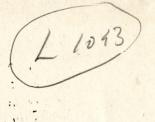
Publisher ock Row The Eintiquary.

ELLIOTE PATEONO JUNE (Editor: Rev J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.) Holdenby Rectory, Northampton. 7 Sep 0794 Dear General Vitt River Mant jon very which for jour quide to Lamen Grounds of the runsens. I am delighted toses how jour fand efforts forthe whole one your weight sources being appellated. Jan writing an account Mone museums for Oct. in of slove, based on jour big volumer, the guide, my over two west visitors?

Ishould like to refer to the Suide in a note & tolk able Horay where I what int it could be obtained. If Jon could just send me word as to this by as earla fort as may be conservent I should be very much & biged Il enclose pen a circular that you may see the nation of some medicenter water in 2.12. Jords in wrick John almost mirediate fle enjoyed. Jama poor beggen, & I know we have no claims on you, but in case you could of areas a fruer oction I am owner would so be most partigul. I am afraid we shall a litile fall short of funds. host in conf for 1. charlos of

Durched Rivers.



East Riding Antiquarian Society.

RENEWED EXCAVATION OF THE SITE OF WATTON PRIORY.

By the kind permission of Mr. Bethell, the owner, and Mr. Beckitt, the tenant, the East Riding Antiquarian Society is about to renew the excavation and examination of the site of Watton Priory, near Beverley, which was begun in September, 1893.

The undertaking is of great importance, not only to all antiquaries and ecclesiologists, but especially to those who desire to study the various developments of the Christian Faith in England during the Middle Ages.

Watton was a religious house of the remarkable Gilbertine Order, founded by St. Gilbert of Sempringham, in 1148, the only monastic order established by an Englishman. There were but twenty-five houses (including cells), and Watton was one of the three which are known certainly to have been double (i.e., for both canons and sisters) up to the time of the Dissolution. None of the few remains of these Gilbertine houses have as yet been examined, and we are consequently ignorant of the manner in which the houses were arranged for the division of the sexes.

Watton was the wealthiest and the largest of all the houses of the Order. A statute passed about 1200 provided that the brothers and sisters of Watton should not exceed 140, namely, 70 of each sex. To the mother house of Sempringham, and to the house of Chicksand, 120 were allowed, whilst the remainder were much smaller, Old Malton having only 35 canons. At the time of the Dissolution, in Henry VIII,'s reign, the value of Watton

was about £7,000 a year of our money, considerably in excess of that of any other house of the Order.

The site of the conventual buildings is unencumbered with any modern fabrics, and is irregular pasture, and only awaits the judicious use of pick and shovel for the exceptional arrangements of a joint or double house of religious to be made manifest.

A week's work of a small body of navvies, under the direction of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope and Rev. Dr. Cox, in September, 1893, brought to light the foundations of the conventual church, 208ft. long by 51ft. wide, exclusive of the irregular shafted transepts. It was found to be divided from end to end into two unequal parts by a partition wall to separate the sexes, and various discoveries of considerable interest were made with respect to the arrangement and plan of the church and some of the closely adjacent buildings. These were fully described on September 26th, when the members of the East Riding Society and their friends met on the site.

Neither time nor money rendered it possible to continue the work last year, and the arrangement of the conventual buildings yet remains to be elucidated.

The Council are glad to be able to announce that they are fortunate enough to have again secured the services of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope (Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries), who has had unrivalled experience in such undertakings, and he will be assisted by Rev. Dr. Cox, F.S.A.

It is proposed to begin the renewed operations about September 10th. On Monday and Tuesday, September 24th and 25th, the annual meeting of the East Riding Antiquarian Society will be held at Driffield, the members and their friends being invited to visit Watton Priory on the 25th.

The Council of the East Riding Antiquarian Society desire to tender their best thanks to the Society of Antiquaries (London) for their recognition of the importance of this undertaking by voting £5 from their "Excavation Fund" for the purpose, and they desire to raise a sum of £100 to be devoted to these excavations. A balance in hand of £7 remains from the contributions of last year.

The following sums have already been promised:-

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES (London)	£5	0	0	
SIR AUGUSTUS W. FRANKS, K.C.B.,				
President of the Society of Antiquaries	2	2	0	
SIR TATTON SYKES	5	0	0	
W. Bethell, Esq. (second donation) -	5	0	0	
COLONEL THOMAS BROOKE, F.S.A	5	0	0	
James Hilton, Esq., f.s.a., Hon. Treasurer				
Royal Archæological Institute	1	, I.	0	
THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF				
Beverley (second donation)	I	I	0	
THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF YORK				
(second donation)	I	0	0	
SIR H. S. KING, M.P.	I	I	0	
SIR JAMES RECKITT, Bart	1	I	0	
REV. M. C. F. MORRIS, M.A., B.C.L. (second				
donation)	1	I	0	
REV. N. J. MILLER, M.A.	I	I	0	
E. W. Brabrook, Esq., f.s.a	I	I	0	
REV. DR. Cox, F.S.A. (second donation)	I	I	0	
Rev. E. Evers, M.A.	0	10	6	
THE VERY REV. THE PRIOR OF AMPLEFORTH	0	10	0	
Rev. J. Davidson, M.A.	0	10	0	
WILLIAM STEPHENSON, Esq	0	10	6	
WILLIAM ANDREWS, J.R.H.S. (second donation	n) o	10	6	
Subscriptions may be paid into the York	City	8	County	,
Bank, to the "Watton Priory Excavation Fund," or may be for-				
warded to Captain Travis-Cook, 14, Parliament Street, Hull, Hon.				
Treasurer of the East Riding Antiquarian Society.				

The Vicarage, Filey, A. N. COOPER, Hon. Secs. WILLIAM ANDREWS, pro. tem. 1, Dock Street, Hull.