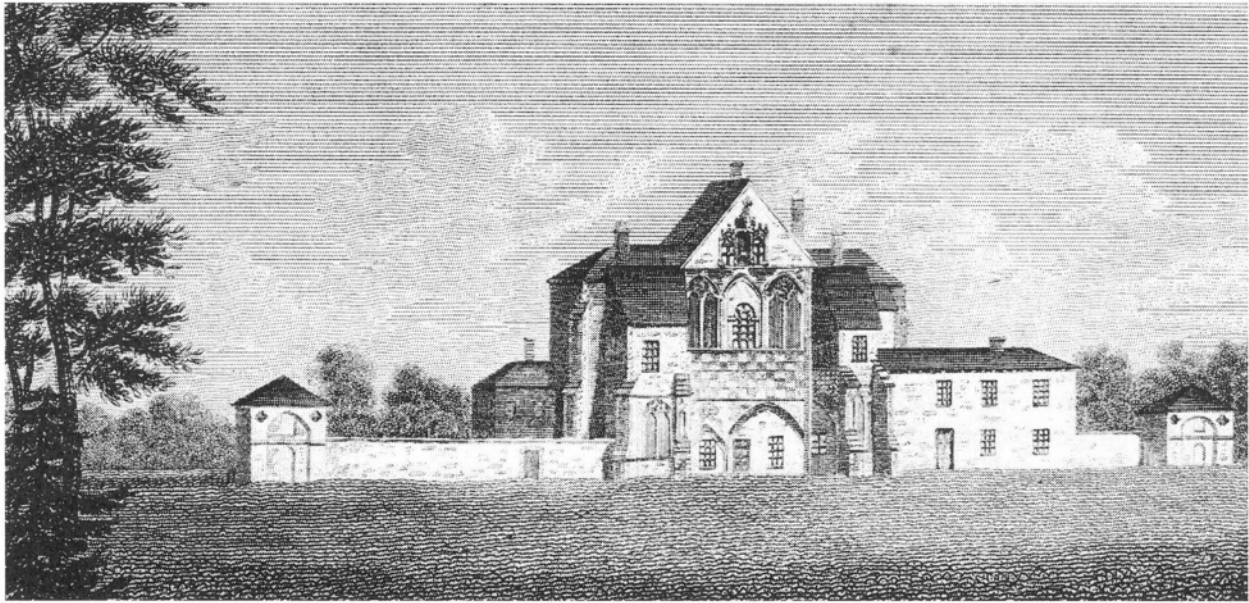


marking that the building would make a good subject for an engraver. 'Vast masses' of the walls of the Priory remained standing. They declined dining with Mr Chandler, who farmed Abbey Farm, because he did not appear sober!



The gatehouse of Butley Priory near Orford, Suffolk engraved by King for 'The Beauties of England and Wales' and published by John Harris, St Paul's Churchyard, April 1812. *Orford Museum*

A second trip was by river, this time with Peter Lathbury, who provided cold mutton pie and other provisions. Two young sailors rowed them from Orford quay. They passed Havergate Island (which Charles spelt Halvergate), and declared the farmhouse there '*desolate and miserable to the eye*'. Soon they were beyond the mouth of the river and '*grand was the scene*' of numerous vessels. Passing Hollesley Gap, '*so well known to smugglers*' they arrived on the beach a mile from the mouth of the River Deben.

They ate '*like Savages*' sitting on the sand, scorched by the sun, and Rover was given water to drink out of his master's hat. Returning to the boat they noticed '*two Nymphs*' hurrying to a chaise. Probably a lady and her maid, they had disturbed the former who had been '*washing her beauteous feet in the waves*', ie, paddling. This episode clearly made a great impression on Charles who added a couplet:

*'Quick up her leg the inverted Silk she drew
And with her faithful Jenny drove away from view'.*

The Corporation

Their last meal before departure was dinner taken at 4pm. In the evening they went to Raydon Farm, the residence of Mark Wade. On the way they met the '*temporary curate*', John Connor, again, who was with Mr Randal⁵, one of the Burgesses. The visitors noted that the Corporation consisted of a Mayor and twelve Burgesses. The Mayor was Edward Colman, Serjeant at Arms to the House of Commons and a friend of Lord Hertford. Only two of the Burgesses resided in Orford, Randal, who was an apothecary, and a Mr Brett⁶. The rest came just once a year, yet were required to have a house in their occupation. For most of the year housekeepers, often widows, lived in them. It was said that there was only one good house in the town, built by Lord Beauchamp⁷ and unoccupied. Their host, Mark Wade, whose garden was admired as '*very good*', was aged around 55 and remembered as many as seven rectors of Sudbourne with Orford⁸. He plied his guests with '*excellent port wine*'.