

The Proceedings of the Society from 12th June to 31st December, 1930.

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

ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall on Thursday, 12th June. The outgoing President, Mr. R. F. E. Ferrier, F.S.A., was in the chair

pending the election of his successor.

The Annual Report, which appears on another page, was presented by the Honorary General Secretary, Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy.

The Cash Statement, printed elsewhere, was presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Kent.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said the Society's financial arrangements at present seemed to be quite satisfactory, there being over £200 in hand. For the last two years the finances had not been quite satisfactory, but that was due to an unusual expenditure in preparing and publishing an Index of Transactions for the last thirty years. That expense would not be incurred again for the next thirty years. The Society was now once more practically in a normal position. There had been considerable activity on the part of the Society during the past year. As usual, the bulk of the work had fallen on Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, who not only had carried out the voluminous duties of General Secretary, but had undertaken the arduous duties of arranging the excursions. Nobody but those behind the scenes could have any adequate idea of the work which the excursions necessitated.

Commenting on the losses sustained by the Society during the year, Mr. Ferrier spoke of the late Canon H. J. Dukinfield Astley as a most accomplished antiquary, with great knowledge of nearly every branch of archaeology.

Mr. John Cator seconded the report, which was adopted.

Proposing the election of Colonel Bulwer as President of the Society for the ensuing year, Mr. Ferrier, amid applause, said it needed very few words to recommend the Colonel to the meeting.

He had been a member of the Society for many years; he was a Vice-President, had been most active in attending meetings, and had always shewn himself interested in the work. Colonel Bulwer resided in their midst, and was a member of a family which had lived in Norfolk for many generations, and was the son of a former President of the Society. The Colonel had always shown a great interest in the Norwich Museum, and had been elected Honorary Treasurer of the Friends of the Museum, which, under his aegis, was doing excellent work in adding valuable and interesting exhibits to the collection. He was interested in old-time deeds and manuscripts and he had an expert knowledge of old china, of which he possessed a wonderful collection. They were indeed very fortunate in having such a member of their Society so eminently fitted to carry out the duties of President.

Major E. H. Evans-Lombe, seconding, said those of them who knew Colonel Bulwer knew what a very deep interest he and his family before him had taken for generations in everything which had to do with archæology. And those of them who had had the privilege of going to his house had seen at once what collectors he and his family had been, especially when they saw the beautiful collection of old teapots and the wonderful Queen Anne Doll's House. "I and my family," continued the speaker, "also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Bulwer family, and I do not think even the Colonel knows of this. Those of you who sometimes travel along the turnpike to Hingham and Watton will have noticed about six miles out of Norwich a very fine beech tree which has wooden palings round it and a seat underneath it; it is just at the four cross roads. One road which leads to the right goes down to Bowhill, and along that road also there is a very fine avenue of beeches. In looking through some old papers a short time ago I came upon some notes written by my predecessor and namesake, Edward Lombe, in 1820. They stated that the beech trees on the side of the road by Bowhill, with the Melton beech on the turnpike road were given by Mr. Bulwer, of Heydon, to Sir John Lombe when they were about fifteen years of age, and transplanted to their present situation in A.D. 1767. I do not pretend that the trees were antiques at the time, but they have grown to their present dignified and honourable condition. Unfortunately, old trees are not like old furniture. As they get older they do not become richer, but they do become more dignified. Unluckily, one is not able to translate their dignity into money."

The resolution was carried unanimously, and Colonel Bulwer then took the chair.

In returning thanks for his election the new President said the information Major Evans-Lombe had given was entirely new to him, and he was very interested in it. The honour they had accorded him in electing him as their President was extremely

gratifying to him, as it enabled him to follow in the footsteps of his father, who was their President from 1901 to 1908. He would try to carry out the duties to the best of his ability, and to maintain the high reputation the Society held in the world of archaeology.

Mr. F. H. Barclay moved a vote of thanks to the retiring President for the excellent way he had filled the office during the past three years. There had been no one keener for the welfare of the Society than he. He had hardly missed a meeting or an excursion unless it was through ill-health, and they were very pleased to see him with them again quite restored to health.

Miss Ethel M. Colman seconded. Mr. Ferrier, she said, had a great archaeological knowledge, and he was always glad to place it at the disposal of other people. He had set a fine example by doing what he could to preserve old things in Norwich and in Yarmouth.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, as Secretary, added his praise to the work of Mr. Ferrier. He said he had probably been in closer touch with Mr. Ferrier than anyone during his three years of office, and the year before, when he deputised for Prince Frederick. He could not imagine any President giving more time and thought to the work; every small point had his careful attention, and it was a pleasure to always have his sage counsel on any question that arose.

Mr. Ferrier, in returning thanks, said it had been a great pleasure to him to be their President. The work of the Norfolk and Norwich Society and the Yarmouth Society had been the two most interesting outside things in his life, and he was very pleased to think that his association with both Societies would continue. There were, perhaps, two outstanding matters which had taken place during the past three years. First of all there were the air photographs and the arrangements for the excavations at Caistor. That had been most interesting, and he thought of very great importance to the county. As Mr. Cozens-Hardy had said, there was no doubt now that the place was *Venta Icenorum* of the Romans, and it was very probable that the place at Caistor was a thriving city when Norwich was a very small affair. He thought they had come to that conclusion. He hoped the process of excavation would be continued. They could only do a little portion of it every year. Excavating was a rather expensive matter, and therefore they had to be content with doing as much as they could with the money at their command each year, and to hope that in future years they would be able to collect sufficient money to be able to carry on. He sincerely trusted that the matter would not be allowed to drop through lack of funds, because he believed it would be one of the most important and interesting things connected with the history of Norfolk. The other outstanding

matter had been the formation of the Record Society, which would relieve the Archæological Society of a lot of very important work, and would concentrate on the publication of interesting manuscripts, municipal records, and a variety of things, especially matters relating to the Cathedral, and things which people did not have the opportunity of seeing, because they were in manuscript and could not be easily got at. Now they would be gradually published, and in that way the Society would serve a very useful purpose in the county. Mr. Ferrier concluded by paying tribute to the work of Mr. Cozens-Hardy as Secretary, and thanking all the members for their loyal support and assistance during the past three years.

The Vice-Presidents elected were the Earl of Orford, the Bishop of Norwich, the Dean of Norwich, Mr. F. H. Barclay, Mr. E. M. Beloe, Miss Ethel M. Colman, Miss Helen C. Colman, Mr. R. F. E. Ferrier, the Rev. G. H. Holley, Mr. H. N. Holmes, the Rev. W. Hudson, Mr. J. C. Tingey, Mr. Arthur Michael Samuel, M.P., Mr. John Cator, and Major Evans-Lombe.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy was re-elected Honorary Secretary, Mr. E. A. Kent, Honorary Treasurer, and Mrs. Ivo Hood, the Honorary Editorial Secretary.

The following retiring members of the Committee were re-elected:—The Rev. W. H. B. Chandler, the Rev. H. S. Squirrell, Messrs. H. O. Clark, J. E. T. Pollard, and R. H. Teasdel, with Mr. Arthur Campling and the Rev. H. T. Green to fill vacancies.

The Secretary expressed his indebtedness to Mr. Kent and Mr. Fred Johnson (the Assistant Secretary) for their help in the past. He thought it was an indication of the wonderful wealth of antiquities in Norfolk, that since the war there had been thirty-five excursions and only one place had been visited twice in that time. There was still more ground to cover. He hoped in July to arrange for an afternoon at Mettingham Castle, near Bungay.

Proceeding, Mr. Cozens-Hardy said they would probably remember the outcry which arose when an attempt was made to open a quarry near Hadrian's Wall. He believed it had been stopped now because the Government took very wise action. He thought it would strengthen the hands of the Government if they passed a resolution that day. It was a curious thing, he explained, that although one might have an historical monument scheduled, one could not get the vicinity scheduled. For instance, although the Guildhall was scheduled it would be possible for someone to erect a building against it. In that matter the Ancient Monuments Acts needed amendment. Therefore he proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting views with anxiety the threat to Hadrian's Wall by quarrying operations, and welcomes the intention of the Government to introduce legislation designed to strengthen the Ancient Monuments Acts with a view to protecting the vicinity of scheduled monuments."

Mr. Barclay seconded. He thought it would be a most grievous pity to have big quarries working in the vicinity of the wall. He knew the district concerned, and knew it as one of the most beautiful parts of the Roman Wall. A small quarry was started there some years ago, but it had not been worked for some time. The same stone that was quarried there occurred elsewhere in that district, and he could not understand why a spot close to the wall should be chosen as the place at which to make a big quarry before any other.

The resolution was carried.

Among the interesting recent finds shown after the meeting were a polished flint axe-head of the Neolithic period found at Attlebridge, a Roman coin minted between 293 and 296, found at Swannington, a very fine specimen of a Neolithic axe found at Great Witchingham. These three finds are now in the possession of the Rev. J. D. Wortley, of Swannington. Communion tokens issued by Bishop Wykeham were also shown.

FIRST EXCURSION.

The round of visits paid during the afternoon took a large party of members and their friends, numbering about 150, to Cringleford Church, Gowthorpe Manor, Swardeston Church, and Ketteringham Church and Hall. There were three well-filled char-à-bancs in the procession and dozens of private cars. Gowthorpe Manor was seen by permission of Mrs. J. H. Steward, who was attending the wedding of her son, and therefore was unable to receive the Society in person. At Ketteringham Sir Maurice Boileau offered afternoon tea to his visitors, the buffets and tables being spread upon a beautiful lawn.

The Church of Cringleford is so closely suburban
 CRINGLEFORD to Norwich that most of the visitors probably were
 CHURCH. well aware of its leading features. The nave was
 restored in 1898 and the chancel in 1905, during
 the time of a former Vicar, the Rev. T. S. Cogswell. But the
 antiquities of its origin and development appear to have been
 well considered in the course of these extensive changes, and
 there are still a few remains worthy of archæological investigation.
 A paper on the subject was read by the present Vicar, the Rev.
 W. C. Bevan. The site was once occupied by a Saxon church,
 comprising the present chancel, part of the present nave corres-
 ponding in length with the chancel, with narrow north and south
 aisles. In 1905 there was discovered in the north wall of the
 chancel two windows—a low leper or confessional window, and
 one higher in the wall with Norman decoration still quite visible.
 In Domesday Book there was evidence of the Church being pre-
 Norman. Some archæologists had surmised that parts of the

cruder stonework might even be pre-Danish. In 1247 Bishop Walter de Suffield, the great preacher and statesman, purchased the advowson with one acre of land from Alexander de Vaux and attached the benefice to the newly-founded Hospital of St. Giles—the Great Hospital, or Old Man's Hospital as it was known in Norwich to-day. This connexion had remained unbroken for the past 781 years, and the parish was proud of it.

Gowthorpe Manor lies deeply sunken in the
 GOWTHORPE countryside, it has some delightful features of
 MANOR. old-time architecture, and has various contacts
 with Norwich history.

In the course of a paper on the subject Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy said the buildings themselves are an architectural puzzle. Swardeston, or Swerdeston, has two hamlets—Thorpe or Goltorpe or Gowldthorpe and Mangreen. They were in fact independent manors, this Hall being the head of the Gowthorpe manor, and the present Mangreen Hall of the other manor. At the time of the Domesday Survey these two manors, having belonged to one Godric, were granted by the Conqueror to the great Roger Bigod. The Gowthorpe manor came later into the family of Moyne or Monk, and in 1286 William le Moyne resided here and one of his family endowed a chapel, now completely demolished, which stood in Brick Kiln Close, south-east of the Hall, and was in use as late as 1590. During the 14th and 15th centuries the estate changed hands by sale on several occasions. In the reign of Henry VIII. it belonged to, though it is improbable it was occupied by, Sir Edward Boleyn, of Blickling, the uncle of the King's ill-fated consort. It is about this time that one approaches a period supported by documentary evidence. In the middle of the 16th century there was no more respected citizen of Norwich, then at the height of its prosperity, than Alderman Augustine Styward, or Steward, mercer, who lived from 1490 to 1571. Once Sheriff, three times Mayor, and twice elected Burgess in Parliament, he ought chiefly, perhaps, to merit the gratitude of posterity for his successful efforts in preserving St. Andrew's Hall from the house-breaker. The house where he was born in Tombland and the house, where he resided and probably died, in Elm Hill still bear his merchant's mark. Blomefield makes no mention of Augustine ever being the owner. In his will, dated 1570, which is at Somerset House, the following clauses occur:—"I give to the repair of Swarston Church, where my manor of Gowldethorpe Hall is, 20s.," and a little later, "I give the manors of Gowldthorpe and Welborne to my son William Styward and his heirs for ever." There is no evidence, however, that Augustine lived here any more than at his other manor of Welborne, but there seems to be no doubt that his son William occupied the house, as in three places in different parts of the house the date 1574 occurs, three years after he inherited

the property, together in two instances with the Styward Arms—a lion rampant debruised with a ragged staff. This has been said to have been a Herald's device to connect the family with the Stuart family, of Scotland, and in particular with a fierce Scotch knight named Sir John Steward, who is said, about 1385, to have killed a lion with a ragged staff after having broken his sword. The more likely explanation is that during Kett's rebellion, in 1549, Augustine Steward entertained in Norwich the Earl of Warwick, who was sent down with forces to quell the rising. The ragged staff is the badge of the Warwick family; and the citizens being so relieved at the defeat of the rebels, hung ragged staffs on all the city gates. Augustine Steward's association with the Earl may well have suggested the inclusion of the ragged staff in his arms, which were granted to his son in 1586, though they had used them some while before.

That William Steward resided here is supported by the pretty strong testimony of a tax list. It is for the year 1585, and related to this Hundred, namely, Humbleyard. William Steward is one of the Cessors. He is taxed for land here, and, what makes the list more interesting, he signs it first as the principal Cessor. He spells his name Steward. William died in 1610, having devised the property to his son, Thomas, who, it is said, fell on evil days. Apparently he was on the wrong side in politics, whichever side that was, and he suffered for it, and tradition says that, having sold his estate, he had to sell potatoes on the Norwich Market. In 1622 he was living here, but in 1633 he was a ratepayer in the parish of St. Stephen's.

Having thus dealt with the story of the ownership, Mr. Cozens-Hardy turned to inferences to be drawn from the buildings themselves and finds upon the site. A Roman coin had been found by the late Major Steward when carrying out some alterations. In mediæval times there was no doubt a hall or house of some importance on or near the position of the present one. It was possible that Kett's followers, in 1549, knowing of the assistance which Augustine Steward was giving to the Earl of Warwick, attacked and burnt part of the house. At any rate the hard, thin bricks of irregular size and the flintwork near the old chimney stack and in the circular turret-staircase implied a 15th-century structure such as might have been standing when Augustine Steward acquired the property.

Mr. Cecil Upcher, F.R.I.B.A., read a paper at SWARDESTON Church, beginning by drawing attention to the thoroughly good way in which the work of restoration had been done. A report made in 1904 for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings showed that the following features of the structure were then in existence:—Seats with very good poppy-head ends;

panelled deal box pews, bleached to a very pleasant tone; a good oak pulpit; the original screen, badly patched and painted not altogether happily some sixty years ago; communion rail with turned balusters; a brass; south porch used as a storeroom. All these things could still be seen except the box pews, which could not very well be kept for practical purposes nowadays in a church. It was of course well known that Swardeston was the home of Nurse Edith Cavell. The glass case on the end wall against the tower contained a portion of the cross put on her grave. He understood it was offered to Norwich Cathedral, but that the authorities there considered it should be at Swardeston. Pointing to the pulpit, which strikes one oddly as a projection from the north wall, Mr. Upcher said this arrangement seemed to him rather happy from the artistic point of view. But the narrowness of the stairs made it not quite so happy from the preacher's point of view. Anyway, the use of the old disused rood-loft stairs as a way up to the pulpit struck him as happy and original. The tower contained four bells and a very ancient bell cage. Some time ago a bell fell and killed one of the ringers. A stone to his memory could be seen on the floor of the tower.

The visitors seemed to be all agreed that the visit to Ketteringham was a fitting culmination to a most successful outing. They were shown over the Hall by Colonel Raymond Boileau and Mrs. Boileau; and a paper on the antiquities of the Church was read by Sir Maurice Boileau. The Vicar, the Rev. W. E. Duxson, added some observations.

SECOND EXCURSION.

A large party of members of the Society had a pleasant afternoon excursion on Thursday, 24th July. The President (Colonel E. A. Bulwer) and Mrs. Bulwer accompanied them. Fortunately the weather was fine. Most of the members made the journey in their own motor cars, the others travelling in one char-à-banc.

Starting from Norwich at 1.30, the first place to be visited was Mettingham Castle (one-and-a-half-miles south-east of Bungay), which they were kindly allowed to inspect by Colonel and Mrs. Ross-Johnson, who were unfortunately not in residence. Barsham Church and Rectory were next seen. A halt was made at Beccles for tea, after which the party visited Gillingham Church.

Mettingham Castle, said Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, is rather a fortified manor house than a fortress, such as there was at Bungay. It owes its origin to Sir John de Norwich, of a family believed to be connected with the Bigots, Earls of Norfolk, who took their name from Norwich, which was either their birth-place or their residence.

Sir John de Norwich was an Admiral of Edward III., and as reward for his services was granted by licence a fair, to be held three days a year at his manor of Great Massingham, and was also permitted to crenelate or make castles of his manor houses at Blakeforth in Stoke and at Lyng in Norfolk, as well as here. This licence was in the year 1342.

Sir John was Governor of Angoulême in France, and as his presence was required out there, his wife, Dame Margaret, was left to finish the building of the Castle. The site was surrounded by a moat and occupied about 5 acres. It seems to have been divided into two by another moat, so that the whole is shaped rather in the nature of the figure 8. The keep, that is, the place where the family kept or lived, was in the north-west part, and a large portion of the original building erected by Dame Margaret was in existence until it was pulled down about 100 years ago. An eye-witness of its destruction records the beauty of the colours and gilding of the heraldic arms which formed part of the interior decoration. A fine gateway with corner turrets forms the original entrance. The place where the portcullis was lowered is visible, and also the holes through which ran the chains supporting the drawbridge. The Castle had not a long existence as a secular building. Almost at the same time that the Castle was commenced Sir John de Norwich and his wife founded a college for secular priests at Raveningham and munificently endowed it with various manors and other properties.

On Sir John's death in 1362, the property came to another Sir John de Norwich, who died in 1373, leaving as his heiress his niece Katherine Brewes, a nun of Dartford Priory. She, with the concurrence of Sir John's trustees, decided to transfer the college from Raveningham to this site and the translation was effected by the King's licence in 1393, after some delay caused by objections raised by the nuns of Bungay, who were the inappropriate rectors of Mettingham Church, and required their rights to be safeguarded. The college here was endowed with a number of manors and land and was to house a master and twelve canons. The master's house was no doubt in the keep, now pulled down. The actual college buildings are visible, surrounded by a smaller moat, to the east of the modern house. It was apparently quadrangular, and there was a tower on the south side and at the north-east corner. The site of the college chapel is not certain. It is said to have been along the west part of the north wall on the right of the gateway as one entered. This seems rather a peculiar position in relation to the main college buildings. Like most churches and chapels in monastic and semi-monastic houses, it was probably the first part of the buildings to suffer demolition.

A good many records relating to the college exist. These include six folio volumes of account from about 1400 to 1541,

which are in sufficient detail to enable an imaginative antiquary like, say, the late Dr. Jessopp, to compose an attractive history of the place. They made payment to the schoolmaster of Beccles for the schooling of two clerks, to the armourer for cleaning armour, to one of their servants for riding to Cley for salt fish. This seems rather a needless journey when the Suffolk seaports were near at hand. It appears that fourteen boys were in regular education here. They probably acted as choristers. The last master, appointed in 1539, was one Thomas Manning, who afterwards became Suffragan Bishop of Ipswich. At the Dissolution it was granted by Henry VIII. (1541) to Sir Anthony Denny, and was subsequently acquired by the Bacons, including the Lord Keeper, Nicholas Bacon, who also lived at Stiffkey.

A description of the Church of the Most Holy
 BARSHAM Trinity, Barsham, was given by the Rector, Canon
 CHURCH AND Baron-Suckling, whose grandfather compiled an
 RECTORY, unfinished "History of Suffolk." The chief features
 SUFFOLK. of interest are the round tower, the thatched roof

of the nave, the east window, the tracery of which extends to the ground outside, and the "horsing block" where riders used to mount their horses, at the north-east corner. The tower, 55 ft. high, is of rough flint rubble. The lower division of 33 ft. is of Saxon and the upper part of Norman date. Dionysia Atte Tye, who was lady of the manor, desired in her will (1375) that her body should be buried before the entrance of the church and that a porch should be built over her grave. Later on the gravestone, robbed of its brass effigy and armorial bearings, was placed just inside the church.

On the south side of the nave are three Decorated windows. The central window was filled with stained glass in 1905 to commemorate the centenary of the battle of Trafalgar. It contains the armorial bearings of the family of the Rev. Maurice Suckling, Prebendary of Westminster and Rector of Barsham from 1714 to 1730. His daughter Catherine, the mother of Lord Nelson, was born in Barsham Rectory, and also his son, Captain Maurice Suckling, who gave Nelson his first introduction to the Navy and his early lessons in seamanship.

The manors of Barsham and Shipmeadow were acquired about 1610 by Sir John Suckling, Secretary of State under James I. and Charles I., and have been held by that family ever since. His son, Sir John Suckling, Poet Laureate, who inherited Roos Hall, housed a hundred yeomen at his own expense for King Charles's Scottish war in the great banquetting hall (now used as a barn) near Barsham Hall farmhouse.

The octagonal ceiling of the nave, said the Rector, was considered by experts to be mediæval. It is of wattle, clay and reed, and it is so solid that when the thatch was renewed the workers

stood and walked upon it. The registers date back to 1558 and contain an entry of the baptism of Catherine Suckling.

An outside view was afterwards had of the Rectory. The Rector was thanked for his kindness by the President of the Society.

An elaborate record of the history of the
 GILLINGHAM Church of Gillingham All Saints, gleaned from
 CHURCH. various sources, was read by the Rector, the
 Rev. G. O. Cheese. The Church was enlarged
 and repaired in 1859, and again restored in 1869, when the south
 aisle was added. The tower was greatly admired.

According to one authority, said the Rector, there was a tombstone with the following epitaph:—"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Jackson, comedian, who was engaged December 21st, 1741, to play a comic cast of characters in this great theatre, the world, for many of which he was prompted to excel. The season being ended, his benefit over, the charges all paid, and his account closed, he made his exit in the tragedy of Death on 17th of March, 1798, in full assurance of being called once more to rehearsal, and where he hopes to find his forfeits all cleared, his cast and parts bettered, and his situation made agreeable by Him who paid the great stock debt for the love He bore to performers in general."

"It is very nice," said the Rector, "but I have not been able to find the stone yet."

Extracts from a letter of Mrs. F. G. F. Penny (daughter of the Rev. John Farr, Rector of Gillingham, 1855 to 1867) to Mr. E. T. Dowson, of Geldeston, were read. "The inside of Gillingham St. Mary (she wrote) was quaint in our time before the restoration. Lady George Beresford.....sat in a huge square pew, surmounted by a canopy supported by four stout oak posts, very similar to plain bedposts. Its position was just in front of the pulpit. There was a churching pew, and Mr. Lewis, the old Rector, who lived to be over 80, was saddled with the story of having churched two ladies from Beccles, who walked over and unwittingly seated themselves in that pew. The mistake was only found out when the Clerk pursued them out of the church and demanded the fee. Father.....found a curious erection in the pulpit shaped rather like a saddle. Old Lewis became too infirm to stand; he had always been an ardent horseman and hunter, and was never so happy or so much in fettle as in the saddle; so they built him one inside the pulpit, and mounted on this, he was inspired to preach, &c."

Colonel Bulwer thanked the Rector for his kindness in describing the Church, which was a beautiful example of Norman work.

THIRD EXCURSION.

A General Meeting of the Society took place on Thursday, 4th September. The size and character of the gathering was a

striking testimony to the prestige that the Society now commands. The President, Col. E. A. Bulwer, was at the head of the excursion, with Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy as his chief excursion officer.

The members, including several well-known enthusiasts of the Yarmouth Branch who had had to come into Norwich by train, travelled by way of Hingham and Watton to Great Cressingham Farm. Next they touched successively on Necton Church and Hall, and Southacre Church. The afternoon was spent in Castleacre, that most mediæval of East Country parishes. The Church, the Castle, and the Priory were explored and discoursed on. Tea was taken in the Vicarage grounds, and at an informal meeting several new members were elected. The President, amid expressions of general approval, complimented Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, the Hon. Secretary, on the great efficiency with which the tour had been arranged and managed. Perhaps the leading feature of the day was the call at Castleacre Priory, where the members were greatly interested in the preservation work now being carried out by the Office of Works.

The Priory of Great Cressingham is a delightful specimen of 16th-century architecture which has never before, or, at all events, not for many years, received attention at the hands of the Society. Its exterior is distinguished by some very fine terra-cotta work and moulded brick. By courtesy of the tenant, Mr. Hayward, the visitors were made free of the house internally.

A paper was read by the Rev. Tyrrell Green, Rector of Santon Downham. He explained that the Priory, though so called, was never a religious house. At the Conquest, William, Bishop of Thetford (the See being not then removed to Norwich), held what is now called Cressingham or the Dean and Chapter of Norwich's manor. It was enjoyed by the Bishops of the See, with some interruption in King Stephen's reign, up to 1205, in which year it was handed over by John de Grey, then Bishop, to the Prior and Convent of Norwich in exchange for certain privileges in regard to fairs, markets, &c., at Lynn. It appears that the Prior was Lord in 1278. The manor was always leased out by the priors, and, in 1513, Sir Robert Southwell held it of the Prior, paying £13 13s. 4d. in money, &c., per annum. Soon after this it came to the Jenneys, who held it of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich on the dissolution of the Priory. Christopher Jenny married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William Eyre, Judge of the Common Pleas, who died in 1509, and to whose memory there is a brass in the Church. They had a son, John Jenny, who lived here in 1556, and who married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Spring, of Lavenham, in Suffolk. A portion of a brass to her memory is also to be seen in the church. This house, sometimes called the Old Hall, was probably built by this John Jenny. The

Jenny crest, a falconer's hand gloved, from which a falcon is rising, alternates in the moulded panels with a monogram consisting of two J's crossed and a capital E, connected by a knot of intricate design. The initials probably are those of John Jenny and Elizabeth his wife. In Blomefield's time there was a shield of stained glass in the parlour window showing the arms of Jenny with nine other quarterings. The portion of the house at right angles to the front has been rebuilt at a later date.

The party then paid a visit to Great Cressingham Church, where the Rector, the Rev. C. P. B. Montgomery, discoursed upon the antiquities, and Mr. T. G. Barnett, F.S.A., dealt with the Church Plate.

The Church at Necton, four miles east of Swaffham, was restored in 1841, and in 1863 the tower was rebuilt and surmounted by a spire.

But the changes seem to have been made with great discretion. The fabric is one of the most beautiful of its kind in West Norfolk, and still retains many things of great antiquarian interest. The roof of the nave is of curiously wrought oak, supported by angel figures with expanded wings. Below are carvings of the twelve Apostles. On the south side of the nave are other effigies, with that of our Lord in the centre. On the floor are several black marble slabs, with brasses and inscriptions to the Goodwyn, Wynston, Mason, and other families.

At Necton Hall, which the visitors were enabled to examine closely, both inside and out, by courtesy of the tenant, Mr. Clifton Browne, a short explanatory address was given by Mr. Fred Johnson, Assistant Secretary to the Society. He pointed out two remarkable portraits; one was that of Miss Hester Blomefield, youngest sister of the Rev. Francis Blomefield, the historian, the other was that of Mrs. Lawrence Womack, Blomefield's mother-in-law.

In point of parish church interest, perhaps the culminating event of the day was the visit to the little Church of Southacre, which is a gem of mediæval and curious interest, and yet, because it lies so deeply sunken in the countryside, is but little known even to West Norfolk people. The Rector, however, had made himself ready to receive visitors; he and his churchwardens, Major H. A. Birkbeck and Mr. John Knox, had prepared a printed sheet setting forth the essential facts in the hope that the interest thus generated would give stimulus to their appeal for £1,000, the estimated cost of restorations badly needed. In 1881 the parish had 73 inhabitants, but now there were only 65, mostly agricultural labourers and their families.

It is supposed from the foundations that three churches have stood upon the site. Portions of the present Church are undoubtedly of great antiquity. Blomefield attributes the rebuilding of the Church, north aisle, and north porch to Sir John de Harsycke (the second of that name) and Margery Drilby, his wife (his will was dated at his manor of Southacre, 14th November, 1381), and the rebuilding of the tower to his son, the third Sir John de Harsycke, whose will is dated 1384. There is a fine brass to him and his wife, Lady Katherine Calthorpe, in the north aisle. Just outside the chancel arch is an old gravestone with a staff carved on it, and at its head or summit a cross pattee. Blomefield says it was lately removed out of the chancel, and supposed to be in memory of Reginald de Harsick, Rector of the parish in 1292. In the north aisle is an ancient stone recumbent monument of a Knight Templar, supposed to be the first Sir Eudo de Harsyk. This would probably be of a still earlier date, and it is thought he went to the First Crusade. There are portions remaining of an early 17th-century wooden screen, supposed to have been the chancel screen, presented to the church at that date by Sir Edward Barkham, Bart., and there is a curious wooden effigy, mentioned by Weever in his "Treatise on Funeral Monuments" (written in the beginning of the 17th century), and also by Dr. Alfred C. Fryer, Ph.D., F.S.A., as one of the "wooden folk," only 93 of which still exist in England. In the side aisle there is a stately altar monument of marble and alabaster to Sir John Barkham, Kt., and his wife. He was at one time Lord Mayor of London, and was a native of this village and afterwards purchaser of the extensive Harsycke estates, portions of which now belong to the Fountaine family.

The Rev. Tyrrell Green, who has prepared some remarkably effective rubbings of the brasses, added some facts additional to the foregoing.

Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy said it was proposed to levy a tax of 6d., payable with the ticket money. The money thus collected would be distributed among the churches as occasion might suggest, instead of individuals making contributions. If, therefore, the members attending an excursion saw the cost increased by 6d. next year they would not be surprised; they would know that the money was going to a good object.

The Rev. A. H. Bek, the Vicar of Castleacre, CASTLEACRE led the party in a scramble around and within CASTLE AND the walls of the Castle. Upon a grassy height CHURCH. commanding far-spreading views of a lovely country he explained the lay-out of this once mighty pile so far as exploration had at present revealed it. A recapitulation here would be unnecessary, for the place is famous in antiquarian lore. The late Canon Dukinfield Astley, adopting

the booklet form, had treated the subject exhaustively. The earth-works, of which considerable portions still remain, cover about 20 acres. They have a circular hill, an outer ballium on the south side, an irregular parallelogram to the west, and a small earth-work at the north-east angle.

The Parish Church stands on a height, and is a large fabric, comprising nave with aisles and clerestory, chancel, north porch, and lofty, square embattled tower. It was thoroughly restored in the seventies of last century. The east window is of the Early English period. The priests' door, on the south side of the chancel, is also a good specimen of the same style. The lower part of the rood-screen remains, and is decorated with paintings of the twelve Apostles. The pulpit, which is of the wine-glass pattern, has upon its panels paintings of the four doctors. Three of the ancient misereres, curiously carved, still remain, and at the east end of each aisle is a small chapel, protected by a screen. The antique font is a beautiful piece of tabernacle work of the Perpendicular period. Mr. Bek remarked that the exterior of the church had been re-faced to such an extent that many people, noticing its modern appearance, thought that the structure was entirely new. A large proportion of the £3,000 or £4,000 that the restoration cost was subscribed locally. The work was done by local people with the best intentions; but, as so often happened in such cases, it was done without knowledge.

At Castleacre Priory the members had the good

CASTLEACRE fortune to meet Mr. Heasman, who is in charge

PRIORY. of the repair work being done there on behalf
of the Office of Works. He said the floor of the

church had been got down to its original level by excavation. The surface was being turfed so as to give a pleasant impression to anyone who visited the precincts of the Abbey. Care was being taken to preserve the walls in the condition in which they were found. They were not added to or taken away from unless there was some obtrusive modern work that was an eyesore hiding up what might be of historical or archaeological importance. Weeds and growths were being removed. The west front would hardly be touched.