

bring home the same in fishe or in money and pay it to the parson of Wells, and likewise the men of those places going at Lynne, Wells &c. must and do pay ther partes of Christ's Dole to ther owne curates.

"Nowe men being thus charged by Lawe and Custome, the parson of Wells offereth this grievance to all such as come from other townes to go on these fishing voyages in shippes of that towne. He pretendeth a custome of taking up the whole dole called Christ's Dole to his owne use, not suffering the men to carye away such partes of the same as are by them to be payd to ther owne curats, neyther alowing them any thing for the same. Whereby it commeth to passe that pore men are subject to sutes in lawe, and are therby compelled to pay that twice which is due to be payd but once, the Lawe and Custome enforcing them to pay yt to ther owne curats which he before hath taken up and with holdeth onely upon pretence of Custome."

The parson of Wells mentioned above was William Toll, who became Rector in 1580. Blomefield tells us that "in 1591 he had sentences for his right of tithe of the Iceland fishing according to ancient custom."

Mr. Nathaniel Bacon, to whom this petition was sent, was the second son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper. He was M.P. successively for Tavistock, Norfolk, and Lynn. Sheriff of Norfolk in 1599, and knighted in 1604.

Both these petitions were apparently decided in favour of the Church.

The moiety of Christ's Dole ceased to be officially collected by most ports in 1824. In more recent times (1845) a fisherman was summoned by the vicar of Lowestoft for having neglected to pay tithes for his fish. Mr. J. H. Tillett, of Norwich, for the defendant, contended that the tithe did not arise in the parish of Lowestoft, but in the sea; and that therefore it could not be enforced. The vicar, however, won his case.

The literature on this obscure subject is somewhat vague, but references may be found in:—

- (1) The East Anglian Notes and Queries, 1910.
- (2) de Caux, "The Herring and Herring Fishery."
- (3) Palmer's Continuation of Manship's "Yarmouth."
- (4) Hillen: History of Lynn.
- (5) Proc. Norf. Arch. Soc., vol. vii., p. 231.

## ROBERT WYNDHAM KETTON-CREMER,

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### Vice-President

In Wyndham Ketton-Cremer we have lost not only our most brilliant scholar and author in the field of history, but we have also lost a man who was consistently active in the administration of this Society's affairs. He was elected a member of the Council in 1930, honorary editor from 1931 to 1935, Chairman of the Council in 1945, a Vice-President in 1950, and in 1952 he held the office of President. Throughout this period, and indeed to within a few



months of his death, he contributed to *Norfolk Archæology* a series of articles which were as distinguished for the elegance of their style as for the soundness of the learning on which they were based. No normal obituary can do justice to his quality; moreover when he died, almost a year ago, the outline of his career and personality was widely published. Consequently the honorary editor decided that our tribute should take the form of some record of his care of Felbrigg, the great Norfolk house which remains as the material part of his splendid legacy, and asked me to write something of my twenty years as his architect there.

It was characteristic of him that the first task he laid upon me was the conversion of the former Brewhouse into a comfortable cottage for the butler and his wife. A few years later the great wooden wheel in the Pump House was carefully dismantled and stored away, and the building became two staff flats. Finally, only two years ago, after a period of indifferent health, he asked me to make the disused Dairy and Laundry into a compact and comfortable small house to which he could retire in winter from the lofty rooms and draughty corridors of the great house. Alas that he lived so short a time to enjoy his "Retreat", as it came to be called.

All house owners are aware that the fabric of a building needs constant maintenance; and the older and bigger the building, the greater are the problems and the expense. Felbrigg was no exception to this rule. Unsuspected failure of lead gutters and roof valleys had let water through onto hidden timbers of the roofs, and fungal rot and death-watch beetles had done their fell work in the dark. The tie-beam of one great truss over the west wing was rotted at both ends, and the truss was being held up by the purlins and rafters it was supposed to support. The floor over the Library was similarly weakened, and called for some very skilled "surgery" if the ceiling was to be saved and the books protected from clouds of plaster dust; and the handsome Orangery close to the house was repaired and re-roofed without damage to the camelias which grow in huge tubs inside it.

Such work makes great calls on the ingenuity and skill of the workmen; and those we employed at Felbrigg responded admirably to the challenge, encouraged by the close interest which "The Squire" took in the work and by his warm appreciation of their efforts.

Many such major and expensive tasks were undertaken during my twenty years as his adviser, and the care of Felbrigg had always a first claim on his resources. To him it was the home to which he returned with joy from his travels in this country and abroad on his literary researches, the place where he could lead his chosen life among his books and his trees.

Felbrigg stands firm as a tribute to his devotion to the house which he inherited. To those of us who were often there it will always be full of memories of this quiet scholarly Squire, whose natural shyness and reserve hid a penetrating mind, a pungent but never unkind wit and a deep sincerity in all that he undertook.

May he rest in peace.

D. P.