

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

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JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

ANNUAL SUMMER PILGRIMAGE.



OLCHESTER and Constable's Country were the destination of our pilgrimage this year, Friar F. Carruthers Gould being the Prior for the day. Saturday, the 20th of June, came at the end of a phenomenal period of rains and floods, and the morning was cold and dull.

Most of the seventy Friars and guests who assembled at Liverpool Street Station were accordingly burdened with overcoats, waterproofs, and umbrellas, and the straw hat was conspicuous by its absence. Regret was generally expressed that we were not to have the company of our energetic honorary Secretary, but in the unavoidable absence of Friar Arthur Spurgeon, Friar F. J. Cross

acted efficiently, if somewhat too modestly, as master of the ceremonies. Among the members who were present were Friars Richard Whiteing, Edward Clodd, Aaron Watson, William Senior, G. H. Perkins, T. Heath Joyce, J. Farlow Wilson, H. J. Brown, Robert Leighton, J. Foster Fraser, R. Leader, Louis H. Falck, Joseph Shayler, R. N. Fairbanks, George Fox, Lionel Gowing, W. N. Shansfield, G. B. Burgin, R. Dupper Lloyd, John Russell, and Louis Kight, most of whom brought lady guests. A special train of first-class saloon carriages had been chartered for us and we had a jovial journey to Colchester, where we were met by Friar W. Gurney Benham, ex-Mayor of the township, who had kindly arranged to act as our guide for the day. Friar Benham is an eminent local antiquary who has studied the history and antiquities of Colchester and the neighbourhood to good purpose, and it must be acknowledged that he conducted us to no place which was not of extreme interest and omitted none that we need regret not visiting. If Friar Gurney Benham could have made the floods to subside it is certain that he would have accommodated the Friars ; but in the circumstance that, as the Prior humorously put it, the river Stour had no settled convictions as to its banks, it was suggested that the programme should be treated as a Government Bill, and that that part of it which could not be carried —our proposed journey by barge from Dedham to Flatford Mill—should be dropped.

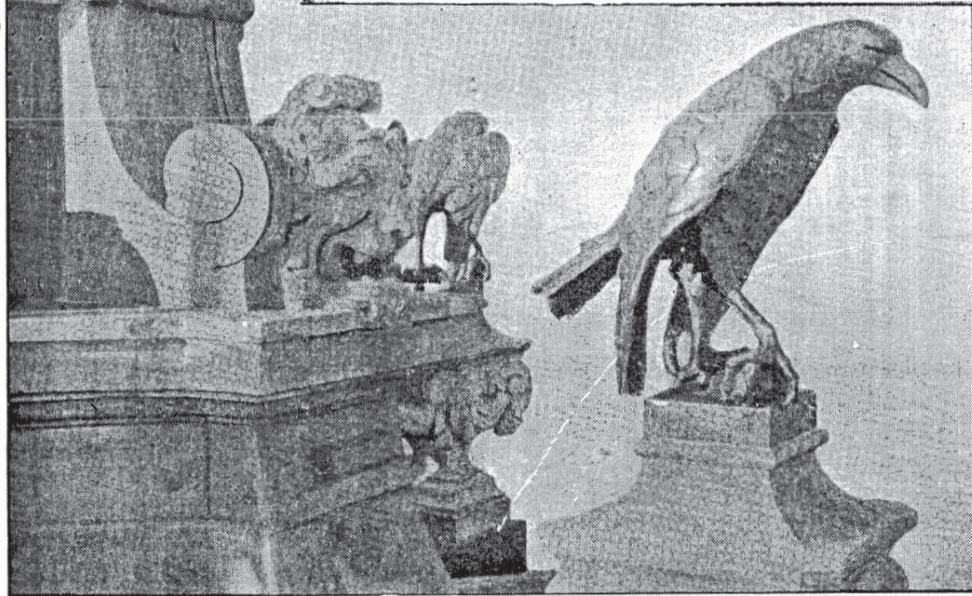
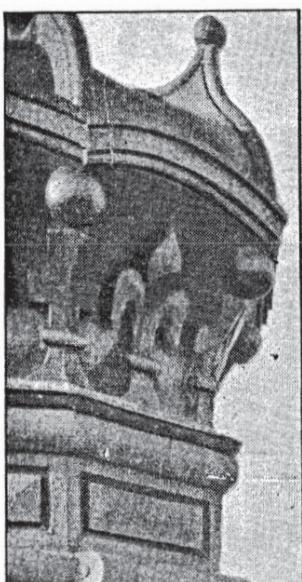
Five brakes awaited the pilgrims at Colchester Railway Station and we drove at once to the Castle. We scaled the moss-grown walls about the keep ; we descended into the dungeons ; we spent an instructive half-hour in examining the fine collection of Roman antiquities in the Museum. At the crumbling Norman gateway Friar Russell took a photograph of the company, which was now augmented by our local guests, including Alderman and Miss Marriage, Alderman and Mrs. J. Wicks, and Councillor J. C. Shenstone.

From the Castle a move was made, under Friar Benham's guidance, to the ruins of St. Botolph's Priory, where the circular-built pillars of the church and the old Norman gateway were especially admired.

In driving to the Cups Hotel, where we had an excellent lunch, we had our first near view of Colchester Town Hall and of Friar Carruthers Gould's ravens, which were regarded with interested curiosity, their artistic merits being taken for granted since there was only one binocular field glass in the company.

After luncheon the pilgrims started for a drive through Constable's Country and the Vale of Dedham, and in spite of clouded skies and chilly air it was wholly enjoyable. At the clean little town of Dedham we made a halt to inspect the fine old church

with its wood carvings and ancient merchants' marks and monuments, and to walk as far as the bay and say factory, an old world Elizabethan homestead with an interior court yard and cross beams and a delightfully quaint porch. We lingered long in quiet, peaceful Dedham, and Friar Russell had some difficulty in gathering us together again in a group to face his camera. There was a further delay to search for a missing umbrella, but at length we set off again for Stoke-by-Nayland, where we went through the



One of the Ravens on Colchester Town Hall.
Designed from a Drawing by Friar F. Carruthers Gould.

church and meditated among the tombs and saw the alms-houses. On the way to Stoke there were some exciting adventures in passing through roadways flooded above the horses' knees, and some amusement in watching stray cyclists attempting to negotiate the floods.

It was not until we were nearing Colchester that we got a first glimpse of the sun, but fortunately there was no rain throughout

the whole day and everyone agreed that we had had a most successful and enjoyable tour.

We alighted at the Town Hall almost an hour later than the time fixed on our programme. Here we were graciously received by the Mayor and the Misses Elwes, who had provided afternoon tea for the pilgrims. Miss Ethel Elwes had accompanied the party to Dedham, and had attended, with her father, at the luncheon. It was to be regretted that we had left ourselves so little time in which to view the interior architecture and the art treasures of the Town Hall, or to listen to the organ recital kindly prepared for us in the Moot Hall. This was our own misfortune and the Mayor condoned our unpunctuality.

Some eighty Friars and guests were present at the dinner in the Cups Hotel, including the Mayor, Miss Maud Elwes, Mr. H. G. Elwes, and Dr. Nicholson.

The Prior was commendably prompt in opening the after-dinner proceedings. Having called for the health of the King he proposed the health of the Mayor of Colchester. Speaking for his brethren he remarked that they were extremely proud to be honoured by the presence of the Chief Magistrate of a town which not only cherished its ancient traditions, as evidenced in the fine museum—but also was alive to the responsibilities of to-day, as shown by the magnificent Town Hall. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The Friars, he added, came from a little place not very far away—(laughter)—where the municipal life which existed in the Middle Ages was stifled to a large extent by the enormous growth of population. He was glad to think that they were getting a little of that municipal life in London to-day—(hear, hear)—and if anyone wanted to learn what municipal life really was, they should come to Colchester. He knew of no place where that splendid life was more vital. He went on to regret that the Friars' visit had not been made in the oyster season—(laughter)—for although much was said about oysters, he had had the honour of being a guest at the Oyster Feast for several years, and he had never yet died. (Laughter.) On the contrary he felt very much inclined to kick anyone who said that Colchester oysters were deleterious in the slightest degree. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

THE MAYOR, in response, assured the company that it had given himself and his family very great pleasure to see them in Colchester. It was no use his apologising for the Borough of Colchester or the County of Essex for the very unfavourable weather they had given them—(laughter)—but he was glad to

hear that, notwithstanding the cold, they had had a very enjoyable day—(hear, hear, and applause)—and had admired the beauties of the vale of Dedham. He hoped that on some future occasion a successor of his might have the pleasure of welcoming them again, and that more summer-like weather might favour them and that they might then have the opportunity and the time to inspect more fully the Town Hall and its many interesting features.

MR. WILSON MARRIAGE, in proposing “The Whitefriars Club,” referred to the fact that it included men of literary attainments and



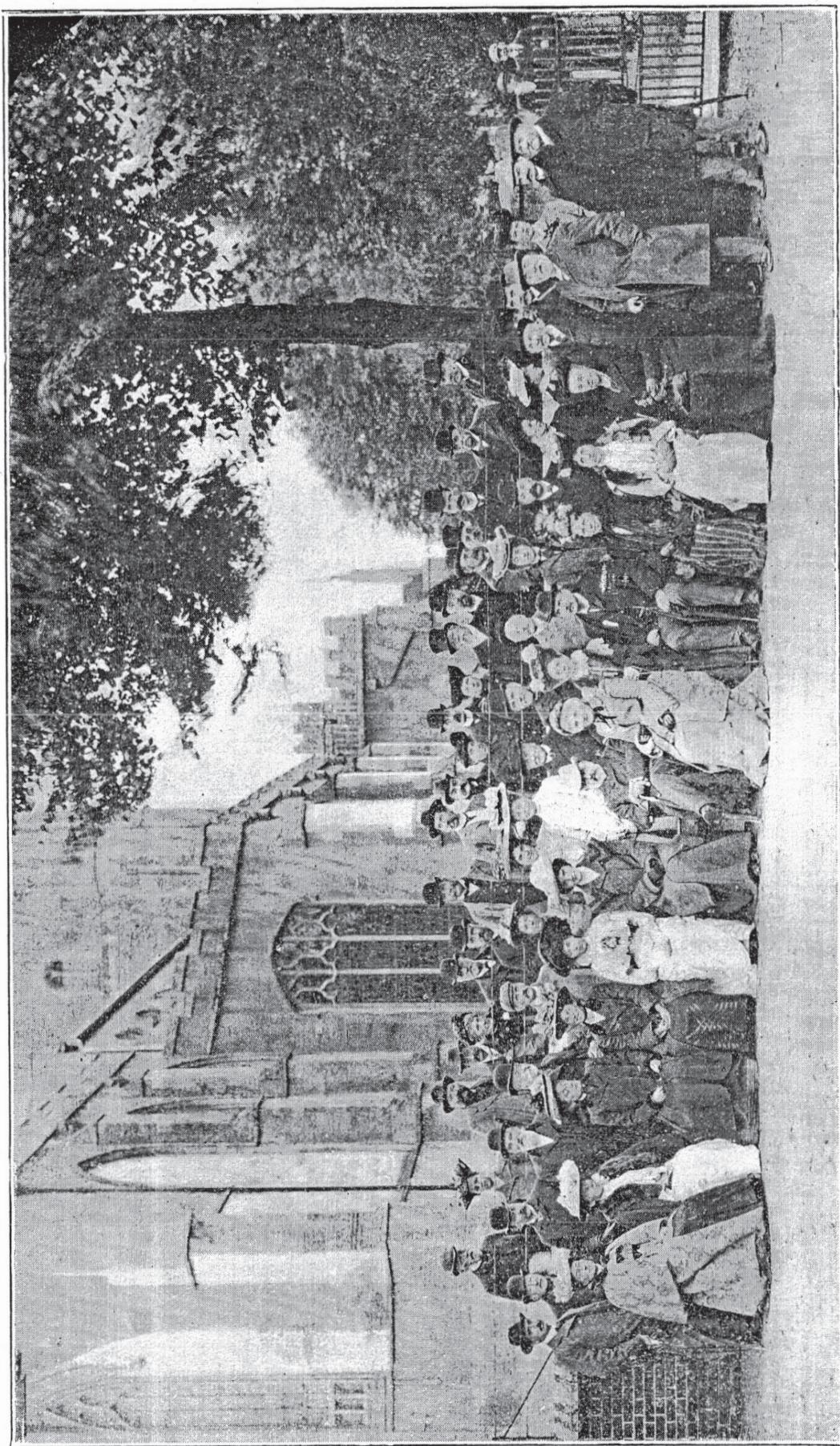
The Pilgrims passing through the Floods.

Snapshot by Friar G. H. Perkins.

distinguished in all branches of the fine arts, and added that his friend Mr. Gurney Benham, of whom they were proud in Colchester, as a member of the Club—(hear, hear, and applause)—generally tried to make out that nearly everybody of distinction in this country was either born in Colchester or the neighbourhood, or that some of their ancestors had that honour. (Laughter.) He believed that a short time ago he was engaged in endeavouring conclusively to prove that their Prior was a native of Colchester. (Laughter.) But unfortunately Barnstaple beat him—if it hadn’t

been for that they would that evening have been congratulating him on being a citizen of that ancient Borough. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But there were some others among the Friars who were, or who had ancestors there, and if he had time to talk with all those present, he had no doubt he should find that they were all more or less connected with Colchester. (Laughter.) He coupled with the toast the name of Friar Richard Whiteing—(loud applause)—and he expected Mr. Gurney Benham would consider that he was most probably a native of Colchester, because he had written a book which was known all over the world, “No. 5, John Street.” They had in Colchester that very house—(loud laughter)—and he didn’t see how it was possible for him to have chosen that title unless he had been connected with Colchester in some way, because there was the house existing at the present moment to prove it. (Laughter.) In conclusion, he said Colchester had been very glad to welcome the Club, and he hoped they might soon come again, and in more propitious weather.

FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING, in returning thanks, said he thought the case had been proved against him. He must have been a native of Colchester at some time or other; it was one more instance of what they sometimes heard in connection with esoteric Buddhism—a case of a former birth. (Loud laughter.) Referring to the toast, he said his own partiality for the Whitefriars Club would tempt him to show that there was really good reason for the extremely cordial manner with which it had been accepted, but time precluded him from entering into the necessary details. He emphasised the value of the Club, not alone as a literary, but as a social body, where the men were really comrades, and there was some of that delightful spirit in it which was found in the old “Spectator” Club, so exquisitely described by Steele and Addison. He humorously referred to the social and other qualities of certain members present, remarking that they had among them a fisherman who told the truth—(laughter)—and perhaps the most cheerful man in the whole universe, to whose labours they owed much of the success of the gathering and who was known as “Sunny Jim”—(loud laughter)—and he thought the sunniest Jim of any club in the world. It was peculiarly appropriate, he added, that they should visit a town like Colchester, because it was a town which was quite in the spirit of their own gathering—a town which was not in a hurry, a town with delightful traditions, and a town which above all things appealed to them because of its own wealth of character. He saw the other day a picture which



The Pilgrims make a halt at Ditcham Church.

Photograph by Friar John Russell.

showed how eminent persons had not only been connected with, but had really been in Colchester. In that picture Charles I. was saying most amiable things to Boadicea at an Oyster Feast—(loud laughter)—having really conquered time and space, and he had equally good authority for saying that Noah visited Colchester—(laughter)—because there was a picture of the Ark, with Noah receiving an address from the Mayor of Colchester—(laughter)—standing on the topmost pinnacle of the only tower that was not submerged. (Loud laughter.) So it was peculiarly appropriate that they should come to Colchester, and they had been delighted with the visit. He could faithfully promise that they would come again—(applause)—if not as a club, at least in two's and threes, for the harvest of character and all that was delightful in this fleeting life was there to be gathered in richest measure. (Applause.)

FRIAR W. GURNEY BENHAM proposed "The Prior," and said that in one respect these pilgrimages compared badly with those of ancient times, because of the indecent haste about them. (Laughter.) In former times there would have been none of the scrambling which had had to characterise their proceedings that day, and this pilgrimage, instead of a day, would have lasted at least a week. Speaking as a White Friar he was sure it was impossible for him to express all that his brother White Friars would wish to express towards Friar Gould. (Applause.) He was told before he joined this Club that it consisted of the best fellows in the world, and he had found that that very sanguine statement was amply confirmed by experience—(loud applause)—and among the very best of them all was their Prior of to-day. (Loud applause.) In Colchester of late years they had not often had the opportunity of entertaining Priors, though there was a time when abbots and priors were common, but somewhat unpopular, objects in their streets. (Laughter.) He believed the last of those high ecclesiastical dignitaries in Colchester was entertained publicly to a banquet, and during the proceedings a death warrant was produced and he was led off and immediately hanged. (Loud laughter.) They were very proud to welcome in Colchester an eminent man like Mr. Carruthers Gould, the Prior of an Order which was famous throughout the country as one of the most interesting literary clubs in London.

The toast was drunk with musical honours, with an extra cheer for Mrs. Gould, and the PRIOR, in response, thanked the ladies for their presence. Referring to Mr. Marriage's remarks on the painful fact that he was born elsewhere than in Colchester,

he said it was true that Barnstaple had accused him of being born there. He could not deny it, but he was bound to say that he was not responsible for it—(laughter)—and there was no place he would sooner have been born in than Colchester. (Hear, hear.) He liked the municipal spirit that was shown in the town ; he liked the pride of the people in themselves and their traditions, and the way they preserved their ancient dignities and charters, and he was proud of the fact that there was no place outside Essex where there were so many men who took an active and



The Prior and Miss Carruthers Gould on the Castle Wall at Colchester.

Snapshot by Friar G. H. Perkins.

personal pride in all their historic traditions—storing up the treasures of the past, while not forgetting the present, and keeping pace in the front rank of the progress that should accompany all municipal institutions to-day. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

During the homeward journey by train, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Friar Carruthers Gould, proposed by Friar William Senior, and seconded by Friar Leighton, both of whom spoke in the highest praise of the admirable way in which the Prior had conducted the pilgrimage

CYMBELINE'S TOWN AND CONSTABLE'S COUNTRY.

By FRIAR W. GURNEY BENHAM.

COLCHESTER and Constable's Country are two satisfying meals for one day.

At Colchester, in the first few years of the Christian era, reigned Cymbeline, whom Shakespeare, with his usual discrimination, picked from the British Kings as worthy of immortality. Here have been found some hundreds of Cymbeline's coins bearing his name and the ancient name of the town, Camulodunum.

OLD KING COEL AND ST. HELENA.

At Colchester also reigned another monarch not unknown to literary fame—Coel Godebog, otherwise Coel Goodfellow, the merry old soul whose patronage of music and the bowl have somewhat eclipsed his martial glory and his diplomatic triumphs, of which the mediæval chroniclers tell us strange and interesting particulars.

Coel ruled the realme in law and peace full well ;
 That for his wyt and vertuositie
 Able was he, as chronicles could tell,
 To have rule of the Emperalyte.
 A Daughter had he, and none other heyre,
 Helene, that hyght farre passing good and feyre.

So sang Friar Hardyng about the year 1450. And the monkish chroniclers, to whom White Friars will listen with reverence, tell us that

Fair Helena, the fairest living wight,
 Who in all godly thewes and goodly praise
 Did far excell,

was born at Colchester to King Coel, and there gave birth to Constantine the Great.

Colking's Castle, King Cole's Pump, and King Cole's Kitchen are still landmarks of Colchester. Cole's "Kitchen" is a large circular excavation on the west side of the town, and, as has been said of it,

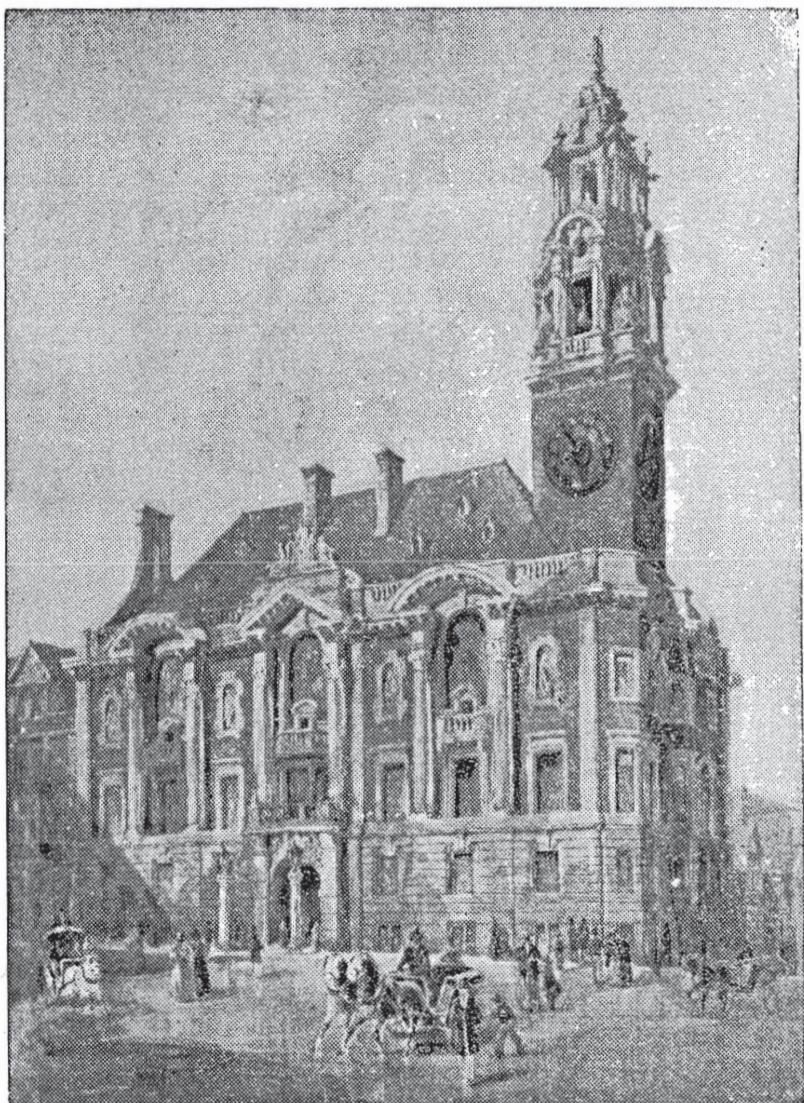
Its noble size proclaims how great and good he must have been.

In 1655 John Evelyn noted in his diary that he had seen in

Colchester "a statue of Coilus in wood" placed upon the pinnacle of one of the wool-staple houses of the town.

THE WEAVING TRADE.

For at that time, and for many centuries before, Colchester was a famous cloth-weaving town. This ancient trade was greatly stimulated, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, by the arrival of some hundreds of Protestant refugees from Holland and Flanders. To



Colchester Town Hall.

them Colchester gave a hospitable reception which proved to be its own reward, for the immigrants established in the town the Bay and Say trade, which kept it famous and wealthy for a century and a half.

OYSTERS AND ERINGO ROOTS.

"Colchester is also famous," wrote Evelyn, "for oysters and eringo root, growing here about and candied for sale." It was the

eringo root which was candied for sale, and not the oysters. This candied eringo root, prepared from the root of sea holly, otherwise known as eringo, was invented by a Colchester apothecary, and became a fashionable medicinal sweetmeat.

As for Colchester oysters, which are dredged from the Pyefleet and other creeks in the Colne, their virtues have been sung by many poets. In the time of Drayton they were generally called Walfleet oysters, from the name of one of the fleets, or creeks, in which they were cultivated.

COLCHESTER CASTLE.

The Government ordnance maps tell us that Colchester Castle—one of the largest and most perfect of Norman Castles—was built upon the site of the Palace of King Coel. This is the tradition. The truth seems to be that the Castle was built upon the foundations, and with the materials, of some important Roman building, possibly that temple which, as Tacitus tells us, was erected at Colchester by the Emperor Claudius in his own honour.

THE ABBEY AND PRIORY.

There were no White Friars in Colchester in the days of old, but Grey Friars, Crouched Friars, Austin Friars, and Benedictine Monks walked its streets. All these orders had their houses in

Colchester, but the Benedictines at St. John's Abbey, and the Augustinians at St. Botolph's Priory were the richest and most important. There is nothing left of St. John's Abbey but its gateway and part of the wall which surrounded the Abbey grounds. Of St. Botolph's Priory the ruins of the grand old Norman church are all that remains.

WILLIAM GILBERD.

The observant Evelyn set it down in his diary that in his days Colchester was “a ragged and factious towne, swarming with sectaries.” Yet it had, and still has, a score of parish churches. Of these, Trinity Church is perhaps the most noticeable. Its unique Saxon tower is well-known to students of architecture. And within its walls is buried one of the greatest men of the “spacious days”—Dr. Gilberd of Colchester, physician to Queen Elizabeth, friend of Galileo and



William Gilberd, of
Colchester.
The First Electrician.

Bacon, and author of "De Magnete" and the "Nova Philosophia." He was the pioneer of real scientific research, and he was the first electrician—the man who started the study of electrics, and set in motion that knowledge which has revolutionised the world.

THE TOWN HALL.

His statue is noticeable outside the new Town Hall, and a fine portrait is given a place of honour within the building.

This Town Hall was opened by Lord Rosebery on May 15th, 1902. It was designed by John Belcher, A.R.A., and is, both outwardly and inwardly, a repertory of the long and varied history of the borough. The saintly Helena surmounts the tower, and at



John Constable, R.A.,

From a tinted pencil sketch drawn by himself and preserved in the National Portrait Gallery.

its four upper angles are four bronze ravens, the raven being the early emblem of the Port of Colchester. It is supposed to be a relic of the Danish occupation of Colchester in the tenth century. These bronze ravens were designed by Friar F. Carruthers Gould.

Within the building are pictures, stained windows, and other memorials telling of the ancient history of the town. Most of the stained windows were designed and produced at the Whitefriars Glass Works, under the direction of Friar H. J. Powell. It may be safely said that no Town Hall in England contains finer or more interesting specimens of stained glass.

The palette used by John Constable, R.A., and other relics of the painter, are on view in the Town Hall. These were given to the town by Mr Thomas J. Barratt, of London, well-known to our order for good works in various departments.

Some fine etchings after Constable's paintings are also noteworthy.

CONSTABLE'S COUNTRY.

From Colchester to Constable's country is a drive of about eight miles. On approaching "The Vale of Dedham," pilgrims in search of the picturesque realise that they have not sought in vain. The fine old Tower of Dedham Church, 131 feet in height, is visible from afar. There are some monuments worth looking at in this church; so also is the roof, with ancient armorial bearings displayed upon it, and the red and white roses of Lancaster and York.

On the way to Dedham Mill we pass the old Elizabethan Grammar School, for the time being a private house. Here John Constable was educated. Not far off is a fine old building, chiefly Elizabethan, but partly of medieval origin. This was once a cloth factory, for Dedham, like Colchester, was a town of clothiers. "A faire, large town, well planted for cloth-making," is the description of Dedham in the preamble of an Act duly passed by the High Court of Parliament in 1558.

Dedham Mill was formerly used in this cloth-making industry. It was a fulling-mill for centuries, but this was before it came into the possession of Golding Constable, a wealthy yeoman of Yorkshire descent, who not only owned this mill, but also Flatford Mill, further down the river, and two windmills in the neighbourhood of East Bergholt.

Dedham Mill and some of its surroundings have been much modernised, but the "dainty Stour," as Drayton called this delightful river, preserves its beauty unspoilt by time or by the hand of man. This stream separates Essex and Suffolk, and as we proceed by it to Flatford Mill (which stands upon the Suffolk side) we are between two counties.

John Constable painted a good many pictures of Dedham and of Langham, near by. These places are in Essex. But East Bergholt, which is in Suffolk, was his birthplace, and his favourite. He wrote: "I associate my careless boyhood with all that lies on the banks of the Stour. Those scenes made me a painter, and I am grateful." But of East Bergholt his testimony was: "I love

every stile and stump in the village, and as long as I am able to hold a brush I shall never cease to paint them."

Nevertheless, he afterwards transferred some measure of his



Dedham Vale.

affections to Hampstead—his “dear Hampstead,” his “sweet Hampstead,” as he repeatedly called it. There, when he was over fifty years of age, he took up his residence, and he boasted that his

Hampstead studio commanded "a view without an equal in all Europe."

On June 11th, 1776, John Constable was born at East Bergholt, not at Flatford Mill, but at a house near by. His father, Golding Constable, intended his son to be a miller, and at Dedham Mill, Flatford Mill, and the two windmills aforesaid, John Constable worked during his youth. His spare time, however, was given up to painting, and when he was nineteen years of age he abandoned milling and went to London to study art. He returned some time after to the mills, but only for a few months, for in 1799 he was entered as a student at the Royal Academy.

Sir George Beaumont, the liberal friend of art and artists, found out young Constable, and had something to do with removing, or rather weakening, the family objections to his becoming an artist. It is said that Sir George asked young Constable whose style he meant to imitate, and was not displeased on receiving the blunt reply, "None but God Almighty's style."

For a dozen years Constable worked without making either money or reputation. He was an innovator, and the period was a bad one for innovators. His merits were realised in France before they were properly recognised in England. Indeed, the honours awarded him in Paris seem to have shamed the British critics and

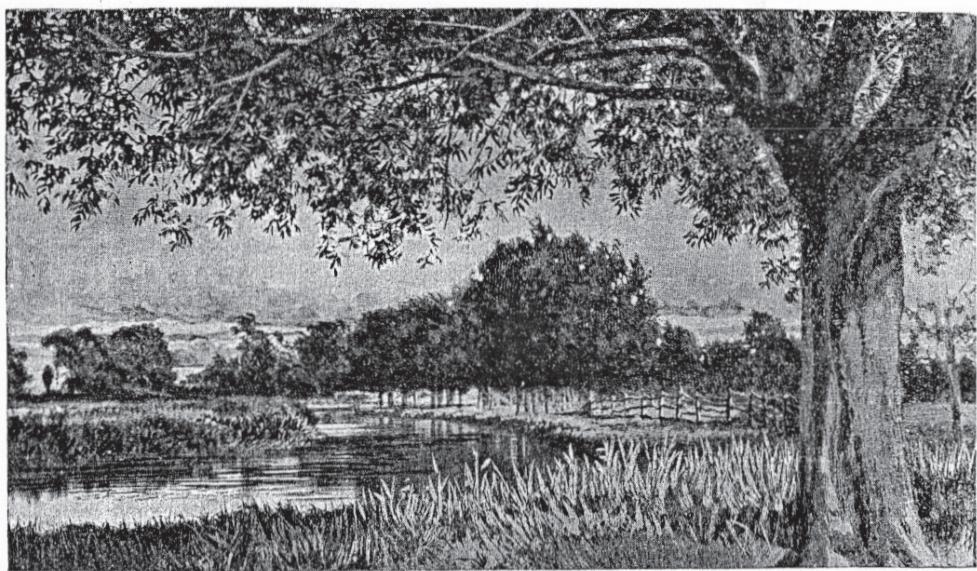


Flatford Mill.

the British public into admitting his genius. In 1819 he became an Associate of the Royal Academy. He was then forty-three, and it was not until he was fifty-three that he was grudgingly made a Royal Academician.

"The honour has come too late for me to impart it," was his own touching comment.

He had lost his father, and his wife, and most of those relatives whose opposition to his artistic tendencies had been perhaps even more disheartening than the plentiful lack of sympathy shown by blind critics and a dull-witted public. Friar G. N. Godwin, in his book, "Bits about Bergholt" (1874), mentions that Mr. Stephen Sage, formerly parish clerk of East Bergholt, told him that



On the Stour.

Constable's sisters used to say that "they did wish John would take to something respectable, instead of painting."

Great was the wrath of the Rev. Dr. Rhudde, rector of East Bergholt, when, in spite of all family opposition, his grand-daughter, Maria Bicknell, became engaged to John Constable. The angry Rector declared that he no longer considered Maria to be his granddaughter. And now this disowned relationship is the cleric's only claim to fame!

John Constable died suddenly in Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, London, on April 1, 1837. He was a lovable man, modest, generous, and honourable, and his genius is shown in his sayings, and in the letters which he wrote, as well as in the originality, force, and irresistible charm of his paintings.

It is sometimes supposed that "Constable's Country" is a modern term. An anecdote, which appears to be well authenticated, disproves this. The painter was crossing the valley of the Stour upon the mail-coach, and remarked to a fellow passenger on the beauty of the district.

"Yes, sir," said the stranger, "this is Constable's Country."

It was characteristic of John Constable that, in order to avoid any further outrage to his modesty, he hastened to reveal his unsuspected identity.

Constable's famous painting, "The Valley Farm," is really a



Willy Lott's House.

(From Constable's Picture).

picture of "Willy Lott's house." It was exhibited in the Academy of 1835, and is now in the National Gallery.

Willy Lott's house stands by Flatford Mill. Willy Lott was a farmer, the descendant of a long line of farmers. He was not a pilgrim. He lived at this house, by Flatford, for 88 years, and only slept one night, during that period, out of his own house. Over thirty-two thousand sleeps in one building! It was a record performance, and his name shall live for ever.

CLUB NOTES.

THE Pilgrimage to Colchester and Dedham was somewhat marred by the coldness of the temperature and the dulness of the sky. Dedham Vale was in a sorry plight. It was somewhat of a consolation to the Friars to know that they saw it under unique circumstances. The district had not been so heavily flooded within living memory, for Dedham is seldom subjected to such visitations. Stoke-by-Nayland, through which the Pilgrims passed on their return from Dedham, had on a previous day been almost entirely cut off from Colchester, only a few venturesome drivers being able to steer their vehicles through the flooded roads. The water had subsided some inches when the Friars passed that way, but in places it covered the axles of the breaks.

FRIAR PERKINS was remarkably successful in his snapshot photographs of these experiences and of other incidents during the day. The light was very unfavourable for snapshotting, but in spite of all difficulties the results were triumphantly clear and realistic. The photograph of the Pilgrims passing through the floods will be treasured as an interesting souvenir of a memorable occasion.

THE groups of Friar Russell are excellent, and how he managed in the short time at his disposal to arrange the somewhat rebellious Pilgrims so satisfactorily is a secret which he has the artistic faculty of concealing.

THE lady on the Prior's right, in the picture taken near Dedham Church, is Miss Ethel Elwes, youngest daughter of the Mayor of Colchester.

THE Pilgrims were much indebted to their genial comrade, Friar Gurney Benham, for the kindness he displayed before and on the day of the Pilgrimage. Our warm thanks are also due to the Mayor of Colchester and the members of his family.

DURING the next two months many of our Friars will be on holiday, and there will be several vacant chairs at the luncheon table. The Committee will be much obliged if Friars who happen to be in the vicinity of Fleet Street between 12.30 and 2.30 any day will drop in to lunch in the Club Room.

THE next Session will start on Friday, October 2nd. The dinner will be held under the Priorship of Friar William Senior and the Club Guest will be Sir James Crichton Browne. The topic of conversation after dinner will be "Holidays and How to Use Them." On the following Friday we are to have a House Dinner, and Friars Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and G. H. Perkins will exhibit lantern slides. Our old friend Friar A. G. Browning will be in the chair. On October 16th Mr. Hugh Clifford will be the Club Guest, and we shall have a talk on "The East in Fact and Fiction." As Mr. Hugh Clifford will be returning to Malay a few days later this dinner will take the form of a "send-off" to our Guest, with Friar Edward Clodd as Prior for the evening. On October 23rd the Rev. R. J. Campbell will be the Club Guest and Friar Richard Whiteing will be the Prior. Mr. Campbell has selected as his topic "Why am I an Optimist?" On October 30th the Club Guest will be Mr. E. T. Reed, of *Punch*, and the Prior will be Friar F. Carruthers Gould. The subject will be "The Uses of Caricature."

THE first dinner in November will be presided over by Friar J. A. Steuart. The Club Guest will be Mr. G. K. Chesterton, whose recent book on Browning has met with a most enthusiastic reception. He will introduce a conversation on "The Old Journalist and the New." On November 13th Sir William Richmond will fulfil a long standing engagement to dine with the Club, and he will discourse after dinner on "The Transformation of London." The Prior will be Friar Robert Donald, editor of the *Municipal Journal*. On November 21st we are to have a "Motor" evening when Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., is the Club Guest, and on November 27th the Duke of Marlborough will be the Guest of the Club, with Friar Winston Churchill, M.P., in the chair.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on December 4th. The members will dine together at 6.30 under the Priorship of Friar George Manville Fenn. On the following Friday Mr. Arthur Diosy will be the Club Guest and will tell us "What we Can Learn from Japan." The Prior will be Friar John Foster Fraser. On December 18th the Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant. Ladies, as usual, will be heartily welcome. Friar Anthony Hope will preside. Preceding the dinner a Reception will be held by the Prior and Mrs. Anthony Hope.

SUCH are the arrangements for next Session, and the Committee confidently anticipate that they will meet with the cordial approval of the Brotherhood. A detailed programme will be sent to each Friar in September.