POPULAR COUNTY HISTORIES. THE HISTORY OF SUFFOLK. [LONDON-1895]

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Popular County Histories. The History of Suffolk. [London-1895] by John James Raven

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HISTORY OF SUFFOLK

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POPULAR COUNTY HISTORIES

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HISTORY OF SUFFOLK

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BY

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LONDON: ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C. 1895.- .



PREFACE

THE sources from which this history is derived are frequently mentioned in the text and notes, but much material has been obtained through the kindness of correspondents (too many to be enumerated, and to whom my best acknowledgments are due), which it is impossible thus to indicate.

The arrangement is rather chronological than topical, constructed with the purpose of exhibiting as far as may be the relation of the history of the county to that of the country at large.

The changes in the social condition of the inhabitants of Suffolk have not been overlooked, and much light has been thrown upon the subject by extracts from diaries and letters, which could not be gained by any other means.

Such observations as have been made on the East Anglian dialect are largely the result of personal intercourse with all classes, extending over more than half a century.

J. J. RAVEN.

THE VICARAGE, FRESSINGFIELD, July, 1895.



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HISTORY OF SUFFOLK.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC AND PREHISTORIC.

'HERE is hardly a county in England which surpasses Suffolk in simplicity of form and boundary. Save for a considerable deflexion in the northeast, now containing three hundreds, the form of the county is an irregular oblong, about sixty miles by thirty, diversified in most parts by gentle undulations, and containing many varieties of soil. Along the east side it is washed by the German Ocean, and there is but little of the artificial element in the boundaries which divide it from Norfolk on the north, Essex on the south, and Cambridgeshire on the west; for Nature has supplied as limits the Waveney and Little Ouse on the north, and the Stour on the south; while even on the west the Lark and its tributary the Kennet divide Suffolk from Cambridgeshire for some miles. In the ancient morass at the northwest corner of the county, and along the south-west border, the demarcations are of man's making, and there are occasional small deviations from the line of the rivers. The coast line has suffered, and still suffers, from the constant undergnaw of the German Ocean, but boasts yet of the most eastern point of Great Britain-Lowestoft Ness.

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