

# The Proceedings of the Society during the year 1926.

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

**ANNUAL MEETING.** The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on June 3rd in the Council Chamber of the Norwich Guildhall, under the presidency of Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, F.S.A. Mr. Walter R. Rudd, the General Secretary, read the Annual Report. The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said he considered it in every way satisfactory. Mr. J. H. F. Walter seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts, which shewed a balance at the bank on the current account of £98 7s. 10d., and on the deposit account of £55 18s. 8d. The statement was adopted on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. J. Cator.

The Lord Mayor moved the re-election of the following officers: President, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke; Hon. General Secretary, Mr. W. R. Rudd; Hon. Excursion Secretary, Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy; Hon. Editorial Secretary, Mrs. Ivo Hood; Hon. Auditor, Mr. H. F. Barclay. The Lord Mayor said they were very glad indeed to see Prince Frederick Duleep Singh in the chair that day. They greatly valued his sustained interest in the Society and in the preservation of old and beautiful buildings, both in the city and county. They trusted that his Highness would be able to attend all their meetings during the present year.

The motion was agreed to.

The following members of the Committee, who retire by rotation were re-elected:—The Rev. Dr. H. J. D. Astley, Mr. H. L. Bradfer-Lawrence, Mr. Holcombe Ingleby, Mr. C. M. Upcher, and Mr. S. J. Wearing.

On the motion of Mr. E. A. Kent, seconded by Mr. J. H. F. Walter, the Rev. A. E. Alston was elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee caused by the resignation of the Rev. Dundas Harford.

Mr. John Olorenshaw was elected an honorary member in recognition of his services to the Society in indexing volumes xi. to xx. of the Society's proceedings.

In the afternoon, under the guidance of Mr. A. L. G. Bolingbroke, a large gathering of the PERAMBULATION members visited the conventual and other old buildings in the Cathedral Close. A start was OF THE CLOSE. made from the Ethelbert Gate and thence along the Upper Close to the Erpingham Gate, where attention was drawn to the kneeling figure of Sir Thomas Erpingham, which occupies a niche above the gateway. It is a fine piece of sculpture of the period, but is often overlooked. The chapel and crypt (charnel house) of the Grammar School were inspected, but what came, perhaps, as the biggest surprise to most of the party was the interesting Norman work of the interior of the Cathedral Choir School, once the locutory or conversation room of the Priory. The west front of the School is Early English, but some finely spanned Norman arches are to be seen within.

From the Choir School the visitors passed to the Cathedral cloisters, which were generally described. Special interest attached to the exhibition of some fine double Norman capitals. These were unearthed from a part of the Cathedral, and it is the belief of Mr. Bolingbroke that they formed part of some Norman stone cloisters that preceded the present handsome work. The cluster of interesting ruins standing in the garden of Canon Bell were next visited, the party being welcomed by Mrs. Bell in the absence of Canon Bell, who was in London.

Concerning a portion of solidly-built wall, pierced by some splayed windows, the late Mr. J. Gunn some years ago advanced a theory that it formed part of a Saxon church that he believed once occupied the site. One great authority on Saxon work thinks it not work of that period, but Mr. Bolingbroke yesterday expressed his opinion that if it was not pure Saxon then it was Norman-Saxon. The site of the guest house of the Priory was pointed out as well as the remains of the porch. The position of the refectory was also indicated.

The next call was at the Deanery, where the Dean and Miss Willink welcomed the company, and the Dean added greatly to the interest of the visit by pointing out certain features of historic interest, especially the Prior's great hall, now the Deanery kitchen. The view of the south-east aspect of the Cathedral as seen from the garden was greatly admired, and the Dean gave a very informing little talk on the tower and spire.

The visitors next passed to the sites of the Priory infirmary and the great granary, going on to the familiar though ever pleasing watergate of Pull's Ferry. Finally, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Bolingbroke most kindly entertained the party to tea at Ferryside, Riverside Road.

#### TOUR IN KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK.

The principal summer meeting of the Society was made to cover two days instead of the more customary one, in order that the antiquities of King's Lynn and parts of West Norfolk might be explored.

On the first day, July 26th, the attendance numbered more than a hundred. It is a remarkable sign of the changing times that whereas till recently the Committee had to arrange all, or nearly all, the transport, yesterday the majority of the members joined the line of route by means of their own cars, and only a small minority were dependent on the charrs-à-bancs. Those who travelled from or had made a connexion with Norwich Thorpe reached Brandon in the early forenoon. There they boarded the charrs-à-bancs, and visits were paid successively to Methwold Church, Snowre Hall, Ryston Hall, Denver Hall, Stow Church, and Wallington Hall, the following night being spent at King's Lynn.

As may be seen from the map, here was a route calling for a good deal of careful planning. Happily, Mr. H. L. Bradfer-Lawrence, of North Wootton, as Excursion Secretary in the Lynn area, was very helpful in this matter. The general control of the arrangements was in the hands of Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy, as Hon. Excursion Secretary, and Mr. W. R. Rudd, the Hon. General Secretary. By the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Luddington, afternoon tea was taken at Wallington Hall.

Owing to the death of the Society's President, to which many regretful allusions were made, it had become necessary to appoint a temporary leader and chief spokesman of the excursion. This office fell to the lot of Mr. J. H. F. Walter, an ex-president of the Society, who was thenceforward referred to as chairman of the day.

At the ancient Church of Methwold an interesting paper was read by Mr. E. M. Beloe, F.S.A. Methwold, he said, in the hundred of Grimshoe, is commonly stated to mean the Middle Wold, but this is wrong. He had consulted the Vicar of Grimston, the Rev. A. Goodall, on the subject, and he has most kindly made a list of the various ways of spelling the name too long to quote here, which proves conclusively that the word means "place of assembly." The village lies on the edge of the fen and had its hythe or landing place at Ottering Hythe near the Church of St. Helen's, now razed, as Setch, Middleton, and Oxburgh, all

similarly situated, had. It has a fair and weekly market, and it is the largest parish in Norfolk. It is bounded on the east by the Devil's dyke, through which the road from Brandon has since been driven at Green Cross; and this eastern portion is on the chalk and gravel of the East Anglian heights, and forms the highland or warren (long noted for "Muel rabbits"), and hidden from the road, but very near to us is the town calke pit of great size, with cottages nestling around, claimed as part of the lord's waste. The remainder of the parish running up to the parishes of Hilgay and Southery is fen. A glance at the map shews the meeting places of many roads, the main one from North Norfolk, which skirted the fenland and crossed the rivers Wissey and Little Ouse at Stoke Ferry and Brandon Ferry, runs through the village, but ferries betoken much civilization and we must look for the earliest tracks at the first available fords—Narford, Langford, and above all Thetford (the people's ford). Near the spot now locally called "Sleisham," the Rev. J. D. Gedge, a former vicar of the parish, dug up portions of a Roman villa. Mr. J. L. Theobald, who lives quite near, at Threw Hill, kindly took me to the spot. When we cross the string drain (the northern boundary of the parish) on the main road to Stoke Ferry, it is but a quarter of a mile away from us, on our left. The Society can have no more pressing work before it than the excavation of this villa as a complement to the work recently done at Gayton, and I believe I am right in saying we should have the goodwill of the owner.

But purposely having made a long digression, I must describe the Church. There is very little heraldry in it, and no glass, for the Warren coat in the east window described by Blomefield is gone, and the shields on the font are left plain. The Church is Perpendicular, with traces of Decorated work in the chancel and tower, or, to give it its mediæval name, I should say the steeple. What is now called the steeple was known as the pinnacle, and the pinnacle here is one of the very few stone ones in Norfolk, and unique in one respect in that the lower portion is octagonal. It is built of brick and cased with ashlar. The roof of the nave, with its alternating design of tie beam and hammer beam, is interesting, and the effect is good. The staircase leading to the roof is perfect. The Church is dedicated to St. George, and the inn of that name in the village goes back to 1695 for certain, and probably long before that. The fragments of the brass of Sir Adam de Clifton, 1367, have been cleverly pieced together and nailed on a board. The late Mr. Gedge did this thirty years ago. I remember seeing them in the chest and taking rubbings of them. In the church chest is the Methwold Charter. This is so rubbed and worn as to be illegible, and it has lost the Duchy Seal. It was carted about and produced yearly to the Sheriff of Norfolk, who confirmed it and endorsed it on slips of parchment attached

to it, *e.g.*, "Allowed by me so far as by law I may, Nicholas Styleman, Esq., Sheriff, 15 Mar., 1776." This was last done in 1870. By the kindness of Miss Coates, of Buntings, the Clerk of the Parish Council, I have examined the 18th-century translation. The Charter is of James I., dated at Westminster, 1618, and recites at great length former grants of Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV., and very great privileges and grants to the inhabitants of the towns of Methwold, Hilgay, and Wells (meaning, of course, the Feltwells), to use the aforesaid customs, franchises, and royal rights without molestation, with a proviso that they should pay toll, pannage, passage, picage, lastage, stallage, tonnage, tallage, carriage, weighage (the Duchy Seals are still in the chest), and groundage at all places within the Duchy.

I now come to the inventory of church goods taken in the sixth year of Edward VI. (1552), which was prepared for this Church. Their object is well explained in a paper on the subject by Mr. Walter Rye in the seventh volume of our Proceedings. The Commissioners for Norfolk were Lord Robert Dudley, Sir John Robsart, Sir Christopher Hayden, and others. Three Knights attended at Methwold with three Esquires, and nearly every church must have been visited in this year. The results are preserved in the archives of the Court of Augmentation in the Record Office. I have analysed a few of them in the hundreds of Grimshoe and South Greenhoe, the adjoining hundred on the north, which form the Deanery of Cranwich, so as to shed further light on the matter. The first item in the inventory of Methwold is a chalice and paten of silver, parcel-gilt, weighing nine and a half ounces, which is one of smaller size than is usual, many of those in the neighbourhood weighing twelve to thirteen ounces. Two steeple bells only are scheduled, the usual numbers in the inventories of the neighbouring churches being three. In one case only, Southacre, were there four, but they were very small, the treble weighing only one and a half hundredweight. The two at Methwold were of average size, namely, nine hundredweight and eleven hundredweight. In every case the value of the bell metal is put down at 15s. the hundredweight. Swaffham possessed a fine set, the three of them weighing respectively fifteen, twenty, and twenty-eight hundredweight. The clappers are also put separately on the lists. At Methwold, after the record of the two bells, there follows this note:—"One lyttle bell wayeng xxx li. (30 lbs.), value 5s." This must have been the sanctus bell, the cote for which (built of brick) remains on the south-eastern edge of the gable of the nave, an unusual place, for the cote is generally on top of the gable, as at the neighbouring church of Oxburgh, also at Wiggshall St. Mary Magdalene. Hand-bells are mentioned in some of the inventories (Gooderstone, Ickburgh, Foulden, and Hilborough), and clock-bells occur at

Northwold and Oxburgh, but none here. The object of the Commissioners was to get in the plunder, and it is rarely that anything was left for the use of the church save the chalice and paten and one bell, and that frequently the smallest: but not universally so. Thus at Didlington the middle bell of three was left. The sancte or saunce bell would be rung at the mass as the words "Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus" were reached. A little later in the service came the elevation of the host, when again a bell was rung. I suppose the hand-bells would then be used, and those churches which had none would get on as best they could by using a steeple bell, it may be. The use of these bells was condemned by Cranmer in 1549, and by Ridley.

Of the sixteen neighbouring villages which I have picked out, Methwold possessed the greatest number of copes and vestments, namely, half a dozen of each. The vestments are described as of "red silk, white silk, and blew silk, worth ten shillings the three, and three others of creuell (a coloured worsted) and fustyon (a kind of coarse cloth introduced from the East)"; of the six copes one was of red silk and the others of "divers colours." It is a pity a little more information was not given concerning the copes and their material, but if we refer to the other lists we can see what great variety of fabrics were then in being. At the risk of being a little prolix, I will quote some of them. We find vestments of bay velvet at Northwold, dunde satten at Mundford, green damask (cloth originally from Damascus) at Weeting, green saye (a serge) at Colveston, and "gren satan a briges," that is, green saten of Bruges, at Ickburgh. Turkey silke and cloth of bawdkyn (a rich brocade) at Swaffham, green cruell wrought with flowers at Narford, black wurstead at Narborough, whilst copes are of cruell, green silk changeable, green silk with flowers, crymson velvet, Dornax (a cloth from Tournay, called in Flemish Dornick), and black Russelles (a Flemish woollen cloth). There is still at Great Bircham a cope of crimson velvet. The only other item in the Methwold Inventory records "a pair of old organs value ten shillings." At Northwold were also a pair value twenty shillings. The word "pair" being here used in the sense of a "set"—a set of pipes. They were frequently placed on the roodloft; so was the sanctus bell. The early 14th-century chest, bounded with iron, must have been in the Church when the inventory was taken, but it is not mentioned, though at Colveston the "oke chest" was valued at two shillings. No lecterns, candlesticks, or prykkettes, or crosses, or sensers, or altar cloths, crewetts, pyxes, or rowells are mentioned. Nor is there any such long list of vestments of various kinds of woven material and painted cloth as that which occurs at Narford.

The family of Young must have been one of some power here. Blomefield mentioned a Thomas Young, who, by his will of 1485,

leaves a gift to the Image of St. Gregory in the Church. In 1693 a John Young of the Green is warden. An Abraham Younge is one of the wardens in 1630, and in the church chest is the bond given to him and his co-warden, Wm. Pecke, Gent., and to Robert Brundische the Vicar, by John Draper, the bellfounder, of Thetford, for £100. The formal part is in Latin, and the condition in English. It recites that Draper had then cast the five bells belonging to the parish church of the town of Methwold, and provides that if they shall prove to be whole, sound, clere and "tewnable," and shall so remain for seven whole yeares, then the bond should be void: but if they should decay, break, crack or prove untewnable, then he would recast them with full weight and goodness of metal, they being delivered at his melting house yard at Thetford. The bond is signed and sealed with a small circular seal bearing a bell for a device and I & D on either side of it. The seal is not pendant, but the paper is cut so that the wax is between paper top and bottom.

John Draper was a well-known bellfounder at Thetford. He succeeded his father, Thomas, there. He did work for the Lynn Wardens, and the clock-bell of St. Nicholas' Chapel there, dated 1613, was made by him, and still tells the hours. He died in the year 1644. Four of these five bells at Methwold survived the seven years, for they are in the steeple now. They bear the inscription, "John Draper me made 1630, Robert Brundische, Vicar, William Pecke, Gent., and Abraham Younge, Churchwardens." The two other bells, tenor and treble, now here, making a set of six, were cast at St. Neots in 1775.

There is one old pewter flagon, holding three pints; the rest of the plate is of no great moment. There is a pitch-pipe, and a pair of painted iron scales (18th-century), and two copper standard measures of the Duchy of Lancaster, engraved "H.P. 1775," doubtless for Henry Partridge, who was steward of the Manor then, at least, either he or his son, for in 1774 the admission of the trustees for the churchwardens of a cottage in the Chalk Pit is signed Henry Partridge, Jun., steward. He died in 1793 at the age of 84, as the Register says, "of a decline." He was Recorder of Lynn. His monument is in the chancel, on which can be seen the names of his six children. Mr. F. H. Partridge, of Lynn, still steward of the Manor, is a descendant through his first wife, Mary Say, who bore him three children, and is buried in St. Nicholas' Chapel. She "lived the delight of all who knew her," and was 21 years old at her death.

The Registers start in the year 1683, and have not yet been printed in Phillimore's series. The churchwardens' accounts start a year or two before that, and contain many overseers' items and other "poor stuff." In the year 1683 were twenty-six deaths, and if we take this as a datum, allowing three generations for

a century, the population would be about 850 at the time. John Newson, a vicar in the reign of Queen Anne, has left an account of the customs of the vicarage, for every calf sixpence, and every foal a penny, for burying a corps with a coffin a shilling, without one, sixpence. Three shillings for marriage with banns, and 6s. 8d. by licence. "And as regards the tenth pig, if any person hath by a sow above the number of ten pigs he is to allow one peny for all yt are above the said number, but if there be but seven the vicar is to have one and allow three pence."

In the chest is a contemporary extract from the will of John Grey, of Methwold, Esquire, dated 27th March, 1557. He directes his executors to provide within a year and a day of his burial twenty "heckfore" with calf, to be let to the poor of the town of Methwold for two shillings a piece yearly, and with the farm (that is the rent) of the said cattel they shall keep every year one obit for him and his friends "so long as it shall please God and the law of this realme to permit the same." As Queen Mary died in the following year there were not many obits kept. Testator died 23rd May, 1558. He was a member of the family of the de Greys, ancestors of Lord Walsingham. He directes that there should be a solemn masse with a requiem, at which his heir, whosoever he be, was to attend and offer four pence, and at the obit the people were to have "breade and bere and chese" at the cost of 13s. 4d.

Before leaving Methwold Church Mr. W. R. Rudd spoke sympathetically of the loss the Society had sustained through the death of PRINCE FREDERICK DULEEP SINGH. Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, and on his proposition it was agreed to send a letter of condolence to the family. All the members, he was sure, deeply regretted the untimely death of their President. When the Prince was elected there was a feeling that the Society had departed from its usual practice of choosing not only a good antiquary, but a Norfolk man. But in this case they had been most fortunate, for they had had in the presidency one who not only inherited the charming manners of his Oriental forbears, but had many of the finest attributes of an English gentleman. Prince Frederick's interest in Norfolk and everything pertaining to Norfolk was almost pathetic in its intensity. He was an antiquary with a reputation that spread far beyond the borders of Norfolk; and, above all, he was a modest man. He was one of the most popular presidents the Society had ever had, and all the members felt that by his death they had lost a friend. Mr. Rudd also made a feeling reference to the recent illness of Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter, who was the seconder of the proposition, added a few words of warm tribute to the memory of the Prince.



He was one of the last members of the Society to see their late President before his death. On July 21st the Prince told him he had been at last compelled to recognise that he could not go on with the presidency, and must send in his resignation.

By permission of Major Philip Lister, the members saw the principal apartments of Snowre Hall, which is distinguished by the beauty of its Tudor brickwork and by antecedents of even higher antiquity. It was built by the Skipworths in 1470. Major Lister briefly recapitulated what is known of its past, and, as bearing on the traditions that King Charles I. slept there during his flight after the defeat at Naseby, he read some extracts from "East Anglia and the Great Civil War." These do not specifically connect Snowre with the flight, but they make various local mentions, giving to the story a touch of likelihood; and they quote in favour of it a definite statement in "The Life of Nicholas Ferrer" in Knebworth's *Ecclesiastical Biography*, vol. v.

Ryston Hall was built in 1680 by Sir Roger Pratt, a friend of Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren, and its present owner is Colonel E. R. Pratt, M.C., who personally shewed the reception rooms and answered many inquiries about the extremely interesting portraits of the Pratt family, one of them by Lely.

A paper on the history of the house and family was read by Mr. H. L. Bradfer-Lawrence.

Colonel H. R. B. Wayman himself read a paper on the antiquities of his fine old house in Denver, which was built in the 15th century, and was anciently the home of the Willoughbys. The east front of the house, on which the arms of the Willoughbys plainly appear, is the only part now surviving from the original structure.

Mr. Bradfer-Lawrence explained that when the excursion was first planned it was arranged that the Society should visit the Hall and see the manuscripts. But Sir Thomas being in Scotland, he had sent manuscripts from his muniment-room to the Church. The earliest of these documents is of the time of the Conqueror. Another is a 13th-century copy of Magna Carta and the Forest Laws.

Wallington Hall is a picturesquely situated house, which was anciently the seat of the Coningsbys and Gawdys. It retains some of the Late Tudor work of its origin. Mr. Luddington, who gave an address on the subject, said he purchased the house about ten years ago, and had done his best to rescue it from a very dilapidated condition. He hoped in the future to do something more.

At the close of the tea, at which the visitors assembled in a tent on the lawn, several new members of the Society were elected, including Mr. Luddington, whose name was greeted with much applause.

#### FURTHER EXPLORATIONS IN THE WEST.

On July 27th a long train of motor cars with a couple of charrs-à-bancs set out from the Tuesday Market Place, and, working to a well planned and closely observed time-table, covered a programme that kept the members occupied incessantly till the evening. The perfection of the arrangements was freely remarked on. It was commented on warmly during a little informal speech-making at Middleton Tower, where a suggestion was made that may greatly affect and extend the Society's future working.

Mr. J. H. F. Walter thanked Mr. E. M. Beloe and Mr. Bradfer-Lawrence for all that they had done, and Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy and Mr. W. R. Rudd added some compliments in the like sense.

Mr. Rudd, continuing, said that as General Secretary for some years he had been wondering why the King's Lynn people did not follow the good example of the Yarmouth people by forming a branch of the Society and emulating the success that Yarmouth had achieved. The friendly co-operation between Mr. Beloe and Mr. Bradfer-Lawrence suggested to him that now was the time when that course should be taken. He could not imagine any branch being more ideally worked than one of which Mr. Beloe was president and Mr. Bradfer-Lawrence honorary secretary.

Mr. Beloe said there was already in Lynn an excellent Arts and Sciences Society, and he should not care to tread on its heels.

After leaving Lynn, the first place of call was

**THE ROUND** Gaywood Hospital, which has often been written  
**OF VISITS.** of, and of which the main facts are well known.

It was founded in 1145, sacked by Kett's followers in 1549, refounded in 1611, burnt at the siege of Lynn in 1643, and rebuilt in 1649.

At Hillington Hall the members examined the suite of reception-rooms, by kind permission of Viscountess Dawnay. The Hall was rebuilt in 1820. The present structure is not remarkable for remains of antiquity, but it has antecedents of great interest, as Mr. E. M. Beloe shewed in a detailed paper turning closely on the personal interest of its successive occupants.

At Grimston Church a paper was read by the Rector, the Rev. A. Goodall. But this it is unnecessary to summarise here, as Mr. Goodall is one of those industrious clergy, who, taking pride in their churches, have issued all the necessary information about them in a printed form. Mr. Goodall's pamphlet is a model of its kind. The Church, dedicated to St. Botolph, is of flint and

stone in the Early English Decorated and Perpendicular styles. Its most impressive feature architecturally is a lofty embattled tower with fine pinnacles.

The other events in the list included visits to Middleton Tower, Blackborough Priory, Marham Abbey and Church, and Narborough Church and Earthworks,

At Marham Abbey Mr. Bradfer-Lawrence read a paper on the remains of a nunnery of the Cistercians, an order specially interested in agriculture. A striking feature of the ruin is two beautiful circular Decorated windows in the south wall.

At Narborough the speaker was the Rector, the Rev. E. G. B. Bright-Betton, who pointed out various memorials to the Spelman family, notably including the remarkably fine recumbent effigies in the chancel. The Church, dedicated to All Saints, is built of flint in the Early English and Perpendicular styles. It has an embattled western tower. The north wall of the chancel has a small ornamental niche containing the carved demi-figure of a lady, Domina Althea Narburgh, who is said to have died in 1293, and to have devised her heart for burial there. Her hands, folded across her breast, are shewn clasping a heart.

Perhaps the members would be agreed that  
 MIDDLETON the outstanding event of the day was a visit  
 TOWER. to the beautiful moated and castellated mansion,  
 Middleton Tower, well known to distant view  
 by all railway travellers approaching Lynn from the eastward. Restored and enlarged in 1860, it still retains a good deal of antiquarian interest bearing on a history that dates back to the time of its supposed erection by Lord Scales towards the close of the 15th century. The present owner is Mrs. Ramsden. She could not be present in person, but she was hospitably represented by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ramsden.

Mr. H. L. Bradfer-Lawrence read a paper, of which the following are the more important passages:—As far as I have been able to ascertain, Middleton is mentioned first in the Domesday Survey, and at that time there appear to have been five separate lordships shortly afterwards known as Scales Hall, Bury Abbey, Castle Hall, Tyrrington Hall, and another belonging to Alan, Earl of Richmond. The sites of four of these manors are, I think, fairly easy to trace, but the fifth is obscure, and I fancy became merged in Scales Hall at an early date. Middleton Tower occupies the site of Scales Hall Manor. Originally part of the Montfort fief, it was held for a short time by the Lisewis family, and passed, according to Blomefield, in the reign of Henry II. to Roger de Scales on his marriage to Muriel, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Jeffery de Lisewis. It descended in this family of Scales until the death of Thomas, Lord Scales, who was captured and brutally murdered by wherry-men when attempting

to escape from the Tower of London by water, late in the evening of the 9th of July, 1460 (38 Henry VI.), after the defeat of that King at the Battle of Northampton. By the marriage of his daughter, and eventual heiress, to Anthony Wodeville, son and heir of Richard Wodeville, Earl Rivers, the property passed to the brother of Edward IV.'s Queen—Elizabeth Wodeville—and so for a short space the sorrows and sufferings of that Queen cast a deep shadow over the history of this fine old gatehouse. Elizabeth Scales died in 1473 without issue, and her husband, Anthony Wodeville, Earl Rivers, K.G., and Lord Scales, was captured and beheaded at Pomfret Castle in 1483 by order of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. By his will it was directed to be sold, but the Manor is said to have passed by grant from Richard III. to his favourite, John Howard, Duke of Norfolk. On the death of the latter on the field of Bosworth in 1485, the grant was forfeited, and on the accession of Henry VII., Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was found to be one of the heirs of Elizabeth Lady Scales, above mentioned, as great-granddaughter of Margaret Scales, daughter of Robert Lord Scales, wife of Sir Robert Howard, and sister of Roger Lord Scales.

Thus it was that in one short generation (1460-90) this ancient gatehouse passed out of and into the possession of four of the greatest families in the land—Scales, Wodeville, Howard, de Vere. At Bosworth de Vere (himself half a Howard) is said to have slain with his own hand "Jock of Norfolk," the uncle who in the troublesome days of Edward IV. and Richard III. had taken the youth into his own household to protect him and his estates from avaricious enemies. This Manor remained with the de Veres but a short while, and then passed by female heirs into the Cecil and Wingfield families, the former selling it to Sir Thomas Holland in 19 James I. (1622). Blomefield says Sir John Heveningham was lord in 1635, and Sir William Paston, Bart., in 1649. Richard Barney was lord in 1699. It appears to have been sold in 1709 to Isaac le Heup. His two daughters succeeded as heiresses, having married respectively Sir Edward Williams, Bart., of Wales, and "Lloyd, Esq.," of Epping, in Essex. Sir Edward Williams sold the Manor and estate to Vice-Admiral Savage Mostyn. His nephew, Sir Roger Mostyn, Bart., succeeded in 1757, enjoyed it for a few years, and then (1766) sold it to Philip Case, Esq., of King's Lynn, for £18,000. From Case it passed to Benoni Mallett; then at his death back to the Case family, and so in the 19th century to their relations, the Wythes. About 1868 it was bought by Sir Lewis Whincop Jarvis, of King's Lynn, who soon afterwards carefully restored the gatehouse and inner moat and subsequently made several further additions. On his death in 1888 the property was again sold and finally came to vest, at

the beginning of the 20th century, in the possession of our kind host to-day, whose family have spent large sum of money in adding to the mansion and in clothing again parts of the interior with old panelling which, if not of contemporary date with the ancient gatehouse, has restored in some measure the baronial atmosphere the Wars of the Roses so rudely shattered.

The earliest view of the ruined gatehouse known to me is the drawing undated by Wm. Millicent. That this drawing was made before 1741 is plain, as at the side appears a view of Lynn showing the spire and central lantern tower of St. Margaret's Church, blown down that year in a great storm. Cotman's sketch of the south front, made in 1817, differs considerably from Millicent's in the arrangement of the windows in the first floor. He shows the fine central oriel window in greater detail with two smaller windows—one in either side—having flat Gothic moulded heads with fine corbelled projecting bases. Mr. Thos. Ramsden and I have examined separately and carefully the south front, but we cannot find any trace whatever that a third oriel window ever existed. Cotman seems to have exercised an artist's licence to give more balance to his picture.

There is not often seen a more satisfactory composition for a gateway tower than the present. The flanking octagon towers deserve peculiar notice for their very good proportions; it is too often the case that we see them either of so large a diameter as to appear squat and lumpish, or so small as to appear ornamental only and not useful. Here the proportions are such as to strike the eye at once, with a fitness which renders them very elegant. The lower stage contains, between these turrets, the gate and two small windows or panels, of two lights each.—This stage is divided from the one above it by a good string moulding. The second stage contains two one-light pointed windows, and between them the remains of a beautiful small oriel, set on a rich and good corbel, with a beautiful groined roof. There are also good corbels under the one-light windows, showing at once the pre-eminence of this storey. Another string divides this storey from the upper one, which has in the centre, over the oriel, a shield of arms, and on each side, over the side windows, two other windows, also of one light each, but distinguished from the lower ones by having their arched heads surmounted by square-headed dripstones. In the turrets there are several apertures of varied forms and good proportions. The battlements above have been restored, but when complete this tower must have been very beautiful, and in its composition much superior to that we see in East Barsham and some later works which have attracted much more attention.

Finally we may consider for a moment the state of its erection and the builder. Mr. Walter Rye, in his *Norfolk Families*, doubted that the Scales ever had a residence here, and suggests it was

a hunting box only. Some twenty letters from Thomas Lord Scales are preserved in the *Paston Letters*, and practically all are dated from Middleton, at all seasons of the year, and I think this evidence alone is sufficient to prove he was actually living here. Moreover, we know this same Lord Thomas Scales rode over with armed forces from Middleton to Roydon, about 21st September, 1454, and utterly destroyed the magnificent mansion of the Wodehouses to prevent it from falling into the hands of Thomas Daniell, then constable of Castle Rising and a near relation of Sir John Howard, and his cousin, John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. In my opinion the exact date of its erection is uncertain. The coat of arms above the gatehouse are those of the Wodeville family and, therefore, must be later than the marriage between Anthony Wodeville and Elizabeth Scales, c. 1462. Did Anthony Wodeville build this mediæval mansion, or were his arms a later insertion? I cannot say if the Scales family had an earlier house on the site—probably they had—or perhaps it may have been at another moated site about half a mile to the west, where are the remains of another old house, for long known as the Old Hall Farm. As may be seen to-day there was an extensive outer moat enclosing some ten or twelve acres. A short distance to the east are two small curious banked enclosures—the one circular and the other square. Great quantities of the fallen masonry and worked stones were removed to Sandringham about sixty years ago for rockeries. Several fine gargoyles and grotesque figures may still be seen on the gatehouse, and the shields on the base of the bracketed pediment of the oriel windows seem to bear traces of heraldry. On the modern additions to the building may be observed the arms of the Jarvis and Ramsden families.

#### VISIT TO NORTH ELMHAM.

X On July 23rd an excursion was made to Brisley, North Elmham, and East Dereham.

At Brisley Church the Rector, the Rev. A. BRISLEY Cross, appealed for support of the fund for its CHURCH. restoration, which, it is stated, will cost £2,500.

The work, however, will be undertaken only in stages. Mr. Cecil Upcher, architect, of Messrs. Lacey & Upcher, described the Church as a very interesting example of a transitional period from the 14th to the 15th century. It apparently dates from the latter part of the 14th century, probably about 1380. Although now in urgent need of repair for its preservation, said Mr. Upcher, it stands to-day, after five centuries, very much in its original condition. The list of rectors dates back to 1303, possibly, therefore, there was an earlier church on the same site, and it has been suggested that the crypt beneath the altar may

have been part of an earlier building. The patronage has been variously held by the families of Hastings and L'Estrange, also by the Crown, and is now since 1786 in the gift of Christ's College, Cambridge. The benefice was consolidated with Gately in 1788. The register, dating from 1698, is of no special interest. The chalice of 1567 appears from the Terrier to have vanished early in the 19th century, and was inscribed "Ye Towne of Bryssle." On the walls of the nave, in the centre of the north and south aisles, are two consecration crosses, and on the wall, near the south door, is a defaced fresco painting of St. Christopher, discovered in 1843; on either side are the figures of St. Bartholomew and St. Andrew. Over the south door there is said to have been a representation of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; over this spot now hangs the royal arms of George II., 1753. Of the furniture in the nave the old seats are interesting, made up of all sorts of old bits of panelling. On the box-pew at the east end of the south aisle is the date 1590. The little metal latch to the door of this pew is rather a delicate bit of work, and various types of hinges may be noticed on the pew doors on the north side. The three-decker pulpit which you will have noticed with the clerk's pew is still, I believe, occupied by the clerk during service. Its original position was probably further west, as at Salle. The rood screen is fairly well preserved. I think the cut on the pillar on the north of the nave shows where the loft went across, and possibly the stepped splay of the easternmost north aisle window may have had something to do with it, possibly the stairs. The chancel windows are interesting, the tracery of those on the north being of the 14th-century type, and those on the south 15th-century, though no doubt built at the same time the builders were feeling the effects of both styles. This point I think best shows the transitional nature of the building. Also note the partly Decorated and partly Perpendicular type of work of the east window. With regard to the crypt under half the sanctuary, which you enter from a door on the north of the chancel, Blomefield says of it: "Under the east part of the chancel is a crypta, probably an ancient charnel-house, or cell to some hermit or anchorite." At the bottom of the stairs can be seen the hooks on which the door hung, also a recess in the wall, possibly an aumbrey. As to the exterior, I think perhaps the finest feature is the tower with its four main stages—flint, panelled, base, and parapet. The whole effect of the Church externally is elegant and slender, taken either as a whole or in detail, and you can compare it with Dereham, which Church is much more of a massive type.

NORTH  
ELMHAM. At the next place of call, North Elmham, the visitors saw the fine Church of the parish, with its Transitional Norman and Early English work, its misericord stalls, and its rood screen with figures. But most

of the time was devoted to the unearthed ruins, which are now regarded as undoubtedly the remains of a cathedral church, between 673 and 870, in which latter year North Elmham ceased to be the seat of a bishopric and was succeeded by Thetford.

The Vicar of North Elmham, the Rev. E. H. Townsend, read a paper on the episcopal antecedents of his parish, and accompanied the visitors in a round of the excavated ruins which lie deep in the midst of a grassy mound about fifty yards eastward of the vicarage garden. It will be remembered that some weeks ago a London paper hailed the works as a "startling" discovery, although the excavation was completed some thirty-five years ago by a previous vicar of the parish.

Mr. Townsend said that his predecessor, the Rev. Augustus G. Legge, began his excavations about 1876, and concluded them by 1891, when he set forth the results in the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society and in Carthew's *History of Launditch*. For years he carried on this task single-handed, and subsequently with the assistance of one old man. Every spadeful of soil was examined by Mr. Legge before being placed on a heap for removal. He discovered human bones, including the skeleton of a woman with her arms round a child. Mr. Townsend went on to quote the conclusions of the late Mr. T. Butterick, who in 1900 commenced a series of visits to Elmham and published his plans and the fruits of his expert studies in *The Builder* of March 14th, 1893. In a closely detailed review of the evidence and opinion which the discovery had called forth, Mr. Townsend said some might object that the building was too small to be claimed as a cathedral, but a cathedral was a church in which the Bishop had his official seat, and therefore the question of size did not come in. We must be careful not to associate our idea of a Saxon cathedral of the date 673 with that of some vast Romanesque or Gothic building, and in consequence express disappointment at not beholding a larger structure. Still, by comparison with South Elmham Minster, the building at North Elmham was large, and with its broad transepts, was in a more ambitious style.

Mr. Townsend also described, with considerable detail, the earthwork known as Tower Hills.

The Rev. Dr. Dukinfield Astley, having expressed the thanks of the archæologists to Mr. Townsend for his graphic description of that interesting place, said he had no doubt that that Saxon church had been the cathedral of the diocese of North Elmham during the period between 673 and the time it was destroyed by the Danes in 870. Then, of course, we had that period of forgetfulness, when there was no history at all. Between 870 and 950 it might have been repaired and a larger church made.



The visitors then motored to East Dereham, where tea was served, by the kindness of the Rev. W. H. Macnaughton-Jones, in the pleasant grounds of the Vicarage. Here a business meeting of the Society was held, at which the names of a number of new members were approved.

EAST  
DEREHAM.

Mr. W. R. Rudd called attention to the faculty which had been applied for at the Consistory Court by Mr. Hansell, on behalf of the Norwich Open Spaces Society, to enable them to destroy the ruined tower of St. Peter Southgate, King Street. This tower, said Mr. Rudd, was one of the landmarks of Norwich. So far as he could judge from an examination of it the previous day, it was in a perfectly safe condition. He did not wish to say anything at all against Mr. Hansell or the Open Spaces Society—he admired their work—but he thought they were extremely ill-advised in this instance to suggest that one of the landmarks of Norwich should be destroyed. All who knew anything about Norwich knew that the churches in King Street, and King Street itself, illustrated the opening chapters of the history of the city, and therefore he thought every landmark should be jealously preserved if it was not really necessary to remove it. In the present case it had been proposed to make of the place a pleasant garden, but he thought the designers of this garden would find this ancient tower was one of the objects that would adorn any garden, and he hoped they would abandon the idea of destroying it. Mr. E. A. Kent, one of the joint secretaries of the Norwich Society, had said that Mr. Hansell had promised to bring the matter before them before any further steps were taken, but he (Mr. Rudd) thought the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society should at that meeting make a formal protest against it. He accordingly moved that representations be made by the Society respectfully requesting that this tower be not demolished.

Dr. H. Dukinfield Astley, seconding, thought Norwich was following a very bad example in proposing to pull down this old tower. It was on a line with that Bill now before the House of Commons with regard to the city churches in London. He hoped the House of Commons would show itself wiser than the House of Lords, and throw out the Bill, which proposed to “deal in that drastic way with so many of our dear old churches in London.”

Mr. W. T. F. Jarrold, supporting the resolution, said that looking back to the time when the churchyard was laid out as a playing ground for children, he understood that the church would be demolished but that the tower would be retained. The records of the Playing Fields Association would, he thought, show that the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Rudd, referring to the question of rural PICTURESQUE housing, stated that the Government were COUNTRY bringing in a Bill to prevent the destruction, COTTAGES. if possible, of those picturesque cottages in our countryside which were unfortunately quickly disappearing. Archæological societies had been invited to support the Bill. The difficulty at present was with regard to thatched cottages, that it did not pay to recondition them. The idea was that the Government should be induced to subsidise the reconditioning of rural cottages on the same lines that they subsidised the building of new and oftentimes very hideous cottages. A man who preserved the picturesque feature of the countryside deserved, the speaker urged, the same help as a man who put up a corrugated iron cottage. The Bill, it was understood, would be brought in by the Minister of Health, who was extremely keen about it. If pressure were brought upon the Government it would enhance considerably the prospects of carrying the Bill. He formally moved that the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society should support such a Bill, which in the near future was to be brought into the House of Commons.

Mr. Evans Lombe, in seconding, said he had not seen the Bill and knew nothing whatever about it, but he heard the Prime Minister's reference to it at Crown Point. Of course, in the country parishes, cottages were built for the service of the farms, and as long as the Bill did not interfere with such service he would support it.

Mr. Rudd read the opinions on the subject of the Parliamentary correspondent of a well-known newspaper.

Mr. Ferrier explained that the object of the Bill was to keep the present picturesque cottages in the country going, and to bring them up to date, rather than to discard them and build other cottages. The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy called attention to the A NORWICH Church of St. Peter Hungate, Norwich. Last CHURCH September, he said, in connexion with the Paston WINDOW. pilgrimage, the Society paid a visit to the Church, and asked for a collection for its beautiful east window. The collection was taken and handed over to the churchwardens. A few weeks subsequently he conducted a party to the Church and commended the window to the bounty of the Norwich citizens. Quite a good collection was handed to the churchwardens on condition that they cased the window with proper wire netting, in place of the old wire netting, which had become broken owing to rust and wind. Nearly a year had elapsed, and the netting was still broken and blown about by the wind. The window was, he was told, worth four figures in money. There was beautiful old glass in it dating to the times of the Pastons, and there was

a moral obligation on the part of the authorities of the Church to apply the gifts which had been subscribed to the repair of the window. He moved a resolution that the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society protest at the delay of the churchwardens in putting the window into proper repair.

Mr. W. R. Rudd explained that at the request of Mr. Basil Cozens-Hardy he wrote to the churchwarden last May, who came to see him about it. The churchwarden said he had already given the order for the window to be protected by wire, but that unfortunately the wire-makers were on strike. Miss Pollock seconded the resolution, which was carried.

After tea the visitors went to the Parish Church at East Dereham, the historical and archaeological features of which were described by the Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Macnaughton-Jones. They then examined with interest Bonner's Cottages at East Dereham, which were described by Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy.

These cottages are associated with the name BONNER'S of Bishop Bonner, said Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy. COTTAGES. Why, it is not known. He held the sinecure Rectory here (the Vicar being in active charge) from 1534 until 1540, when he was made Bishop of Hereford, becoming afterwards Bishop of London. It is hardly likely that he was more than a visitor. He may, however, have owned the cottages or made them an endowment of some charity. They would have been convenient as the hall of some guild, and this may have been their original purpose. Tradition generally contains a germ of truth, and I think we can be fully certain that the buildings had some connexion with this prelate, whose misfortune it was to be in office when the celebrated allegiance was swinging like a pendulum between England and Rome. Their chief interest to us is that they present the best example in Norfolk of ornamented plaster work. Cross the border into Suffolk, and one comes across it with great frequency; but this work here is probably not surpassed except at Clare and at the Ancient House at Ipswich. The cottages were acquired some twenty years ago by Mr. Rye, who still retains an interest in them. He placed the preservation work in the skilful hands of Mr. William Argent, who wrote a paper on them in the *Norfolk Antiquarian Miscellany*. It points out that the work here is not what is usually called Pargett work, but hand-wrought work, the distinction being that Pargett work is flat, the design being impressed by stamps or dies when the plaster is wet. Hand-wrought work on the other hand is in relief, and the pattern is worked up with the fingers and not generally with tools. Despite this correct distinction, Pargett work, or Pargetting, has become and will, I expect, remain the popular designation. The other point of interest is the beautiful tiled gable, with the date 1502 on a scroll. Mr. Argent thinks

that the right half of the building is considerably older than the other half, and, in his judgment, the serpentine scroll work on the right half is older than that on the left. Let us hope that these cottages may long be preserved as an interesting example of mediæval craftsmanship.

Mr. Walter Rye, who despite his great age, was able to join the archaeological excursion, informed our representative that he sold Bonner's Cottages to the late Mr. Walter Barton, subject to a rent-charge, knowing he would look after them carefully. "Now," Mr. Rye added, "I have made over the rent-charge to the Norfolk Trust for the preservation of ancient buildings."

#### LECTURES.

Two lectures were arranged by the Society during March, both taking place at the Stuart Hall. On March 2nd Mr. A. R. Powys, Secretary to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, lectured on "The Harmonious Development of Ancient Buildings," a subject which he applied more especially to the case of Norwich, and illustrated by means of a fine series of lantern slides. The chair was taken by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, and several leading members of the City Council, and, of course, most of the better-known archaeologists, were among those present.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, in his opening speech, said he did hope the audience included some members of the Labour Party. He supposed some people thought the Labour Party held different views on such matters from what Tories and other people did, but he considered that members of the Labour Party were now very much cultured and fond of anything artistic and antique. It was not the Labour Party he was afraid of as regards ancient buildings, but rather the very respected, staid, and so-called patriotic people. The other day when he came to Norwich he was told that one of the great landmarks of Norwich, Barclays Bank, was going to be destroyed. He was told they really were going to pull it down and rebuild it altogether. And yet this was a fine building of its period—the 18th century; and it was, as he had called it, a landmark of the city.

Mr. Powys said Norwich has two outstanding qualities. It possesses great age, and it has the best qualities of a metropolis. Many towns, cities, and villages are as old, but few retain so many evidences of their age as does Norwich. Many towns have energetic and enterprising citizens, but these communities remain provincial, and the people of Norwich certainly are not this. These are not mere complimentary remarks, for although I have Norfolk blood in me, I am a Dorset man, and you cannot imagine a man of my county, unless the truth was self-evident, allowing that a city in any other part of England possesses so desirable

a quality as is nowhere to be found in his own county. At once, and briefly, I would like to enumerate some proofs of the fact that Norwich is free from the dominance of London. It is not a chance that the chief magistrate of the city is a lord mayor. It is not a chance that there was here a great school of painters, which to some extent still exists. It is not a chance that followers of the play turn to Norwich with interest and excited expectation; and it is not a chance that the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society is the most active of all the county societies in England. Nor is it a chance that the architects of this city are a group of men whose works are respected, and whose opinions I have little doubt will be quoted in other counties of England. All this is because you are not provincial, and reciprocally you are not provincial because of all this. Neither can your newspapers be called provincial. The *Eastern Daily Press* is a metropolitan paper. It neither pretends contempt for the journalism of London, as many county papers do in vain, jealously, believing that by such reference they may assert their own importance; nor does it concern itself alone with the happenings of the locality. Rather it follows its own independent course, indifferent of either the provinces or of London.

There is another sign of this metropolitan sense which exists to a large extent in Norwich, to a greater extent, indeed, than it seems to in London, and that is the method in which your Corporation approaches the various questions concerning the development of this town. I do not hold, but this may be a purely personal point of view, that the results are always good. Yet I notice a marked tendency on the part of the civic authorities to get the opinion of persons believed to be interested and known to be experienced before launching a far-reaching scheme. I am certain the fiasco of Waterloo Bridge would not have occurred had the Norwich Corporation had to deal with that difficult situation. Your Corporation would have found means, very possibly informally, to discover what informed opinion was on that subject before they launched on the public a proposal which has made the wealthy Council of the County of London look ridiculous in the eyes of the educated and professional world. I am not saying that Norwich is perfect. I have not come here, nor is it my business, to flatter. I am here to indicate, to an audience that I believe is not too proud to listen, the thoughts of myself and of the men who form the Committee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. And please do not imagine that we think we know all the factors which influence the councils of your Corporation in these matters. The difficulties are yours; yet we may be of use to you in removing them. All I mean to do now is to tell you how these difficult problems appear to a group of learned and experienced men situated at a distance, men with an acknowledged, and a proudly acknowledged, bias for preserving the fine works of

the builders of olden days. I speak with the greater confidence, because I feel sure I speak among friends, friends who want to know what we really think, not merely those who want to hear dinner-party pleasantries.

THE PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENT. We are here to consider the harmonious development of ancient-building cities. I need hardly define what I mean by harmonious. Development is another matter. I had better pause on that word, and am not afraid to say what that word means to me, even if the more extreme, shall I presume to call them the less "whole-seeing" section of my friends, be offended with me. The development of a city, the changes made for economic and humane reasons for the good of the citizens, sometimes conflicts with the avowed aims of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. But remember, my Committee are not fools. They know, though there may be some among our more enthusiastic members who do not, that it is not always and in every case right to oppose the developments that necessitate alteration in old streets and to old houses or churches, not always right to oppose, but always right to pause and consider the effect of the change, and to balance the loss with the gains. And in this difficult operation of balancing do not let us be ashamed of what is known as sentiment. Is not sentiment one of the most important and humanising of the attributes of men? What is the quality we know as love but sentiment? What is the basis of patriotism but sentiment? Yet we must beware of false sentiment, as we must beware of cant in religion, or crying love where love is not. We must not in the name of beauty encourage waste, nor in the name of cleanliness ignore the honour we owe our fathers or their fathers' fathers. The present age is one in which there is a cult of interest in the past, the like of which has never been seen in the world before. But let us remember the past is chiefly of value to us in that it has enabled us to become as civilised as we are, and to see forward to the cleaner, healthier civilisation of the future, a civilisation in which we shall all have time to admire good works and fine buildings, whether new or old, and in which we shall all enjoy the study of history and the evidence of the growth of the arts and crafts. In a word, civilisation in which we shall be able to enjoy to the full the finest attribute of man, beauty—beauty irrelative to age, beauty in building, whether old or new.

I see I am not the first to deliver a lecture on this subject in Norwich. Professor Adshead has preceded me. Unfortunately I was not able to hear him. But it is sufficient for me to have read the full report of his speech in the *Eastern Daily Press*. I will quote some sentences filled with as good sense as wisdom. "The first thing to be done is to

see in what state the old properties are. In Norwich there is property which at first sight seems to be in a terrible condition, but which on careful examination will be found to be much less bad than it looks. The authorities should not be in too great a hurry with the housebreakers' 'axe.'" Professor Adshead was bold enough to refer to the commercial value of the ancient buildings as an attraction to tourists. I will not press that point. The hotel keepers and the shopkeepers will tell you what truth there is in that. Business men are not slow to see where the butter lies. It is not my purpose to use this argument, and this for two reasons. The first is, things of real value we do not price in pounds, shillings, and pence. We do not value our peace of mind, nor our happiness, nor our friends in these terms. The second reason is, that I think there are very few who are influenced by money values when they come to consider self-respect, reverence, or the pleasure to be had from the contemplation of the seemly work of fine craftsmen. I will not say that these reasons are on a higher plane than economics, for fortunately it is doomed that since Adam left the Garden of Eden we have to work for meat, drink, and clothing, but I do say, and you all know that it is true, that the beauty of spring, the pleasure we have in our gardens in the country, the pride we feel for our cities and in our fine buildings are a part of life that is not to be neglected.

Dr. Cranage in this very Hall, I believe, lately asked, "What is the nature of the appeal made by mediæval architects to our hearts? Why are we so anxious to know whether we have an architecture to-day which will appeal in the same way to our descendants in fifty, a hundred, or two hundred years?" Dr. Cranage's question and Professor Adshead's advice both point in one direction, to the importance of noble architecture, whether it is old or new. I should like to answer the question about a modern style of architecture, but I have not the time this evening: perhaps on another occasion I may have the opportunity to do so. With Professor Adshead's advice I most heartily concur. Let us expand the idea that underlay his address. I understand he advised your Corporation to make a careful survey of the whole city, to determine a general line of policy having regard for the present life of the citizens, domestic, commercial, and intellectual. He recommended you to decide on a definite progress for development, and in doing so to give due consideration for that which is old and fine. With this I completely agree. I trust that this course is being followed. I feel sure that a constant but not too rigid policy is far better than one which changes with every election, and with every new appointment among the officers of the city. And I am glad to say that your Corporation has appointed a committee to review these proposals, and to check them from the point of view of the value of your ancient buildings.

The personnel of this Committee, too, is generously selected, for it does not consist of councillors only, but of local architects and archaeologists, who have been co-opted to serve. And I understand that they and your Corporation approach this subject in this manner. They imagine a young man (let us think of him at the age of eighteen) going to Kenya Colony, and let us imagine that he returns in twenty-five years. I understand your Corporation and you yourselves wish that when he stands again in St. Stephen's Street, in Magdalen Street, in the Market Place, or in such byway as Calvert Street, he shall not have to look up to the printed notice on the street corner to recognise where he is. It is our hope that he may recognise the street he is in from the old buildings—old buildings cleaned, repaired, and in good order, no longer shabby or looking nearly worn out, but alive and useful as they were when built, but neither renewed in whole or part.

Professor Adshead referred to "zoning" and "worn-out" houses, and I would do so too. With regard to both these, I would advise you not to feel yourselves bound by the general rules which both these phrases seem to suggest to be infallible. And there is another word of caution I would give you. In this age of oft-repeated slogans and catch-words, we are apt to be carried away by some fashionable idea that a school of thought succeeds in putting over. Thus with "zoning." But perhaps there may be some here that do not know the meaning which has been given this word in England since the war. It bears a very different sense in New York. In England wherever people are interested in town planning "zoning" is used to mean a system of planning which allots definitely to each quarter of the town a particular purpose. In the name of zoning we are told that a part of the town must be devoted to shops, a part to factories, a part to dwellings, and a part to recreation, and the like. Deeper study of the question will probably lead the next generation to observe that it is the habit of towns to change, that whereas in one quarter of a century the houses of the merchants are situated here, in the next the same buildings are occupied by their clerks; that whereas the swagger shops were in a certain street twenty-five or fifty years ago, they are now to be found a quarter of a mile further west. In New York, for instance, the finance quarter of the town alone appears to be fixed. Every year the hotels encroach on the residential quarter, the retail stores on the hotels, the warehouses on the stores, and the factories on the warehouses. Each decade one street at least which was before given up to each quarter is surrendered to the moving tide. These changes do not take place from any order of the city authorities. They come about under the mysterious urge of economic development. "Zoning" may be, indeed I think it is, a useful theory to aid the planning of a new town. It is one



that should be remembered in the development of the old, but it is not to be forced so far as to disturb the natural tendencies; nor should reverence for the tradition of a city, nor for the buildings that exist. We must balance one need against another, and work from and for reality rather than to prove the rightness of a theory. And all the time we must never be ashamed to acknowledge the importance of sentiment.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the ruling authorities of a city have not the power to "IMPROVEMENT" rule; they can direct development very little, BEWARE OF SCHEMES! for they neither own the whole city nor have a bottomless purse. Yet their action with regard to the properties they possess will, without doubt, influence profoundly the activities of the private owners of a similar type of buildings.

My counsel then is this, and it may appear to some of you mild, or even ineffectual. Watch the natural tendency in the economic development of the city, forestall the tendency a little, and as you do so be careful to note what ancient buildings, examples either of folk architecture or of architecture in the grand manner, whether of very ancient or more modern days, lie in the march of change; consider how these may be used, made suitable, and saved to tell to future generations the ancient history and glory of Norwich. Never destroy any old buildings without first directing your whole minds to find some way of preserving them. If no means can be found to do so, and when it is really evident that they do stand in the way of a real improvement, then, and then only, should they go. And beware of schemes that are called "Improvement" schemes. Remember the sarcasm and the truth of many a sentence of these changes which may be found in Cobbett's *Rides*—Cobbett, who in a long life struggled to secure the betterment of the working classes. Again there is another point, and I do not wish to stress this more than it deserves. In many a street there stands only one, or perhaps two houses, that date from the much admired periods of English architecture, and a quantity of buildings which were built by our great-grandfathers, and their fathers, buildings which no architects are seen to study, of which no photographs are found in the picture-postcard shops, but buildings which do not offend, even in juxtaposition with their more famous neighbours. Consider even these, remembering that what takes their place is likely to be too showy or too crude, too elaborate, to be a seemly neighbour for the older and finer works.

I would say one word about worn-out houses. I boldly say there are none. Even when a roof has fallen, or an upper storey is burnt, there remains something which may usefully be incorporated in the new work by a skilful architect. Until nothing is

left, a whole house is not worn out. And you have many skilful architects in Norwich. Let me entreat you who are the owners of such property to consult one of these men without preconceived ideas of what he should do. Tell him your requirements, tell him you hope he will be able to save the old work, and let him see what he can do before you condemn what remains. And one word more on this subject, and this has reference to Dr. Cranage's question about a modern architecture: do not on any account tell him to build in any style, rather entreat him not to do so. Ask him only to build well and naturally, for only in this way will our work deserve the consideration of the future. I wish now to carry the advice given by Professor Adshead from the general to the particular. I wish to tell you that the Elm Hill houses may be saved, that they can be made decent, while they still stand beautiful, that they can again become dwellings of the citizens of Norwich, or offices, shops, and workshops from which those citizens may increase the wealth of Norfolk.

Elm Hill is most important. It forms a great opportunity for the fulfilment of the counsels THE CASE OF ELM HILL. I am giving; for it would, indeed, be difficult to find in any other English city a street more picturesque and more nearly as it was in ancient

days than is Elm Hill. It was in this street that the Pastons lived. Indeed, a part of their house still stands. Indeed, lately in the *Eastern Daily Press* "Othinel" gave a history of the house that was theirs. Elm Hill is a street eminently suited to be a quarter devoted to the sale of antiquities and of good modern furniture, made as were the ancient pieces without the use of machinery. I am glad to say also that there can be no scheme to widen the street, for at one end there is an inconvenient hill, and not far off there are parallel roads which are more directly on the traffic line. I imagine the counsels of the city have been divided. Some councillors may not have seen any bread to be got from these buildings, and were quite sure there was no butter; some believed that this glass which they held in their hands was empty, without even a trace of the good smell of Norwich beer; in a word, there are those who have seen no money in the repair of the Elm Hill houses. I am not going to tell you that by repairing them you will be able to knock a penny, or even a farthing, off the rates; it may even be that it will be difficult when they are repaired to make them show an evenly balanced account. Is it not unusual, I return again to my similes, that for the brightest garden you may have to pay a gardener and buy plants. But let us take the matter seriously. These houses have been neglected, first because both sanitation and water supply is inadequate. With such deficiencies only the poorest will live, and for them decent life is thus made impossible. But consider whether

the Corporation repair or build entirely anew, sanitation and water must be provided, so we need not count that cost more in the repair than in the destruction and rebuilding, for it must form a part of every scheme. Then let us compare the cost of repair alone with that of rebuilding alone. Room for room, I estimate that the repaired premises will cost the Council £65 per room, while rebuildings will cost the Council £112. I have taken these figures, the first from the estimate prepared by that well-known architect, Mr. William Weir, who says he is able to do the repairs at Elm Hill for about the sum I have given you. The second I have worked out from the cost of dwellings newly built by the London County Council, and I have allowed a little for the lower cost prevailing in Norwich. I can therefore be certain of their accuracy. The suggestion then which I have to make to the people of Norwich is that it should repair the Elm Hill houses; I will not say as an experiment, but rather that it may convince itself of the truth of my words, and thereafter, with an accomplished example before it, deal with the other dilapidated properties, which, while they retail evidence of the wealth and artistic sensibilities of your predecessors, show to the present generation a sad disregard for either health or the present beauty of the past.

Mr. Powys then proceeded to show his lantern slides of various interesting features of old Norwich. Turning to the frontages on the lower part of the Guildhall Hill, he observed that the proprietor of an old shop-front would, in twenty years, reap advantages from its preservation because of the advancing tide of interest in old things. The sham antique would never interest like the real antique.

THE Lord Mayor (Mr. Thos. Glover), in proposing a vote of thanks, said he thought the meeting would be generally in sympathy with the lecturer, but of course Norwich could not stand still; it could not be a Carcassonne; it must be a live city and not always a mediæval city, preserved as a mediæval city. All who, in the present day, were taking a responsible part in public affairs, must take their responsibilities very seriously. There was now a prospect of some most important buildings being erected. He could not help sympathising with the chairman's fear as to an old landmark like Barclays Bank being taken away. Let us just pray that that which is to be put in its place shall be a good and a natural expression of our present day work! Whispers were going round as to what Barclays Bank was going to be. He hoped Barclays would submit their plans to a panel of architects, who would all agree as to what is in proper taste. There had been another bank put up in Norwich recently. It was a pity it was not in London rather than in London Street. It might be a good building in design and symmetry, but it was

not in proportion to the street. It was not in the right place, and it spoiled the street. The citizens of Norwich ought to be saved from such sins as that. He hoped the City Fathers would exert themselves to prevent any other such mistake being made.

The Deputy Mayor (Dr. G. S. Pope), in seconding the motion, mentioned that he was enthusiastic about the preservation of the Elm Hill estate. He only wished some man of imagination would come to the rescue of the rate-payers and say: "Here is a thing by which I can make my name live for evermore."

Mr. George Green, as Chairman of the City Committee, said Norwich was spending a large sum of money in maintaining an indoor museum. It ought not to refrain from spending an adequate sum on what he described as the outdoor museum, which was a great deal more important.

Mr. J. H. Barnes said a committee had visited Elm Hill, and had no desire to go in for vandalism, but the lecturer had not explained where the wherewithal was to come from to keep this old property in a state of preservation. He would suggest that there should be some fund which would prevent a call being made on the city rates.

Mr. Powys said the position was difficult, but the figures he had given would repair the existing structures, but not put in drainage or water. Yet whatever was done in the way of building, there would have to be drainage and water. To repair the existing property was a less costly business than to build new property.

Mr. H. Fraser said he agreed that things of beauty, if they did not stand in the way of progress, should be repaired and preserved for all time, but there was always a danger with the Archaeological Society that it should lose all sense of proportion in discussing these things. The lecturer had mentioned Whitefriar's Bridge. He was of opinion that the old bridge had outlived its usefulness. It had been said that there was an old house near-by that should not come down. He thought it was a disgrace to the City of Norwich to allow that house to stand another five minutes. With regard to the Castle Meadow question, the Archaeological Society seemed again to have lost all sense of proportion. The party with which he was associated on the Council admired and respected old buildings, provided they did not stand in the way of progress.

One or two other people joined in the discussion, including Mr. G. J. Skipper, and the lecturer and Prince Frederick acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The second lecture took place on March 16th, when the Rev. J. F. Williams, Rector of Bucklesham, Suffolk, gave an interesting account of "The Norfolk Holy Land," in which he described the monastic houses of the Nar Valley. For some time the lecturer

was Rector of Beechamwell, and his lecture showed the very close study he has made of the subject. The President, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, was in the chair.

Mr. Williams, who showed many lantern views to illustrate his subject, remarked at the outset that it was Dr. Jessopp, that genius for a phrase, who first spoke of the Valley of the Nar as the "Norfolk Holy Land." He did so, of course, on account of the great number of monastic houses which were found either on the banks of the Nar or the immediate vicinity. Dr. Jessopp said that "during the latter part of its course, from Castleacre downwards, the River Nar passes within five miles of no less than nine religious houses, every one of which was once characterised by extensive buildings of more or less splendour and magnificence and occupied by societies of men and women living in seclusion, according to strict religious rules of life." Mr. Williams said he intended to extend the area of the Holy Land, as spoken of by Dr. Jessopp, and to include an area of West Norfolk about twenty square miles in extent. It was about the monastic or semi-monastic establishments that he wanted to speak. Some of the sites were well known, such as Castleacre, which was beloved by all good Norfolkers and by many outside the county. Some of the others, such as Westacre and Pentney, were not so well known and did not receive the attention they deserved, and many of the sites of the smaller buildings were, he was afraid, absolutely unknown. Even the smallest were of interest, and we could not afford to overlook them because of the insight they gave us into Norfolk history. In the area of the Norfolk Holy Land there were thirty-six or possibly thirty-seven religious houses. Mediaeval monasteries varied enormously in size, wealth, and prestige. On the one hand there were Norwich, Bury, and St. Albans, of which the abbots sat in the House of Lords and the monks lived in well-established buildings, looked after by retinues of servants. On the other hand, there were the little houses, like Molycourt and Massingham, where the monks at times found it very hard to make both ends meet, and all the work, probably, was done by the inmates themselves. The monasteries, in the time of Henry VIII., were divided into two classes, the smaller ones, with incomes of less than £200 a year, which were dissolved in 1536, and the greater monasteries, which met with a similar fate two or three years later. The division was rather too sweeping for the purposes of the lecture, and he had divided the monasteries into three classes. In the first place there were the smaller establishments with incomes of under £100 per year. Probably these figures would have to be multiplied by fifteen or twenty to arrive at the comparative amount as it would be to-day. Then there were the medium-sized houses with incomes of £200 or £300 at the

Dissolution; and in the third place the larger ones with incomes of over £300. The term "large" was only comparative, because none of them were really large compared to St. Albans, with its income of £2,510, Bury with its £2,336, and Norwich with £2,112. The two large houses of the area were Castleacre with a gross annual income of £334, and Westacre with an income of £308. The four medium-sized houses were West Dereham, Pentney, Shouldham, and Coxford; and the six small ones, Blackborough, Flitcham, Marham, Crabhouse, Wormegay, and Massingham. It was customary for the large monasteries to found cells in different parts of the country where they had interests or property. In these cells three or four monks, probably not the same ones, spent certain periods away from the mother house. There were seven of these cells in the area. Norwich Priory had a cell at Lynn, on the south side of St. Margaret's Church; Castleacre had two, one at Slevesholm, and the other at Guthlac's Stowe; Westacre had one at Cuthorpe; Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire, had one at Modney, and possibly another at Downham; and Sawtrey, another Huntingdonshire monastery, had one at Prior's Thorns, which was much used by pilgrims on their way to Walsingham. Lastly, there was Molycourt, possibly the oldest in the area. It seemed to have begun as an independent Benedictine monastery in Saxon times. It was situated on a ghastly site, and suffered from floods, inundations, and all sorts of horrors. In the middle of the 15th century it had become too poor to support a single monk, and it was rescued by Ely Priory, and became a cell of Ely. There were also in the area alien priories, offshoots of Continental monasteries. That at Wells was a cell of St. Stephen's, Caen. Wells was a cell of the Abbey of Saumer, in the Diocese of Anjou, and Winnal, a cell of the Abbey of Monsterol, in the Diocese of Amiens. Therefore, of purely monastic houses there were twenty-two. The friars' houses were found at Lynn, which was then the only big town in the area. There were four Orders of Friars in Lynn—the Dominican, the Franciscan, the Carmelite, and the Austin and the Sack Friars. The Sack Friars afterwards became merged in the Austin Friars. There was only one college of secular priests in the area, that also being at Lynn. It was founded for a master and twelve priests by Thomas Thursby, a prominent citizen of Lynn, in 1502, but was not fully established until after his death in 1510. There were two important hospitals at Lynn—St. John the Baptist and St. Mary Magdalene. They were more like almshouses than hospitals, because at that time hospitals, as we knew them, had not been invented. At Boycodeswade there was a chapel, or sort of almshouse, for twelve poor people and a chaplain, and there were five lazar houses for lepers, two at Lynn and others at Hardwick, Racheness, and Langwade. If holiness in the Middle Ages was to be gauged by the number

of religious houses, Dr. Jessopp was undoubtedly right when he described this area as "The Norfolk Holy Land."

The lecturer, after emphasising the extraordinary richness of the monastic associations of this part of Norfolk, went on to describe many of the priories and other buildings in detail. Castleacre Priory, he said, was the piece de resistance of the Norfolk Holy Land. The west end of the Priory Church was, he supposed, one of the finest Norman west ends we have in England. For balance, general finish, and detail, it ranked with Southwell, Tewkesbury, and Durham. After referring to other features of the beautiful building, the lecturer said a most valuable feature of Castleacre was the excellent ground plan, which was typical of the ordinary monastic house. Passing on to Westacre, he said he was afraid that owing to its closeness to Castleacre it had never had full justice done to it. People went to Castleacre in great numbers; they heard about Westacre, but thought that compared to Castleacre it was a very small place. As a matter of fact, there was very little difference in size between the two priories. There was nothing like so much left above ground at Westacre as at Castleacre, but from the lay-out of the church and buildings he was almost sure the church at Westacre was larger than that at Castleacre. Among the slides shown relating to Westacre was one of a drawing which was purchased recently at a sale, and which, the lecturer said, was stated to be a picture of Westacre Priory. There was nothing to authenticate that it was so, but there was no reason why it should not be. If it was, it gave a very good idea of the chancel, which looked like transitional Norman. Shewing a slide of a fragment of the remains of Westacre, Mr. Williams said it was possibly the monastic mill, though other people had suggested that it was the hostel, or guest portion of the monastery. After referring to the beautiful gateway and fine barn at Westacre, the lecturer said he believed if the site was properly plotted out it would be found to be as extensive, if not more so, than Castleacre. At West Dereham there was a house of the White Canons, said to be founded in 1188 by Hubert Walter, Dean of York, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. Of the abbey buildings traces could be seen worked into the farm buildings, though they were difficult to place. Though there was little on the spot, there was a very interesting relic of this house in Sir Thomas Hare's muniment room at Stow Hall in the obituary roll. When the head of the monastery died a document was drawn up announcing his death to the world at large, with some kind of account of his good deeds and benefactions, ending with a request for prayers for his soul. This was taken round by a person hired for the purpose to as many monasteries as possible. It was read in Chapter, and, after services for the dead man's soul had been said, it was signed on behalf of the house by the sacrist, and the messenger went elsewhere. It

was the illuminated roll drawn up on the death of one of the abbots of West Dereham, probably John Wiggenhall, who died in 1459, that was now preserved at Stow Hall. Having described the various representations on this mortuary roll, the lecturer passed on to deal with Pentney, a house of the Austin Canons. Here, he said, there is considerable ancient work in the farm buildings, though it was difficult to pick out the plan. There was an extremely fine 15th-century gateway, but he was afraid it would not stand much longer, because it was roofless, and roofless buildings did not habitually stand a long time. He was told by Mr. Hoff, of Shouldham, that until the early part of the 19th century the roof was in good repair, but during the Napoleonic wars the lead was taken by people in little lots until the owner of the property himself stripped the roof off and sold the lead. The lecturer laid stress on the fineness of the gateway at Pentney. At Shouldham, he went on, there was a combined priory of canons and nuns with different cloisters side by side. Many traces of the past could be picked out at Shouldham Priory as it was now. Of Coxford and Fritcham he knew nothing. Mr. Williams then spoke of the three nuns' houses at Blackborough (Benedictine), Marham (Cistercian), and Crabhouse (Augustinian). We know a good deal about Crabhouse because of the interesting register in the British Museum, which was edited by Miss Bateson in 1892 and published in *Norfolk Archaeology*. At Custhorpe the chapel was dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury. We all know of Mr. Walter Rye's theory that Thomas à Becket was connected with Westacre, and he (the lecturer) believed that Mr. Rye had made out a strong case, that the famous Archbishop was connected with the Norfolk Holy Land. Modney, Slevesholm, and Molycourt had all disappeared except a few stones. Winnal was an exception, and it had often been described as the oldest inhabited house in Norfolk. In conclusion Mr. Williams dealt with activities and buildings of different Orders of Friars at Lynn. We were apt to forget, he said, what civilising, humanising centres the monasteries were in the Middle Ages, and the large and important part they played in building up the country. Theirs was an ignoble end, and they deserved something better for what they had been. One could not regret the fall of the monasteries, which had obviously outlived their usefulness, but one regretted the shameful way the fall was brought about. The history of their dissolution, with the scramble for their wealth, was not pleasant reading. It was a wretched transaction from beginning to end. All that was left to us was to prevent past history being utterly swallowed up in oblivion, and keep green the memory of some, at any rate, of the triumphs and achievements of English monasticism.

On the motion of Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke, seconded by Major Evans Lombe, the lecturer was heartily thanked.