

121 No. 1

Minwear

Sister Houses

3594

Tithe barn, which is marked in the ordnance map. The eastern entrance was originally through a porch, but a little building was added on each side, which contained three loops on the basement, and one loop in the upper chamber, which was a mere lodgment under the roof; the western entrance an unprotected barn door. The tithe barn was a gabled building, with a basement and two storeys, the second being in the roof. The basement had four loops on each end, twelve loops on the east side, thirteen on the west. The first storey seems to have been looped in the same fashion, excepting that the loops alternated. The second storey on the north and south gables had three loops. The building seems to slope from south to north, the loops in the basement being about 3 feet above the floor on the north, but 5 feet on the south, where a fragment of flooring still remains; it is of lime and stone. In the building you will find neither fire-place, chimney, window nor stair. All the loops seem to have had a flag above them, but these have been removed. The basement seems to have been about 8 feet high, the first storey a trifle less, but the chamber in the roof, or second storey, about 12 feet at the point of the gable. The building, if, as the editor supposes, a tithe barn, was constructed to store grain, not unthrashed straw. The approaches to the upper chambers must have been by wooden ladders. There are many small dilapidated cottages and the most perfect of them consists of a barrel-vaulted cellar about 6 feet high, two storeys above it; a western wall is gone. The lower of the two storeys is 14 feet by 12 feet and about 8 feet high. In the eastern wall a square-headed recessed opening, another window or door blocked up. In the northern wall there is a window- in the southern a fire-place with an aumbrey by the side. In the upper chamber a window in the north gable, but no fire-place, and it seems to have been approached by an outside stone staircase which is now broken away. The chapel, 18 feet by 12 feet with a barrel-vaulted roof; east wall not bonded. It was lighted by a narrow square-headed window; the west wall is gone, where presumably was the entrance. Further west is a mill driven by the stream which falls into the Minwear Pill, on the site of which probably stood the mill which ground the corn stored in the tithe barn. There are several large areas enclosed by stone walls. In these peradventure, the Knights Commanders collected the tithe cattle and sheep. There is a splendid spring here.

#### Sisters House,

**Minwear (15).** This astonishing and little known group also includes the shell of a great barn, a massively walled garden or compound, the remains of a fish pond, a well, a large barrel-vaulted cellar (perhaps the remains of the main domestic building, despite being known as the Chapel) and a ruined water mill on the tidal inlet to the west of the site. This complex lies directly across the Eastern Cleddau from Slebech and although known for many years (it is mentioned by Fenton as a domestic dwelling and treated in measured detail by the Royal Commissioners in their Report of 1925) it has never received the respect it deserves as perhaps Pembrokeshire's most interesting and mysterious site.