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THE WAY ABOUT SERIES OF GAZETTEER GUIDES.

No. 24.

THE

WAY ABOUT CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND FENLAND.

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THE WAY-ABOUT SERIES OF GAZETTEER GUIDES. No. 24.

THE WAY ABOUT CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND FENLAND,

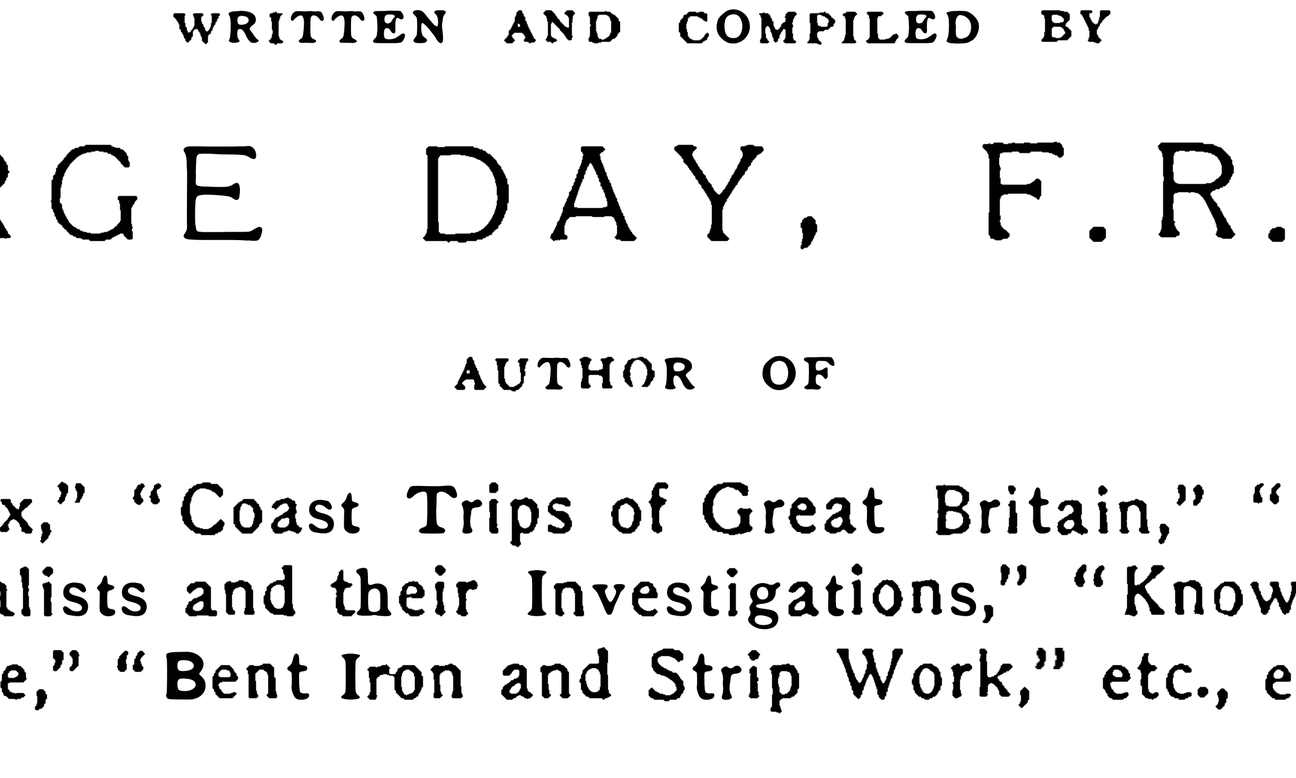
WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY

GEORGE DAY, F.R.M.S.,

AUTHOR OF

"Way About Essex," "Coast Trips of Great Britain," "London Bridge to the Nore," "Naturalists and their Investigations," "Knowledge through the Eye," "Bent Iron and Strip Work," etc., etc.



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PREFACE.

I AM not quite sure that a preface is needed, and yet it is a duty to acknowledge my indebtedness to those who have so kindly assisted me in various ways in rendering "THE WAY ABOUT CAMBRIDGESHIRE" as complete as possible.

My special thanks are due to Professor Bonney and Professor Babington for their notes on the geology and flora of the county; to Mr. G. H. Miller for Fenland notes, for particulars of Ely Cathedral and permission to photograph; to the Very Reverend the Dean of Ely, and to Professor Humphrey for particulars of Cambridge town.

Ancient records have been hunted up for the interesting facts pertaining to bygone history, Church registers and black letter volumes have been studied, so that our "Way About" may be in a measure complete. Above all, the county has been travelled over by road, rail, and river, most of the towns and villages visited, local authorities personally consulted as to the present condition of things, and information gathered likely to be of use to those who may desire to travel within the county limits. Superfluous description has been avoided, leaving very much for the student to hunt up. I have merely described the leading features, omitting all historical detail which may be gained elsewhere.

My residence in Cambridgeshire, and journeyings oft in all directions, convinced me that in this little known county there was much to interest the tourist, who only needed an indication of, and information on, the places worth visiting and seeing to enable him to get about quickly and cheaply without loss of time, or an unnecessary expenditure of money.

The photographs in these pages are selected from a large number taken specially by myself and friends—to the latter my thanks are due, especially to Mr. A. P. Wire, of Leytonstone, who, on this as on a former

occasion, has rendered me most valuable assistance with camera and pen.

It should be understood that our "Way About" is not an exhaustive history of Cambridgeshire—it simply aims to aid and assist the tourist in travelling through the county on wheel or on foot, and in pointing out the beauties of the district which, in many particulars, are quite unique with its

"Vast plains, and lowly cottages forlorn,
Rounded about by the low wavering sky."

Whilst in the old churches and noble buildings of a by-gone age the visitor, entering into the spirit of the scenes, will often see

"Visions of the day departed shadowing phantoms fill his brain,
They who live in history only will seem to walk this earth again."

So that a holiday spent in the shire will prove of real benefit, both to body and mind, sending the tired worker back to his accustomed haunts in town or city to take up the "burden of life again" with renewed hope and vigour, making this humdrum existence of ours after all a life worth living, and at the same time increasing his pride in our island home, and in those who have lived and died in the ages long ago, as recorded in village church and ancient cathedral minster.

GEORGE DAY.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

IN a book upon the subject, written a few years since, we find the following:

"Cambridgeshire, as a district, is commonly supposed to present few attractions to the tourist. It does not possess the natural features which are the charm of many counties—it has no sea coast, no high hills, and is, comparatively speaking, treeless, fernless, and flowerless. The first impression, therefore, produced upon the wayfarer by the scenery is one of bareness and desolation."

Such is the description given of the shire. Were this correct, there would certainly be no need for a "Way About" volume; but ere we write "Finis" to our book we trust a different opinion will be formed. It is an axiom that charm lies in variety, and no two counties of England are alike. Cambridgeshire differs from all others, and, to our mind, possesses charms and attractions positively unique.

True, there is no rolling sea with its ever-changing moods, or lofty mountains upon which rest eternal snow, but there are fenlands, and what is known as the Great Level of the Fens contains the richest soil in England, and is as much the product of art and the result of unremitting labour as the kingdom of Holland. Generations of workers, skilled and otherwise, have designed and laboured in embanking and draining, and to-day the work is preserved for culture and habitation only by the continued watchfulness of innumerable hosts of workers.

The stupendous work of draining this district will ever remain as one of the greatest achievements of engineering skill. This is fully described in Vol. I. of Smiles's "Lives of the Engineers."

The tourist who enters this locality for the first time will be struck with the profound stillness on all sides,

and he will see and feel something of the loneliness of the fens, but this does not by any means signify dreariness, for, as the poet sings—

"There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes."

It is so in reference to this district; the prospect stretches away, and appears almost boundless. It is as a sea without a ripple—verdant in various hues of living green. There is no rustling of trees in the summer air, for where peat predominates trees grow not, instead of which are grass and rushes. At certain seasons the gathering of the sedge crop is an interesting sight, and well worth "going for to see."

Summer and autumn are most delightful: corn grows in abundance; well-stocked orchards, seed farms, and pasture-lands such as are seen in no other shire meet the eye; whilst the brilliancy of the sky, the clearness of the air, the wonderful colours of the clouds, and, above all, the gorgeous sunsets—visible in no other county than Cambridgeshire—are famed far and wide, and are not surpassed anywhere in England.

As to the great fen district, justice cannot be done to it in cold print. It was here that the love of natural history was developed in that charming writer and eloquent preacher, Charles Kingsley. The effect upon his mind of the flat scenery and the wide sweep of horizon, of the wonderful meres hidden in mist, or suffused with the afterglow of the setting sun, was never forgotten, and in more than one of his books they are fully described. They have a beauty of their own, these great fens, a beauty as of the sea, of boundless expanse and freedom; overhead the arch of heaven spreads more ample than elsewhere, and that mighty vastness gives such cloudlands, such sunrises, such sunsets, as are wonderful to behold.

He tells us in glowing language of the shining meres, the golden reed beds, the countless waterfowl, the strange and gaudy insects; the wild nature, the mystery, the majesty were there, which haunted the deep fen for many hundred years, for grand enough it was—white, dark green alders and pale green reeds stretched for miles round broad lagoons, where the coot clanked, and the bittern boomed, and the sedge bird, not content with its own sweet song, mocked the notes

of all the birds around; while high overhead hovered, motionless, hawk beyond hawk, buzzard beyond buzzard, kite beyond kite, as far as the eye could see.

Far off, upon the silver meres, would rise a puff of smoke from a punt, invisible from its flatness and white paint.

Then down with the wind comes the boom of the great stanchion gun, and after that sound another louder as it neared—a cry as of all the bells of Cambridge and all the hounds of Cottesmere; and overhead rush and whirl, a skein of tangled wildfowl, screaming, piping, clacking, croaking, filling the air with the hoarse rattle of their wings, while clear above all sounds the shrill whistle of the curlew and the trumpet note of the wild swan.

Such is the word-picture of the fens painted by the master hand of Charles Kingsley. Owing to recent improvements and extensive workings, things are not quite the same to-day as then, but though change has crept over the scene, there is much still left that adds a charm to this, alas! too little known district, which still waits the advent of the tourist, and to the lover of nature a visit thence will be full of a series of marvellous surprises.

Another great attraction for visitors is the magnificent roads running in every direction, nearly all of which are level and good, in every way suited for cyclists and pedestrians. Railway communication is excellent, and facilities for water travel from distant places add additional charms for the tourist, so that every part of the county may be visited at the smallest possible expense.

CHAPTER II.

SITUATION.

THE county of Cambridgeshire is entirely inland, although its north-eastern portion reaches to within a few miles of the sea.

Its length from north to south is fifty-one miles, and its greatest breadth thirty-two miles, but, owing to its shape at Ely, the breadth of the county is only fifteen miles.

The county contains 549,749 acres, and may be divided into two divisions—the Isle of Ely in the marshlands, and Cambridgeshire proper. Its area is 820 square miles. This contains seventeen hundreds, with a single city (Ely), a county town (Cambridge), and several market towns, viz., Wisbech, March, Thorney, Linton, Chatteris, Soham, and Whittlesea.

Newmarket is partly in Suffolk, and Royston partly in Hertfordshire.

In the county there are one hundred and sixty-seven parishes and two municipal boroughs—Cambridge and Wisbech. The whole county is in the diocese of Ely.

The hundreds of Ely—Wisbech and Witchford—with the borough of Wisbech, form the liberty of the Isle of Ely.

As to the term "hundred" applied to the division of a county, the meaning given by an authority is as follows:

"*Hundredus continet centum. villas.* Brompt 956.—The term villa in Bede is rendered by the old Saxon translator *tune* (town), and included not only the mansion of the owner, but the cottages of the tenants, as of the slaves who cultivated it."

The extent of the Saxon hundred, as of the Roman *centurici*, greatly varied, as it can easily be imagined that in the course of time, among a rude and barbarous

people, their limits would often be altered by divisions or annexations from various causes. Hence we find that the size of hundreds greatly varies, as also the number of manors a hundred contains.

The real origin is apparent. The *centuria* was an assignment of land containing from fifty to two hundred and fifty *jugera*, which answers to the Saxon *hide* or ploughland; that is, sufficient land to support a plough, or, in other words, a ploughman and his family.

This *centuriá* is so called from it containing one hundred or more of these *jugera*. This explanation is further enforced from the fact that they existed in Roman times, and are found not long afterwards everywhere under the Saxons without any mention in contemporary history of the time of their institution.

The population of Cambridgeshire in 1891 was 188,961; this gives about 226 to the square mile. The county is bounded on the north by Lincolnshire, on the south by Essex and Hertfordshire, on the east by Norfolk and Suffolk, and on the west by Northampton and Huntingdon.

To the south of the shire are the famous Gog-Magog Hills, which rise to a height of about three hundred feet. These hills are of great interest, especially to the geologist, for here Dame Nature threw this last spur of the great chalk formation that begins in the Russian Crimea and ends on this border of the fen flats as her sign-manual. These hills are also interesting to the historical tourist, for here "the Druids flashed their sacrificial fires through all the waiting south." The Roman centurion marked it for his eerie, planted here his outcamp "Vandlebury," and laid down his bee-line road thence through to his stronghold Camboritum, and onward through middle England. Britons and Saxons, Danes and Normans, Barons and Ironsides, wended their way over this highland track, backward and forward from the seat of government to this key-stone of the land of liberty.

It was around this spot that Queen Boadicea gathered her followers, whose wild onslaught very nearly annihilated the Roman legions. In the desolate fens close by "Hereward the Wake, the last of the Saxons" (see Kingsley), for seven years held in check all the might, and more than matched the military craft, of the

Norman William; and here was founded, at a time so remote that the memory and records of man run not to the contrary, that famous university known the wide world over.

The southern portion of the county is crossed by the old Roman road of Icknield Street, which was also the road of Iceni. This runs from Newmarket to Royston, and by Ermine Street from Royston to the north-west. The Via Devana also passed through Cambridge to Godmanchester, and another old road ran through Ely to Cambridge. These were, of course, in the olden days. These roads have mostly been diverted, some even obliterated altogether.

This layer of greensand is very thin, and especially rich in fossils.

The Oxford Clay is of great thickness, and stretches away towards Bedford in the valley of the Ouse.

Neocomian Deposits.—These rest on the Oxford clay, and form an important division, represented by the beds commonly known as lower greensand. They are of a sandy nature, and can be traced from the well-known diggings at Potton in Bedfordshire, by Gamlingay, Bourn, Dry Drayton, and Oakington to Upware.

Gault.—This term is used by workmen in referring to any stiff clay, but by geologists it has been adopted as a name for the lowest member of the cretaceous series proper. In the vicinity of Cambridge there is a bluish-grey clay containing small quantities of iron pyrites, selenite crystals, and, frequently, phosphatic nodules.

The Chalk Marl may be well seen and studied by visiting the many coprolite workings which occur for a considerable distance from Soham to Hitchin.

Of the *Tertiary Formations*, such as London clay, and the crag as found in the adjoining counties of Suffolk and Essex, there is no trace in all Cambridgeshire.

The Boulder Clay laps over the chalk hills and stretches along the high ground lying between the valleys of the Cam and Ouse. This is very extensive to the west of the town of Cambridge.

Platonic or Hill Gravels.—Caps Barrington Hills, Gog-Magog Hills, Copley Hill, and others. In this deposit may be found flints, lias, and various rocks.

Fine Gravel is common along the course of the river above Cambridge, in which have been found bones of hippopotamus, rhinoceros, elephant, lion, hyena, etc.; also horns bearing evidence of primeval handiwork.

Of the *Fen Beds* much might be said. The lowest of these are gravels of marine origin, of which large portions may be found at March, Whittlesea, and Chatteris.

Peat occupies a large area; this rests upon the gravel. It is largely dug for fuel around Ely, which place contains as many as five buried forests, on which stools and trunks of large trees are found. This formation may be easily distinguished by its blackness and level surface, and in having no hedgerows.

Traces of prehistoric man have not been wanting in

this most interesting of English shires. Relics of the old stone age, new stone age, bronze age, and iron age have been unearthed at various times and places.

Palæolithic implements have been found in the gravel at Barnwell, Chesterton, Observatory Hill (Cambridge), and other places, and neolithic tools, such as celts, arrow-heads, flakes, etc., have been found at Burwell Fen, Ely, Coton, etc.

These notes on the geology of Cambridgeshire have been of necessity brief. For a full account the visitor should consult the excellent work written by Professor Bonney, of St. John's College, entitled "Geology of Cambridgeshire."

BOTANY.

Referring to the botany of the fens, it is clearly evident that it has undergone a very destructive change. With the altered conditions and positions of the rivers and streams, many of the most interesting and characteristic plants have disappeared, or have become so exceedingly rare that to find a specimen once common is looked upon to-day as a pleasure. With the exception of Wicken, there is scarcely a spot in which the ancient vegetation continues. Water plants have not suffered to the same extent as plants which grow on land, but even these are becoming more or less scarce than formerly.

The botanist will find his best hunting grounds as follows: Round about Gamlingay; here was at one time a broad, sandy heath and quaking bogs. The heath has been enclosed and the bogs drained, which, of course, have destroyed much vegetation, but many of the old habitats may, however, be found by diligent search.

Near the eastern border of the county is a small sandy district; this runs into Suffolk and Norfolk, and includes the village of Chippenham, round about which many characteristic plants may be found, such as *Silene anglica*, *M. minima*, *S. otites*, *Gallim anglicum*, *Aperta interrupta*, *M. Sylvestris*, and others.

The district about Wisbech and on the river at Foul Anchour, near Tydd, presents very different aspects botanically to-day from what it did in former years. This was formerly a salt marsh, but is now dry. The soil is still deposited by the river in the ancient estuary. For

these reasons few marine plants can now be found, and as the salt marshes are gone, the plants peculiar to them have departed also.

The physical character of the county is not such as to limit the range of plants, but there are a few, however, that appear to have their special districts, as many plants are known not to grow in the northern part of the county, others only in the west, and still others that have their southern limit.

ZOOLOGY.

The fauna of Cambridgeshire, including the whole of the fen district, covers a large area, and to write much on this subject would be out of place here, as it embraces the remains of the past to be found preserved in the ancient strata, as well as the examples of the present time of no special variety. Lists have been made out containing names of such specimens of the marine and terrestrial faunæ of the fens as have from time to time been found. These lists include the mention of bear, lion, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, elephant, wolf, ermine, hyena, Irish elk, reindeer, bison, wild boar, mammoth, otter, musk sheep, lemming, marmot, etc.

BIRDS.

Before drainage took place the fens were the home of innumerable fowl of all kinds, for at such times, when the waters were out, the waders and swimmers lived unmolested, so that in bygone days the fen district must have literally swarmed with various species of birds, but now it is the last stronghold of many of the aquatic kinds.

Writing of bygone days, Stevenson says: "Fifty years ago the three species of harriers (buzzards) and the short-eared owl were numerous, but as drainage progressed and land was cultivated, these birds were driven from their old resorts."

The marsh harrier went first, then the hen harrier; the montagues and the short-eared owl lingered so long as they could find a breeding place. The ruffs and the reeves were so numerous that as many as six dozen have been caught during a single morning. The snipe, water rail, and the spotted crake still, though in reduced

numbers, frequent the district for the purpose of breeding. These birds and a few others were at one time quite characteristic of fenland. The aquatic birds have left, and land birds have taken their places, for most of the common varieties are to be found everywhere.

Formerly a good number of those artificial and secluded pools called decoys were to be met with in the fen district, and it is not known as to when the first became used. The invention is put down to the reign of James I. This mode of taking wild ducks, mallards, teal, widgeon, etc., appeared at one time to have been most successful, for it is on record that during one season no fewer than 31,200 fowl of various kinds, the product of ten decoys (five of which were in the parish of Friskney), were sent to the London market. But the drainage has entirely altered all this, as the birds are driven from their breeding resorts, and the bulk of our wildfowl now nest on the Continent and in the north and north-eastern districts of the British Isles.

The list of birds that may be found to-day in Cambridgeshire is much too long to be given in its entirety. For the ornithologist a very fine collection will be found in the Wisbech Museum. Most of the specimens were taken in the near neighbourhood, and it is believed that, considered as a whole, it fully represents the birds of Cambridgeshire.

REPTILES.

Very little can be said upon the subject of reptiles. The lizard, slow-worm, common snake, and viper may be found in their respective quarters; the latter, however, is tolerably scarce. The common frog, the edible frog, toad, natter-jack, and newts of various kinds are more or less common.

CHAPTER IV.

THE WATER SYSTEM AND RIVERS.

THE river systems of the county are nearly obliterated by the artificial cuttings. All the water is drained into the Wash either by the Nene or the Ouse, with its tributaries, the Cam (or Granta) and the Lark.

The upland is watered by the river Ouse and its branches. The Ouse enters the county on the west from Huntingdonshire, and passes through to the city of Ely on the east, proceeding to Downham and the sea at Lynn in Norfolk; above Ely, it takes in the Cam coming down from Cambridge, where it is navigable, and just above the town it is joined by the Rhea from Hertfordshire and the south-west. Below the city of Ely the Ouse receives the Lark, or Mildenhall River, from Suffolk, and the Croft or Welney from the Norfolk borders.

The Nene, arriving at Peterborough, turns to the right, the lower part only of this river passing through the county; it divides into three channels, which have been somewhat interfered with by drainage works.

One of these channels is the Catwater or Shire Drain, running between Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Another channel is Morton Leam, which passes south to Wisbech, from which place it is navigable to the sea. The third channel is the Old Nene, or Whittlesea Dyke; this flows by Whittlesea and March to the Ouse or Welney at Salter's Love Sluice.

As regards the climate of the county, it is exceedingly healthy, as it is one of the driest in England, the average rainfall being only twenty-two inches yearly. Most of the rain falls with south-west winds; the driest are those from the north-east.

In the fen district the conditions of the atmosphere

are interesting. The mirage may frequently be seen. To bring about this phenomenon, moist air, a warm day, and the sun low in the sky are necessary. What is known as the Fenland has characteristics of its own. It is a great stretch of level country, measuring seventy miles in length and thirty in breadth. Not so very long ago it was left to the flood waters of the rivers which wandered over it in streams, until, moving sluggishly from point to point, they at length became stagnant. Attention, however, was directed to the existing state of things, and an alteration took place—great works were planned, entered into, and carried out to a successful issue, until this vast fenland became as it is to-day, measuring about 680,000 acres of rich land fit for cultivation.

The course of the rivers in Cambridgeshire past differs somewhat from that of the present, and although we are more concerned in the present flow of the streams, it is not without interest that we note the ancient courses. The Nene, leaving Peterborough, turned to the right and made a circuit through Whittlesea, Ugg, and Ramsey Meres, proceeding by March to Wisbech. At Peterborough it seems to have thrown off a branch to join the Welland near Croyland.

The Great Ouse enters the fens near Earith, where it formerly forked. The other branch of the Ouse is now called the West Water, and ran from Earith to Benwick, where it joined the main channel of the Nene. Both these channels are now nearly, or quite, closed to the waters of the Ouse, which are carried by the Bedford rivers in a direct line to Denver, and reach the sea at Lynn.

The Cam changes its name to Ouse at Harrimere, where it formerly joined that river on its way to Wisbech, but now extends by way of Ely and Prickwillow to Denver.

The Little Ouse is the present channel of the Great Ouse from Denver to Lynn.

It will be seen that nearly all the water which reached the great level found its outlet at Wisbech, where formerly the channel was deep enough to afford a natural drainage to the country, but this outlet soon became choked, and the rivers changed their course, or were turned aside by artificial means.

The tourist, passing by the Great Eastern Railway from Ely to March, might be surprised at some seasons, after heavy rains, in crossing a large stretch of water, and he might suppose that the fens were drowned in spite of all that has been done by modern enterprise and skill; but there is no need for alarm, for he will only have passed over a great washland some twenty miles long from Earith to Denver, and threequarters broad where the rail crosses, and this washland, situate between the Hundred-feet River on the south and the Old Bedford River on the north, was formed by Vermuyden for the purpose of being flooded when the upland waters came down too fast to be discharged by the rivers. This wash covers about 5,000 acres of ground, and it affords in spring and summer a rich pasture for large herds of cattle and for horses.

"that these meres, like most of the islands, were situated in the south. Their beds were probably formed by tidal waters, and what is more likely than that the tidal current made a circuit round the south of Ely, scouring deeper here and there? for currents do not smooth their own channels."

Among the principal meres were Soham and Stretham on the south-east of Ely. The former gained some historical note from the fact that King Knut, wanting to approach Ely to keep the feast of the Purification, had to cross this lake, then frozen over, and to ensure safety he employed one Brithmer, a burly, fat fenner, to lead the way, for if the ice would bear him, the king might in safety follow. The expedition was successful, and Brithmer was raised from serfdom to freedom. No doubt the name was conferred at the same time, as it is so similar to Bright-mere.

To the westward lay Benwick, Ramsey, and Ugg Meres, but greatest of all Whittlesea Mere, eight and three-quarter miles in circumference, and covering a surface of 1,570 acres. This was the largest fresh water lake in the southern portion of England. Its banks were studded with reeds, bulrushes, sedge, and other fenny plants, and its waters were inhabited by an abundance of fish, and waterfowl, in countless numbers, frequented its surface and shores. Knut's name is also mentioned in connection with this lake, for he and his queen are said to have been in some peril while sailing over its waters, and King's Delph, hard by, is historically associated with this event. As early as 664 A.D., Peterborough had a right of fishery in this mere. Other religious houses also gained a similar right, such as Ramsey and Thorney Abbeys.

Fishing was extensively practised, and was regulated by the lord of the manor of Holm. During the season of summer the mere was the resort of pleasure seekers; regattas were held, and other aquatic sports arranged. During the winter season the district round was all life, owing to skating contests and the sailing of ice-boats.

This was all in the olden time, and is now but a memory, for Whittlesea has become a thing of the past, and, like the other meres, been drained and

handed over to the care of the husbandman instead of the fisherman; and with the meres may also be classed the "deeps" in East Fen, north of Boston and east of Stickney Island.

The Great Level of the Fens has been reclaimed and drained by the work of successive generations of engineers, and even now is only preserved for cultivation and habitation by constant care and watchfulness.

The visitor, on traversing this interesting country for the first time, may perhaps weary of the monotony of its scenery, as he views the small plantations of trees, called "bolts," poplar, ash, and alder, with here and there a windmill, which serves to break the line of the low horizon.

Field is separated from field, not by hedge but by ditch, which communicates with "lodes," or wider cuttings; these again flow into the natural watercourses of the rivers. To the casual traveller all may appear desolate and drear.

> "Where none but a Great Eastern train deigns to stop,
> Where there's no one to pick up and no one to drop"—

This may be so at some seasons of the year, but see the land in springtime and early summer—it then appears a veritable paradise. One can only in imagination picture what the fenland must have been a hundred years ago. "Then the level was for miles an unbroken bed of sedge, with dark green alders and light green reeds, varied only by sallow bushes. Then the whole place was alive with songs from innumerable birds, and the clacking of wildfowl. The swallow-tail butterfly abounded, and the large copper, in almost equal numbers, spread its brilliant wings to the sun. Other exquisite and curious insects were there at home, and many an inhabitant obtained an easy living by netting the ruffs and reeves in the summer time, and snaring the snipe that abounded during the winter season." Such was fenland in the days of old. But to-day the only portion of the wilderness left us is the wild stretch of sweet sedge in Wicken Fen, which is the one bit of untouched country remaining. It is only a small enclosure, but its tall reeds, black peat, and dark watercourses stagnating through the midst enable the visitor to picture the time when such was the scene throughout all the miles of the Great Level. This small area

serves as a refuge for the last remains of the characteristic fauna and flora of fenland, and here it is that the entomologist finds his paradise. The vegetation chiefly consists of bog rush, marsh fern, and meadow thistle. Marsh milk parsley, sedge, and meadowsweet also abound, among which the swallow tail, scarlet tiger, and, on the meadowsweet, the larva of the Emperor moth feeds.

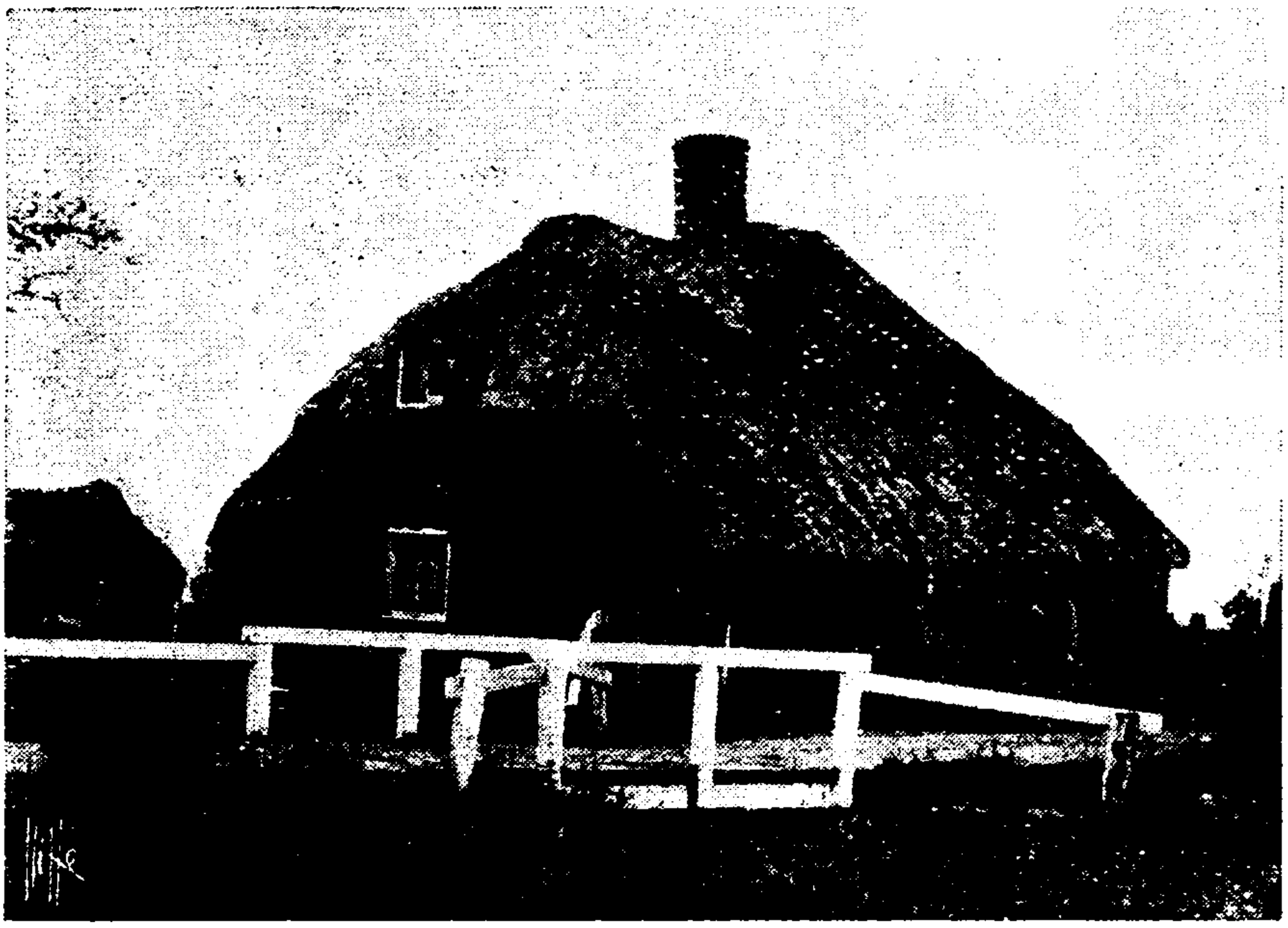
All visitors desiring to see fenland pure and simple should journey to Wicken, starting from Cambridge, passing through Waterbeach to Upware, and by crossing the ferry the inn is reached with the strange inscription. This inn stands close to the river.

WICKEN FEN.

To see the sun rise is a sight indeed. To witness the mists rising over the fens and suddenly vanish is a striking sight not soon forgotten.

The wild beauty of Wicken Fen is in strange contrast to the cultivated land lying around it. Then, again, the work of sedge cutting is here followed. This is the remnant of a fen industry, and Wicken is the only portion of the great district in which the sedge has free growth. At sunrise the sedgecutters commence their early morning work. Handkerchiefs are tied over their mouths to protect them from the

effect of the heavy dew, pieces of stocking are wrapped round their arms and hands to serve as armour against the sharpness of the sedge, their waistcoats are of calf skin, and they wear leathern leggings for further protection. While everything is wet with the heavy dew the short broad blade of the scythe tells effectively. The fenmen of early times were a hardy and thrifty race, and their descendants have still the same character, for to-day the fenman finds his fuel in the peat, and his kindling in the sedge (which also serves for the roof of his dwelling), his fish from the many streams, and his meat from the creatures of



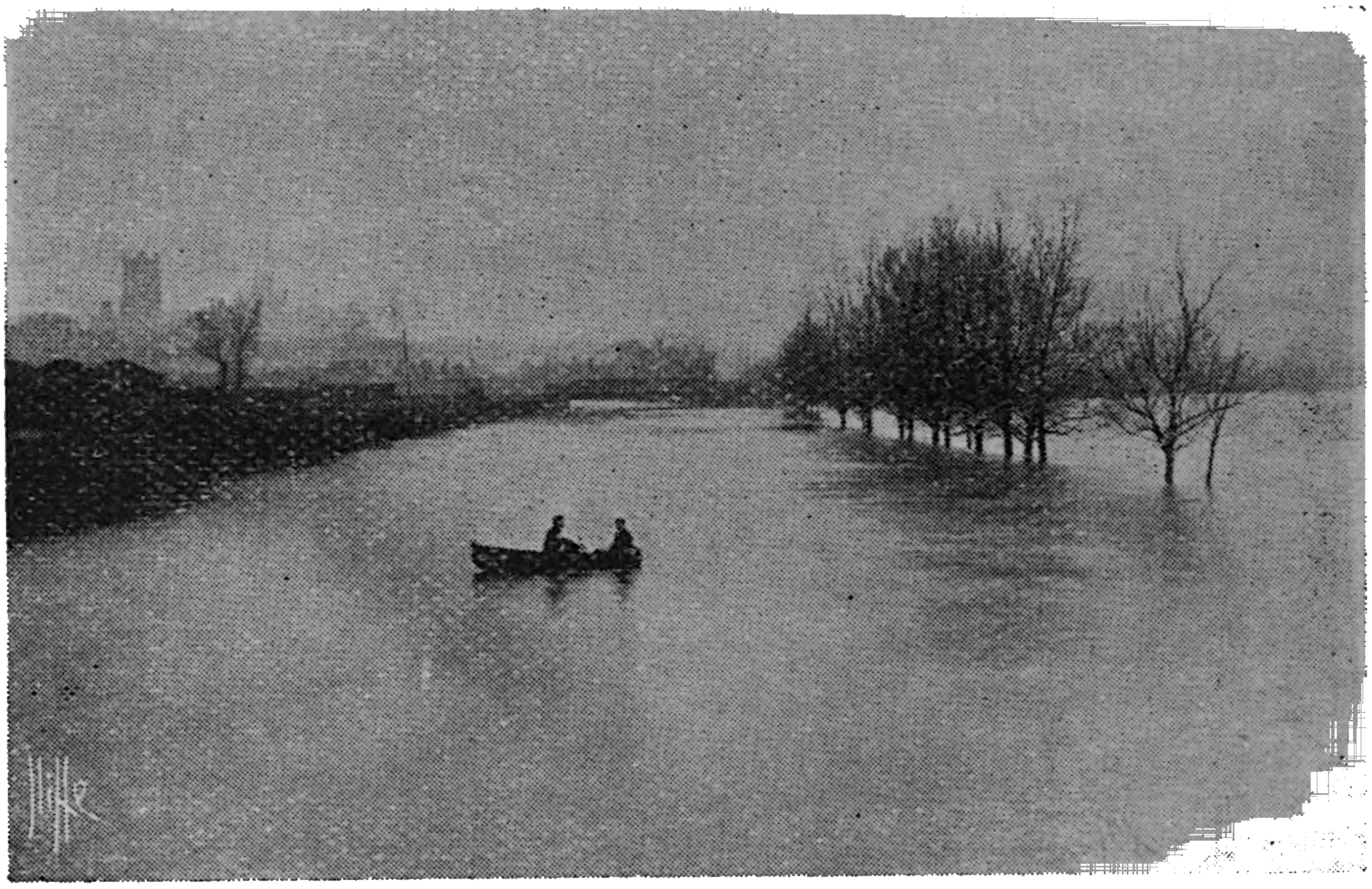
OLD COTTAGE, BURNT FEN.

feather and fur which abound, according to their several seasons. These also find a ready sale at the markets far and near.

The scenery between Ely and Littleport is as near Dutch as can be found out of Holland. The river is banked high on either side, and the forms of the cows standing here and there outlined against the sky present a foreign appearance. Proceeding as far as Southery on the Norfolk border, a beautiful view of fenland can be obtained. Passing under the old bridge at Littleport, the ferry at Southery is soon reached, and a short walk brings the visitor to the village. The view from the old

mill shows an immense stretch of country lying below, with Southery Fen and the adjoining district fruitful in crops and corn.

This much for the visitor who takes delight in the beautiful in nature, but fenland offers special attractions



FLOOD TIME IN THE FENS.

to the historian, antiquary, archæologist, naturalist, geologist, and engineer. It can boast of its poets and heroes—poets of no mean order, and heroes who stand in the forefront of history.

CHAPTER VI.

ANTIQUITIES.

RELIGIOUS HOUSES, ABBEYS, AND PRIORIES.

ELY ABBEY was founded by Ætheldreda in A.D. 673. She was the first abbess. Her right of rule over the Isle of Ely was derived from her husband Tonbert, a prince of the Gyrvil, or fen people. This monastery rose to great importance. Of the old buildings of this first Saxon monastery, or of the church that Ætheldreda built in connection with it, not a stone now remains. That it was on the site of the present buildings there is no doubt, although it is said she had commenced at first to build a mile south of the present church at a place called Cratendune, where, according to a later tradition of Norman times, a church had been founded in 607 by Ethelbert at the instigation of St. Augustine.

From this place, however, the building was almost at once removed to the high ground where the cathedral now stands. The monastery passed through many vicissitudes, and was heroically defended on many occasions, but submitted to the power of Duke William, and was changed into a bishopric in the year 1109, Hervey being its first prelate, and it shared the fate of other monastic houses in the reign of Henry VIII., when its revenue amounted to about £13,000 per year, according to the value of money to-day. Details of this history are recorded by William of Malmesbury in "Gesta Pont.," lib. iv., 184.

THORNEY.—This spot was selected for the establishment of a religious house at the time that Wulphere and his kin went to the consecration of the church at Peterborough, details of which are given in Warner's "History of Thorney Abbey." Abbot Saxulf requested

of that Mercian king a grant of Thorney, saying, "There is an island here which is called Ancarig, and my desire is that we build a minster there to the glory of St. Mary, so that those may dwell therein who wish to lead a life of peace and rest."

Thorney, in common with other monasteries, suffered during the Danish invasions, but revived in the reign of Edgar.

Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, established himself at Thorney about 964, and gained possession of land sufficient to maintain himself and twelve monks. To effect this, he cleared the land of thorns and brambles. The abbey buildings were of great extent. During the next hundred and ten years as many as five abbots ruled the monastery, and in 1082 Goutier was appointed to the office. He rebuilt the conventual church. The present church formed the nave of that edifice, and the west front, with towers and spires, was finished ten years afterwards.

The monastery remained down to the dissolution in the year 1539, when the abbey site and all the buildings were granted by Henry VIII. to Lord Russell, subsequent Earl of Bedford.

One hundred years afterwards the Walloons settled here, as refugees from the Continent. These folk were most industrious, and worked well at draining the lowlands, and in raising corn and colza from which they extracted oil. Particulars of these interesting people can be had from "The History of Thorney," by Warner. The famous "Thorney Red Book" is an ancient manuscript written in red ink, and is in possession of the Earl of Westmoreland. Ancient relics have been discovered, including urns and coins of Trajan. Further particulars of Thorney, see page 136.

CROWLAND ABBEY, although not in Cambridgeshire, is so near to it that it must be mentioned here, especially as it is included in fenland. This abbey was founded in 716 by Ethelbald, in fulfilment of a promise made to one Guthlac, a hermit. History tells us that this man was born in 673. He became a soldier, but very soon afterwards entered a monastery at Repton in Derbyshire. He afterwards sought more seclusion than monastic life afforded, so became an anchorite, and was directed to a solitary uninhabited place in the depth of the fens. It

all sides except the north and east, and that only by narrow causeways." This was so in Camden's day, but the drainage system has entirely altered the condition of things in this district.

Ethelbald granted the whole of the island of Crowland to one Kenulph, a monk of Evesham, for the purpose of supporting a society of monks, exempting it for ever from all secular payments and service.

RAMSEY is another of the religious houses of the fens, and was founded by St. Oswald and Æthelwine of East Anglia in the year 969. The abbey was dedicated to SS. Mary and Benedict, and occupied by Black Monks. It was very richly endowed; its annual value was about £18,000 of present money. This abbey was visited in 1154 by Henry II., and in 1309 by Queen Isabella. For further details see "History of Ramsey," by Wise.

SPALDING was another famous house; it was commenced in 1052 by Thorold, brother of Godiva, and consisted of a prior and five monks from Crowland. Lucia, the heiress of Thorold, was, according to the record, married to Ivo de Talbois, a nephew of the Conqueror. The refectory of the priory still exists; it is divided into several dwellings, called Abbey Buildings. The privileges of Spalding were granted to the Convent of Angiers. Lucia appears to have outlived Ivo, and altogether she had three husbands, and after the death of Ralph, the third husband, gave a confirmation of the liberties of Spalding to the monks of Angiers, 1129.

Ivo Taille-Bois, as well as Lucia, were buried here in 1104 and 1141 respectively.

PETERBOROUGH, although not within the limits of the shire, cannot be passed over, as it is one of the attractions of the fenland, and within easy distance of the northern portion of the county. Being only twenty-one miles from Wisbech, no one visiting the latter would think of omitting the run to the cathedral city, as the abbey takes precedence of all fen monasteries founded in 650. According to the Saxon chronicle, Penda, king of Mercia, and Oswin, king of Northumberland, agreed that they would rear a monastery to the glory of Christ and the honour of St. Peter. This they accomplished, and called it Medeshamstede, on account

of the well near by known as Mede's Well. Æthelred obtained for it special privileges from the then Pope, which were fully enjoyed for nearly a thousand years. "I will and grant that every man who had promised to go to Rome and cannot perform it, either from infirmity, etc., be he of England, or of whatsoever other island he be, let him go to the monastery at Medeshamstede and have the same forgiveness that he should have if he went to Rome."

Peterborough, however, was not erected into a bishopric till after the dissolution. Henry VIII. conferred this privilege upon his wife Katherine, whose remains lie in the north side of the cathedral under a slab bearing a simple inscription engraved upon a thin brass plate much worn, which, however, is said not to be the original plate. Further and fuller particulars may be found in "The Way About Northamptonshire," in the special records relating to the abbey and cathedral of Peterborough.

RAMSEY is noted for its famous monastery, founded by St. Oswald and Æthelwine of East Anglia in the year 969, and dedicated to SS. Mary and Benedict. The abbey was very richly endowed and occupied by the order of Black Monks.

BRASSES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The study of these ancient monumental records have occupied the attention of many students in all counties of England, and Cambridgeshire will be found not wanting in interest for those engaged in this fascinating quest, for the county is a good average one from a brass collector's point of view, although there are but few of special merit, most of them being of small consequence. These, however, should be seen, when each visitor can decide as to whether they are worth a rubbing. To those interested in this study, great help may be obtained from the "Monumental Brass Society" (Sec., Mr. F. W. Short, Leytonstone, Essex). The kinds of brasses to be met with are: Ecclesiastics at Fulbourn, Ely, and Burwell. These are in eucharistic vestments; others appear in deacons' and academical dress at the various churches throughout the shire. Besides the

places named, Balsham and Great Shelford should be mentioned.

The principal group of Cambridgeshire brasses are military effigies; many of these are accompanied by one or more female figures. The dates range from 1289 (Trumpington) to 1520 (Christ's College).

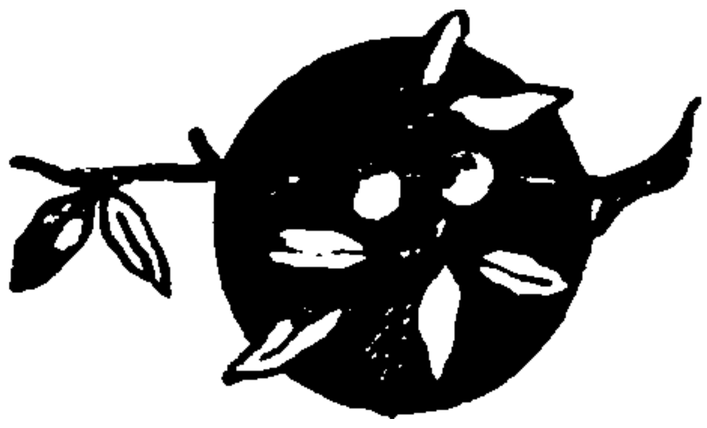
Civilians are few in number, none being of any importance.

Ladies generally accompany the husbands' effigies; there are, however, single figures at Wicken (1414) and Stretham (1497).

Skeletons shown on brasses are only to be met with at Hildersham and Sawston.

Cross brasses, religious figures, and accessories, may be found, whilst as regards palimpsests, only three have as yet been discovered. These are at Burwell, Grantchester, and Queen's Chapel, Cambridge.

In all, there are eighty-two figure brasses remaining in the county. Permission is freely given to rub the majority of these, but it is withheld at Hildersham, and a fee of 2s. 6d. is charged at Trumpington and Westley Waterless, except the applicant is a member of the Monumental Brass Society.



CHAPTER VII.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FROM A TOURIST POINT OF VIEW.

WHAT TO SEE IN OR NEAR CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

ANCIENT EARTHWORKS.—These may be found at Wandlebury, on the Gog-Magog Hills, and at Arbury, near Cambridge.

TUMULI on the hills at Willingham.

ANCIENT CAMPS at Shelford Castle and many other places, especially in the south-east. Those at Chesterton and Grantchester were Roman. Other ancient foundations were the Devil's Ditch, Newmarket, Fleam Dyke, Balsham, Brent Dyke, and Pampisford.

There are no remains of castellated buildings in Cambridgeshire. At Wisbech there was a Norman castle, and another at Ely, but no traces remain.

CASTLES OR REMAINS exist at Cheveley and Burwell; others were formerly at Cambridge, Ely, and Wisbech.

ECCLESIASTICAL REMAINS at Angelsea Denny, Cambridge, Swaffham and Isleham, Spinney Abbey (near Burwell), Thorney Abbey, and also many ancient churches at Cambridge, such as St. Giles, St. Benet's, St. Radegund's, and St. Sepulchre, which is the oldest of the four existing round churches in England. Ely Cathedral, one of the finest in the country, consists of a Norman nave and west front, with a noble tower, Early English gallery porch, Decorated choir, octagon, and lantern, and Perpendicular lady chapel.

King's College Chapel at Cambridge is one of the three finest examples of Perpendicular work in England, the churches of Soham, Histon, and Leverington being

Early English ; Trumpington, Bottisham, Little Shelford, Elsworth, Willingham, Over and Long Stanton are Decorated; those of March, Wisbech, and Whittlesea are Perpendicular. It may be said that the whole of fenland is especially rich in ecclesiastical architecture, especially of the fifteenth century.

Ancient Mansions.—Gog-Magog, near Cambridge; Cheveley and Chippenham Parks, near Newmarket; Wratting Park, Balsham; Bottisham Park; Madingley Hall; Brabraham Hall, near Linton; Bourn Hall; Wimpole Park; Croxton Park, near Caxton; Pampisford Hall; Sawston Hall and Abington Park; Kirtling Hall remains, near Newmarket. Very little domestic architecture can be found in the shire. The only notable examples are the following: The School of Pythagoras at Cambridge was a Late Norman manor house; the President's Lodge at Queen's College is Elizabethan; the Bishop's Palace at Ely is Tudor; Sawston Hall is Late Tudor; Madingley Hall dates from 1600; Wimpole about 1750; the George Inn at Caxton is Jacobean. These are all worth the attention of the architectural student.

Of course the chief objects of interest for antiquarians are centred in the University, the date of the foundation of which has been the subject of much research and controversy. The legend runs that it owes its origin to Cantaber, a Spanish prince, brother of Partholin, king of Ireland, son-in-law of Gurguntius, king of part of Great Britain, who is said to have built a town on the river Cante, three hundred years before the commencement of the Christian era, and to have brought philosophers and astronomers from Athens, among whom were Anaximander and Anaxagoras. These endeavours to pierce into prehistoric gloom serve to give range to fancy, and to form a background for history, but the story is in no ways reliable.

Of the various styles of architecture to be found in Cambridge, the following may be named in the order of precedence:

Saxon in St. Benedict's Church and in Little St. Mary's.

Norman in Old St. Giles chancel, the Round Church (St. Sepulchre's), and in the chapel of Jesus College.

Transition in Pythagoras School and the chapel of Jesus College.

Early English in Abbey Church and Jesus College Chapel chancel.

Decorated in Little St. Mary's and St. Edward's.

Perpendicular in King's College Chapel and Great St. Mary's Church.

Renaissance in the second court of Christ's College.

Gothic in Peterhouse Chapel.

Corinthian and Composite in Clare College Chapel, the Senate House, and the Fitzwilliam Museum.

The whole district surrounding Cambridge abounds in varieties of church architecture, each of which is worth the attention of the visitor interested in such studies, whilst the Cathedral of Ely presents several styles common from the eleventh to the sixteenth centuries.

Further particulars of the several places mentioned here will be more fully detailed in their various localities.

ANCIENT ROADS.

Two great lines of road passed through Cambridgeshire, crossing each other nearly at right angles in the centre of the Roman station.

First, the Akerman Street, which, starting from the north coast of Norfolk, terminated by a junction with the Fosse Way at Cirencester.

Second, the so-called Via Devana, leading from Colchester to Chester. Some fancied roads besides these are recorded by historians.

Other roads that passed through the county were Ermine Street, Icknield Way, Ashwell Street, Peddar Way, the Fen Road, Ely and Spalding Way, Suffolk and Sawtry Way, Aldreth Causeway, Bury, Wisbech, and Spalding Way, Bullock Way, and Knut's Dyke. Space will only allow of these ancient roads and ways to be mentioned; detailed accounts of each as well as other facts connected with them can easily be found in the historical records.

All tourists who are interested in the study of the Roman roads in Great Britain will find much in this county to engage their attention, as many of those named may be clearly traced.

ANCIENT DITCHES.

The four remarkable ditches to be found in the southern part of the shire are worthy of notice, as they

are believed to be the strongest boundary ditches in Great Britain.

THE DEVIL'S DITCH is the most easterly, extending across Newmarket Heath from the fens at Reach, or Reche, to the woodlands at Camois Hall, near Wood Ditton, and is nearly straight throughout, lying from north-west to south-east.

THE FLEAM, or BALSHAM DYKE, is seven miles to the west of the Devil's Ditch; it is not straight, as is the latter, but curved to meet the requirements of the ground. It begins at Fen Ditton, close to the river Cam, below the church, and can still be traced along the road to Quy. At Quy Bridge it is lost sight of until Great Wilbraham is reached, where it runs due south to Shardlows Well, near Fulbourn, and is well preserved until close to Balsham.

THE BRENT, or PAMPISFORD DITCH, is only one mile and threequarters in length, and of slight depth, it begins at Brent Ditch end at Pampisford, and runs nearly south-east to a spot close to Abington Park. At Brent Ditch end a marshy district commences, which is connected with, and continued along, the course of the river Granta or Cam until it joins the Great Level of the Fens.

THE BRAN, or HAYDON DITCH, commences at the south end of a fen called Melbourn Common. This may be traced for about two miles to Haydon Grange, and then one mile further to the village of Haydon.

FAIRS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Fairs are generally understood to be privileged markets held at stated times in each year. The origin of such institutions is of ancient date, connected with religious festivals during the early days of Christianity. These gatherings were usually held for the sale of agricultural produce, animals, and implements connected with farming. But railways and improved communications generally have rendered many of them quite unnecessary for the purposes of trade, so that where they are still held they are diverted from their original purpose to mere gatherings for merry making. An old English fair is rarely to be met with in the present day. But at some of these country gatherings much may be seen that is characteristic of the county in which they are being held. The few fairs now to be visited should claim the attention of the tourist, as he will find much of interest both in the place and people, and the study of Old English practices and merry making still preserved will be entirely new and novel. The following list for the county will prove of use to the stranger :

Cambridge—June 24th and September 25th.

Chatteris—The last Friday in April and October 11th.

Ely—The last Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in May and October.

March—The Monday before Whit-Sunday and third Tuesday in October.

Newmarket—Whit-Tuesday and November 8th.

Thorney—Whit-Monday, July 1st, and September 21st.

Wisbech—March 8th, second Thursday in May, July 25th, first Thursday in August, and the third Wednesday in September.

The noted fair of Stourbridge, or, as it is locally known, "Stirbitch," is historically famous, and at one time was of vast extent. It was established during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and soon became one of the largest fairs in England. Originally it lasted six weeks, but now it has much fallen off, and is continued for seven days only. This fair was held on a large space of ground bounded by the Cam on the north, and on the east by a small stream known as the Sture, over which there was a bridge, hence the name "Sture" or "Stourbridge." This whole area was filled

with booths arranged in rows for purposes of trade. Adjoining there was a large square called "The Duddery," the chief rendezvous of clothes dealers. In the centre of this was still another square, in which a pulpit was erected from which the minister of Barnwell preached on the two principal Sundays of the fair. The proclamation of the fair was conducted with much form and ceremony, and with becoming dignity by the mayor of Cambridge in a scarlet robe, attended by his mace-bearers, aldermen, and other members of the corporation, all dressed according to their degrees, with a few members of the Church.

The cavalcade having arrived on the ground, the recorder read the proclamation; they then proceeded to the court house or little inn, where it was again read, and then the mayor, with his principal officers, entered the inn where he opened the court of *pied-poudre*, afterwards returning to the centre of the fair, where the proclamation was fully made and refreshment partaken of.

The party returned to Cambridge, where a good corporation dinner closed the labours of the day.

The importance of fairs, especially this last, can be estimated by the great extent of the ground it occupied and the business transacted. It was the chief market of the district for the sale of cheese, wool, hops, coal, pottery, leather, besides miscellaneous articles of local manufacture.

Another fair worth noting, which will prove interesting to a stranger, is Midsummer Fair, granted by King John to the Priors and Canons of Barnwell. This was held on the eve of Ætheldreda or St. Awdrey. This saint is said to have died from a swelling in the throat, which was considered to be a judgment on her for her fondness for necklaces.

On this account chains of lace and silk were here offered for sale, and purchased as mementoes by visitors. Such mementoes were called St. Awdrey's chains, which, being made of flimsy material of gay colour, gave rise to the word "tawdry," meaning a gay pattern article.

Reach Fair was also granted by King John in 1200 to the burgesses of Cambridge, to be held in Rogation Week. This takes place at Reach, ten miles from

Cambridge, on Rogation Monday, the mayor and corporation attending in state to proclaim it.

Ancient Garlic Lane Fair, granted by King Stephen to the nuns of St. Radegund, was held on the vigil and feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which fair continued to the present century. Professor Humphrey thinks that probably this was the fair said to have been granted to the nuns in 1438, and held first where the garden of Jesus College lodge now is, and subsequently near Garlic Fair Lane, now called Park Street, in Cambridge. This fair was in existence as late as 1808, and was called Garlick Lane Fair.

CHAPTER IX.

ROUTES.

WHAT is known as the Cathedral Route, from London to the North, runs through Cambridgeshire, the first halting place, of course, being Cambridge. So interesting is this ancient town, that weeks might profitably be spent here. The many colleges, comprising the University, are sufficient to attract all kinds of visitors. The order of their foundation is as follows: St. Peter's, Clare, Pembroke, Caius, Trinity Hall, Corpus Christi, King's, Queen's, St. Catherine's, Jesus, Christ's, St. John's, Magdalene, Trinity, Emmanuel, Sidney Sussex, Downing, Cavendish, Selwyn, and Ayerst. Besides these, but not attached to the University, are Girton and Newnham, which are restricted to ladies.

It is not enough that the visitor sees one college, and considers that all others are merely repetitions; this is not so, for every one named has its own special feature. Each one should be seen and studied, for here every style of architecture will be found represented.

The next point of interest on this route is Ely, fifteen miles from Cambridge, and seventy and a half miles from London. Ely presents the purest specimen of Gothic architecture in England, and from its peculiar position—in the very heart of the fen country—it is the most imposing, as well as being the largest, of all our English cathedrals. Details of this will be found on page 98.

From Ely other cathedral cities may be easily reached, such as Norwich, Peterborough, Lincoln, and York. These do not come within our province, but owing to the nearness of Peterborough a few words will not be out of place, as few visitors to Cambridgeshire will omit the seeing of it. From March a short line runs due west by

which the city is reached, so long noted for its famous Benedictine abbey of former days, but known to us moderns as Peterborough Cathedral.

Prior to the year 1557 the monastic church of St. Peter, at "Peter's Burgh," was under the rule of a mitred abbot, but in that year Henry VIII., having confiscated its endowments, elected to form a new diocese out of part of that of Lincoln, and gave back one third of the property wherewith to endow the bishopric as at present existing. Although on the whole inferior to the cathedral of Ely, the west front of Peterborough has been described by at least one eminent authority as "the grandest and finest in Europe."

CHAPTER X.

CYCLING INFORMATION AND RIVER TRAVEL.

CYCLING INFORMATION.

IN this district is the largest plain in England, the northern part of Cambridgeshire, as far as those portions of Lincolnshire that border on the Wash. Large tracts of land are being continually reclaimed from it. This plain measures about seventy miles long by thirty broad, within which limit are the fens. The high roads are good, some, however, that are slightly below the level are somewhat loose, but being of a sandy character on the whole may be considered the cyclists' paradise, as they afford good running, many of them being quite level. Those on the eastern side of the county are among the best in England.

On account of this level character, the country on either side of the cyclist may be seen to a considerable distance. The whole county may be visited in a short space of time. For halting places, the following towns should be chosen: Cambridge, Ely, March, Whittlesea, Wisbech, and Newmarket.

CYCLING HOUSES.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Bull, Trumpington Street
Livingstone, temperance house.
CHATTERIS.—The George.
ELY.—The Bell, High Street.
City, Market Place, temperance house.
LINTON.—The Swan.
MARCH.—The Griffin.

NEWMARKET.—The White Hart. Cyclists are not desired during race meetings.
SOHAM.—The Crown.
THORNEY.—Rose and Crown.
WHITTLESEA.—The Falcon.
WISBECH.—The White Hart.

The White Lion temperance house.

The cyclist will find this portion of England easy and pleasant travelling, the roads being level and very good throughout. One or two outline routes are here given and may be followed by the map:

No. 1.—London to Cambridge. Starting from London (Shoreditch Church), distances from starting point (Shoreditch Church)—Stamford Hill 3¼m., Tottenham High Cross 4¼m., Edmonton 7m., Waltham Cross 11¼m., Cheshunt 13m., Hoddesdon 17m., Ware 21m., Wade's Mill 22¾m., High Cross 23½m., Colliers End 24¾m., Puckeridge 26½m., Backway 34½m., Trumpington 48¾m., and Cambridge 51m.

No. 2.—From Cambridge to Ely. Chesterton 1½m., Milton 3½m., Waterbeach 5½m., Stretham 12m., and Ely 16m.

No. 3.—From Ely to Littleport, across the Ouse to Southery, Hilgay, Denver, and Downham Market. Total distance 17m.

No. 4.—Wisbech to Walsoken, Walton Highway, Walpole Highway, Tilney St. Lawrence, Tilney, and Lynn. Total distance 14½m.

No. 5.—Wisbech, Leverington, Newton, Tydd St. Giles, Sutton St. James, returning to Wisbech by way of Tydd St. Mary. Total distance 18m.

No. 6.—Wisbech to Elm, Friday Bridge, and March. Total distance 11m.

No. 7.—Wisbech to Emneth, Outwell, Nordelph and Downham Market. Total distance 12m.

No. 8.—Wisbech, West Walton, Walpole St. Andrew, Walpole St. Peter, Terrington St. John's, and Terrington St. Clement's. Total distance 10m. A further journey of 3½m. brings the tourist to Hungry Hill, where the newly reclaimed lands can be seen, also the sea walls.

It will be seen by a study of the map that some of the places named are outside of Cambridgeshire, but many of them are so close to the border line that travellers in fenland cannot fail to see them. For noteworthy

CHAPTER XI.

FISHING AND SHOOTING INFORMATION.

FISHING INFORMATION.

CAMBRIDGE.—Coarse fish can be obtained in the Cam River. From the town as far as Littleport on the Ouse below Ely water is preserved by the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, but tickets can be had from the hon. sec. at Cambridge, Ely, Littleport, and Newmarket. Pike can be taken in fair numbers below Baitsbite Locks; there is also good fishing in the South Level Cut. Good trout fishing may be had at Linton, nine miles from Cambridge, by permission from a Fellow of Pembroke College.

ELY.—Good fishing from the junction of the Cam with the Ouse, three miles above the city, to Littleport, seven miles below, preserved as stated above. Tickets may be had on application at the Lamb and Bell Hotels.

LITTLEPORT.—Good coarse fish can be obtained from the Ouse. See previous details, Cambridge and Ely. Full information may be obtained from Thomas South, Sandhill Bridge, Littleport. The Great Ouse below the creek is preserved by Captain Taylor. A fine stretch of the Ouse, two miles in length, connects the Cambridge and Ely Angling Association fishing with Mr. Luddington's water, which is preserved by the Ouse and Nene Fishery District Board: in this water netting is prohibited.

MILDENHALL DRAIN.—There is only poor fishing.

OLD CROFT RIVER.—Very indifferent sport is obtained.

THE LARK RIVER.—Free coarse fishing fair, three miles south. This stretch of water is free.

THE LITTLE OUSE or BRANDON is preserved three miles north by Mr. Luddington. There are, however, a limited number of tickets granted. Apply at the Ship Inn.

MARCH.—Pike, perch, bream, and other fish may be taken from the old river Nene.

WISBECH.—The river Nene furnishes pike, perch, bream, and roach. The Nene rises above Weedon in Northamptonshire, and passes through many places in the adjoining county well known to anglers. The main stream, however, runs through the fens to Guyhirn, which is on the new Nene navigable river, three miles north-west from March Railway Station, G.E.R. The length of river through the fens to Guyhirn is twelve miles, then to Wisbech seven miles. The right branch known as the old river Nene runs round by Ramsey (Hunts); two miles below Ramsey on the right bank is Ramsey Mere, then a stretch of ten miles to March.

The Old Welney River is eight miles long, joining on the right bank. Three miles further, at Outwell, the Nene joins the Wisbech Canal, which runs six miles to Wisbech. From here the Nene flows three miles to Ferry Station.

The fen district is so cut up and intersected by watercourses of all kinds that it would be quite impossible to name all the streams, or even to indicate the direction in which they run. They all contain fish of various kinds, and most are free, but the better class fishing can only be followed in preserved waters; the cost for this privilege is small, and need not be considered by any angler, as the outlay will be a judicious one.

WATERBEACH.—Cam river, good fishing for pike, perch, chub, roach, etc., in preserved water.

BOTTISHAM LOAD.—Pike, perch, and roach.

SWAFFHAM LOAD.—Apply at the inn, House of Lords.

STRETHAM.—The Ouse, for coarse fish, except barbel.

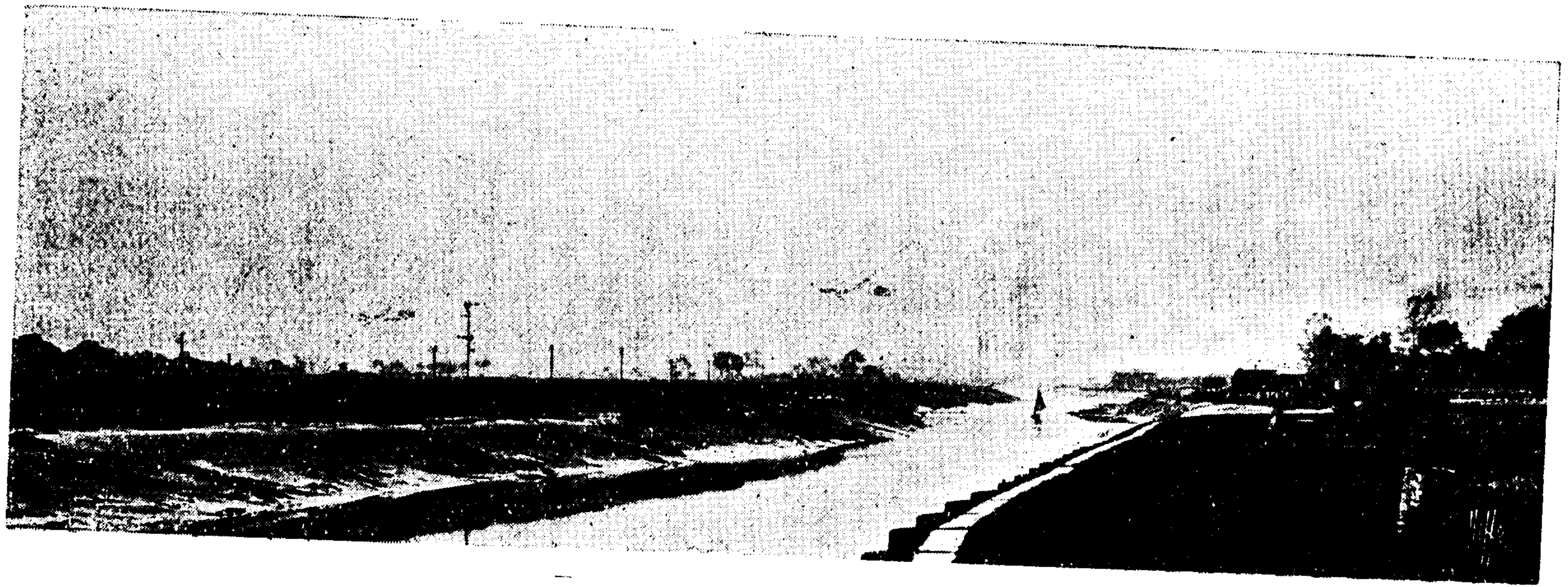
THETFORD.—Two miles from Stretham, the same as preceding.

SWAVESEY.—Good fishing in the Ouse; from this place waters preserved.

SHELFORD.—Good fishing in the Cam for pike, perch, dace, roach, chub, etc.; preserved waters.

PAMPISFORD.—The Bourn provides coarse fish, but a few trout may also be taken.

MELDRETH.—From the Rhea at this point, there is good coarse fishing at times.



THE NENE, NEAR WISBECH.

LORD'S BRIDGE.—The Bourn furnishes pike, roach, etc. The Cam, about three miles, chub, pike, and dace; this water is preserved.

LINTON.—The Bourn for trout; here is good fishing, the water being preserved by the authorities of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

KENNET, a small village on the Kennet or Kent brook.—Small fishing here at times.

HARSTON, on the Rhea.—Coarse fish only; also from the Cam, three miles.

GAMLINGAY.—Fishing may be had in the lakes in Gamlingay Old Park.

FULBOURN.—Perch, roach, etc., may be taken from Bottisham Load.

FRENCH DROVE.—The Muscat River, or Catswater, formerly a branch of the Nen.

FORDHAM.—Here is the Kennet or Kent River.

EYE GREEN.—The Muscat River (see also French Drove).

FISHING STATIONS

On the various rivers of the district, with their distance from London:

THE CAM.—Audley End 41m., Elsenham 38m., Great Chesterford 48m., Newport 42½m., Shelford 55m., Waterbeach 61m., and Whittlesford 49m.

THE OUSE.—Bluntisham 74m., Bottisham 61¾m., Downham 86m., Earith Bridge 76m., Ely 70½m., Hilgay Fen 83¾m., Littleport 76m., St. Ives 70½m., and St. Neots 51¼m.

LITTLE OUSE.—Burnt Fen 77m.

THE NENE.—March 88m. and Wisbech 93½m.

These stations can all be reached from London by Great Eastern Railway (Liverpool Street).

SHOOTING INFORMATION.

THE WILDFOWL PRESERVATION ACT.—The close time has been varied by the Secretary of State, so that the killing, wounding, or taking of wildfowl, as defined by the Wildfowl Preservation Act, 1876, is prohibited from the 15th March up to and including the 1st August in each year. The birds affected by this Act are: Avoset, curlew, dotterel, dunbird, godwit, greenshank, lapwing, mallard, sanderling, sandpiper, sealark, shoveller, snipe,

spoonbill, stint, stone curlew, stone hatch, summer snipe, teal, thick knee, whaup, whimbrel, widgeon, wild duck, wild goose, woodcock, ox bird, peewit, phalarope, plover, plover's page, pochard, purre, redshank, reeve and ruff.

Many of these birds are by no means common in the fens, but specimens may often be met with. Most of the birds visit the district in flocks during the spring on their way northwards to their breeding haunts, and again in autumn on their return southwards for the winter. On a shooting expedition it is very necessary to understand the district. Much time will be saved if this information is sought beforehand.

The drainage of this district has entirely changed the shooting prospects, as will be seen by the present aspect of the fens compared with the account given by Mr. Wheeler, who gives a graphic account of former times. He says: "In isolated spots, scattered over the low-flooded fen part, live the fen slodgers, the half amphibious beings described by Macaulay who got their living by fishing and fowling. These men lived in huts erected on the mounds scattered amongst the chain of lakes which were bordered by a thick crop of reeds, their only way of access to one another and of communication with the town or villages near being by means of small boats or canoes which they propelled with a pole, and also used in their fowling expeditions. These fowlers were strongly opposed to any attempts to alter the state of the fens, believing that they had a kind of vested interest in the fishing and fowling by which they gained their scanty subsistence, so that the proposal to drain these fens and convert them into fruitful lands had no attraction whatever in the eyes of the slodgers."

However, the work of draining has been done, and though the work of fowling is not quite so easy or so lucrative as formerly, there is still some sport to be had.

"Duck stalking," says Mr. Smith, an authority on the subject, "forms, with the majority of the native fowlers, an attribute of other operations for the slaughter of wild birds, for be it known that wild ducks do not make their way into the fens in anything like so large numbers as in the earlier generations, when the district was more 'fenny' in the true

meaning of the term. Green plover, or lapwing decoying, seems to be the staple calling of the present fen fowlers. Light boats or shouts are used, which are specially adapted to the shallow waters they have to navigate. They are flat bottomed, and few of them draw more than four inches of water. Fifteen feet is an average length, and three and a half feet the usual extreme breadth. They are so light as to be easily pulled over a protruding bank. The armament of these shouts consists in nearly every instance of a heavy, unwieldy duck gun, weighing about three and a half hundredweight, which reposes centrewise down the boat, the muzzle protruding over the bow end, and an ordinary double-barrelled breech-loading hand gun. If the fowlers see a quantity of duck or any other species which come under the name of half birds, as opposed to full birds, they instantly hide themselves and very quietly watch the birds' antics. The experienced eye can at once tell the variety that is approaching, whether full bird, mallard, teal, shovellers, widgeon or others." A most interesting account of "Wild Duck Stalking in the Fens" appeared in the *Windsor Magazine* for December, 1898, which will be found well worth reading.

CHAPTER XII.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

PERMISSION to photograph in cathedrals may be obtained upon application to the dean, in churches apply to the vicars, and in ruins of abbeys and castles upon application to the stewards. As a rule no objection is made to amateurs taking views in cathedrals and churches between the hours of divine service, but it is always better to apply for and obtain special permission of the persons named above.

As this district is most attractive to the architectural photographer, a few definitions will be helpful.

The Norman style of architecture, 1066 to 1154, may be recognised by the arches being circular, ornaments bold and rude, and heavy pillars with zigzag ornaments.

Transition, 1140 to 1200, similar to the Norman, but with pointed windows.

Early English, 1189 to 1272, narrow windows, lancet shaped, no mullions, toothed ornament—resembling shark's teeth. Clustered pillars.

Transition, 1260 to 1320, tracery introduced in windows.

Decorated English, 1300 to 1370, pointed arches, windows large with mullions, and graceful tracery in the shape of circles, and arches not running perpendicularly, doorways enriched, mouldings beautifully arranged, as may be seen in the Lady Chapel, Ely.

Perpendicular English, 1399 to 1547, upright lines of mouldings in windows, doorways run perpendicularly, often divided by horizontal divisions, called *transome*, pointed arches, and combination of square heads, such as may be seen in King's College, Cambridge.

Other styles of architecture need not be described, as they will not be met with in this locality.

London. This is a large and ancient manor, having a fine old church, well worth a visit. The road here divides, the branch to the right must be taken; before this is done it is worth seeing Pengelly Lodge, a short distance down the left-hand road. The lodge now is almost a ruin, but the association to many will be of interest. It was once the home of Richard Cromwell, and it was here that he ended his days. Near the church is the old Great House, which, it was believed, contained a haunted room, by the fact of the murder of a lady having been committed by order of Cardinal Wolsey. Broxbourne is a favourite resort for tourists and holiday makers.

Hoddesdon, 18¼ miles.

Hoddesdon is the next village. Here there is nothing special. From this point the road varies as far as Ware, twenty-one miles from London. This town is of some interest from historical associations, and specially noteworthy for the "Great Bed of Ware," twelve feet square, which is now at Rye House, and can be seen by visitors.

Ten miles further, on a good road, is Buntingford, an old-fashioned town with many quaint houses, old and new, which will be found in its one very long street. The various archways and entrances leading to stables, etc., are of great interest, also the old inn near the railway station with its quaint couplet:

"In this house here
Is sold the best of beer."

The next village is Chipping, with its remarkable array of thatched cottages. Buckland, another village, adjoins, where there is a stiff ascent, then a descent; another rise to Reed End, with a very various road,

Royston, 39 miles.

ending in a long descent and steep fall into the narrow street of Royston, thirty-nine miles from London. The greater part of this town is in Hertfordshire. For fuller particulars see "The Way About Hertfordshire." In passing through, the tourist will be attracted by the many old houses, such as the Palace, the Plough Inn, and other quaint buildings more or less in ruins. The church has nothing very special, except some very fine brasses. The chief attraction, however, of Royston is its wonderful cave, which is under a portion of Melbourne Street.

It is supposed to have been a Roman sepulchre, and to have received part of its present decorations during the time of the Crusades. The cave was discovered by workmen in the year 1742; it is well worth a visit. There are many other objects of interest in this quaint old town. Many tumuli are in the neighbourhood, which serve to prove that it was of some importance in British times, but as to its being a Roman station is a matter of uncertainty. It has figured considerably in later times. The Earl of Warwick gathered his army here before attacking St. Albans. James I. resided here, and Charles I. also was a frequent visitor. So that it is only during recent years that it has sunk into obscurity.

Royston Heath compares very favourably with the North and South Downs, so well known in Surrey and Sussex. About this neighbourhood will be noticed the peculiar white headed crows, known as "Royston Crows."

Crossing what is known as the Icknield Street, the traveller enters Cambridgeshire, as the town itself stands on the borderline of the two counties.

Three miles further is the large village of Melbourn, a place of unusual size for the neighbourhood. The church, All Saints, is a fine flint building in the Perpendicular and Decorated styles, and is somewhat remarkable for having a parvise chamber over the south porch. There is much here for the antiquarian and architectural student. Many fine monuments will be found within, and a remarkable memorial window to the Hitch family, who have been connected with the county for upwards of three hundred years. In the churchyard are the roots of the celebrated Melbourn elm, which, in the year 1837, was of flourishing growth, but is now only a stump.

Melbourn, 42 miles.

The adjoining village is Meldreth, where the old parish stocks still stand at the cross roads; beyond these and the church, there is nothing worth seeing.

Foxton, though but a small village, has a most interesting church of ancient origin; it is built of flint in the Early English style, also portions showing Decorated and Perpendicular. The points worthy of note are the eastern triplet, which is a splendid

Foxton, 45½ miles.

specimen of Early English, and contains some good fragments of fourteenth century glass, a double piscina in chancel, and also a singular recess like a *sedile;* the rood staircase and doors are in fine condition. In the north aisle will be found Decorated brackets. The font is Early English, but has been restored. There are also remains of mediæval colouring about the walls and windows, and one of the rarely to be met with "parcloses," an old family pew of bygone days.

Hareton, 47 miles.

Harston, on the banks of the Cam River, is within five miles of Cambridge, and is pleasantly situated, for below the mill the view presented is most charming.

Hauxton, 48½ miles.

Hauxton, one and a half miles further, contains a very Early Norman church with an ancient mural painting of St. Thomas of Canterbury. This is considered to be a priceless treasure, as all memorials of this saint are believed to have been destroyed by Henry VIII. There are many details of interest in the church which will repay examination.

Hauxton Mill on the Granta is close by. The picturesque cottages and fine chestnut trees present a charming view, such as would delight the heart of an artist or photographer.

Trumpington, 49¼ miles.

Trumpington, on the east bank of the Cam, is a village adjoining Cambridge, two miles from the town proper, although fast becoming a populous suburb. Trumpington, celebrated by the poet Chaucer as "the village not far from Grantchester," contains a fine church, and is worth a visit for many reasons, the chief being that on the altar tomb under a Decorated canopy in the north aisle is a famous brass of Sir Roger de Trumpington, dated 1289, noted as being the second oldest brass in Great Britain. The costume is chain mail, covered with a cyclas; on the shoulders are the remarkable ailettes, the epaulettes of to-day; the head rests on a large tilting helmet attached to the person by a chain; on the left arm is a shield with the arms of Trumpington—semé of crosslets, two trumpets in pale; the legs are crossed showing the knight to have been a Crusader.

Although the brass of Sir John D'Aubernon at

Stoke D'Abernon, in Surrey, is the older by a few years, this at Trumpington is the earliest known mailed figure with ailettes; the same arms are repeated on these and on the scabbard. The Trumpington family lived in this neighbourhood for over two hundred years.

The chancel of the church contains some fine specimens of stained glass of the fourteenth century.

It may be of interest to some that in the churchyard can be seen a tablet to the memory of Professor Fawcett, M.P., the celebrated blind postmaster-general, who died at Cambridge in the year 1884. The memorial window placed to his memory will be found in the church on the south side of the chancel.

Leaving the village, Cambridge is entered by Trumpington Street until Great St. Mary's Church is reached, when a halt may be made, having covered the distance of fifty-two and a half miles from London, the starting point, *en route* through portions of two counties—Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

CHAPTER XIV.

CAMBRIDGE, THE COUNTY TOWN

BEING A COMPLETE ITINERARY, WITH SPECIAL NOTES OF OBJECTS WORTH PHOTOGRAPHING, HOW TO DO IT, AND WHEN.

THE University town is situated on a large plain, almost at the boundary of the two divisions of the county, the Fenland and the Upland, but within the latter with an alteration of level of twenty-five feet to the sea. The town stands on a bend in the Cam River, and is a place of great antiquity, so that the Mound upon the Castle Hill is really the foundation stone. This mound is looked upon as one of the ancient British tumuli—British and Roman coins having been found here. It is supposed to be almost identical with the Roman *Camboritum*, the Saxon *Grantabrigge*, which occupied the north side of the river, but was extended to the south side after the Roman Conquest, while the *Caer Graunt* of the Britons is placed at Grantchester. *Cair*, or *Caer*, signifies a city, and *Grant*, or *Graunth*, indicates its size. But it is not thought at all likely that Grantchester was ever so large or important a place as Cambridge, because it was not upon any of the chief Roman ways, and from the fact that Cambridge stood at the meeting place of four high roads.

No doubt this commanding position was taken advantage of by the Romans, as they occupied the Mound and the sloping ground between it and the river. It was close to this mound that at least two of the great Roman roads crossed. The Via Devana can be traced to the Gog-Magog Hills, and this forms a broadway running beyond them, and coming to an end in the south-eastern part of the county. We have, therefore, a succession of names, Camboritum, *Cam*, crooked or bent; *Rhyd*, the Celtic for a ford, and the Saxon *Grantabrigge* or *Cantabrycge* and the word *shire* or A.S. *scyr*, which means a share or division. The history of the town after the Romans, and during the Saxon period, is of great

interest, the particulars of which do not come within our province in a "Way About." It is, however, thought that the town of Cambridge was never at any time a flourishing place, as it possesses but little manufacture or commerce. Gloves were made in the town in bygone days, for it is on record that Queen Elizabeth was, on one occasion, presented with a pair of Cambridge-made gloves, and gloves were also presented to certain persons connected with the schools. There are a few old houses remaining, which could never have been of much importance. Some of these were opposite Magdalene College. The best of the kind was Foster's Bank in Trinity Street, formerly the Turk's coffee house. The Falcon, an old inn dating before the days of Queen Mary; the Wrestlers, in Petty Cury, and others of less repute. To such visitors as may be interested in religious houses—where they once stood can be pointed out, although nothing now remains.

The White Canons had a house now occupied by Addenbrooke Hospital.

The Friars of the Sack had a home in St. Mary's parish about the year 1258; this order was suppressed in 1307. The supposed position they occupied is the ground now covered by the Fitzwilliam Museum.

The Carmelites, or White Friars, were first located at Chesterton, then at Newnham, finally in a position mid-way between Queen's and King's Colleges.

The Dominicans, or Black Friars, occupied the site of Emmanuel College.

The Franciscans, or Grey Friars, the site of Sidney College.

The Augustines, or Austin Friars, near the site of the New Museum, close to Mortlock's bank, and the refectory close by.

The Castle, erected on the Mound by William the Conquerer, played a conspicuous part in all military operations of the time, especially during the onslaught made against Hereward and his army, who sent out words of defiance from the camp of refuge which was at Ely. Through treachery, however, they were surprised by the Normans, and their stronghold taken. This is a matter of history.

The Priory, or Abbey of Barnwell, erected by Robert Duke of Normandy about the year 1112, was close to

the town of Cambridge, and at one time was a considerable monastery of some importance, for Henry II. once resided there, and held a Parliament in 1388. The name originated from a small well, around which it was the custom of the ancient folk to meet for the purpose of practising the popular games of the period. The significations of the word are many, the most acceptable is *Bearn*, Saxon for a champion, and *Wyl*, well, therefore *Bearnwyl* or modernised Barnwell.

To-day the more noteworthy buildings are near the banks of the Cam, where will be found the many colleges and halls of learning so instinct with the intellectual life of the present, and so full of memories of the past. Near these are what are known as the "Backs," in which will be found lawns and pleasure grounds made delightful with choicest flowers and luxuriant foliage, so as to present to view the most charming pleasure resorts second to none in England.

It is said that Cambridge is far from being so fine a place as Oxford, but the University buildings can hold their own against those on the Isis, being equal in age and grandeur. It is true that the Isis is a far nobler river than the sluggish Cam, but it can show nothing to compare with the noble "Backs" of Cambridge. At all seasons of the year beauty is not wanting, even dreary winter has a charm all its own, whilst in spring and early summer the view along the short half-mile once seen will never be forgotten, for it is a veritable paradise, and one of the fairest scenes of earth. Cambridge is a place to stay at, as it is simply impossible to see its beauties in a scamper of a few hours. Time, however, is not at the disposal of everyone, not even a tourist, and a stranger is liable to lose much time in finding out what he ought to see, and where it is to be found, and he very often duplicates his journeys for want of a systematic plan. To present such a plan to the visitor, we cannot do better than to reproduce a route laid down by a well-known director. Supposing our traveller arrives at Cambridge by rail, and enters the town at that point—the railway station—he will proceed along the Station Road, which is lined with modern residential villas. Hills Road extends on the right and left. The first-named is traversed by the tramway by way of Regent Street and St. Andrew's Street, and leads

by turning to the right on the opposite side of the way are the playing fields attached to the Leys School, bounded in the rear by a strip of fen common, from which the estate was formerly called Coe Fen Leys. This school is under the auspices of the Wesleyan Methodists. The premises may be viewed by sending a visiting card to the headmaster's house, which is at the top of the drive from the main entrance. The architecture of the buildings is modified Early Perpendicular, the material used is red brick, and the several blocks present a very imposing appearance.

Continuing the path from Nine Wells, a very curious structure will be seen at the end, known as Hobson's Conduit. The inscription states that it once stood upon Market Hill, and served as a conduit from 1614 to 1856, in which year it was removed to this spot and re-erected by public subscription. Thomas Hobson contributed to its erection, and bequeathed some land for its maintenance and £10 for making it higher.

This said Thomas Hobson was a Cambridge worthy; his calling was that of a carrier between Cambridge and London. He died in 1630 at the good old age of eighty-six years. Besides the carrying business, he was the first person in the kingdom who started the letting of horses for hire, by which he made much money. The ancient records tell us that "he kept a large stable of horses, good cattle, always ready, and fit for travelling, with boots, bridle, and whip, to furnish the gentlemen at once without going from college to college to borrow." But each customer was compelled to take the horse which stood next the door, so that every horse was ridden with equal justice, and customers were well served according to his chance. This gave rise to the well known proverb, "Hobson's choice, this or none." His death was hastened by the giving up of his journeys to London, owing to the prevalence of the plague at Cambridge. That Hobson was no ordinary person is proved by Milton's well-known lines :

> "Here lies one, who did most truly prove
> That he could never die while he could move;
> For he (Death) had, any time this ten years full,
> Dodged with him betwixt Cambridge and the Bull,
> And surely Death could never have prevailed,
> Had not his weekly course of carriage failed."

Taking up the route following the tramlines, Trumpington Street is entered. The large building of Addenbrooke's Hospital will be seen standing some little distance from the street in its own ground. This noble building was founded by the will of Dr. John Addenbrooke in 1719. It was reconstructed in 1823, and enlarged several times between 1864-83. Accommodation is provided for about one hundred and fifty patients. The hospital can be visited on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

On the opposite side of Trumpington Street will be seen the magnificent Fitzwilliam Museum. This is a Grecian building of Portland stone, designed by Basevi. The treasures of the museum consist of choice paintings and sculpture. A small museum of General and Local Archæology is in Little St. Mary's Lane, close by.

Near the church of St. Mary the Less is St. Peter's College, or, as it is generally known, "Peterhouse," founded in 1284. On the other side of Trumpington Street is Pembroke College, dating from 1348. Going down Pembroke Street the visitor arrives at Downing Street, where will be found (on the site of the original Botanic Garden) the University Museums. Admission daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Traversing our steps to Trumpington Street, the Gothic building of the Pitt Press, which was completed in the year 1833, in honour of Pitt the statesman, is seen.

Turning to the left, through Silver Street and Queen Street, by crossing the bridge, the river can be reached, and a walk taken along the Backs Road. But keeping to Queen Street, Queen's College will be seen, founded by Margaret of Anjou, queen of Henry VI., about the middle of the fifteenth century. This is one of the most interesting of the colleges in Cambridge. In one of the courts is a sundial, said to be the work of Sir Isaac Newton. The President's Lodge and Erasmus's Court are worth examination; they are rich in curiosities and pictures, which can only be seen by special permission. From the Garden Court fine views may be obtained of the river Cam, which is here spanned by the curious wooden bridge known as the Mathematical Bridge.

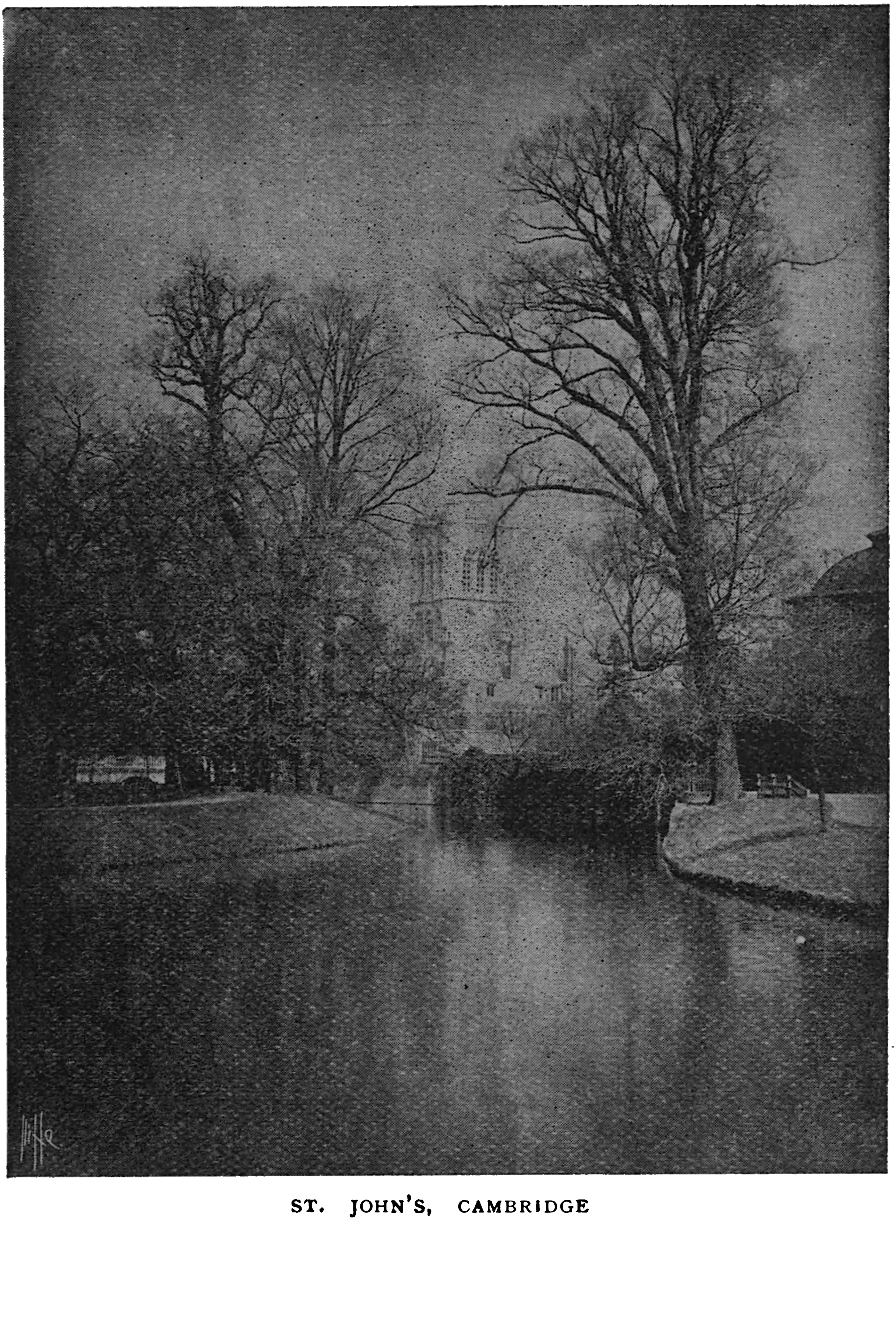
On the opposite side of Queen Street is St. Catherine's College, 1475. Crossing the quadrangle, Trumpington Street is again reached, close to Corpus Christi College, 1352. The most remarkable objects to be noted here are the grand entrance gateway, the chapel, the hall, and the famous library, containing books and manuscripts of priceless value. To see these treasures, special permission is neceasary.

Passing the well-known hostelry, the Bull, in a street on the right is the ancient church of St. Benedict. Crossing Peas Hill, the Guildhall will be seen. From thence, proceed to the King's Parade, one of the best streets in Cambridge, as it has, on the left, the famous Chapel of King's College, the Senate House, University Library, and Gonville and Caius College. Opposite the Senate House is the University Church of St. Mary the Great, in the tower of which hangs the companion bell of "Great Tom" of Oxford. On Market Hill are the Guildhall and Corn Exchange. A journey down Petty Cury will lead to the General Post Office and Christ's College, etc. King's College and all connected with it will occupy much time in seeing, as it is one of the finest examples of Perpendicular buildings existing. The chapel with its wonderful contents can be seen each week day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Opposite the King's Parade is the Senate House of the University. To the west is Clare College, and near by is Trinity Hall and Gonville and Caius College. Passing through Trinity Street, with St. Michael's Church on the right, is Trinity College, which is the best known in the United Kingdom. The library contains about 90,000 volumes, and nearly 3,000 rare manuscripts. This wonderful storehouse may be viewed every week day from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., or from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. if accompanied by a Fellow.

In reference to the University Library it was greatly enriched in the year 1715, when George I. gave the library of John Moore, Bishop of Ely, which he had bought for £6,000. This consisted of 30,755 volumes, 1,790 of which were manuscripts.

It was this gift which produced the famous epigrams which were commended by Dr. Johnson. About the time these books were sent to Cambridge a troop of horse was hurried to Oxford to seize certain Jacobite



ST. JOHN'S, CAMBRIDGE

officers who lodged there. The epigrams were as follow :

"The King observing with judicious eyes,
The state of both his Universities,
To one he sends a regiment ; for why ?
That learned body wanted loyalty.
To the other, books he gave, as well discerning
How much that loyal body wanted learning."

The retort was—

"The King to Oxford sent his troop of horse,
For Tories own no argument but force.
With equal care to Cambridge books he sent,
For Whigs allow no force but argument."

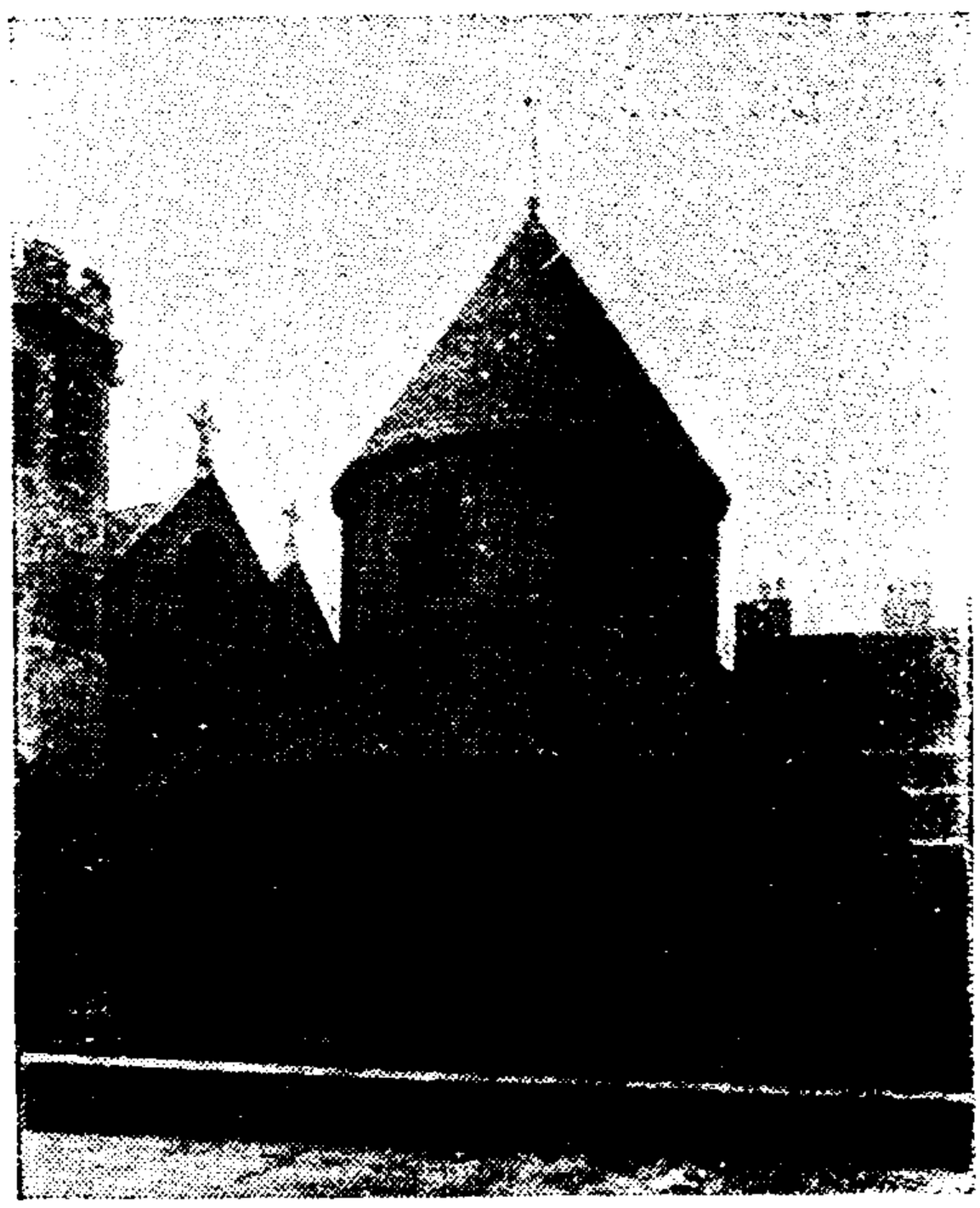
Returning to Trinity Street, St. John's Street follows, where are situated the Selwyn Divinity Schools, and on the opposite side is the brick gateway of St. John's College, founded in 1511. The chief attraction for visitors is the stately chapel, which can be viewed daily from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Leaving St. John's by a short walk, the church of St. Sepulchre is reached. This is perhaps better known as the Round Church, being the oldest of its plan in England, of which there are but four. Its principal attraction is the circular Norman nave. Continuing our journey along Bridge Street, St. Clement's Church is on the right. Crossing the Cam is the gateway of Magdalene College, connected with the famous Samuel Pepys of "Diary" fame. Beyond Magdalene to the left is Northampton Street, and Madingley Road leading to the Observatory.

Returning to the Round Church and proceeding by way of Sidney Sussex Street to Jesus Lane, All Saints' Church will be seen, and opposite, at the end of a stone passage, is the noble gateway of Jesus College, founded in the twelfth century. The chapel is handsome, in shape cruciform, and is well worth seeing. It can be viewed during term from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Returning to Sidney Sussex Street, the building on the left is Sidney Sussex College, dating from 1599. Leaving Market Street on the right, Trinity Church is passed, and opposite the General Post Office is Christ's College, which stands on the site of a small school which existed in the fifteenth century. The attraction of this college is the famous mulberry tree in the garden, said to have been planted by the immortal John Milton,

who was connected with the foundation. In St. Andrew Street is the Theatre Royal and Emmanuel College. Opposite the entrance is Downing Street, leading to the grounds of Downing College, and, reaching Regent Street, will be found the entrance to Parker's Piece, one of the public commons of Cambridge. At the end of Regent Street is the Roman Catholic Church, and where the four cross roads meet is known as Hyde Park Corner. To the right is Lensfield Road, through which the tramway runs. Gonville Place and East Road joins the Newmarket Road, near which are the few remaining



ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

ruins of the famous Barnwell Priory. A short distance further is Stourbridge Green. Very much more remains to be seen by the tourist beyond what has been enumerated, for Cambridge is a place most attractive for all kinds of visitors, and though it is possible to see much by following the lines laid down, more remains, equally deserving of mention, for there are few places of tourist resort more worthy of a lengthened sojourn than the University town of Cambridge.

Oscar Browning has quaintly asked, what made Cambridge a place of learning? Why did our ancestors choose this above all other spots to be the training ground of youth? The climate is slightly relaxing, the soil heavy, the atmosphere, if it does not stagnate like that of the

Thames Valley at Oxford and Eton, possesses little stimulus to vitality.

In Cambridge, our best authorities tell us, everything tends to quietude.

There are few births and few deaths—no one is in haste either to enter the world or to quit it. But without question the town and neighbourhood have beauties of nature which Oxford can scarcely rival. The reaches of the Cam, insignificant as they are, with the trees that shade it, are the favoured home of nightingales, for nowhere else in England do they sing so loudly or so long, so that on better acquaintance Cambridge and district will be found full of unsuspected beauties second to none among all the towns of England.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH IN CAMBRIDGE, AND WHEN.

Supposing the tourist enters the town from the Great Eastern Station, proceeding along the road following the tramlines, the first object of note will be the new Roman Catholic Church. Whether it is worth a plate must be left to the visitor; if taken, it may be done any time up to mid-day. Reaching Trumpington Street, Addenbrooke's Hospital will be on the right, and near by, on the left, the Fitzwilliam Museum. This is in classic style, and has a frontage of three hundred and fifty feet. A wide-angle lens is necessary here, and the most suitable time is during the morning before noon. A little beyond, on the same side of the street, is Peterhouse College, the oldest foundation in Cambridge. Use here a wide-angle lens before noon. On the opposite side is Pembroke College. The best time is during the afternoon. The Pitt Press, or the University Printing Works, is worth a plate. Then on the right is St. Botolph's Church and Corpus Christi College, taking the turning on the left —Silver Street—for Queen's College, Newnham, Ridley Hall, and what are known as the "Backs." All these require afternoon light. Returning to Trumpington Street, on the left are Corpus and St. Catherine's, and just about this point is one of the finest views to be found in Cambridge. On the left is the Gothic front of King's College with its chapel beyond, the University Library, Senate House, and the front of Caius College;

Near the east end of this chapel is the Round Church, or church of the Holy Sepulchre. As there are but four like this in all England, it must not be passed over. Views of the front are not easy to take owing to the row of trees, but a very good position is that from the side street, but the light is not always good from this point. The interior is exceedingly dark, rendering it most difficult to photograph. Keeping to the street on the left is Jesus Lane; the college of the same name is at the end of the thoroughfare. Leaving this, we come to Sidney College and Christ's College. Here is a mulberry tree planted by John Milton.

Then comes Emmanuel College, which can be taken about noon, proceeding to Hyde Park Corner for the Catholic Church.

For permissions, how obtained, and information as to dark rooms, see page 125.

CHAPTER XV.

ROUND ABOUT CAMBRIDGE.

CHERRY HINTON, NETHER HALL, UPHALL, FULBOURN, GOG-MAGOG HILLS, HISTON, IMPINGTON, THE HALL, MILTON, LANDBEACH, HAUXTON, LITTLE SHELFORD, GREAT SHELFORD, STAPLEFORD, MADINGLEY, FOXTON, BARRINGTON, HASLINGFIELD, COTON, ETC.

THERE are many interesting places within easy distance of Cambridge well worth seeing. The first is Cherry Hinton, a small village two miles and a half south-east of the town. The church (St. Andrew) is a fine building, and contains some beautiful specimens of Early English work, and many other interesting items so dear to the antiquarian. The oak roof and arcading in the chancel should be specially noted.

Cherry Hinton, 2½ miles.

At a short distance from the village is Nether Hall, and near by is the Manor of Uphall; but these have nothing special, they are simply fine country mansions. The Cambridge Waterworks are situated here, and are worth an inspection.

Nether Hall, 4 miles.

Uphall, 3 miles north.

Fulbourn is five miles south-east of Cambridge. This village had two churches in one yard, which is by no means common, but one being decayed was taken down many years ago. The present church, St. Vigor's, has recently been restored. It is a stone building of the Decorated period, but it shows many styles from Norman to Perpendicular. There are many points of interest to the antiquarian, such as the carved heads of

Fulbourn, 5 miles.

Edward III. and one of the bishop on the roof of the chancel. In the chantry is a lofty tomb with two recumbent figures in stone, also a large brass with effigy in cope to the memory of William de Fulbourn, chaplain to Edward III., and canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, 1390. There are many other brasses, some of them quite unique, especially the one in the south aisle with kneeling effigies of a lady and two children, with the matrix of a knightly figure of the fifteenth century. The pulpit is of carved oak, dating from 1330, and shows marvellous work; it is worth close examination.

South of Fulbourn rise the Gog-Magog Hills. It is a pleasant walk to the top, from which a splendid view is obtained. Ely Cathedral is plainly visible. The geologist will find much of interest in the chalk pit near by. Altogether the village is as picturesque a place as may be found in Cambridgeshire. It is very easily reached, not only by walking but by rail, as it has a station on the Cambridge-Newmarket line of railway.

Gog-Magog Hills, 2 miles.

Within four miles of Cambridge is the village of Histon. Here again at one time were two churches in the parish, St. Andrew's and St. Ethelburga's, but the latter was pulled down in the year 1600 by Sir Francis Hinde, and the material used for building his mansion at Madingley. The present church, St. Andrew, is Early English, but having a mixture of other styles of architecture. Portions of the demolished church were discovered and added to the present building in 1874; these may be seen in the chancel, the windows are very fine, those in the chancel are of Munich glass, and the north wall of the transept shows fine work. There are many very interesting details worth studying here. Antiquarians, please note.

Histon. 3½ miles.

One mile further is Impington, noted for its small church, St. Andrew, containing some fine carved work and many curious fragments of alabaster figures, and on the north wall is preserved a fresco painting, said to represent St. Christopher. This was discovered during the restoration of the building. On the floor, under the tower, is also a

Impington, 3 miles.

very fine brass to the memory of John Burgoyne and his wife, dated 1525, as well as many other interesting items. Another very remarkable historical fact connected with this village is that one Elizabeth Woodcock, in the winter of 1799, was buried in a snowdrift, where she remained for eight days and nights, but, taken out alive, she lived for some months afterwards. A monument was erected by public subscription on the exact spot to commemorate the extraordinary circumstance.

Impington Hall, near by, is the house so frequently mentioned in the famous diary of Samuel Pepys, having been built by a member of his family.

Impington Hall.

This village, though small and apparently insignificant, is well worth the attention of the tourist in his way about Cambridgeshire.

Milton, another village adjoining, is on the Cam, with an interesting church, showing some Norman work, especially in the chancel. The Norman arch is very fine. The nave is of a geometric character, dating from the year 1300. On the south side of the chancel arch is a recess, supposed to be a hagioscope, which is worth noting. The principal attractions of the church are the specially fine marble sculptures, one by Flaxman to Mrs. Knight, 1800, the other by Chantrey, 1829. The windows of modern glass are also interesting.

Milton, 3½ miles.

One and a half miles further is Landbeach, a like distance from Waterbeach Railway Station. "In the map of Babington's 'Ancient Cambridgeshire' the name is spelt *Waterbeche*, and in connection with the finds of Roman coins near Akeman Street the spelling *Landbeche* is adopted, as being no doubt the spelling of the name long before the word *beach* was introduced into the English language, for this word used as the name of the shingle lying between the sea and the mainland came to be employed about the year 1600 A.D., whereas both these villages, Waterbeach and Landbeach, existed long before that date, for one of the churches is a thirteenth century building" (S. H. Miller). The village is, however, known as Landbeach; the church is an ancient building lately

Landbeach, 5 miles from Cambridge.

restored, containing many monuments and some very fine carved woodwork brought from the chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge, the stalls bearing the cock and globe which constituted the badge of Bishop Alcock of Ely. The large figures of angels in the fine Early Perpendicular roof are worthy of notice.

Hauxton, 4 miles.

On the road leading to Royston, four miles from Cambridge, is the village of Hauxton, on the banks of the Cam. Interesting relics of skulls have been found whilst digging for coprolites at the works near the church. These remains are supposed to be from some burial grounds, said to be British, but this appears doubtful. The church St. Edmund, 1130, shows very Early Norman work, and contains, amongst other noteworthy items, a Decorated piscina and a plain *sedile*, also a fine fresco of Thomas à Becket, but cut for the purpose of making a squint; otherwise this is in good preservation. The church suffered from the fanaticism of Dowsing, who was the great enemy of all ecclesiastical art, and did much mischief in his day (seventeenth century). He visited this church March 13th, 1643, and destroyed many choice relics.

Little Shelford, 5 miles.

Little Shelford, a mile and a half (five miles from Cambridge), is a very pleasant village. The church, All Saints, is specially interesting on account of its very beautiful altar tomb of the Decorated period, erected to Sir John Freville, a Crusader under Edward II., with inscription in Norman French. The tomb is under a rich ogee canopy, and the recumbent effigy is in full armour. There are also two very beautiful brasses with effigies, 1393 and 1405 respectively. Another very remarkable feature of the church is the singular hagioscope, which is worth examination.

Great Shelford, 4 miles from Cambridge.

A short distance further is Great Shelford, near which are the nine wells that supply the water for the street channels of Cambridge. The church, St. Mary the Virgin, was built in 1387, and on that account is interesting. It has a Perpendicular rood screen, and an elaborately carved pulpit of the Jacobean period; and on the north wall of the chancel are stone panels with carved shields of noted county families.

The fine brass, with effigy, under a canopy with shields, is most uncommon; it commemorates a former vicar, 1418. Many other items contained in this church are noteworthy. Near the village are traces of a Roman encampment, so that altogether it is a place where a short sojourn might be made with advantage.

Stapleford, 4 miles.

Stapleford adjoins Great Shelford. The parish is crossed by the river Granta. The church of St. Andrew dates from 1260. Remains of entrenchments may be seen at a short distance from the village.

Madingley is a small place in a valley, about three and a half miles from Cambridge. The hall is a large Elizabethan house, specially famous as being the residence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales whilst an undergraduate of the University. The stone gateway is very fine. The church has recently been restored; it has, however, nothing remarkable. The village is most picturesque; from the windmill near the church a fine view is obtained of the fen country; from the summit of the hill, Ely Cathedral is plainly visible.

Madingley, 3½ miles.

Foxton is an interesting village on the river Rhea, and is seven miles from Cambridge, it can be reached by rail (G.N.R.) The church is worth seeing, as it is of flint, with a thirteenth century chancel; the windows, double piscina, and rood staircase are remarkable; especially noteworthy is the eastern triplet, which presents a fine example of Early English; the glass is fourteenth century work. This church possessed the privilege of sanctuary, which was by no means common.

Foxton, 7 miles.

At a short distance from Foxton is Barrington, also on the Rhea; and close to the Cam, near by, the beds of coprolite and gravel have furnished remarkable relics of all kinds, many of which are to be seen at the vicarage. Students of geology and anthropology will find here many rare treasures. The church, besides being interesting in itself, contains a tenth century iron-bound chest. There are also many other ancient remains which will be found of general interest to the tourist.

Barrington, 7 miles.

Haslingfield, which is the next village, is only separated

by a hill. The church of All Saints, 1352, is a fine example of Decorated work. The aisle roofs, of the Jacobean period, have the original colouring, with elaborate mouldings, flowing tracery, and rich foliaged bosses. The windows retain their ancient glass. The monuments in the chancel are very fine.

Haslingfield, 5½ miles.

The return to Cambridge can be made by way of Harston or Barton. This latter is a small village on the Bourn brook. It has an interesting church. Coton is a small village three miles and a half from Cambridge, on the road to St. Neots, the church stands in the centre of the village, and has a chancel of Norman date. One of the curious features in the wall of the chancel is the low side or leper's window, which is not often seen, though occasionally met with in old churches. These are usually found in south walls, near to the altar, and are so constructed that a person outside could easily look through. They were never glazed. Difference of opinion exists as to their origin. Usually they are believed to have been made for the accommodation of lepers in the Middle Ages, when that disease was prevalent in this country. The leper was not allowed to enter the church through fear of contagion, but he was permitted to kneel outside this window, listen to the service, and to receive the Holy Communion from the officiating priest. Some have argued that these windows were made for the purpose of ringing the sanctus bell, to acquaint the villagers of the exact moment when the consecration took place in the Mass. The fact of the windows being near the altar lends colour to this statement.

Coton, 3½ miles.

circa 1340, and stands near the main road; it has a variety of styles, Norman, Early English, Decorated, etc., and contains many interesting details of the various periods. One of the most interesting is a curious brass, with effigies of a man in armour, his wife (now missing), twelve sons, and four daughters; the inscription is sadly mutilated. The date, however, is about 1465. The village is noted as the birthplace of Jeremy Collier, the historian.

Bottisham, 7 miles.

Bottisham, seven miles from Cambridge, is a large village on the main road; it is close to what is known as the "Fen Border." In ancient times the name was spelt *Bodekysham* and *Bottlesham*; to-day it is spoken of as *Bott'sham*. The tourist will be inclined to linger here, for the church is a fine building of stone, and contains very much of interest, not only to the archæologist, but to the general visitor. The most remarkable features of the church are its nave, with five bays. aisles, north and south porches, and western Galilee porch. Other items worthy of note are the piscina and sedilia (Early English), chancel arch (Early Decorated), a very curious Perpendicular stone screen, and the memorial east window and reredos, these two latter being to the memory of Col. Jenyns, one of the "noble six hundred." The monuments and effigies in marble are both numerous and curious. A brass effigy and canopy immortalise Elyas de Beckingham, of the Common Pleas, who retired from the Bench in 1305. A few years previously all the judges of the time were charged with bribery and corruption, and two only were acquitted, one of these being Beckingham. In the south aisle can be seen a series of stone coffin slabs, and many other noteworthy objects alike curious and uncommon.

Bottisham Lode, etc.

The hamlets of Bottisham Lode, Longmeadow, and the Fen are near by. In the former are the remains of a priory, founded by Henry I. The church is modern, and has nothing special.

Leaving Bottisham by the Swan Inn, turn to the right. The road is good and level for some distance, although rough at places. Newmarket is soon reached, and the first object of note is the clock tower, which

stands at the eastern end of the High Street. This was erected in 1889, and is of red brick with stone dressings. It is at the junction of High Street and the Bury and Upper Station roads.

Newmarket, 15 miles.

As previously mentioned Newmarket is partly in Cambridgeshire and partly in Suffolk, the main street dividing the two counties. On the Suffolk side is the parish of St. Mary, and on the Cambs side the parish of All Saints. Newmarket is interesting for many reasons, but it is best known as "The Metropolis of the Turf," for it is the first horse-rearing and horse-racing place in England. It is interesting to archæologists by reason of the old British road, known as the Icknield Way, running close by the town from north-east to south-west, cutting the Devil's Dyke at right angles. This dyke runs across the famous Heath, and is twenty feet wide and eighteen feet high, the fosse being on the west side. It is, however, to the races, racecourse, and training establishments that Newmarket owes its popularity. There are from 1,500 to 2,000 horses in training on the Downs, which are in every way most suitable for the purpose. Seven principal annual race meetings are held, which are attended by large numbers of visitors from all parts of the country. The establishment of horse racing in England appears to date from the time of James I. Charles II. was a great patron of the sport, and during his reign Newmarket flourished. On the edge of the Heath were formerly two barrows belonging to the group known as Beacons. These were examined. In one nothing was found; in the other the remains of a British interment, consisting of a rude vase, containing a few bones, etc., were discovered. "In removing a barrow for the purpose of improving the Heath, an urn of rude construction and materials, containing ashes and some bones, was found in its centre; also two coins supposed to be Roman, and a fragment of a cup, of far superior manufacture to the urn above mentioned, were found lying amongst the soil at the depth of two feet" ("Anc. Cambs.," pp. 67-68). The church was originally built during the latter half of the twelfth century, but very little of the original structure now remains. Some years ago the north and east walls of the chancel might have been seen, but these were

removed at the time of the restoration of the church (1866). In an account drawn up by the present rector, Rev. John Imrie, M.A., it is stated that there is evidence of the existence of the church in 1337, for at that date St. Mary's is mentioned as "Ye Old Chapel of ye Blessed Mary" in an ancient Latin document still preserved in the Tower of London. It is also said that the father of Cardinal Wolsey directed that his body should be buried in the churchyard of our Lady St. Mary at Newmarket. There are many interesting objects worth seeing in the church, notably a fragment of old wood carving bearing a Latin inscription, memorial windows, and tablets to notable persons. In the chancel is an Early English piscina, discovered in 1856, and found to enclose a small purse containing three Nuremberg jettons of common type. The several restorations have done much to modernise the church, so that very little remains of its original structure. The church of All Saints is in every way modern, having been built so recently as 1877; there is nothing specially interesting for the tourist.

Wood Ditton, 18½ miles.

Three miles south of Newmarket is Wood Ditton Church, which has a remarkable brass dated 1393, and near by is Kirtling, formerly the seat of the Earls of Guildford. Very little is left of the old mansion save the great gateway and the moat.

Kirtling, 20½ miles.

Cheveley is an adjoining village, remarkable for having a church dedicated to St. Mary and the Holy Host; it is also noted for its Early Decorated tower, with an external bartizan or watch place. Several other items will also interest the visitor. To

Cheveley, 18 miles.

the north-west of Newmarket is the little parish of Exning. Detached from the rest of the county (Suffolk) to which it belongs, it is simply an insulated fragment in the middle of Cambridgeshire. It is a small place, but of historic note, being the birthplace of St. Etheldreda, the foundress of Ely, who was baptised in the seven springs of this parish. The stream running through the village is so rapid that in the severest winter it is never frozen. The church is an old structure, Early English and Decorated.

Exning, 2 miles from Newmarket

CHAPTER XVII.

CAMBRIDGE TO MILDENHALL.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR, SWAFFHAM BULBECK, REACH, UPPER HARE PARK, MITCHELL HALL, BURGH HALL, BURWELL, FORDHAM, LANDWADE, CHIPPENHAM, FRECKENHAM, WORLINGTON, AND MILDENHALL.

MILDENHALL, although actually in Suffolk county, is so near the Cambridgeshire borders as to claim a notice in our "Way About," as it is a place worth the attention of the tourist. The parish is the largest in the county, and includes several small places adjacent. The distance from Cambridge is twenty-two miles. The road is a good one for cyclists, but to those who do not patronise the wheel Mildenhall can be reached by rail, as it is the terminus of a branch line from Cambridge. On leaving the latter Quy and Bottisham are passed. These have already been noted in a previous section, so we pass on to Swaffham, at which place there is a railway station.

Swaffham Prior, 7 miles.

Swaffham Prior, or Great Swaftham, is seven miles from Cambridge. This is remarkable for its having two churches in one churchyard. The church of St. Mary has long been in ruins. For some time it was used as a burying place for the Allix family; the Norman and Early English remains are interesting; the building was partially restored in the year 1887. The other church, St. Cyriac, is of the debased Gothic style, and has many architectural details worth noting.

One mile north of this village is Reach, which is only a hamlet. Here is a school church erected on the site of a ruined chapel of St. Etheldred, formerly a cell of Ramsey. Reach is said to have been a considerable place before the Norman Conquest. On this account, it is often referred to as "Reché" or "Ruin Reach." Coins of Constans and others have been found here.

Reach, 8 miles.

Swaffham Bulbeck, or Bolebeck, is noted for having, in ancient times, a Benedictine nunnery, founded in 1190 by Halewyse de Glanville, or one of the Bulbecs. The church is very old, the nave having four bays, two aisles, and north and south porches. The ancient vestment chest of cedar wood, dated fifteenth century, has some fine carvings worth inspection, as they are most curious. Upper Hare Park, close by, is the residence of the Earl of Clancarty. Two other county mansions are Mitchell Hall and Burgh Hall.

Swaffham Bulbeck, 8 miles.

Upper Hare Park. Mitchell Hall and Burgh Hall.

Burwell is a large village, next *en route*. This has a station on the G.E.R. Here was a castle built by Stephen standing near the church; the earthworks round the ruins are in good preservation, and serve as a reservoir for springs of water. This spot is historically famous as being the place where Geoffrey de Magnaville Earl of Essex met with his death by an arrow in the year 1144. The church is one of the best examples of Perpendicular style of architecture in Cambridgeshire. It will be found at the south end of the village; the visitor will be attracted by its light and elegant appearance. The windows are exceedingly fine, all being large. The woodwork of the roof in nave and the canopied niches in chancel are worth seeing. Another remarkable item in this church is a brass of an uncommon character—a palimpsest with its early inscription erased. An interesting record may be found in the register of a calamitous fire which occurred in the year 1727, when a barn, in which one hundred and forty persons were

Burwell, 10 miles.

assembled to witness a puppet show, took light from the accidental firing of loose straw, and about eighty persons perished. There is good accommodation in the village for visitors.

Fordham, 5 miles from Newmarket

Fordham, the next village, is interesting to the antiquarian, as in ancient times a priory existed here, founded by Henry III. The church is Early English, with a fine Norman doorway opening into a chapel, having six bays vaulted with stone ribs. The upper storey is known as the Lady Chapel, and is entered by an external stair turret. One mile further is Landwade, which should be visited for its church, containing some very ancient monuments to the Cotton family. Two miles east is Chippenham, in the churchyard of which is the marble tomb of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Erskine May, K.C.B., Baron Farnborough, clerk of the House of Commons from 1871 to 1886. Beyond this there is nothing for the visitor. Within four miles of Mildenhall is the small village of Freckenham, standing on the border line of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. There is nothing special here except the church, with its benches carved with curious devices, and the extraordinary tablet in the nave representing a bishop shoeing a horse—a task not usually included in a bishop's ordinary duties. It is supposed to refer to Bishop Halo, formerly bishop of Novan in France. A short distance further is Worlington, on the south bank of the river Lark, at the point where that river enters the fens.

Landwade, 4 miles from Newmarket.

Chippenham, 5 miles from Newmarket.

Freckenham, 16¾ miles from Cambridge.

Worlington.

One mile further is the market town of Mildenhall, the terminus of the branch railway from Cambridge (G.E.R.) The town is also situated on the Lark, which is a tributary of the Ouse. It includes Mildenhall High Town, Beck Row, West Row, and Holywell Row, so that altogether it is an important place, admirably suited for a sojourn, the hotel accommodation being ample and

Mildenhall, 20¾ miles from Cambridge.

excellent. The Market Cross is a prominent object, and interesting, as it is of the time of Henry V., hexagonal in shape, and built of timber, covered with lead; much business is transacted here on market days, Fridays. The Manor House is a fine building erected in the reign of Charles I. by Sir Henry North, Bart. It is Elizabethan in style of architecture. The church, besides possessing many interesting features, has two specially fine Gothic porches on the north and south sides, and very good Perpendicular roof work, with uncommon fan tracery. Another attraction is the tomb of Sir Henry de Barton, Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Henry VI., under whose auspices the metropolis was first lighted. Other monuments and brasses will be found worthy of notice. The east window is remarkable for its wonderful tracery, which is said to be quite unique in England. Many public buildings will be noticed in the town; most of them are modern, and have nothing special about them.

Manor House.

three fragments during the restoration, and is supposed to have composed part of the high altar in pre-Reformation times. At a short distance further on are the remains of Denney Abbey, founded about 1160 by Robert Chamberlain and the Duke of Bretagne, and re-founded by Agnes Countess of Pembroke, for nuns of the order of St. Clare. The refectory shows some fine Norman and Decorated work. These remains are well worth the attention of the tourist, as in many points they are unique.

Denney Abbey.

The road is a good one, being a dead level, admirably suitable for cyclists; many small places are passed, and good views are obtained of the fen country on both sides until Stretham is reached. This parish includes Stretham Fen, and stands on the old Roman road known as Akerman Street, is situated on the banks of the Cam, and included in the Isle of Ely, being only four miles distant of that city. On the high road, near the church, will be noticed an ancient stone cross, dating from the year 1400. In the year 1844 the entire village was nearly destroyed by fire. The church has a lofty spire, and, like all churches in the shire, is an attraction to visitors, having much of interest within and connected with it. One of the chief objects is the handsome fine oak carved screen, dating from 1440.

Stretham, 12 miles.

Stretham Fen.

Three miles north-east is the hamlet of Thetford, standing on the east side of Akerman Street. The ancient chapel of St. George, fourteenth century, is an attraction. This has, however, been enlarged and restored. From Stretham the continuation of the road is undulating until Ely is reached, which is exactly sixteen miles from Cambridge by road, and fifteen miles by rail.

Thetford, 13 miles.

Ely, 16 miles by road, 15 miles by rail.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE ISLE AND CITY OF ELY.

To which is added what to Photograph, how to do it, and when.

THE most elevated ground in the fen district formed a natural island when the fens were subject to inundations. In the ancient chronicles we read that "Ely is a pleasant island, extensive and well peopled, with a fertile soil and rich pasturage; it is surrounded on all sides by marshes and fens, and can be approached on one side only, where a strait and narrow road leads to the island and the castle, which from ancient times has stood above the waters at the very entrance, in a singular manner, so that the whole island is a veritable fortress" (William of Huntingdon's Chronicles 1140). This state of things has been altered since William's day, as evideuced by the splendid level roads from every part of the county which now exist. The district known as "The Isle" is pear shaped, and measures about twelve miles north to south and seven miles east to west. We can easily imagine its ancient condition, when we find that it is bounded on the east by the river Ouse, on the west by the New Bedford River, on the north by the Old Croft River, and on the south by the Catchwater Drain.

It is here that the fen district commences to present attractions to the visitor such as can be found in no other district in England, to say nothing of the special charms of Ely city and its cathedral; which are altogether unique. Ely is a very ancient city, standing on the eastern edge of the island, and surrounded by a host of interesting villages, all of which are within a compass of eight miles of the city.

For a sojourn, very comfortable quarters may be obtained at the many hotels, which afford capital accommodation at reasonable charges. The author of the "Camp of Refuge" tells us that "the isle

had its name from *Helig* or *Elig*, a British name for the willow, which grew in great abundance in every part of it, and which formed in many places low but almost impenetrable forests, with marshes and quagmires under them, or within them." But this derivation is not now considered correct, as a later writer asserts, that Ely means "eel island"—*æl*, Saxon for eel; *ig*, Saxon for island—and *Elig* became modified into Ely (see "Liber Eliensis"). In ancient days Ely was really an inland island, being surrounded on all sides by lakes and broad rivers, which increased in size during the rainy seasons, there being but few artificial embankments to keep in the waters, and no droves or cuts to carry off the increase of water towards the sea, so that the whole isle was almost a dead flat with occasional hillocks rising up from the expanse of waters, but though thus surrounded they were never entirely covered by water. Upon these eminences the ancient dwellers built their towns and erected their churches and dwelling places, keeping up their communication with the outside world by means of boats and skerries, flat bottomed for the most part, so that they were able to float in shallow streams. After the subsiding of the waters, the richest pasture sprung up on all sides, and the soil was everywhere rich and productive. Owing to the natural position of this district, and from the fact that it was flanked by lakes, rivers, and swamps, it became from the earliest days a veritable land of refuge against all enemies; so that in the days of Roman invasion, the Ancient Britons held their own in the Isle of Ely, and made an obstinate stand here, long after the rest of England had been subdued, as historical documents clearly prove. It is these romantic and thrilling records that invest this portion of England with so much interest to the tourist, for they have no equal in the history of our nation.

The Cathedral of Ely stands upon the highest ground in the isle, and notwithstanding all the draining that has been done the grand structure is to-day entirely surrounded by watercourses, which are, however, under perfect control.

We often hear it said that "the Saxons had no grand buildings, as they were not skilled in architecture, that their churches and monastic buildings were

constructed of wood, without arches or columns, aisles or cloisters, and that there was no grandeur or beauty in the edifices of England until after the Norman Conquest." These remarks are hardly correct, for we know that the abbey of Ely in the tenth century was built by the Saxon bishop Ethelwald, and was constructed of stone, and richly ornamented in all its details. Round-headed arches rested upon rows of massive columns, the roofs of the church and of the great hall of the abbey were both arched and towering, and high above all a tower and steeple shot into the air, to serve as a landmark throughout the flat fenny country, and as a guide to such as might at any time lose themselves among the meres and labyrinths of the forests of willows which surround it.

It was after Duke William had been crowned at Westminster, and the proclamation had gone forth that all men of Saxon blood ought to be dispossessed of their property, that Frithric, the most noble-hearted of all lord abbots, was driven from St. Albans, and wandered alone through the wilds and fens, begging his way and concealing himself from Norman pursuit in the huts during his wearisome journey, taking with him to Ely nothing but two holy books which gave him comfort during his pilgrimage. On his arrival he summoned the monks and novices in the great hall to take his last farewell, and said to them, "My brothers, my children, the time is come when, according to Scripture, I must flee from city to city before the face of our persecutors." So he came to Ely, a lone man, leaving the sunny hill of St. Albans for the fens and morasses of the isle, which gave many a rude shake to the hour-glass of his life. This life was drawing to a close, for he wasted away daily, appearing as time progressed more and more haggard and worn, until all his beloved followers were conscious that he was passing from among them. To cheer the old man he was encouraged to hope, and was often addressed thus: "Lord Frithric, these evil days will pass away. The Saxons will recover their own again, and thou wilt get back, as a true Saxon, to thine own beloved abbey." He would reply, "Young men, England will be England again, but not in my day; my next move is to the grave. St. Albans is a heavenly place, but it is still on earth, and save the one hope that

my country may revive, and that the laws and manners and the tongue of the Saxons may not utterly perish, my hopes are all in heaven!"

This is but a brief passage from the stirring annals of bygone history intimately connected with Ely. It is not our province to add further details, but this much is given to show the interest there is attached to this spot, which should make it attractive to every traveller in one of the choicest districts of England.

If Ely should be approached from the railway station, the road leads up a marked incline towards the great gate. The best way of entering the city is to turn to the right near the Rifleman Inn, by way of the turnstile, until the close is reached, for at this spot, at the bottom, is the point from whence Turner painted his famous picture of Ely. Reaching the top of the incline may be seen a large mound covered with shrubs, known as Cherry Hill, supposed to be the site of the keep of an ancient castle erected for the defence of the monastery. A winding path leads to the summit, from which a fine view of the surrounding country may be obtained. To the right will be seen the college, which is the residence of the Dean and Chapter. Passing through the great gate, built by Bucton, who was prior of Ely in 1380, and turning to the right, the western entrance of the cathedral is soon reached. To the left are the Theological College and Hereward Hall, adjoining which is the Bishop's Palace, which is a stately brick mansion built by Bishop Alcock in the reign of Henry VII. The curious name, in the form of a rebus, may be still seen on the wall—a cock standing on a globe—Alcock. In the palace is preserved the famous "Tabula Eliensis," a late work of the sixteenth century, representing forty knights, whom William I. quartered on the abbey, with shields of arms and figures of monks accompanying each knight. There is also to be seen a curious picture of the funeral of Bishop Cox in the year 1581.

The public buildings of Ely are few, but noteworthy. The Theological College is a Gothic structure of red brick, founded in 1876. The Cathedral Grammar School, founded by Henry VIII. in 1541, is the stately structure which formed the principal entrance to the monastery, known as "Ely Porta." It stands to the south of the cathedral. The gatehouse was commenced in the year

1366, and was unfinished in 1397; in recent years alterations were made with additions, such as a building of brick and stone bearing the name of "Hereward Hall," which was erected on the western side. The building on the north side of the cathedral is the Choristers' School, built in 1862. The Shire Hall, 1820, and Corn Exchange in the Market Place, 1847, are also fine buildings.

One of the ecclesiastical edifices besides the cathedral is Holy Trinity Church—the Lady Chapel of the cathedral—which is remarkable by being a rectangular building without pillars. It was commenced in 1321 by John De Wisbeche, a monk. Its unusual position will at once arrest the attention of the visitor, for it is northward of the choir, by reason of a public road passing at the east end of the cathedral, where, according to rule, it should have been placed; if this had been possible it would have made the cathedral the longest ecclesiastical building in the world. The interior of the church is most remarkable, as it is the widest single span church in England, and round the whole of the interior walls below the windows is an arcade of elaborate canopied niches of singular beauty of form, covered with the richest profusion of sculptured flower work and dainty leafage. The present Dean says of this work, "The exquisite delicacy and grace of line of the figures of this sculpture remind the beholder of the beauty of Donatello's work in low relief a century later in Italy. We rejoice that it still remains, in spite of the havoc worked by the misguided activity of reforming zeal, for the hand of the destroyer has sadly mutilated this exquisite arcading. . . In such a condition is it to-day that Welby Pugin estimated the probable cost of the restoration of this interior at no less a sum than £100,000. But even the provision of that sum would not make the work possible, for it is considered that there does not exist in all Europe an artist in stone who could be trusted to repair this defaced sculpture of Alan de Walsingham's craftsmen." A full description of this beautiful work will be found in the handbook obtainable in the city, giving an almost exhaustive account of the sculptures, compiled from the contemporary documents and written sources of mediæval folk tales and legends, which in themselves are exceedingly interesting.

St. Mary's Church is to the west of the cathedral, standing in a large enclosure. It is of thirteenth century build, and is the work of Bishop Eustachius. It contains many architectural remains of peculiar interest. The house at the corner of the churchyard, known as Cromwell's House, was at one time the residence of Oliver Cromwell, from 1636 to 1640. This fact invests the house with considerable charm. Near by stood the Sextry Barn, said to have been the largest in the kingdom. A little farther is St. John's Hospital, of which the remains are but few, but will prove interesting to the antiquarian. What can be seen to-day has been converted into farm buildings.

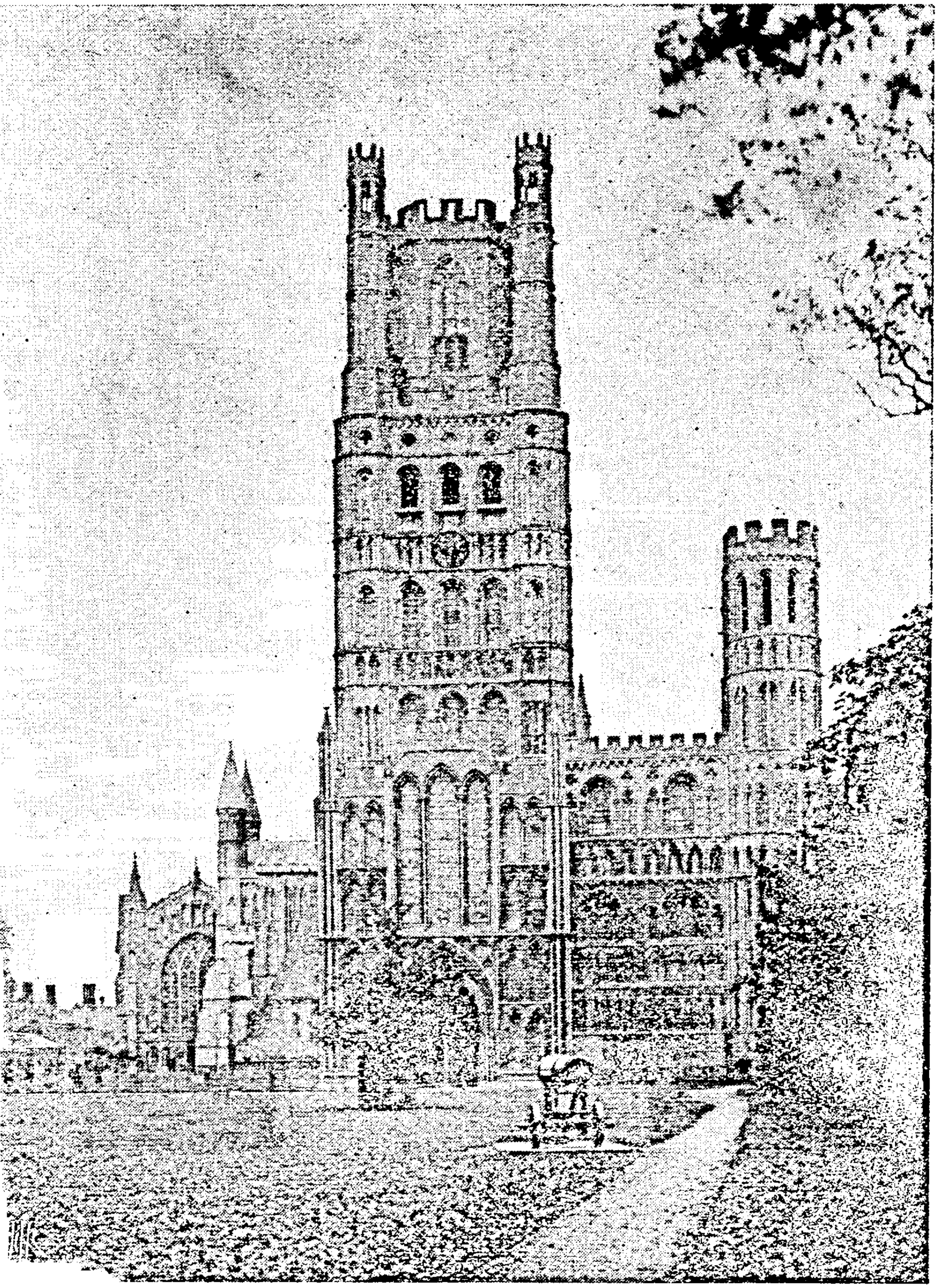
Near the Prior's Lodge is Prior Cranden's Chapel, which is one of the most curious and valuable Decorated remains in the kingdom. Its ornaments are of the best character, well executed, and the whole design is of great excellence. It is daily used for the scholars of the King's School. The green in front of the western portion of the cathedral facing the palace has been laid out and planted with shrubs. The house standing in a garden opposite the palace is the site of an ancient chantry, founded by Bishop Northwold, known as the Chantry on the Green. There are many other buildings and ancient remains near by. Want of space prevents details being given; they are each of very special interest, and should be sought out by the visitor.

THE CATHEDRAL.

This most interesting building, that has lasted for more than twelve hundred years, has had a wonderful history, and, as Professor Freeman well says, "it overwhelms the beholder, not only by the stateliness and variety of its outline, but by its utter strangeness, its unlikeness to anything else." The best point of view will be found at a little distance back on the Palace Green. From this point the noble structure

> "Looks down benignly grave, and seems to say,
> Ye come and go incessant; we remain
> Safe in the hallowed quiets of the past;
> Be reverent, ye who flit and are forgot,
> Of faith so nobly realised as this."

The full history of the cathedral would occupy a volume, and even its many choice features are so



ELY CATHEDRAL, WEST TOWER.

numerous that only the briefest outline can be given here. The cathedral represents a church of a monastery, founded in the seventh century by Etheldreda, queen of the Gyrwas, or "dwellers in the fens." It was refounded in 970, and patronised by Canute or Knut and his queen. The present cathedral was begun in 1081, and is said to display the purest specimen of Gothic architecture, not only in England, but in the world. It is the largest and most imposing of all our English cathedrals.

The account of the first visit of King Knut to Ely has been preserved to us in the quaint lines of the ancient ballad, written in old English dialect, but modernised as follows:

Sweetly sang the monks of Ely,
Knut the king row'd nigh:
"Listen how the winds be bringing
From yon church a holy singing!
Row men, nearer by."

. . . . .

Loudly sang the monks at Ely
On that Thursday morn.
'Twas the feast of "God ascended"—
Of the wond'rous drama ended—
God for sinners born!

Hark! "*I will not leave you orphans,*
I will not leave you long."
Grand the minster music sounded,
And the fenland air resounded
With the holy song.

Sweetly sang the monks of Ely,
Knut the king row'd nigh:
"Listen to the angels bringing
Holy thoughts that seemed like singing
Row yet nearer by."

For the visitor interested in achitectural studies, no better place can be chosen than Ely—so many styles are here represented—and what makes it of even greater value is the fact that the date of every portion is accurately known, which makes the cathedral a standard by which other ecclesiastical buildings of similar style may be dated, so that their actual age can be fixed.

The following styles of architecture may be found in the building: Norman (Early and Advanced), Transitional Norman, Early English, Early Decorated, Decorated, Perpendicular, Renaissance, and Classical. The nave is Norman, as is the west front; the eastern part of the church is Early English; the Galilee, or west porch, is fine Early English; the octagon lantern is

Decorated; the Lady Chapel, Late Decorated; triforium; Perpendicular; the window, various. Handbooks are published giving an exhaustive account of the cathedral, its past and present history; these may be obtained of the verger. The best is the one written by the Rev. Charles William Stubbs, D.D., Dean of Ely, who kindly gave the writer permission to photograph the various portions of the noble building, reproductions of which we are able to include in our present volume. The most ancient object in the cathedral is Ovin's Cross. This will be found in the south aisle, where it was placed on being found in the last century at Haddenham, a village seven miles from Ely, where it was used as a horse block. The inscription on the pedestal is in Roman capitals, except the E, which is Saxon:

"LUCEM—TUAM—OVINO
DA—DEUS—ET—REQUIE
AMEN."

"Grant, O God, to Ovin, Thy light and rest. Amen."

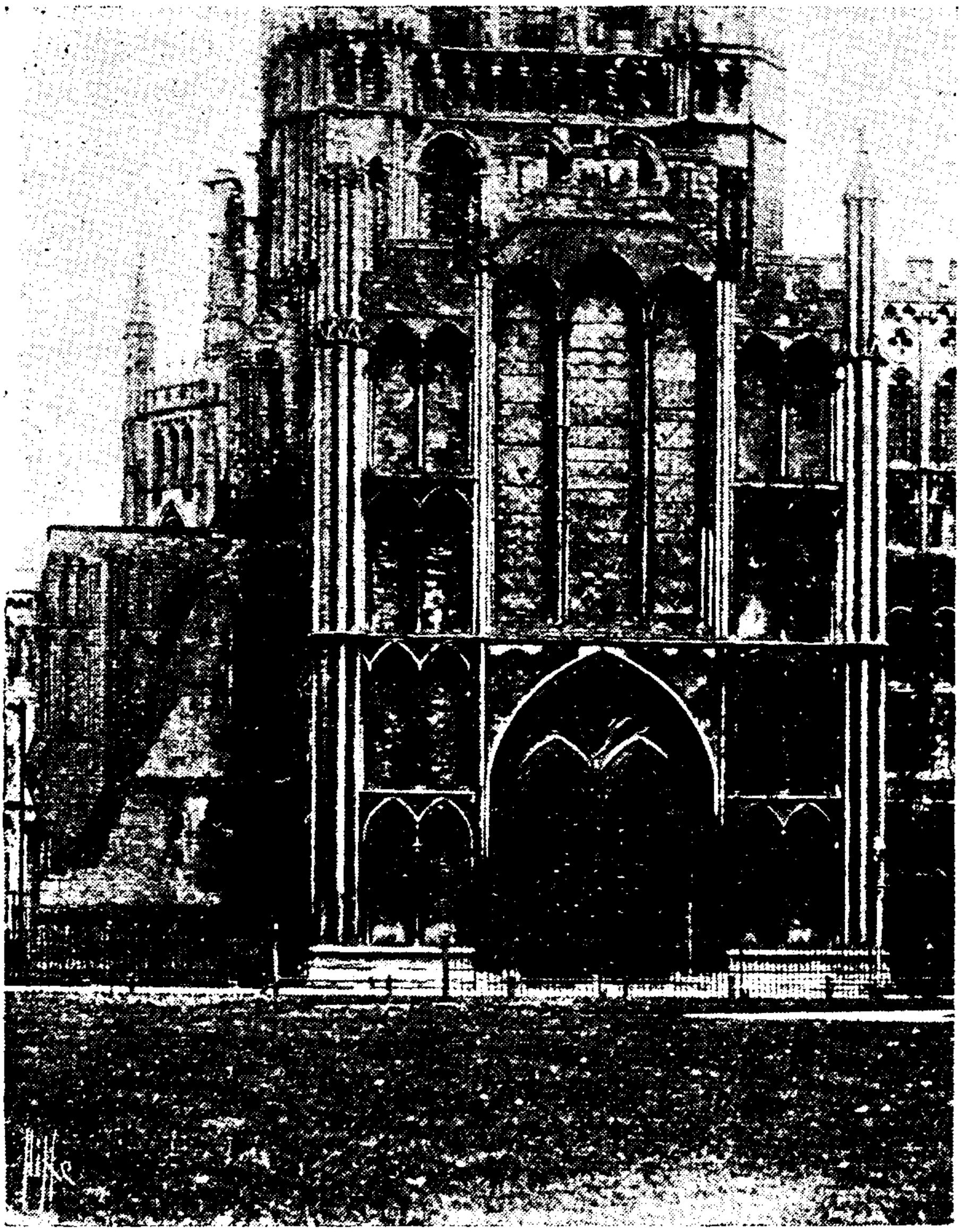
In searching the ancient records mention is made of one Ovin, a steward of St. Etheldreda, so it is allowed that this cross was erected, either to his honour during his lifetime, or to his memory at his decease, in the early part of the eighth century. This man must have been of some importance, for in the account of the death of St. Chad, Ovin is mentioned by the Venerable Bede as being present, and hearing the angel song that welcomed the dying saint. The visitor will not fail to notice the many monuments to saints, bishops, founders, benefactors, and other worthies on the floor as well as on the walls of the cathedral.

At the end of the south aisle is Bishop West's Chapel, 1515-34, which is most interesting, as it shows the transitiou from Perpendicular to Renaissance work, especially in the roof and the frieze round the wall. This ecclesiastic began life as the son of a baker at Putney, serving his customers from door to door in this well-known riverside village.

On the corresponding side, at the end of the north aisle, is another chapel of the same size, known as Bishop Alcock's. This is very beautiful, for it presents the most elaborate specimen of Perpendicular work in existence, 1486-1500. The bishop was buried in the centre of the

chapel; his favourite device—a rebus of his name, a cock standing on a globe, with his arms—may be seen in the window.

What has been mentioned in this brief sketch is but a small portion of the objects to be seen within the precincts of this, the noblest cathedral of which England



GALILEE PORCH, ELY CATHEDRAL.

can boast; an examination and study of its rich treasures cannot fail to interest and charm every visitor.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH AT ELY, AND WHEN.

Ely being one of the grandest of our English cathedrals, the photographer will find plenty of work. Many views may be taken of the exterior—one from

the college; another from the "Quiet Nook," [which includes a portion of the western towers and some fine old gables; and others from the Park, river Ouse, Dean's Garden, Bishop's Garden, and the Market Place. A good view of the west front can be had just behind the cannon on the green, but in order to get the Galilee Porch and great west window the camera should be fixed in front of the cannon, so as to clear the tree, which is of recent growth. This porch should on no account be overlooked, as it is the finest specimen of Early English in the world. The centre subjects are in chrono-

BISHOP'S PALACE, ELY.

logical order from the left, each with border and legend. The interior of the cathedral offers fine opportunities. The Prior's Doorway is under the fourth window of the nave to the right on entering; this is well worth a plate; it is of Late Norman design, richly ornamented on the exterior. The carving is exquisite. The doorway was the prior's entrance from the cloisters. It now opens into a private garden belonging to the deanery. The view may be taken about midday; if in bright light, Castle plate f/64, twelve seconds exposure only will be necessary. The north aisle, looking west, will make a good

that are worth recording. The Bishop's Palace is an interesting mansion. It consists of two wings, a hall, and a gallery one hundred feet long. The Grammar School, the Cathedral Choristers' School on the north side of the cathedral, the Theological College (a Gothic building of red brick), the Corn Exchange in the Market Place, the Shire Hall, and many street views will be found of great interest. Views from the river banks will also afford variety; near the Windmill will give bits of fenland well worth taking, whilst a walk along the bank as far as the Adelaide Bridge will well repay the doing. What has been mentioned will serve as a slight indication of the kind of work to be found in this most ancient of cities, but there is very much more worth considering. Nowhere in England is there so much variety of architectural work of such exquisite beauty as at Ely, for there are specimens here of almost every style from 1083 downwards.

CHAPTER XX.

ELY TO CHATTERIS

Viâ WITCHAM, WITCHFORD, WENTWORTH, SUTTON-IN-THE-ISLE, MEPAL, AND ACROSS THE WASHES.

TAKING the westward outlet from Ely the journey by road to Chatteris is fifteen miles—passing through many interesting villages. Leaving Ely by St. Mary Street, keep to the left until a fork in the road is reached, here turn to the right; about two and a half miles is the small village of Witchford, having an interesting church, originally Norman, also a Norman font, piscina, and double aumbry in the chancel, and a second aumbry in the wall of the nave. The tower is Early English, thirteenth century; the east window has some good specimens of stained glass. The village is interesting, as it is thought that the Suffolk and Sawtry Way passed through it.

Witchford, 2½ miles.

A few miles further at a short distance from the high road is the village of Witcham (six miles from Ely), originally known as *Wycheham*. The church is of brick, Early English, thirteenth century. It has a curious Norman font with curiously carved figures, also a fine stone pulpit and oak screen.

Witcham, 5 miles.

It is interesting to note how the names Witchford and Witcham arose, as given in "Historia Eliensis Liber Secundus." "William I. was encamped at Brandon, contemplating the reduction of the Isle of Ely. Hereward had command of the Camp of Refuge to the north of the present city. The Conqueror found many difficulties staring him in the face. Ivo Taillebois, his lieutenant, suggested that incantation might be the easier mode of conquest, saying, 'I have long known an old woman who could deprive the garrison of the isle of all their valour and their watchfulness, and if the king will assent to this our success is assured.' The bystanders applauded

and at once recommended that gifts should be made to anyone who could, by craft or other means, bring about the overthrow of the king's foeman. The king at first was unwilling and knew not what to do, but yielding at last to persuasion he gave orders that the *witch* should be fetched stealthily. Hereward, however, got scent of this scheme, took measures to frustrate it, and went to Brandon in disguise as a potter, but being detected he fled and found refuge at Somersham, and afterwards reached the Camp of Ely. William's army gained access to the isle, the witch going with it. She was placed upon a tower, the better to perform her incantations, but fell from her elevated

VIEW FROM CUCKOO BRIDGE, NEAR ELY.

position as if caught by a whirlwind, and thereby broke her neck, and, as stated in the ancient record, was the first to perish—she who had been procured for the purpose of bringing about the destruction of others." The names of these two villages seem to be derived from the Saxon *wicce* a witch—in our familiar phraseology *wicce-craeft* becomes witchcraft. For a full account of this witch see "The Camp of Refuge," Chapter XIX.

Wentworth or Wingford, 4 miles.

Returning to the high road, four miles from Ely is Wentworth or Wingford. This village has nothing special for the visitor except the church, which is Norman and Early English; the doorways of the former are very fine.

original chapel in which Huns, chaplain of St. Etheldreda, was buried. The church of Chatteris has very little of interest to the visitor. Vermuyden's Drain is worth inspection. It is so named from Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, the famous engineer, who drained the Bedford Level in 1649-53.

CHAPTER XXI.

ELY TO DOWNHAM MARKET

By way of Chettisham, Littleport, Southery, Hilgay, Hilgay Fen, Denver, Ramsey Hall, and Ten Mile Bank.

A VERY interesting excursion may be made from Ely to Downham Market by proceeding north about sixteen miles. Although this market town is just outside the confines of Cambridgeshire, it is included in the fen district, and is worth a visit. Starting from the Lamb Hotel at Ely, and turning to the left for the Lynn Road, at a distance of two miles is the

Chettisham, 1¼ miles.

village of Chettisham, a little away from the high road. There is nothing but the church as an object of interest, and this is small and ancient. There is, however, a railway station on the branch line, Great Eastern Railway. Nothing of importance will be seen

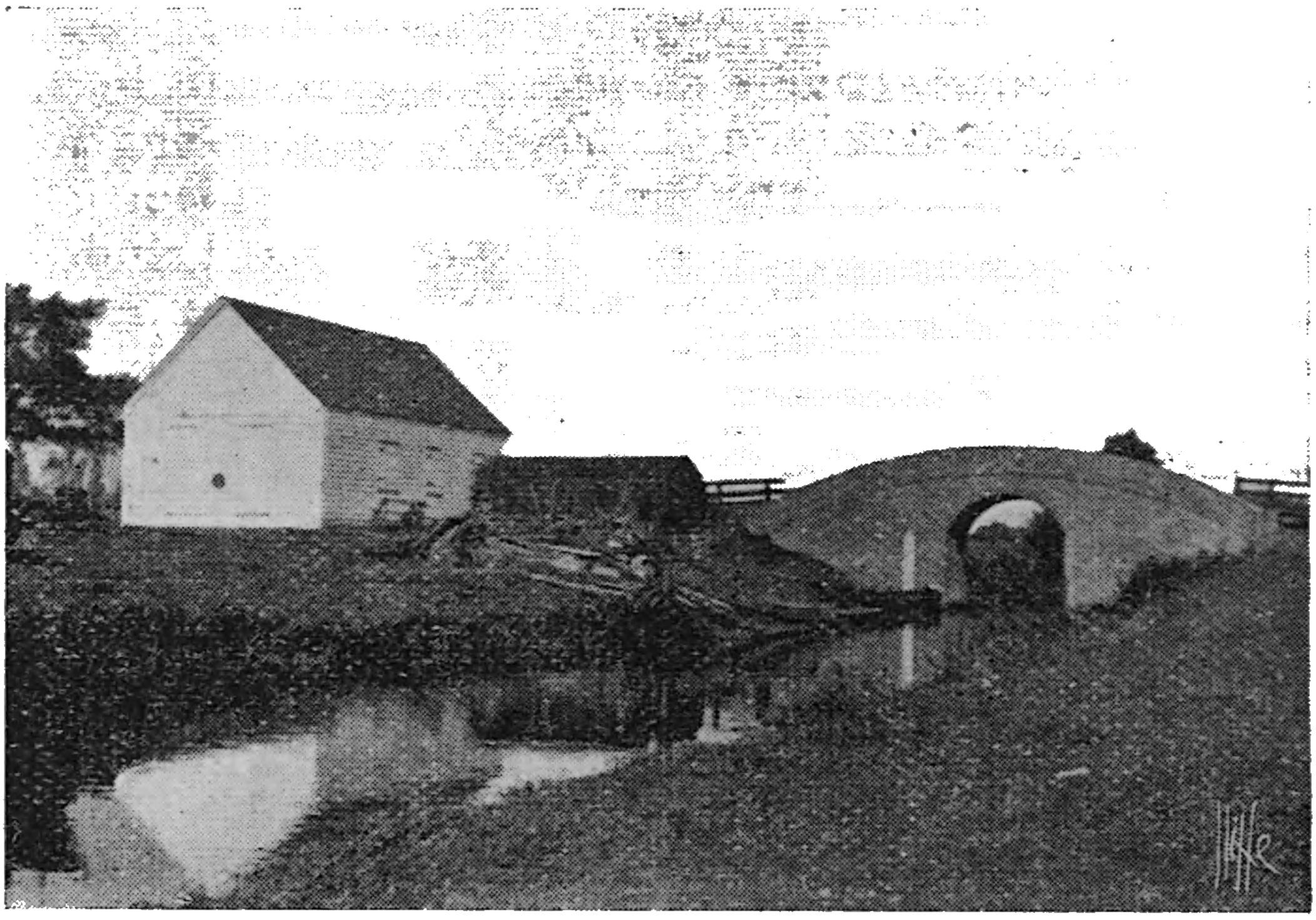
Littleport, 5 miles.

until Littleport is reached. This is a small town on the Ouse, in a fenny portion of the Isle of Ely, five miles from the city. The iron bridge across the river will be noted, as it has a clear span of one hundred and five feet; it was built in 1873. There are two churches, but the most interesting is the old building of St. George, which is a splendid example of Early English. The tower is remarkable, not only for the beauty of its outline, but as a conspicuous object in the country, serving as a landmark for the fen district. St. Matthew's is a modern erection, and contains nothing special. There is also a small school church at Littleport Fen, of no importance to visitors. Little-

Littleport Fen.

port is of considerable importance owing to its famous skating association, for adjoining the village is a large area, measuring about

thirty acres, embanked, and kept in condition as a skating ground, and so arranged that it can be flooded to a uniform depth of twelve inches. It is here that important skating contests are decided during the season, bringing into the district a vast number of visitors from far and near. In the town is the large establishment of Messrs. Hope Brothers, the well-known haberdashers and general outfitters; their factory employs hundreds of workpeople. Several other buildings will be noticed, but they are all modern. Comfortable quarters will be found at the various inns. At a short



BRIDGE ON THE FENS

distance from the railway station is the Little Ouse, so called from the Brandon River or Little Ouse. Part of this parish is in Norfolk and part in Cambridgeshire. The district is interesting from the fact that the old Roman road, Akerman Street, ran past the town.

Leaving Littleport by Granby Street, and bearing to the right along Station Road, the bridge must be crossed, and the road taken which runs parallel to the river until

Southery, 10 miles.

Southery is reached, five miles from Littleport. This village is over the Cambridgeshire border, being in Norfolk. In former time one of the old

Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge, and for forty years master of Gonville and Caius College—altogether a remarkable man for a village production. Denver was also the birthplace of Captain Manby, already referred to; upon this, however, opinions are divided between this village and Hilgay. This district is noted for the Denver Sluice, the famous cut or hundred feet river, made by the adventurers in the year 1650. This has a run of twenty-one miles from Earith to Denver to prevent an inundation by the waters from the shires of Bedford and Huntingdon. The work done in those early years is worth inspection. It is remarkable when it is considered that in times of high flood the capacity of this sluice is such that the water from no less than 800,000 acres of land is poured through its openings.

Denver Sluice.

One mile from Denver brings the traveller to Downham, or, as it is sometimes called, Downham Market, to distinguish it from other places of a similar name. This town stands on the extreme eastern border of the fenland, and is on the acclivity of the vale of the river Ouse, which is navigable. From this point a fine view is obtained of the country, and the wonderful expanse of level fenland on all sides will surprise the beholder.

Downham, 17½ miles.

One of the great sights of Downham is the annual horse fair held on the 3rd of March. This is known as "Winnold Fair," said to have reference to the festival of St. Winwall, an old British saint. About five miles from the town was formerly a priory, erected to his memory in the reign of King John; this is said to be at Wereham, not far from Lynn. Other fairs are also held during the year, but they are of minor importance. There are several public buildings in the town, but most of them are modern. The church is ancient, originally Norman. The building has at several times been altered and added to, so that various styles of architecture will be noticed; Early English, however, prevails. There is nothing very special to attract the visitor.

CHAPTER XXII.

CHATTERIS TO MARCH

Viâ DODDINGTON, WIMBLINGTON, WIMPOLE HALL, MARCH, WESTRY, AND STONEY.

A VERY pleasant trip can be made from Chatteris to March, a distance of about seven miles by road. Leaving Chatteris by the High Street, pass over the level crossing at the end of the town; the road will be found good and level, and well suited for cycle riding.

Doddington, 2¼ miles.

Within a distance of four miles the small village of Doddington will be reached. Unlike many of the Cambridgeshire villages it stands on high ground, which during inundations is a complete island. It is interesting from the fact of its being a Saxon settlement; this is gathered from its name (Saxon)—*Dodingas*. It was once the richest church living in England—equal to a bishopric—but an Act of Parliament passed in 1856, called the Doddington Rectory Act, altered the condition of things by dividing the living into seven separate rectories. The church has a mixture of styles—Decorated and Perpendicular. It is well worth seeing on account of its fine chancel, north and south porches, and its western tower and spire. Several memorial windows are notable, as also the many monuments to the Peyton family.

Wimblington.

Leaving Doddington, skirt the high wall to the right, keeping the main road for Wimblington, which is a village to the south of March Island, and was formerly included with Doddington. The entire locality has produced very many Roman and British antiquities, such as pottery and coins. The

church, built in 1749, is of red brick, and chiefly noted for containing monuments of celebrated people, such as the Chichele and Yorke families. The imposing monument to Philip first Earl of Hardwicke and Lord Chancellor 1737-56, should be noted, also the altar tomb, with recumbent effigy in marble, to the fifth Earl of Hardwicke, etc., etc. Near the village is Wimpole Hall, the seat of the Hardwickes. A portion of this mansion was built in 1632. The choice collection of pictures by old masters is specially worth seeing. To the south-east of the village the common and fen are extensive. The Sixteen Foot River divides them. Four miles further is March, which is the central point of the Cambridgeshire fenland. The town stands on the old river Nen, which is navigable, adding to the importance of March as a business centre for the district. As to its name, Mr. S. H. Miller remarks that it "has some historic interest, as *march*, or *mark*, signifies a boundary. Now the town stands on an island capped with gravel, and this high land extends to Doddington, and here was dry ground when the fens were flooded. But the interest of the matter lies in the probability that in the sixth century this was *the boundary* between the East Angles and the Middle Angles, for East Anglia extended to the west of the Ouse before the Mercian Kingdom was formed; and then the word Mercia, of the same origin, was applied to the frontier province between the Angles and the Welsh. The place, however, had most likely a more remote antiquity than is here implied, for Roman remains have been found."

Wimpole Hall.

March, 4¼ miles.

The one arch bridge over the river is noticeable, as it is a handsome structure erected in 1850, and the high causeway is lined with trees, which circumstance is by no means common. About one mile from the bridge is the church of St. Wendreda, formerly a chapel of Doddington, originally erected in 1343; it has many very interesting features—the chief is the fine carved oak roof, which was done in the fifteenth century. There are also two brasses—one in the nave, dated 1517, with kneeling figures; the other brass is to the memory of one William Dredman, said to be

CHAPTER XXIII.

WISBECH.

TO WHICH IS ADDED WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH, HOW TO DO IT, AND WHEN; ALSO A LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPÔTS AND DARK ROOMS.

WISHBECH is the commercial capital of the East Anglian fenlands. It will be found the centre of a fruit, grain, and root-growing district, including in its area such places as Elm, Outwell, and Upwell villages, with their extensive strawberry and other fruit farms, which are such important features in rural Cambridgeshire.

Wisbech is on the borders of Norfolk, within a few miles of the sea, to which it has access by the river Nene, which intersects the town, and by means of the Wisbech Canal it has free water communication by the Ouse with Cambridge, Hertford, and London.

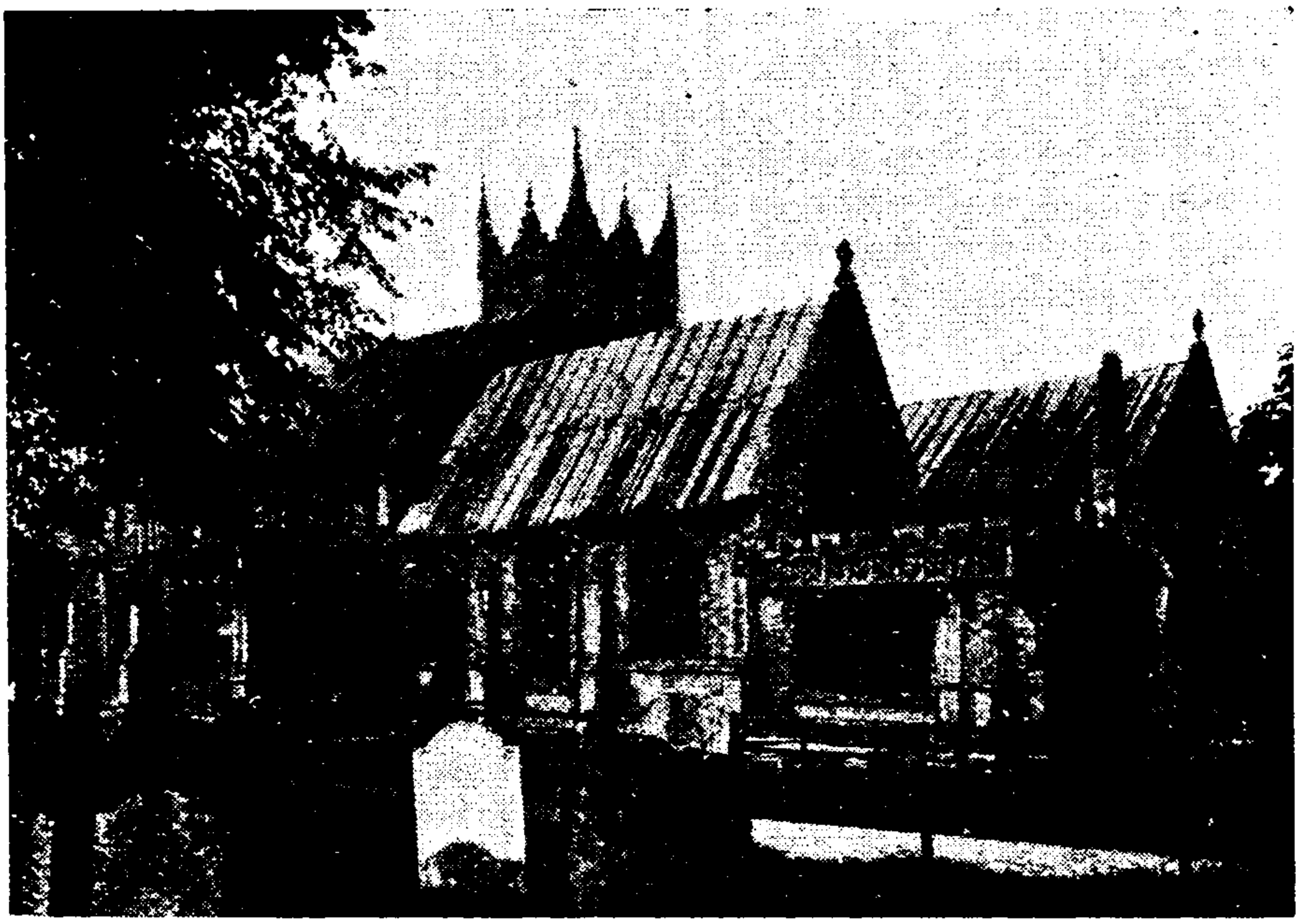
The history of Wisbech is most interesting, as the town is of very ancient origin. Even the name is open to discussion. According to Miller, quoting from Dugdale, it is allowed that the old Britons located themselves here, and formed a settlement at the confluence of two streams—the larger one is known as the Ouse, the smaller one came to be called *Becc* by the Saxons. The Ouse thus derived from *wysg*, a Celtic word denoting a stream, and this with *becc* forms *Wysgbecc*, signifying that the river had its outfall at Wisbech. In the time of Edward III. the name of the town was commonly spelt *Wysebeche*. Without doubt this place was in the Iceni district, as there are abundant evidences of a Roman station, for the bank is still to be seen, and is known as the Roman bank. The road passed close to Ramsey, by March, Waldersey, Wisbech, and Tydd. In the year 1715 a quantity of copper coins

were found enclosed in a pot, and in 1845 a Roman vase was found in the neighbourhood, which was placed in the Wisbech Museum. According to Babington, Roman coins have been found from time to time near Wisbech; an aureus of Valentinianus was discovered in 1845. Others have been found on the North Brink, and a Roman vase was unearthed in a field on the South Brink, besides other relics of a similar nature. As evidence of the antiquity of Wisbech, it is sufficient to note that the first historic mention of the town was in the charter of

MARKET PLACE, WISBECH.

grants made to Medeshamstede by Wulfhere in 657, and also that William I. erected a castle at *Wisbec* in the last year of his reign. Before the construction of the dykes, Wisbech was in constant danger of inundation. According to ancient records, in 1236 "the sea rose continually in flowing for the space of two days and a night, without ebbing, by reason of the mighty winds, and in 1266 the town was utterly destroyed; even the solid stone towers of William's castle were not able to resist the rush of the waters." The foundations of this castle alone remain; the building covered about two acres, and was surrounded by a moat. This

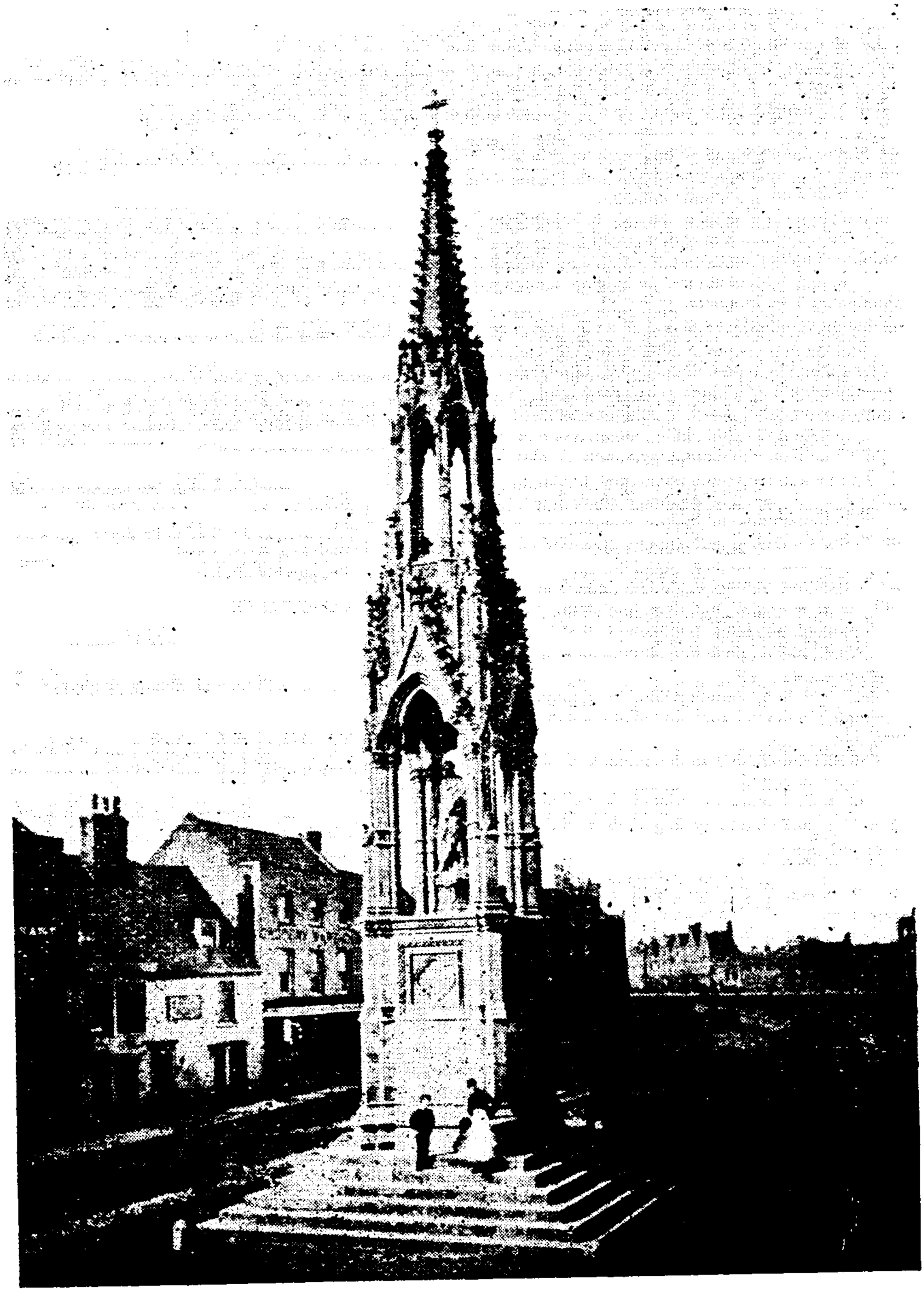
castle is historically interesting on account of its being the fortress whence King John made the attempt to cross the Washes, which cost him his treasure, his army, and incidentally his life, for his death soon afterwards was mainly due to vexation at this crushing blow. A fortalice of brick was built upon the site in the fifteenth century by Bishop Morton of Ely, and became one of the episcopal residences. Here Bishop Alcock died in 1500. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth the building was used as a prison for those members of the clergy who re-



ST MARY'S CHURCH, WISBECH.

fused to acknowledge her ecclesiastical supremacy. Many distinguished persons were confined for life here shortly after her accession in 1558, and died during confinement, among them being the bishop of Lincoln (Thomas Whyte), 1584; Thomas Watson, also bishop of Lincoln, 1587; and John Freckingham, the last abbot of Westminster, 1585 (Conybeare).

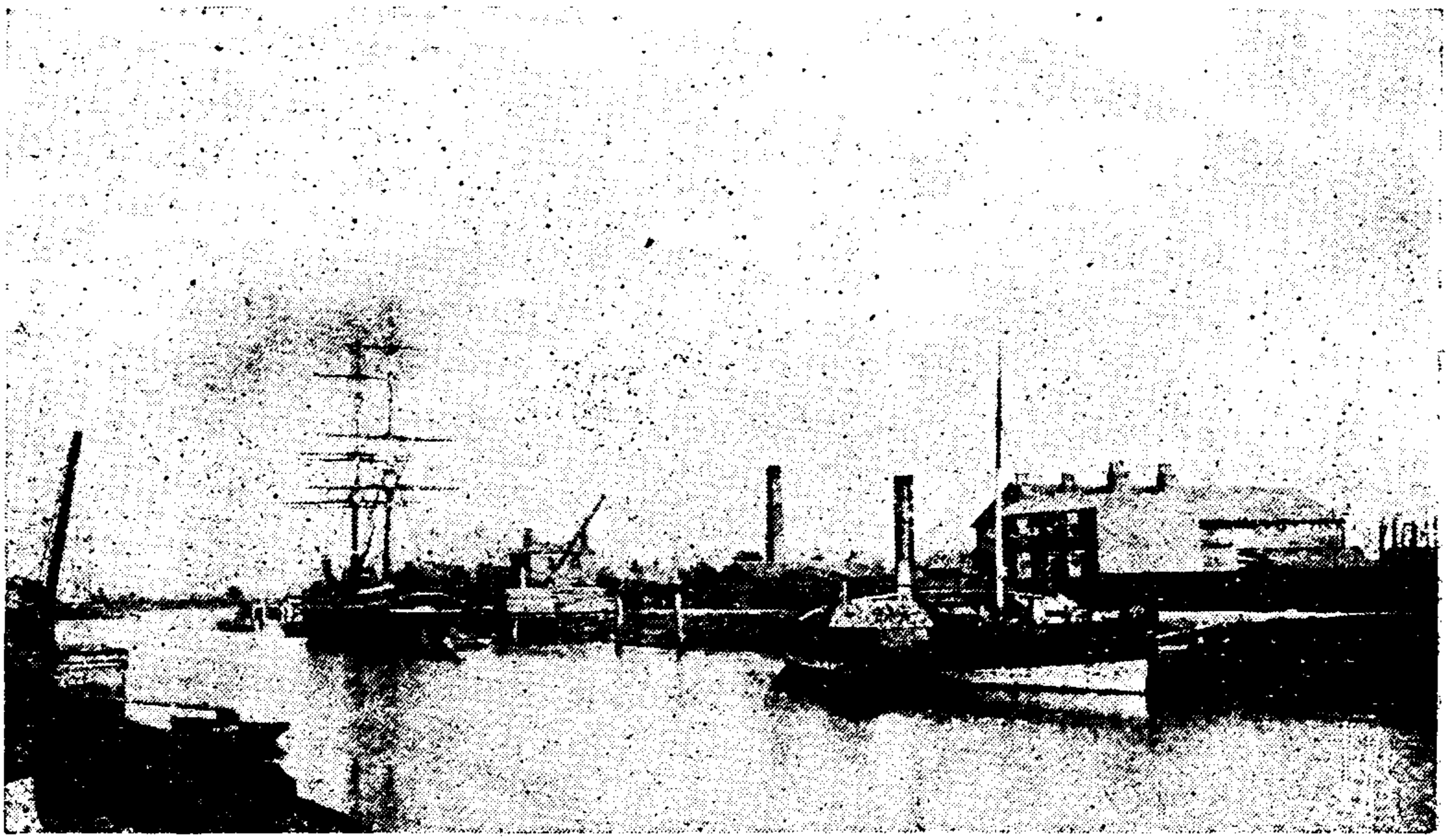
The church, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, is a stone building in the Early Norman, Early Decorated, and Late Perpendicular styles, the first building dating from the twelfth century. It contains much of interest. Amongst the noteworthy objects is the large brass to Sir Thomas de Branstone, constable of Wis-



CLARKSON MEMORIAL, WISBECH.

winter months, and on Thursday evenings from seven to nine. Many other public buildings will claim the attention of the stranger. Those named, however, are the chief and more interesting.

One of the most striking objects of Wisbech is the noble memorial to Thomas Clarkson, M.A., the advocate for the abolition of the slave trade. It stands near the great bridge which crosses the river Nen. The memorial consists of a statue, from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., mounted on a platform, above which rises a canopy, terminating in a spire, altogether measuring sixty-eight feet in height. On the sides of the



ON THE NENE, NEAR THE MOUTH

base are carved reliefs representing Wilberforce, Granville Sharp, and a manacled slave in a praying attitude. The inscription states that "Thomas Clarkson was born at Wisbech, March 26th, 1760, and died at Playford Hall, near Ipswich, in Suffolk, September 26th, 1846." The entire cost of the memorial amounted to £2,055, which was raised by subscription Near the bridge are some ancient buildings with interesting histories; these are on the southern side of the river, and now used as warehouses.

The principal trade of Wisbech consists of coal, timber, and iron. The imports, as well as the exports, are considerable. The large planing and sawing mills are a feature of the town; these are by the riverside,

and are a sight to see. The quantity of fruit exported is considerable, consisting of gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, apples, pears, and plums. Various kinds of vegetables are also grown, and find a ready market. Altogether Wisbech is a busy town, affording a variety of attractions to every class of visitor.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH AT WISBECH, AND WHEN.

There is much to do in this most northern town of Cambridgeshire, the only port the county possesses. Work here .differs considerably from that already noted in Cambridge and Ely. The first thing to attract the attention of the visitor is the noble canopied statue with spire of Thomas Clarkson, the great anti-slavery advocate. This is near the bridge, and is a noteworthy object; it can be taken about noon, just below the photographer's.

The church of SS. Peter and Paul is very ancient, but is not easy to take, for it is difficult to get a good position; from the churchyard a good view may be obtained, placing the camera against the wall amongst the tombstones. This may be done about noon. The church is said to be the "oddest" built edifice that can be met with, being most irregular, but it is a noble building both within and without; it has two naves under one roof, two aisles, and two chancels, one of which is known as the town chancel. These chancels are Decorated. The nave has a Perpendicular clerestory and five Norman arches on the north side, opening into a Perpendicular aisle. At the west end of the nave are two Norman arches for the support of a tower. At the west end of the chancel is a small octagonal stone turret for a single bell, and at the east end, on the south side, a Perpendicular vestry.

The Octagonal Church on the north side of the old market is a chapel of ease; it is built of white brick. St. Augustine's is in Early English style, but is of recent erection. Other public buildings are the Grammar School in Upper Hill Street; this, though an ancient building (1379), is not attractive. The Museum is near the church. The Corn Exchange near the bridge on the North Brink. Near this bridge, on Nen Quay, are some old houses now used as warehouses. The old castle in

CHAPTER XXIV.

ROUND WISBECH.

No 1.

VISITING ELM, BEGDALE, COTTONS, WALDERSEE, EMNETH, OUTWELL, NORDELPH, AND THREE HOLES.

THERE are very many villages within walking distance of the town well worth visiting. Starting from the Clarkson Memorial turn to the left into the High Street as far as the Market Place; here turn to the right along Norfolk Street and Great South Street, until the Wisbech and Upwell tramway is reached, following the line along a good level road to the village of Elm, which is two miles south of Wisbech. The village is situated on the Wisbech Canal, and is on the Norfolk border. The church is specially interesting, Early English in style; its entire length is 149 feet. The oldest part is the tower, erected about 1280. It is thought that an older church than the present one stood formerly on the site, probably dating 1250. The pillars are most peculiar, alternately round and octagonal. The roof is open Perpendicular, with double hammer beams and angels richly carved. The ten good windows in the clerestory are worth noting; single lancets with shafts. The west doorway is round headed, with very fine Early English mouldings and shafts. From the history of Wisbech we note that in 1713, near a tumuli at Elm, an urn full of small Roman brass coins, most of them being Victorinus and Tetricus, and a Roman altar 26in. high and 14in. broad, were found; also coins from Gallienus down to Gratian; and in 1785, in a

Elm, 2 miles.

field adjoining, was dug up an earthen pot with a number of copper coins. These facts make the district an interesting one to the student of archæology.

Begdale, 1 mile.

Begdale, a small hamlet, is one mile to the south-west. Cottons two

Cottons, 2½ miles

and a half miles to the south-east.

Waldersee..

Waldersee lies to the west, and covers 5,000 acres. There is little of interest in either for the visitor.

The tourist, in leaving Elm, will find that the road is by no means straight, but it is level, and cannot be mistaken until Emneth is reached.

Emneth, 2¼ miles.

Although this village is really in Norfolk, it is so near the border that it demands notice here on account of its very interesting church, which dates from 1250, but of this very little remains. The arches in the chancel with part of the sides and east walls are all that can be looked upon as belonging to the ancient structure. Good examples of the Perpendicular work of the fifteenth century may be seen here, especially in the nave, tower, porch, and aisles. The whole of the interior is very fine, and is really worth examination. In the near neighbourhood are two good specimens of manor houses—Oxburgh and Inglethorpe Halls.

About two miles further Outwell is reached, which is partly in Cambridgeshire. The river Nene, upon which the village stands, divides Cambridgeshire from Norfolk. The church of St. Clement's

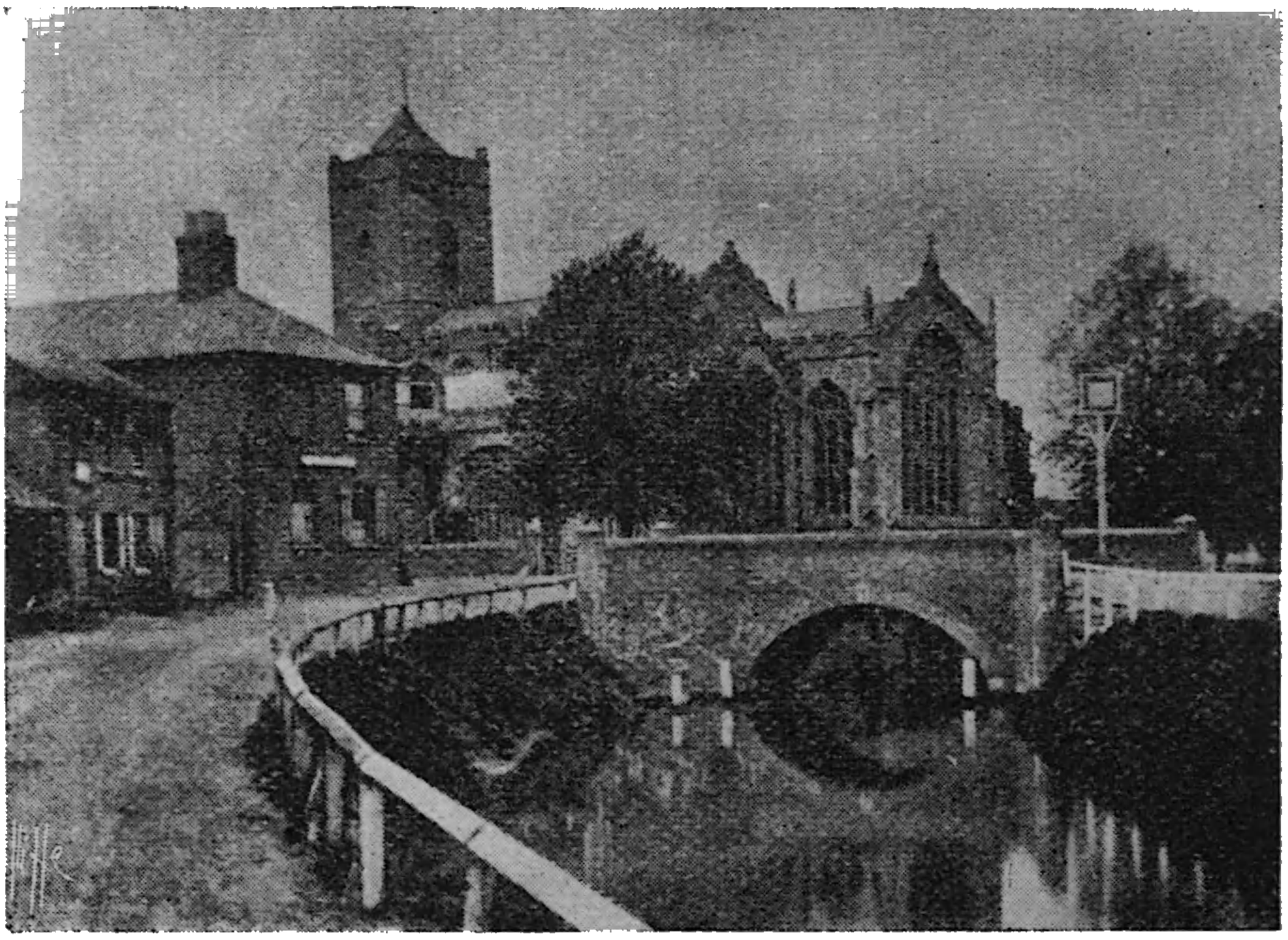
Outwell, 5¾ miles.

is remarkable for its fine proportions, the nave being 57½ft. long, and the chancel 38ft. long and 21ft. broad. The arch should be specially noted. Here may be seen fine examples of the various Gothic styles. The tower is Early English, the nave Decorated, and the remainder of the church Perpendicular, so that it affords a fine study for the architectural student, the aisles being rich and adorned with angels with outspread wings.

According to ancient records a priory once existed here, known as "Mullicourt," which stood a little beyond the Mullicourt Bar—a turnpike gate on the left of the Well River. This institution was established before the time of William I. The precise spot where it stood cannot now be located.

Marmound Priory, another house of similar character, founded by Richard I., had place here.

On the north side of Outwell is Beaupré Hall, formerly a magnificent mansion, taking its name from "De Bello Prato" from the fine meadows by which it was surrounded. For full particulars reference should be made to the "Roll of Battle Abbey." Sir Thomas de St. Omer, who came over with the Conqueror, was the first lord of the manor. Strange doings are recorded connected with this place.



OUTWELL.

The daughter of Sir Thomas de St. Omer married John, son of Gilbert De Beaupré, in whose family the estate remained until the year 1741. The elder Beaupré allowed the house to fall into dilapidation, but he himself indulged in many eccentricities, the most remarkable being the keeping of five hundred horses of his own breeding, many of them unbroken, which were allowed to roam at will over the hall, then uncovered.

Nordelph, half a mile further, is really in the parish of Upwell, and is intersected by the river Nene, over which there is an iron bridge. The church is modern, and is simply a chapel of ease. It

Nordelph, 9 miles.

Three Holes.

CHAPTER XXV.

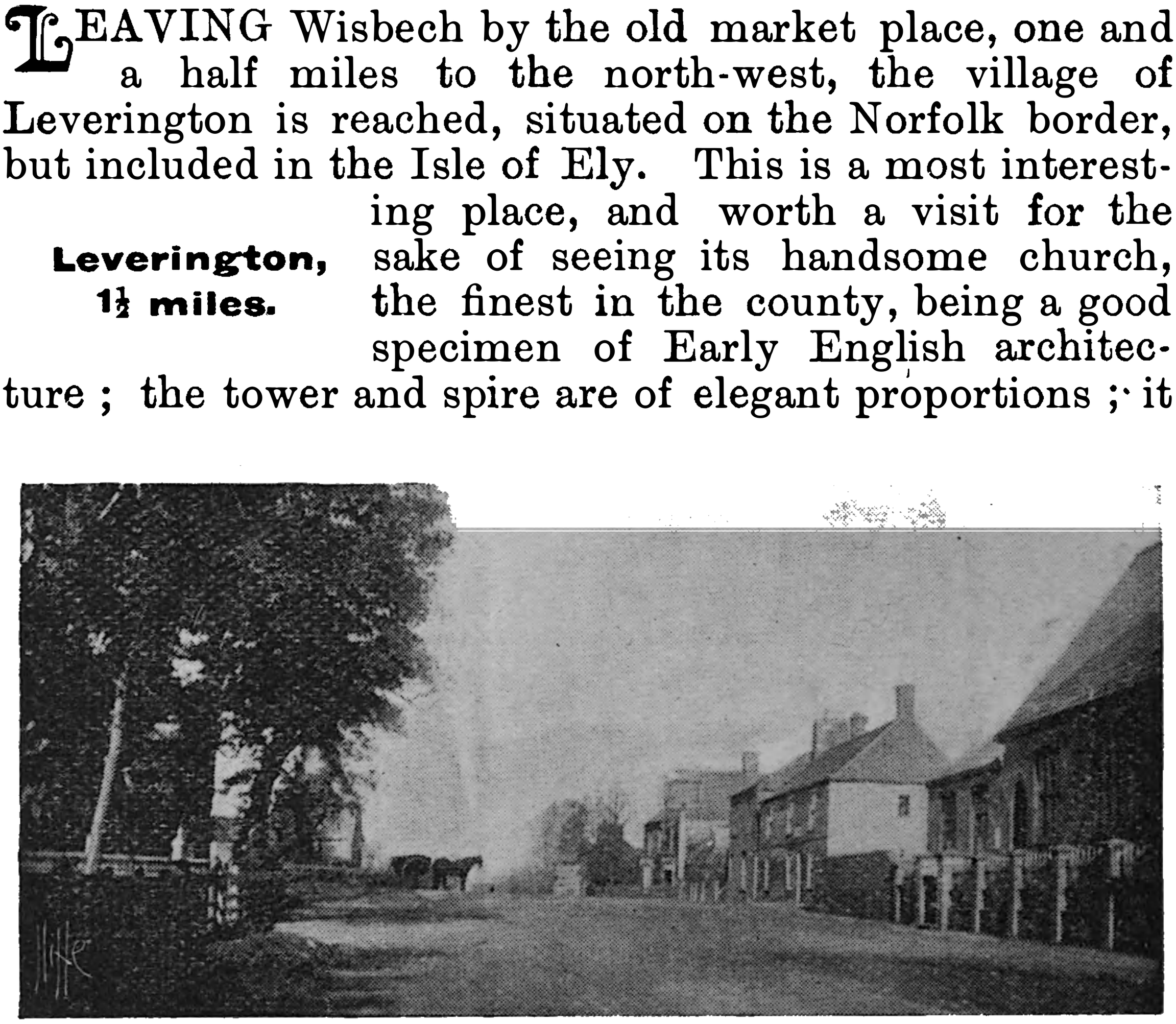
ROUND WISBECH.

No. 2.

LEVERINGTON, PARSON DROVE, FITTON END, GOREFIELD, MURROW, OR SOUTHEA-CUM-MURROW, NEWTON, TYDD ST. GILES, FOUL ANCHOR, FOUR GOTES, SUTTON BRIDGE, SUTTON ST. MARY, OR LONG SUTTON, AND SUTTON ST. JAMES.

LEAVING Wisbech by the old market place, one and a half miles to the north-west, the village of Leverington is reached, situated on the Norfolk border, but included in the Isle of Ely. This is a most interesting place, and worth a visit for the sake of seeing its handsome church, the finest in the county, being a good specimen of Early English architecture; the tower and spire are of elegant proportions; it

Leverington, 1½ miles.



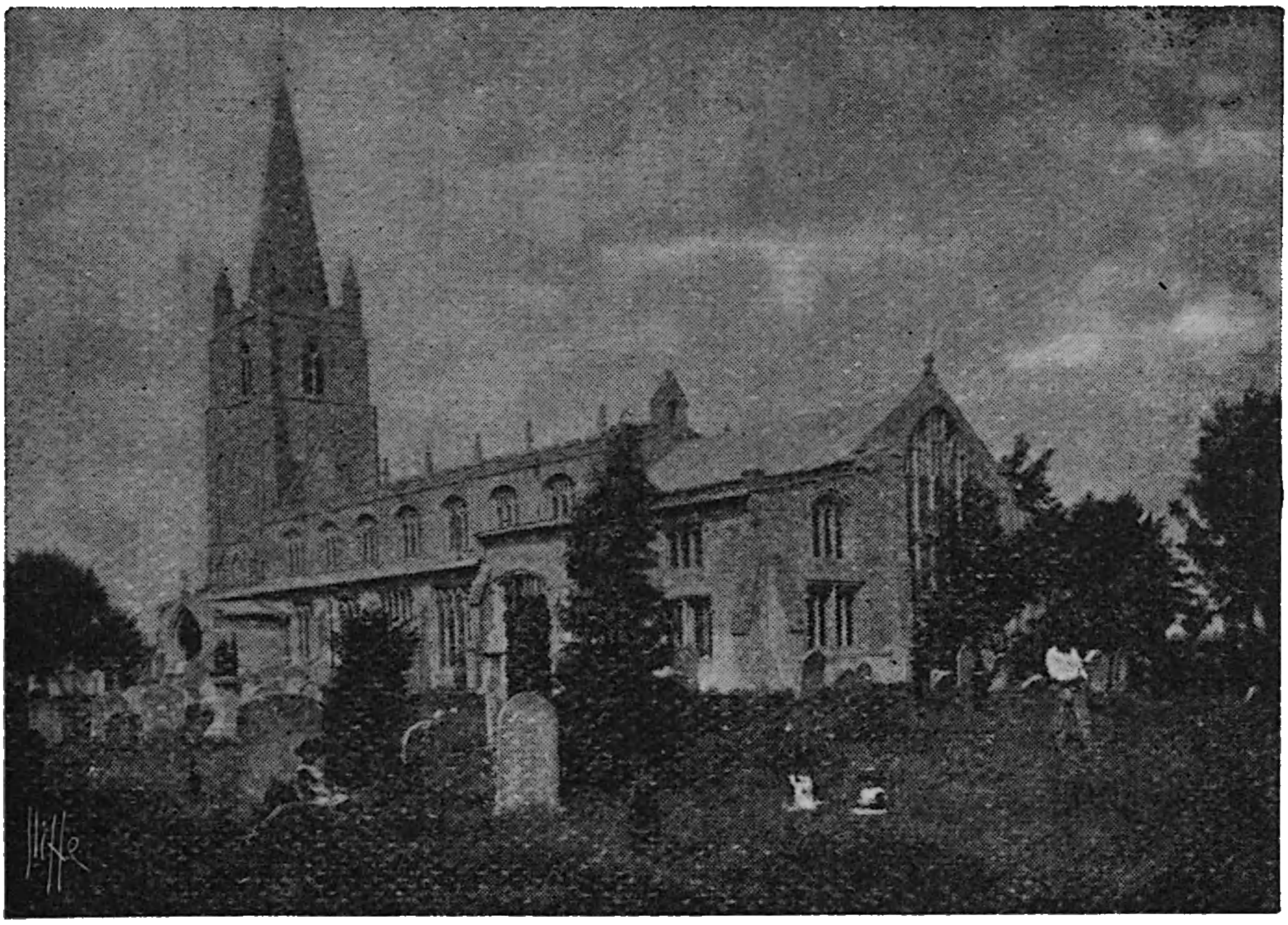
LEVERINGTON VILLAGE.

contains much worth studying, especially the south porch, which has a room in its stone roof. A noteworthy relic is an original oaken eagle in the chancel ; there are also a remarkable gravestone with an inscription written in Norman-French and a memorial to the memory of one Robert Stoughton, alderman of London, in the year 1690. In the chancel are some portions of decorated glass, with the figure of the Virgin sitting with the Saviour in her lap, and near by stands John the Baptist. Underneath is the following inscription :

"Lady lede us well fro harm
To him y'at lay ded in ye barm."

Also—

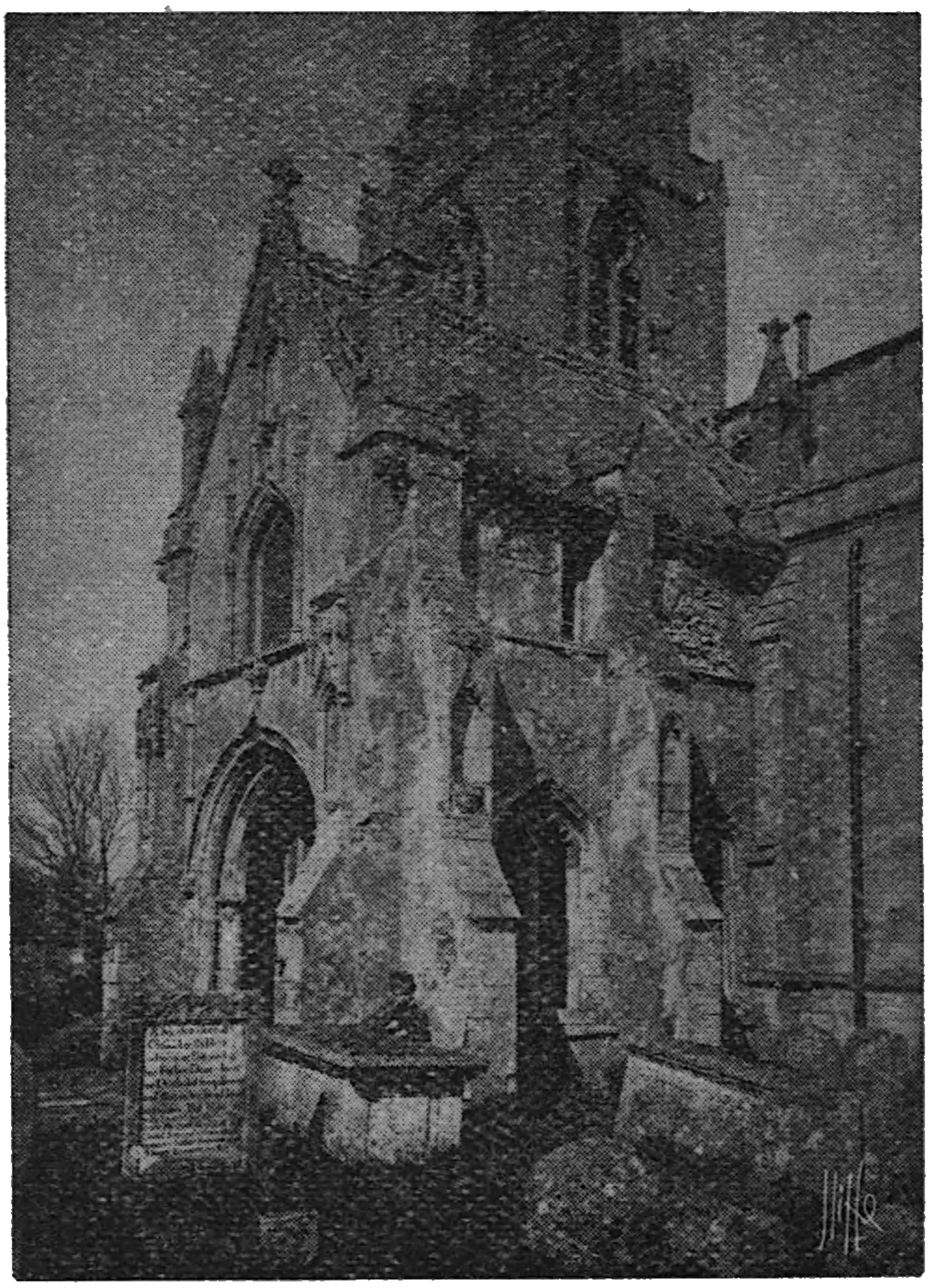
"Jesu fro sine make us tre
For John's love y'at baptised thee."



LEVERINGTON CHURCH.

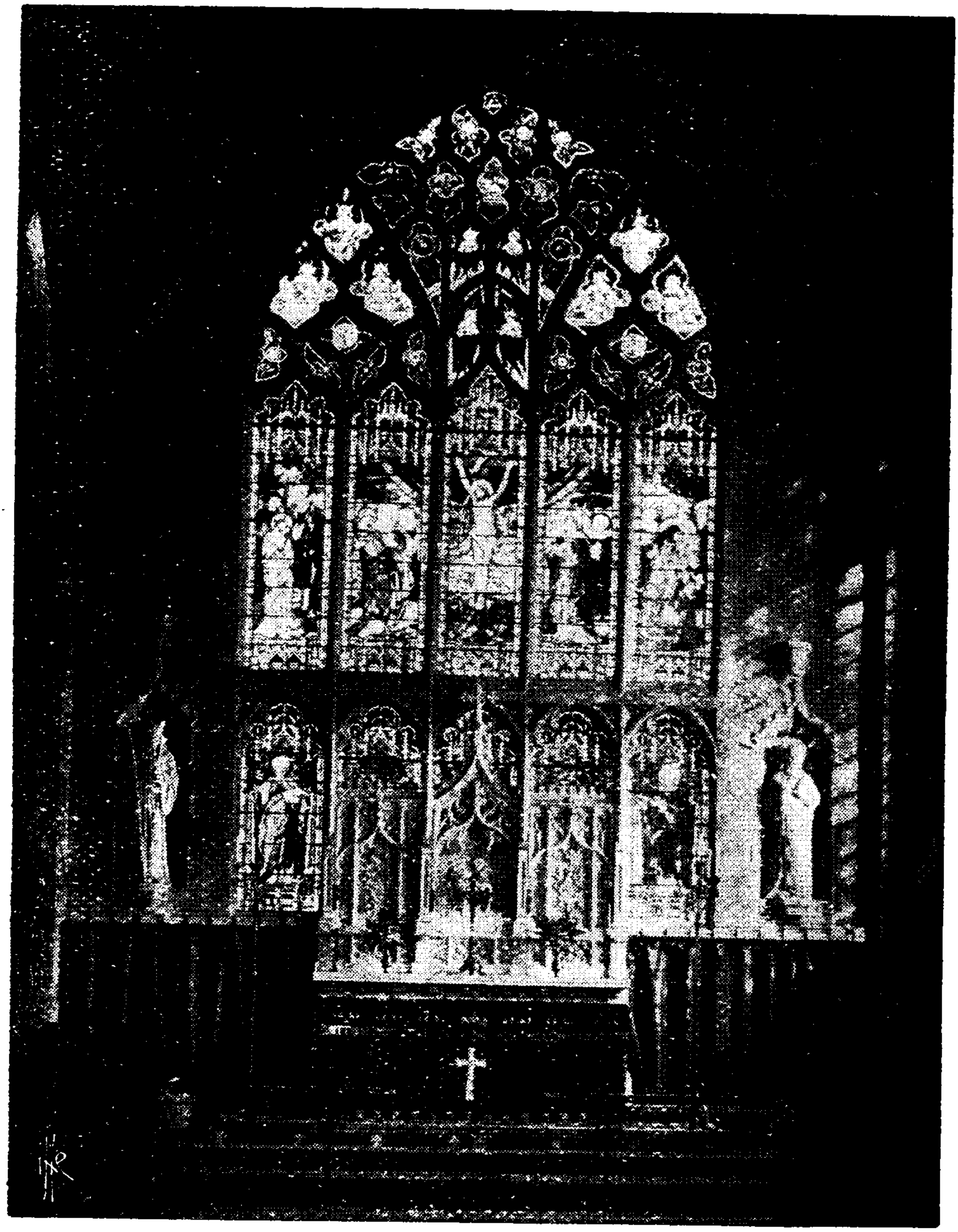
In the church chancel may be seen the original sedilia. Another very interesting item is the memorial to Nicholas Lumpkin, gent., and Captain Anthony Lumpkin, the latter deceased in 1780. It is thought probable that in this village Goldsmith conceived the plot of the famous comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer," as the poet was accustomed to visit at the house of Captain Anthony's father. It is noted by Mr. Miller

that "Oliver Goldsmith was born in 1728, Anthony in 1729; it is quite probable that when they met in the village of Leverington, and had their rambles in the neighbourhood, they may have come across some rustic whose appearance and manners suggested the character attributed to 'Tony,' and it was a friend of his own age with whose name he took this liberty." In the life



LEVERINGTON CHURCH PORCH.

of Goldsmith written by Professor Mason, we read that the comedy "was written at a farmhouse in Edgeware Road, London," but the Professor makes no allusion to the formation of the plot at Leverington, while he admits the poet "travelled considerably over England." The first named suggestion appears to be the most correct statement, notwithstanding the omission in the authenticated memoirs.



SUTTON CHURCH INTERIOR

windows are also worth noting, especially those decorated with buttresses and crocketed canopies, which are believed to be the work of Alan de Walsingham, the celebrated architect of the lantern of Ely Cathedral.

Three miles to the east is Foul Anchor, by the river Nene, near which is Tydd Railway Station. Also a ferry across the Nene. Four Gotes is to the east of St. Giles. There is nothing special for the tourist. Eight miles from Wisbech is Sutton Bridge, so named from the erection of a bridge which connects the Lincolnshire side of the river Nene to Norfolk county. The village, however, is in the former. Sutton St. Mary, also in Lincolnshire, is twelve miles from Wisbech. It boasts of the most interesting church in Fenland.

Foul Anchor, 3 miles east.

Four Gotes, adjoining.

Sutton Bridge, 8 miles.

Sutton St. Mary, 12 miles.

Four miles from Sutton St. Mary is Sutton St. James, near which the new South Holland drain passes. This is over the county border, and outside our province. It is, however, worth a visit, as to the west is what is known as Raven's Bank, sometimes called Roman Bank, near which is Ivy Cross with tiers of steps and a large square stone. Further to the west is another cross, both of which are of the greatest interest to the antiquarian.

Sutton St. James, 12 miles.

CHAPTER XXVI.

WISBECH TO PETERBOROUGH.

WISBECH ST. MARY, THORNEY TOLL, THOLOMAS, THORNEY, WRYDE, FRENCH DROVE, ENGLISH DROVE, WILLOW HALL, STONE BRIDGE, EYE, AND NEWARK.

LEAVING Wisbech from the Corn Exchange, in about two miles the tourist arrives at Wisbech St. Mary, which is a small village. The church of St. Mary is built of brick and stone, and contains many curious items, especially brackets, and in the south porch are the remains of a large stoup. The parish includes the hamlets of Thorney Toll, Tholomas Drove (two miles), and part of Wisbech Fen, by the road which runs south of Guyhirn by the bank of the river Nen. There is, however, no special features for the tourist. The road is straight and level to Guyhirn (for an account of which see page 151). Leaving Guyhirn, Thorney is reached, fourteen miles from Wisbech.

Wisbech St. Mary, 2 miles.

Thorney Toll, 7½ miles from the church.

Tholomas Drove, 2 miles.

Thorney is a place of great interest to the historian as well as to the antiquarian. The place was formerly known as "Ankeridge," and stands upon the Northamptonshire border. The village is one of the most picturesque in Cambridgeshire, being surrounded by long drains leading to the port of Wisbech. The roads are remarkable for having magnificent avenues of trees, especially the Causeway, Willow Hall, and the Whittlesea roads. From the "History of Thorney," by Warner, we find that in 664 Saxulf

Thorney, from Wisbech 14 miles.

be supposed, it contains much of interest, and will be found worthy of examination and study. Above the west window are figures of Saxon saints, also many other relics of former days; note especially the west doorway, with its fine mouldings. In the year 1654 a number of French refugees settled here after the revocation of the edict of Nantes; this is evidenced by the earliest register being written in the French language. The complete history of this strange register is given at length in the accounts referred to, this dates from 1654 to 1727. Wryde lies to the east of Thorney. French Drove is to the north. English Drove between Thorney and French Drove. Willow Hall is three miles to the south-east. Stone Bridge crosses Thorney Dyke on the Whittlesea Road. At Thorney good accommodation will be found. The next place of importance is Eye. This is usually called "Eye Green," in order to distinguish it from Eye in Suffolk, which is a town better known. Eye, being in Northamptonshire, is, however, out of our province. Passing Newark, the city of Peterborough is soon reached. This also is in Northamptonshire, the whole distance from Wisbech being twenty-one miles.

Wryde, 2½ miles.

French Drove, 4 miles

English Drove, 2 miles.

Willow Hall.

Stone Bridge 2½ miles.

Eye, 3½ miles from Peterborough.

Newark, 2 miles from Peterborough.

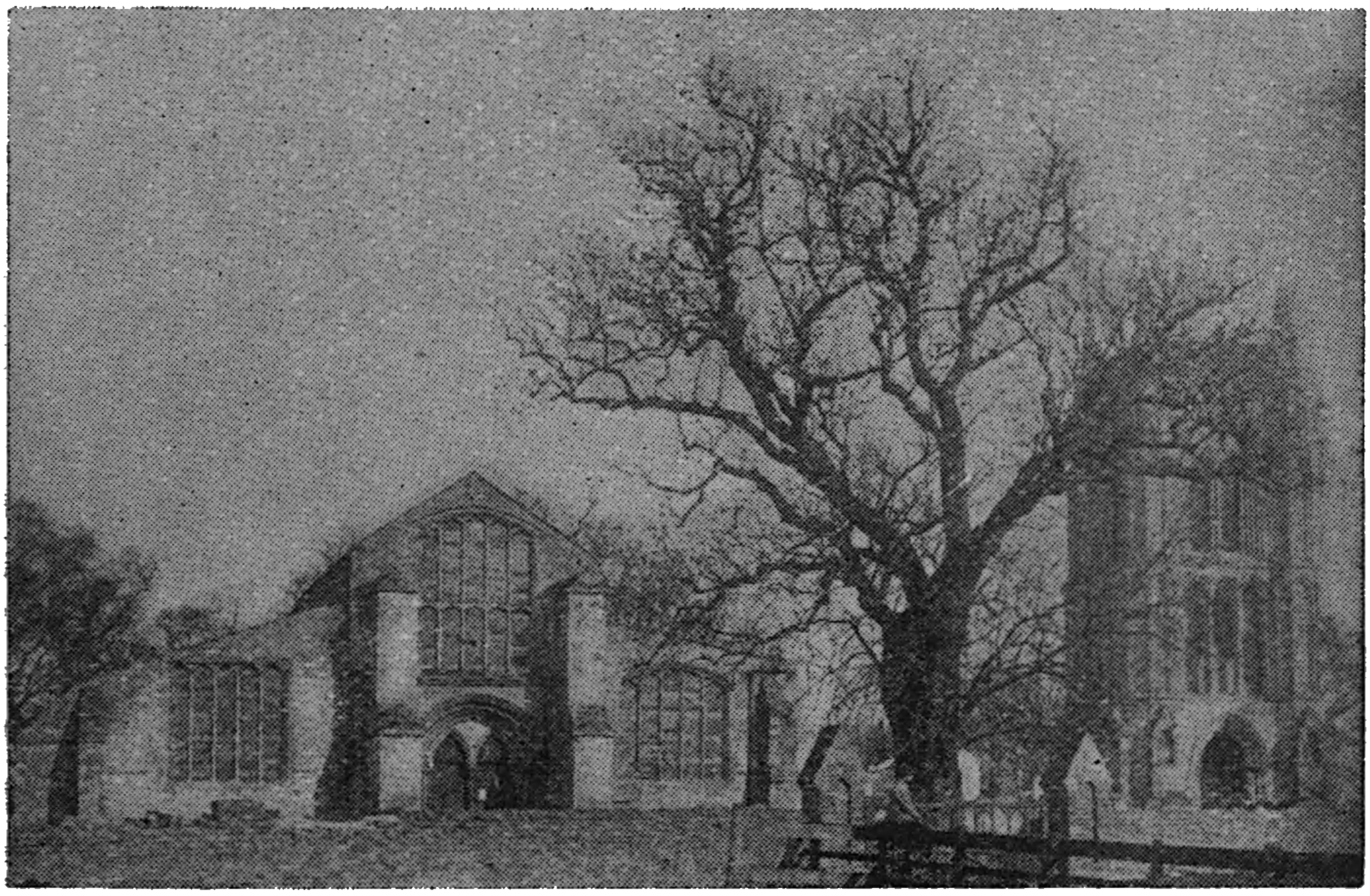
CHAPTER XXVII.

WISBECH TO LYNN.

WALSOKEN, WALTON HIGHWAY, WEST WALTON, WALTON FEN END, WALPOLE ST. ANDREW, WALPOLE ST. PETER, TILNEY ST. LAWRENCE. TILNEY-CUM-ISLINGTON, KENNINGHALL, AND LYNN.

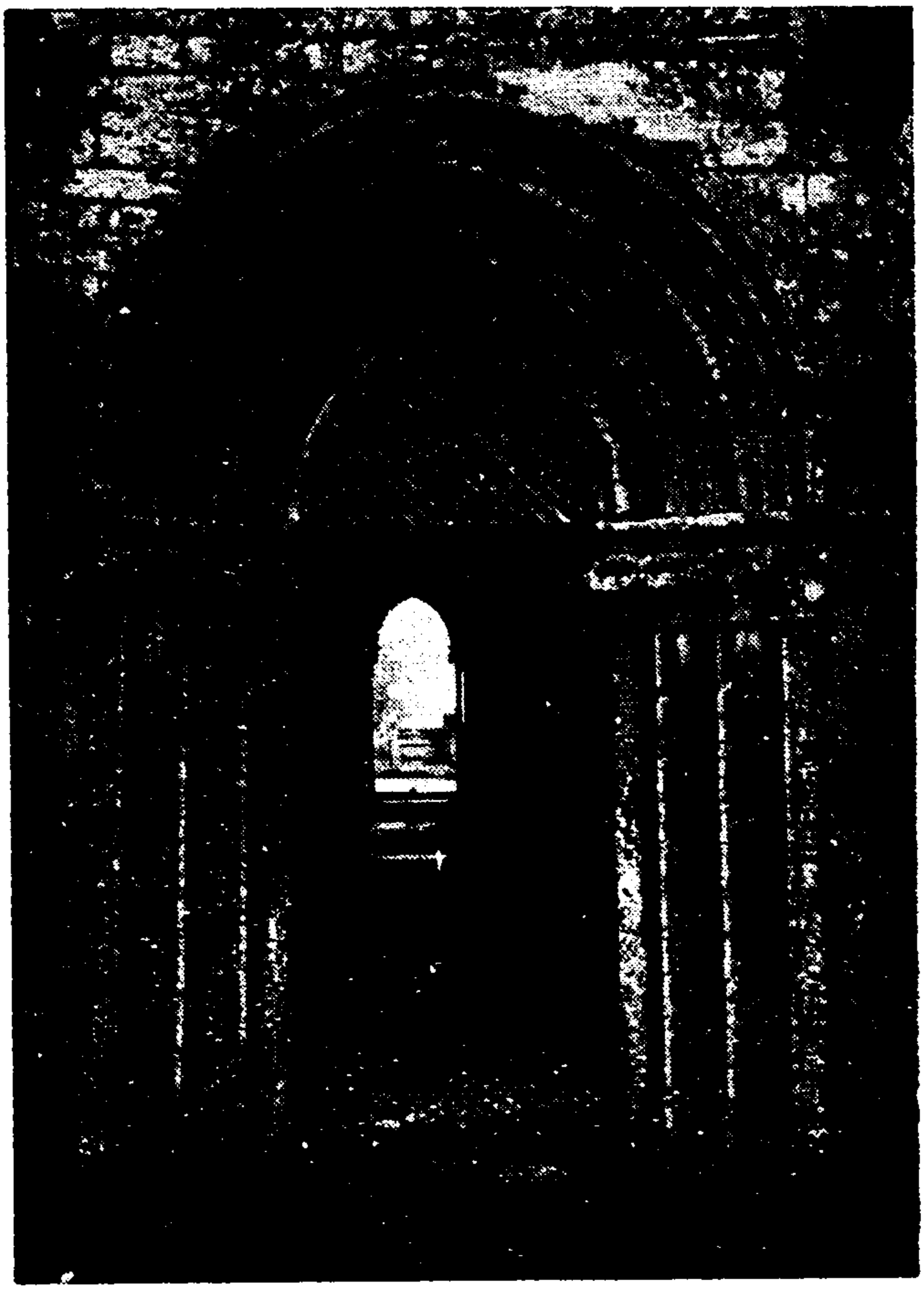
STARTING from the Clarkson Memorial, turn to the left along the Quay until the Lynn Road is reached. Passing over the level crossing, the first village arrived at is Walsoken, which, however, is in Norfolk, separated from Wisbech by the Wisbech Canal. Although in another county, part of this village is really a suburb of Wisbech. The portion

Walsoken, 1 mile.



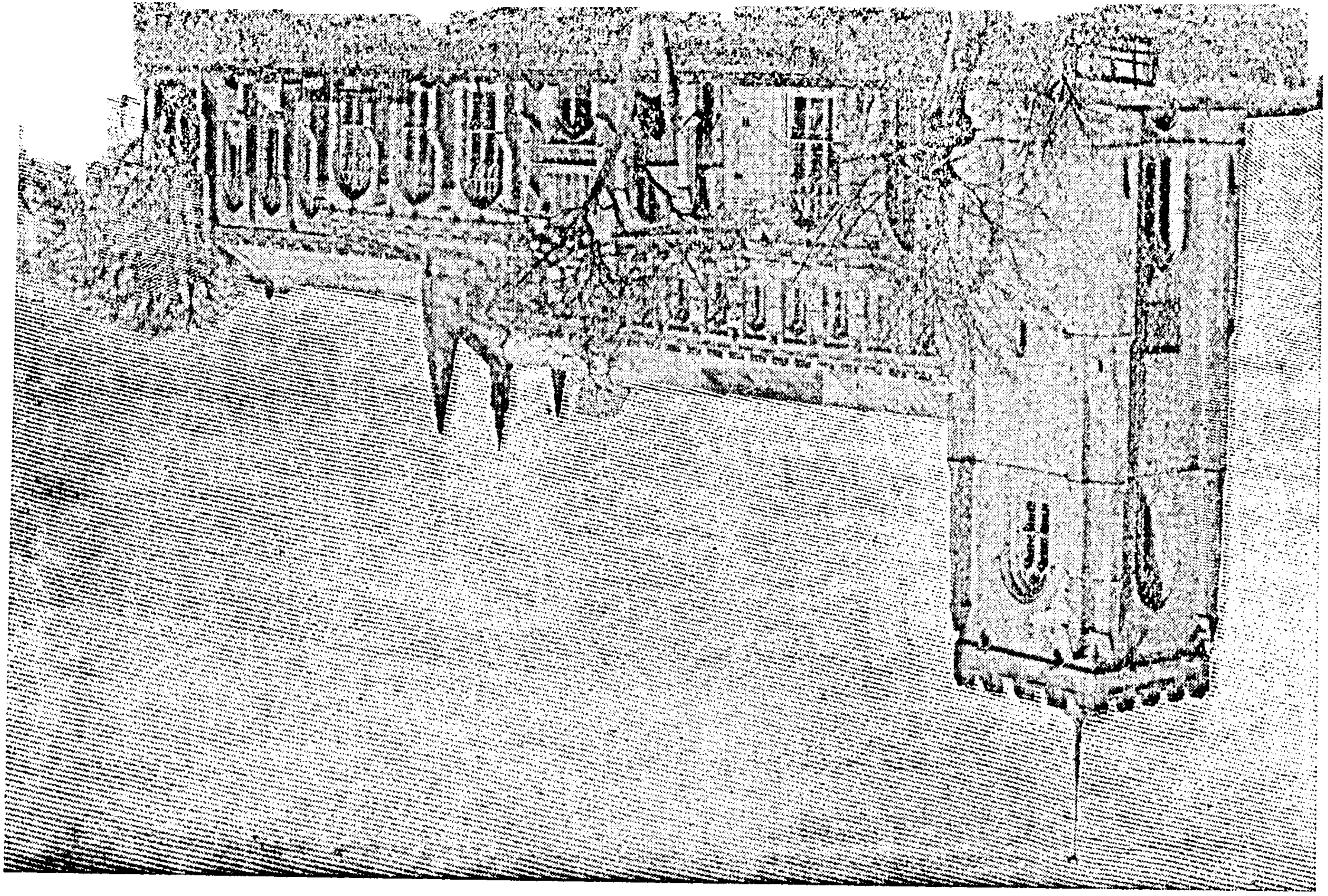
WEST WALTON CHURCH

nearest the town is called New Walsoken; being so, it is necessary to give a few details concerning it. The church is off the main road, and peculiarly interesting, especially to the antiquarian, for it presents the various styles of architecture from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. It has many curious items both within and without—notably, the neat bell cot on the exterior for the sanctus bell, which is by no means common. The



OLD PORCH, WALTON CHURCH.

locality is also historically interesting, dating as it does from earliest times. According to ancient records, "In 1335 the winter was so severe that Walsoken and the surrounding districts were inundated by the sea, which became so extensive that it broke the banks, drowned much cattle, and destroyed considerable property, so much so that the king was petitioned for help, which help was graciously accorded."



Tilney St. Lawrence, 6 miles from Lynn.

Tilney St. Lawrence has nothing special for the tourist. Its church is a modern building in Early English style. It contains an organ formerly belonging to Waltham Abbey Church, Essex, placed here in the year 1879.

Tilney-cum-Islington, 5 miles from Lynn.

Kenninghall.

Tilney-cum-Islington is a noteworthy place, having its church situated on a hill; it is a large building, and contains much of interest. Kenninghall, near by, is thought to have been the seat of Queen Boadicea and the East Anglian kings. The ancient mounds still existing are supposed to mark the site of the royal castle. The parks are now farms, and are locally known as Kenninghall Place. The whole of this district was formerly subject to inundations on account of its nearness to the Wash and the channel of the Great Ouse, which runs close to this village. The old bed of the river has, however, been converted into pastureland, and is exceedingly rich. The road from this point is level and good, well suitable for cycling.

Lynn, 14½ miles.

The town of Lynn is soon reached, being distant from Wisbech fourteen and a half miles. This important town being in Norfolk is outside our province. (See "The Way About Norfolk.")

CHAPTER XXVIII.

WISBECH TO CROWLAND

By way of Wisbech St. Mary, Tholomas Drove, Guyhirn, and Thorney.

LEAVING Wisbech from the Clarkson Memorial, the tourist passes through Wisbech St. Mary, Tholomas Drove, Guyhirn, to Thorney (see page 136), along a first-class cycling road. The ancient town of Crowland is reached after a run of about seven miles. Although this place is just within the borders of Lincolnshire, it is included in fenland, and being of such interest, a few particulars are here given, for no visitor to Northern Cambridgeshire will omit to journey thither for the purpose of seeing its far-famed old abbey and noted triangular bridge, which is a most curious structure—in fact, the greatest curiosity in Great Britain, if not in Europe. It is situated near the river Welland, and was founded by Guthlac in 716, and so remarkable is this place that Camden, the great historian, says: "Allow me to stop awhile to describe the extraordinary situation and nature of this spot, so different from all others in England, and this so very famous monastery. Crowland lies among the deepest fennes and waters stagnating off muddy lands, so shut in and environed as to be inaccessible on all sides except the north and east, and that only by narrow causeways."

The existing church is only a part of the old abbey, but what is left impresses the beholder as he admires the design of this once grand edifice. As one gazes

CHAPTER XXIX.

SKELETON ROUTES FROM VARIOUS CENTRES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTANCES.

IT is quite impossible to detail all the journeys that may be made in our "Way About Cambridgeshire." The following skeleton routes may be followed to advantage:

Peterborough to Eye and Thorney 7m., then on to Crowland 5m., visiting *en route* Cowbit and Spalding.

Peterborough to Glinton, Peakirk, Deeping St. James, Market Deeping, Langtoft, Baston, and Bourn. This journey will cover about 16m.

Spalding to Boston by way of Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Gosberton, Quadring, Donington, Bicker, and Swineshead—in all 21m.

Cambridge to Cottenham 6m., then to Haddenham 5m., crossing the river by the ferry. From Haddenham, through Wilburton, to Ely 5m., along the edge of the high ground rising like a cliff above the fen—the whole distance about 16m.

Downham Market to Swaffham by way of Bexwell 1½m., Crimplesham 2m., Stradsett 1¼m., and Fincham. Total distance 14m.

Downham Market to Huntingdon by way of Nordelph, Three Holes, Upwell, March, Doddington, Ramsey, Bury, Warboys, Old Hurst, and Hartford. Total distance 41½m.

Downham Market to Long Sutton by way of Nordelph, Outwell, Emneth, Wisbech, and Tydd Gote. Total distance 22m.

Cambridge to St. Neots *viâ* Madingley Hill and Eltisley. Total distance 16½m.

Cambridge to Huntingdon, *viâ* Fenstanton and Godmanchester. Total distance 15¾m.

Cambridge to Crowland by way of Somersham, Pidley, Fenton, Warboys, Bury, Ramsey, Ramsey St. Mary, Pondersbridge, Whittlesea, and Thorney. Total distance 43m.

Ely to St. Ives by way of Witchford, Sutton, Earith Bridge, Bluntisham, and Needingworth. Total distance 16¾m.

Ely to Peterborough by way of Witchford, Sutton, Mepal, Chatteris, Doddington, March, Coates, Whittlesea, Stanground, and Fletton. Total distance 37¾m.

Cambridge to Royston by way of Trumpington, Hauxton, Harston, Foxton, and Melbourn. Total distance about 14m.

CHAPTER XXX.

MARCH TO PETERBOROUGH

WITH DETAILS OF COATES, WHITTLESEY OR WHITTLESEA, ELDERNELL, ANGLE BRIDGE, PONDS BRIDGE, STANGROUND, AND FLETTON.

LEAVE March by crossing the river at the end of Broad Street for the Dartford Road, then bear to the left by the direction post which stands near the Horse and Jockey Inn. Then bear to the left along a good level though winding road. Several level crossings are met with *en route* after these. Near the Three Horse-shoes Inn turn to the right, and for some little distance keep the dyke on the right hand until the Beggar's Bridge is reached, near which is

Coates, 2¾ miles.

Coates and Eastrea. The former is two and a half miles from Whittlesea. These two places are united for ecclesiastical purposes, being situated on an old fen, which at one time was an island at a considerable height from the ordinary fen level. There is nothing very special here. The church is a modern structure, and has little of interest.

Whittlesea, or as it was formerly written "Witesie," is an ancient market town situated on an island which explains the name, *Whittles-ea*—the termination being the Saxon for island.

Whittlesea, 4½ miles.

The river Nene runs on the northern side. Included in this parish is the Wash, seven miles in length. The land for a portion of the year is covered with water to some depth, and during the season wildfowl abound in considerable numbers, affording capital hunting ground for sportsmen

more Street, and Peterborough End, over the level crossing, turning to the right at the cemetery, the village of Stanground is reached. This is partly in Huntingdonshire, and situated on the Nene. As, however, some portion belongs to Cambridgeshire, a short notice is desirable. The church is worth seeing, as it contains some Early English work, and has many relics, such as a three graduated sedilia under a canopy, a double piscina, a long stone seat, an aumbry, and in the chantry a hagioscope. The registry dates from 1538. Good accommodation may be obtained at the inns. The parish contains 2,290 acres, of which only 969 are in Hunts, so it will be seen that the greater part of the village belongs to Cambridgeshire. Leaving Stanground, turn to the left at the signpost for Fletton, which is only at a short distance.

Stanground, 5¾ miles.

Fletton, 6½ miles.

This village is entirely in Hunts. A halt should be made here for the purpose of visiting the old church of St. Margaret, for it contains some Norman remains worth seeing, especially the carved work in the walls. Although the church has been restored, the old portions have been allowed to remain. As this village adjoins Peterborough, a short distance only intervenes before the cathedral city is reached, which is entered by crossing the bridge over the river Nene. Peterborough, being in Northamptonshire, is outside our limits.

CHAPTER XXXI.

MARCH TO WISBECH.

GUYHIRN, RINGSEND, AND THORNEY TOLL.

LEAVE March by crossing the river, and at the end of Broad Street enter the Dartford Road, and at the Horse and Jockey Inn, turn to the right over the level crossing, passing the church on the right, until Guyhirn Railway Station is reached. The village is on the river Nen, and includes Ringsend and Thorney Toll. The church of St. Mary is built upon the site of an earlier church, dating from the fifteenth century. The present structure is from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., and contains very much that is interesting, although modern. The name Guyhirn was first given to the river between Guyhirn and Wisbech in the year 1437, from the Saxon word *hirne*, a bend.

Guyhirn, 3½ miles.

Ringsend and Thorney Toll.

Engineering works have been carried on here from time to time, especially in 1614 and 1716, in forming what are known as Martin's Leam and Smith's Leam. There is an interesting building now used as a mortuary which was formerly a chapel of ease, erected in 1660, having a bell dated 1637; besides these two items there is nothing for the visitor.

Six miles by the road parallel to the river Nene brings the visitor to Wisbech. This road being level is admirably suited for cycling. Wisbech is entered by the South Brink.

Wisbech, 6 miles.

INDEX.

COUNTY GAZETTEER.

ABINGTON, GREAT.—Village 1m. east of Pampisford station, south of river Granta. Ancient church of St. Mary the Virgin in Early English style.

ABINGTON, LITTLE.—Village north of river Granta, 1m. north-east of Pampisford station. Ancient church of St. Mary in Norman style.

ABINGTON PIGOTTS.—Parish 5m. north-west from Royston.

ARRINGTON.—Parish about 6m. north-west from Royston, on the Ermine street. Ancient stone church of St. Nicholas.

ASHLEY-CUM-SILVERLEY.—Village on Suffolk border, 4m. south east from Newmarket.

BABRAHAM.—Village on river Granta, at foot of Gog-Magog hills, 2m. north from Pampisford. Interesting church of St. Peter.

BALSAM. —Village 4m. north-north-east from Linton. Fine church of Holy Trinity in Perpendicular style.

BARRINGTON.—Village on the river Cam, 1m. north from Foxton station. Church of All Saints.

BARTLOW.—Very small village on border of Essex, 2m. south-east from Linton.

BARTON.—Parish on the Bourn brook, 1½m. north-east from Lord's Bridge station.

BARWAY.—Hamlet near Soham in Fenland, 3½m. south from Ely.

BASSINGBOURN.—Village about 3m. north-west from Royston. Royston and the hamlet of Kneesworth are in this parish.

BOROUGH GREEN.—Village and parish 2½m. south-east from Dullingham. Interesting church of St. Augustine.

BOTHSHAM.—Large village between Newmarket and Cambridge Fine church of Holy Trinity.

BOURN.—Parish 9m. west from Cambridge. Church of St. Mary. Ancient remains of a Norman castle are to be found here.

BOXWORTH.—Parish about 4m. south-west from Swavesey.

BRINKLEY.—Village 3m. south from Dullingham.

BURWELL.—Large village and parish 5m. north-west rom Newmarket.

CALDICOT.—Parish 4m. north-east from Old North Road station. Ancient church of St. Michael.

CAMBRIDGE.—County town on the river Cam. Very ancient town, fine and extremely interesting colleges and churches. University church of St. Mary the Great is in the centre of the town, All Saints Church, opposite Jesus College, is in Early English style. Church of Holy Sepulchre, one of the oldest round churches in England, is of the Norman period, etc. Colleges, elegant in structure and well worth a visit. Corn trade of some importance.

CARLTON-CUM-WILLINGHAM.—Village 5m. south-south-east from Dullingham on the borders of Suffolk.

CASTLE CAMP.—Straggling parish 3m. south-east from Bartlow.

CAXTON.—Old town on Huntingdon border, on Ermine street, the old Roman road from London to York, 2½m. north-west from Old North Road station. Interesting church of St. Andrew's.

CHATTERIS.—Very old parish and market town, 10¾m. north by east from St. Ives. Old church of St. Peter's.

CHERRY HINTON.—Village about 2½m. south-east of Cambridge. Very interesting Early English church of St. Andrew's. Early English style.

CHESTERTON.—Straggling village on north bank of the river Cam, 1½m. from Cambridge. Interesting church of St. Andrew's.

CHETISHAM.—2m north from Ely.

CHEVELEY.—Village 3m. south-east from Newmarket.

CHILDERLEY.—Parish 9m. north-west from Cambridge.

CHIPPENHAM.—Village 5m. north-east from Newmarket.

CHISHALL, GREAT, LITTLE.—Parish 5m. north-west from Royston.

COATES AND EASTREA.—Former 2½m. east and latter 1½m. east from Whittlesea.

COLDHAM.—Parish 4m. north from March.

COMBERTON.—Parish 5½m. west-south-west from Cambridge. North of the Bourn brook.

CONINGTON.—Parish on the Hunts border, 4m. south from St. Ives.

COTON.—Parish 4½m. west from Cambridge. A monolith stands in the village.

COTTENHAM.—Large village 4m. north from Histon, near the ancient Carr dyke

COVENEY.—Village in Isle of Ely, 4m. north-west from Ely. Church of St. Peter, with interesting carving.

CROXTON.—On border of Huntingdonshire, about 4m. east from St. Neots.

CROYDON-CUM-CLOPTON.—Parish 4m. south from Old North Road station.

DODDINGTON.—Parish 4m. from March, on main road to Chatteris. Church of St. Mary.

GUYHIRN with RINGSEND.—Parish 6m. south-west from Wisbech.

HADDENHAM.—Village 7m. south-west from Ely.

HARDWICK.—Parish 5m. north by west from Lord's Bridge station. Church of St. Mary's is old.

HARLTON.—On the old Roman road, 6m. south-west from Cambridge. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin is old.

HARSTON.—Parish 5m. south-south-west from Cambridge.

HASLINGFIELD.—Parish 5½m. south-west by south from Cambridge. Church of All Saints is old, with fine interior decorations.

HATLEY ST. GEORGE.—Parish 2½m east from Gamlingay.

HAUXTON.—Parish 1m. north-east from Harston, on the banks of the Cam. Church of St. Edmund, with interesting fresco, representing Thomas à Becket.

HEYDON.—Parish on the borders of Essex, 6m. from Royston. Church of St. Peter is old.

HILDERSHAM.—Village on river Granta 1½m. north-west from Linton. Church of Holy Trinity, parts of it date from the twelfth century.

HINXTON.—Village on borders of Essex, 2m. from Chesterford. Church of SS. Mary and John in Early English style.

HISTON.—Village 3m. north-west from Cambridge. Church of St. Andrew's is old.

HORNINGSEA.—Village on banks of the river Cam, 3¾m. north-north-east from Cambridge, Church of St. Peter is old.

HORSEHEATH.—Village 4m. east from Linton station. Church of All Saints old.

ICKLETON—Parish on the Essex border, 6m. south-west from Linton. Interesting church in Early Norman style.

IMPINGTON.—Parish 3m. south from Cambridge.

ISLEHAM.—Large village 16m. north from Newmarket. Church of St. Andrew's large stone edifice.

KENNETT.—Small parish 4m. north-east from Newmarket.

KINGSTON.—Parish 8m. north from Royston.

KIRTLING.—Village 5m. south-east from Newmarket. Ancient church of All Saints.

KNAPWELL,—Parish about 4m. south from Swavesey.

LANDBEACH.—Small parish 5m. north-east from Cambridge.

LANDWADE.—Parish 4m. north-west from Newmarket.

LEVERINGTON.—Village in Isle of Ely, 2m. north-west from Wisbech. The church of St. Leonard is old.

LINTON.—Town 11m. south-east from Cambridge. Church of St. Mary in Perpendicular style, recently restored.

LITLINGTON.—Parish 4m. north-west from Royston. Church of St. Catherine in Early English style.

LITTLEPORT.—Large village on the Ouse, 5m. north from Ely in the Fen district. Church of St. George, with its fine tower, which can be seen for miles round.

LODE.—Village 6m. east from Cambridge.

LOLWORTH.—Parish 6½m. north-west from Cambridge. Church of Al Saints is old.

LONG STANTON.—Village about 9m. north-west from Cambridge. Church of All Saints recently restored.

LONGSTOWE.—Parish on the border of Huntingdonshire, 12m. west from Cambridge.

MADINGLEY. - Parish 5m. north-west from Cambridge.

MANEA.—Hamlet 8m. south-east from March, in the Fen district.

MARCH.—Market town 9m. south from Wisbech in the Isle of Ely. Church of St. Wendreda is old.

MELBOURNE.—Large village 3m. south-east from Royston. Church of All Saints recently restored.

MELDRETH.—Village on the Rhea, 4m. north-east from Royston.

MEPAL.—Village in Isle of Ely, 7m. west of Ely. Church of St. Mary is old.

MILTON.—Village on the river Cam, 3½m. north-north-east from Cambridge. Church of All Saints is old.

NEWMARKET.—A market town 13m. east by north from Cambridge. Church of St. Mary in Early English and Perpendicular style. Famous racecourse.

NEWTON (near Cambridge).—Parish 6m. south from Cambridge. Church of St. Margaret, with fine tower arch.

NEWTON (near Wisbech).—Village on border of Norfolk 4m. north from Wisbech.

OAKINGTON.—Village 7m. north-west from Cambridge. Church of St. Andrew is old.

ORWELL.—Parish 8m. south-west from Cambridge. Church of St. Andrew is old, with effigy of Jeremiah Radcliffe, one of the translators of the Bible.

OUTWELL.—Partly in Cambridgeshire and partly in Norfolk.

OVER.—Large parish 5m. east from St. Ives. Church of St. Mary the Virgin is old, with some fine gargoyles.

PAMPISFORD.—Village 8m. south from Cambridge. Church of St. John the Baptist is old.

PAPWORTH EVERARD.—Parish 6m. south-west from St. Ives.

PAPWORTH ST. AGNES.—Parish on Huntingdonshire border, 8m. north-east from St. Neots.

PARSON DROVE.—Parish 2¾m. north from Murrow station.

PRICKWILLOW.—Hamlet about 4m. north-east from Ely. Church of St. Peter is modern.

RAMPTON.—Parish 7m. north from Cambridge. Church of All Saints is old.

REACH.—Hamlet about 1m. north from Swaffham Prior.

REDMERE.—Parish 8m. north-east from Ely.

SAWSTON.—Village on the river Cam, 7m. south from Cambridge. Church of St. Mary is old.

SHELFORD, GREAT.—Parish 4m. south by east from Cambridge. Very interesting church of St. Mary.

SHELFORD, LITTLE.—5m. south by east from Cambridge. Interesting church of All Saints.

SHEPRETH.—Parish 8m. south-west from Cambridge. Church of All Saints is old.

SHINGAY.—Village 5½m. north from Royston.

SHUDY CAMPS.—Village 4m. south-east from Linton. Church of St. Mary's is old.

SNAILWELL.—Village about 3m. north from Newmarket.

SOHAM.—Town 6m. south-east from Ely. Church of St. Andrew restored with some fine modern work.

SOUTHSEA with MURROW.—Parish near Wisbech.

STAPLEFORD.—Parish about 5m. south-south-west from Cambridge. Church of St. Andrew is old.

STEEPLE MORDEN.—Parish 5m. north-west from Royston. Stone church of SS. Peter and Paul.

STETCHWORTH.—Village 3½m. south-west from Newmarket. Church of St. Peter is old.

STOW with QUY.—Parish 5m. east-north-east from Cambridge. Church of St. Mary is ancient.

STRETHAM.—Parish in Isle of Ely, 4m. south by west from Ely. Old church of St. James, with fine carving.

STUNTNEY.—1⅓m. south-east from Ely. The church contains some interesting Norman doorways.

SUTTON.—Village in the Isle of Ely, 6m. west from Ely.

SWAFFHAM BULBECK.—Parish 6½m. west from Newmarket. Church of St. Mary is old.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR.—Village 6m. west from Newmarket. Church of St. Mary, which was in ruins, has been partly restored.

SWAVESEY.—Large village 3m. south-east from St. Ives. Interesting Early English church.

WILLINGHAM.—Large village about 6m. east from St. Ives. Extremely interesting church of St. Mary and All Saints, with very fine picina and sedilia, contains chapel now used as vestry with very fine high roof and good carving.

WIMBLINGTON.—Parish 4m. south from March. At Stonea Grange, near the village, traces of a Roman camp are to be found.

WIMPOLE.—Parish 9m. south-west from Cambridge. Church of St. Andrew in red brick.

WISBECH.—Important seaport and market town, 7¾m. rom March. Interesting, ancient church of SS. Peter and Paul. Museum and Literary Institution well worth visiting.

WISBECH ST. MARY'S.—Parish 3m. south-west of Wisbech. Ancient church of St. Mary's.

WITCHAM.—Parish 6m. west from Ely. Church of St. Martin old.

WITCHFORD.—Parish in Isle of Ely, 3m. south-west from Ely. Church of St. Andrew old.

WOOD DITTON.—Village about 3½m. south from Newmarket. Ancient church of St. Mary's in Early English style.

WRATTING, WEST.—Village 5m. north-east from Linton. Ancient church of St. Andrew's.

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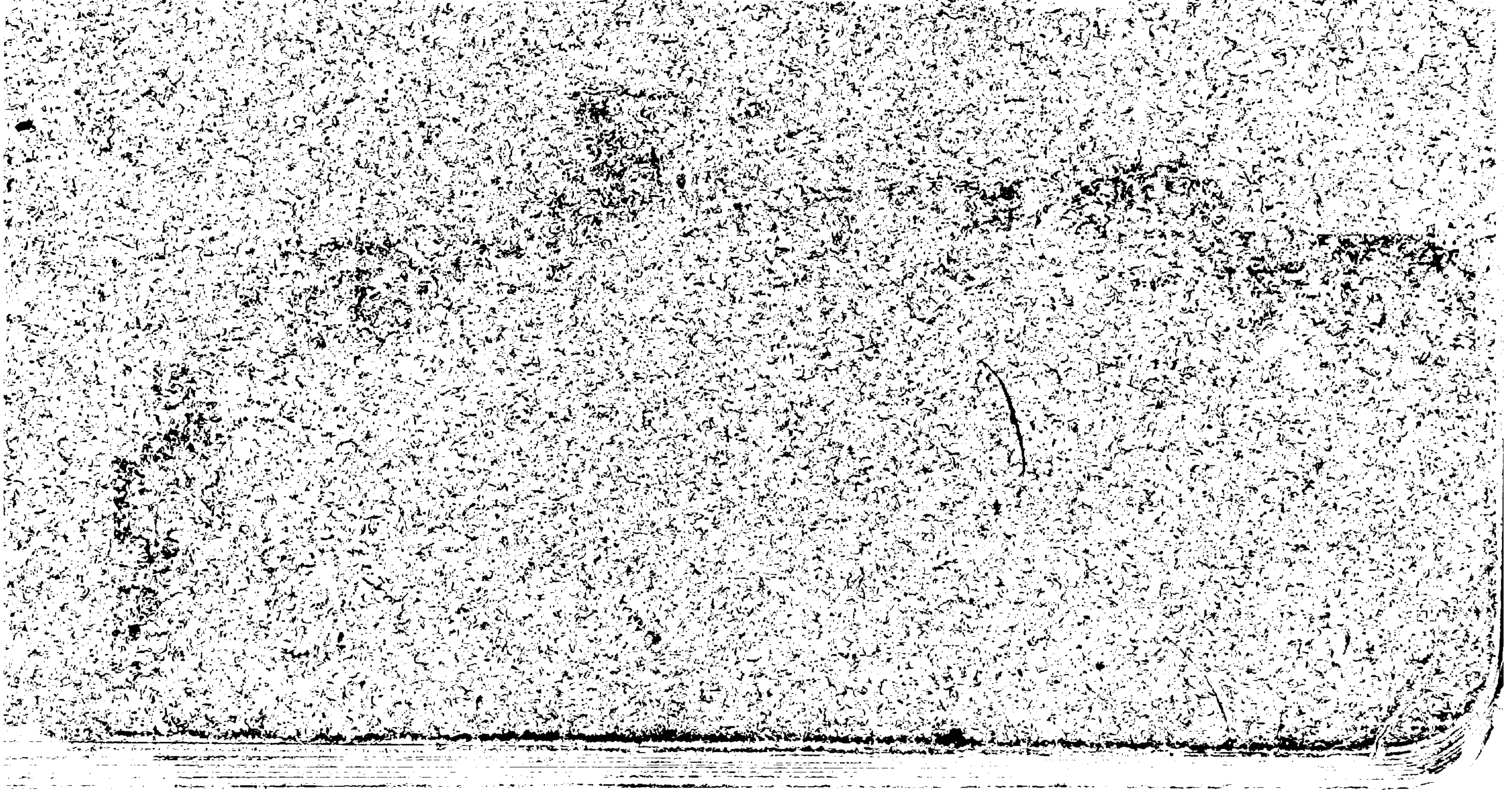

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