeletons—a morality typifying the vanity of earthly pomp and pleasures. Probably only one of the remaining figures, the central one, is a king, the other two being attendants. The other two kings with their hounds, etc., would be to the left. You will notice their heads are turned away in aversion. The fragments of painting below this probably formed part of a Doom or Last Judgment—a "soul" and part of a beast being visible.

In pre-Reformation times this Church was particularly rich in plate. In the inventory of Edward VI., 1552, are mentioned 3 chalices with their patens, a cross, a monstrance, a Christmatory, 1 pair of sensers, a ship to hold incense, 1 pyx, 2 cruets, all of silver parcel-gilt. All that remains is one pre-Reformation paten, dated about 1450, which, from its size must have fitted a very large chalice.

The present Communion cup is Elizabethan, 1567, and there is a flagon, 1660. Some interesting service books and an old pewter flagon were discovered in a chest. These are on view at the west end of the Church.

At the end of the Church are photographs of drawings of this Church, now in the British Museum, collected by Dawson Turner between 1830 and 1840. These shew the Church to be in a dilapidated condition. The windows lack much of their tracery. The east window being partly boarded up. The floor is much broken. The roof of the whole Church is obviously insecure and ivy is invading the interior. Shortly after this date the whole Church was thoroughly restored by my grandfather, Mr. John Mack, of Paston Hall, all the original features then existing being retained. The three-decker pulpit shown in the picture was of deal, and was replaced by the existing pulpit by a former Vicar, the Rev. T. J. Cooper, about 1866. Anthony Norris mentions in 1730 that the roof of the chancel was in many places adorned with fleur-de-lys and bears' heads muzzled, which makes it probable that it was done at the expense of William Paston, who married Agnes, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edmund Berry. This had evidently disappeared before 1840.

The Renaissance altar rails were erected by Mr. John Mack. They had formed part of a staircase of some old Norfolk hall.

The sedilia and piscina are good, of the same date as the Church. It is a pity that the sedilia have been defaced by the insertion of one of the Paston tombs. The piscina has its original wooden credence shelf. The lights maintained in this Church in pre-Reformation times were the light of Beckhithe Gate; the light of St. Margaret, burning before her image in the chancel; a light on the rood loft; and the Plow light. There was an altar to St. Nicholas. This village is the earliest home of the Paston family—the place from which they took their name. William Paston, the "good Judge," was the first to rise to any eminence. It was he who planned the building of the first Paston Hall of which we have any record. He died in 1444 while the work was in progress, and it was finished by his wife Agnes and his son John. The Letters mention the building of the parlour and the chapel. In a letter to her son, Edmund Paston, in 1445, Agnes asked: "Wetith of your brother John how many joists will serve the parlour and the chapel at Paston and what length they must

be, and what breadth and thickness they must be, for your father's will was, as I ween verily, that they should be 60 inches one way and 7 another way, and porvey the therefore that they must be squared there and sent hither, for here can none such be had in this country."

Then there began a great dispute about a right-of-way. Apparently the high road once passed the south side of the Church, and went inconveniently near to the new mansion, so William Paston obtained an order to divert the road to more or less its present direction. Then the village rose in anger. After the death of the Judge, aided and abetted by the Vicar, they continually removed the dole stones which marked the new road and threw down the wall across the old road. As a protest, they refused to go in procession further than the churchyard on St. Mark's day, as they said the procession way was stopped.

Feeling ran high, Agnes Paston writes to her son John, about a scene in church after evensong on Sunday, Waryn Harman, always a stirrer up of strife, along with Agnes Ball and Clement Spyce, came and leant over the parclose of her pew, and told her what they thought about it. Waryn Harman said: "The town was undo thereby and is the werse by an £100." And I told him it was no courtesy to meddle him in a matter, but if he were called to counsell, and proudly going forth with me in the church he said: "The stopping of the way would cost me twenty nobles, and yet (the wall) should down again." And I let him wete that he who put it down shall pay therefor—and so on. Another day Waryn Harman said openly in the churchyard that he knew well that if the wall were put down again, even though he were 100 mile from Paston, Agnes would say he did it. And the said Waryn's wife, with a loud voice, said: "All the devills of Hell draw her soul to hell, for the way that she hath made."

The dispute seems to have died down in the end, and the new road was made and used. For the next hundred years, judging by the Letters, the Pastons do not seem to have lived very much at Paston. Then they appear again in the parish registers. Sir William Paston, who founded the Paston Grammar School, and who is buried at North Walsham, seems to have lived here. His marriage with Frances Clere took place here in 1551, and two of their children were baptised at Paston.

The first home of the Pastons was largely destroyed by fire in the reign of Henry VIII. A second Paston Hall was built about this time. The cellars of the present house, which are of Tudor brick, probably belonged to this house. Sir William Paston built the great barn. An inscription over the door reads: "The building of this barn is by Sir W. Paston, Knight, 1583," and the initials of William and Frances Paston. It is one of the largest barns in Norfolk. The length is 163 ft., breadth 26 ft. The roof, of

massive oak beams, is particularly fine. Alternate hammer and tie beams, it is an unusual form of roof. The old tithe barn was pulled down about fifty years ago. This Elizabethan barn was never called the tithe barn.

The earliest picture of the ruins of the old Hall is a small print in the first edition of the *Paston Letters*. A photograph of this print is on view at the bottom of the Church with the other pictures I have mentioned.

The Rev. John Tylney Spurdens says of this print: "The view of Paston Hall on the title page of this volume conveys a very inadequate idea of the ruins of that ancient mansion as I remember them about the year 1796. What are there exhibited are the remains of the offices only, which flanked the two sides of a court, north and south, of which court the mansion occupied the east side. There were some traces of a turreted gateway on the west. It was a large building of flint with quoins of freestone, very irregular in its plan, with very spacious vaulted cellars. There is a turreted porch in the centre of the front, and towards the court the Hall was on the left-hand side of the entrance, the kitchen apparently on the right.

"The arched gate, with the window above it, in the view, was then destroyed down to the string-course above the arch, and was used as a sty for pigs. It was a passage from the court to the farm buildings.

"There was no trace of a moat about the house, nor any appearance of its having been crenulated or otherwise fitted for defence; nor have I ever found any mention of a licence to embattle."

Anthony Norris, writing about 1730, says: "The ruins of a large court, part of the seat of the Pastons in the town, are still remaining. The hall much resembles that of a college, and, indeed, the marks of its ancient magnificence are still everywhere visible."

Blomefield mentions "the hall with buttery hatch is still standing, but the chambers over it and the chapel are in ruins. Over the door of the great staircase out of the hall the arms of Berry are carved." The two views of the ruins from the Dawson Turner collection probably represent the last remains of the gateway to the farmyard mentioned by Spurdens and part of the farm buildings. The whole of the Paston family estates were sold to Lord Anson. He demolished the ruins of the old Hall, also the Tudor farmhouse, and over the cellars of the latter he built a part of the present house. In 1823 Lord Anson's property in Paston was bought by Thomas Mack, of Tunstead. He left the property to his son, John Mack, who restored the Church and built the rest of the present house.