TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

ESSEX

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. V.

COLCHESTER:

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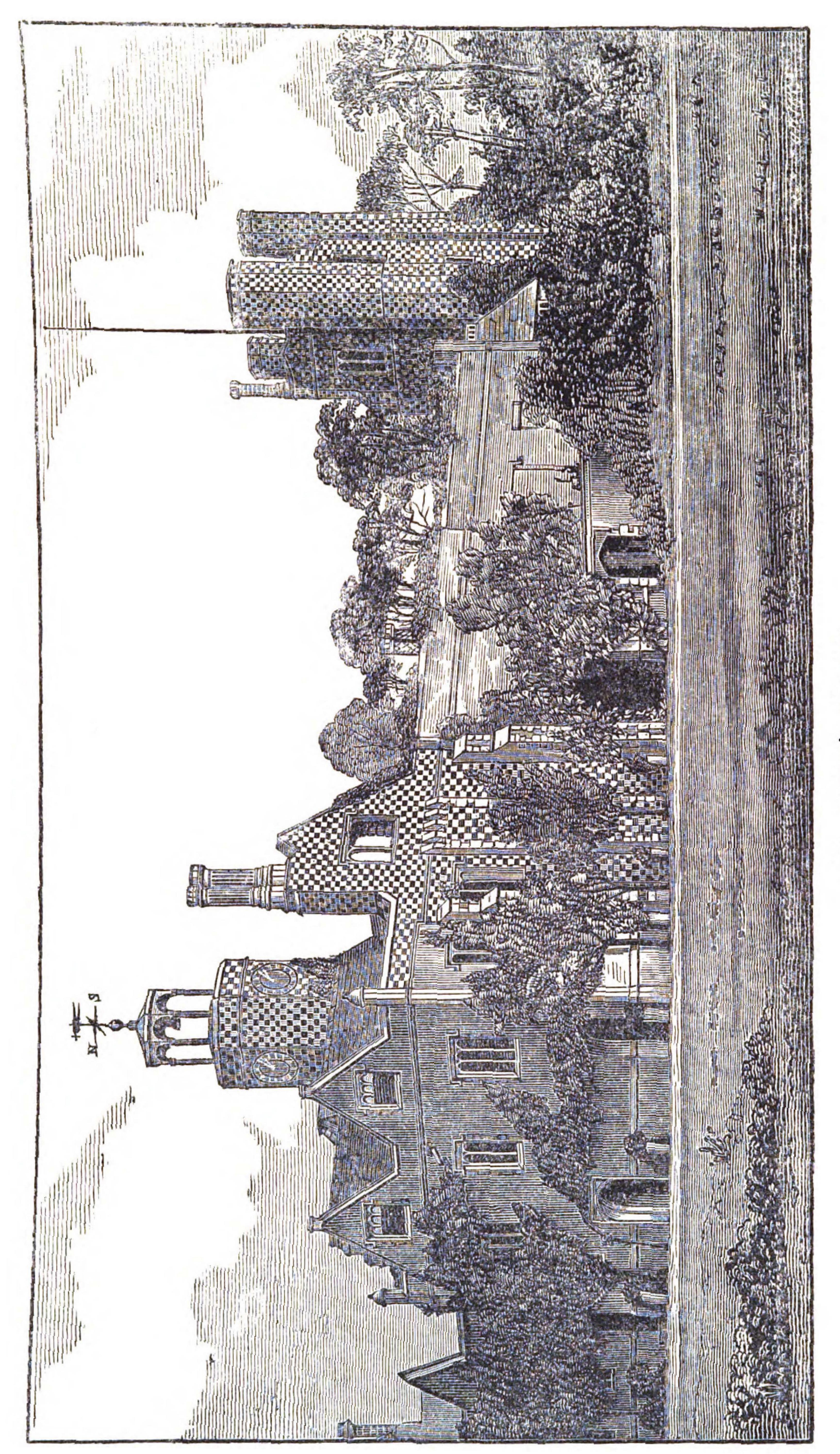
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ST. OSYTH'S PRIORY.

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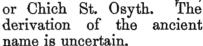
OF THE

Essex Archwological Society.

ST. OSYTH'S PRIORY.

By JOHN WATNEY, Jun., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.

* The parish in which the Priory is situated was anciently called Cice or Cic, but is now known as St. Osyth,





St. Osyth was a Saxon Saint. There are several histories or notices of her life in the older books. There is one in the tract called "Purgatory proved by Miracles;" another in Alban Butler's "Lives of the Saints:" another was written Alberic de Vere, a Canon of St. Osyth's, about the year 1160. Another is among the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum, † and there is a short notice of her life in Leland's Itinerary. ±

All the histories agree in

the main incidents of the Saint's life, but they differ considerably in the details. This is not surprising, for strict accuracy either in chronology or history is not to be expected in the lives of the Saints, and more especially of the Saxon ones.

^{*} This woodcut is from a shield carved in the splay of the window of what was formerly the great chamber, but now the drawing room of the Priory. † 436, fo. 29.

[†] Vol. III., p. 192.