

Edward Hasted
The history and topographical survey of the
county of Kent, second edition, volume 3
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1797

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THE
HISTORY
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

CONTAINING THE
ANTIEN AND PRESENT STATE OF IT,
CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL;
COLLECTED FROM PUBLIC RECORDS,
AND OTHER AUTHORITIES:
ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS, ANTIQUITIES, &c.

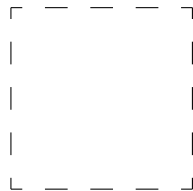
THE SECOND EDITION,
IMPROVED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

By EDWARD HASTED, Esq. F. R. S. and S. A.
LATE OF CANTERBURY.

Ex his omnibus, longe sunt humanissimi qui Cantium incolunt.

*Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis,
Nec imbellem feroces progenerant.*

VOLUME III.

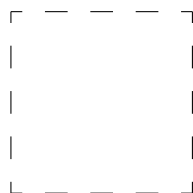


CANTERBURY:
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TO
Sir John Henniker, Bart.
OF NEWTON HALL AND STRATFORD HOUSE,
IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

SIR,

I SHOULD be shamefully deficient in the due respect

I owe you, as well as gratitude, a sentiment which I hope will ever be a stranger to my heart, did I not embrace this opportunity of publicly acknowledging both. —

The encouragement you have so liberally given to my History of a County, where the family of Henniker have so long resided, and over which your property so

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widely extends, from the earliest period of its publication, and the continual favours you have conferred on me during the course of it, cannot but be deeply imprinted on my mind. Condescend, Sir, to confer on me the additional favor of accepting the Dedication of this Volume now offered to your patronage as a mark of that most perfect esteem and respect with which I remain,

Sir,

Your most obliged,
And most obedient
Humble servant,

EDWARD HASTED.

LONDON,
AUGUST 15, 1797.

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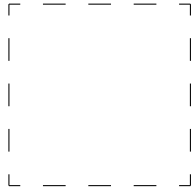
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Any ERRORS or MISTAKES, in the former edition, or communications towards the improvement of these volumes, will, at any time, in future, be thankfully received, if directed to W. BRISTOW, PARADE, CANTERBURY.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

1. Plate, to face title, CHEVENING HOUSE.
2. To face p. 1. Map of CODSHEATH HUNDRED.
3. To face p. 124. Tomb of JOHN LENNARD.
4. To face ditto. Tomb of SAMPSON LENNARD.
5. To face p. 158. Map of WESTERHAM HUNDRED.
6. To face p. 548. TEMPLE HOUSE, STROUD.

<1>



THE HUNDRED OF CODSHEATH.

THE next hundred southward from that of Axstane is CODSHEATH, written in antient records, CODSEDE.

The honour of Otford claims over this whole hundred; which, as such, was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and it continued so till it was granted as an appendage to that manor by archbishop Cranmer, to king Henry VIII, in his 29th year, as will be hereafter mentioned./a

/a See more of it under Sevenoke and Knole manors.

2

IT CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. SHOREHAM.
2. HALSTED.
3. OTFORD.
4. KEMSING.
5. SEALE.
6. SEVENOKE.
7. CHEVENING in part.
8. SUNDRIDGE. And
9. WOODLAND IN
KINSDOWN.

And the churches of those parishes; and also part of the parishes of LYGHE and SPELDHURST, the churches of which are in another hundred.

SHOREHAM.

SHOREHAM lies the next parish southward from Lullingstone. In the Textus Roffensis it is written Schorham./b

THIS PARISH is watered by the river Darent, which takes its course through the middle of it. The village of Shoreham, which is by no means a small one, is situated on both sides of the river, over which there are two bridges in it, nearly at the southern boundary of the parish, next to Otford, having both the church and the seat of New House on the eastern side of it. Hence, on both sides, the chalk hills rise, on which the soil is but barren, and much covered with flints, rise pretty high; beyond which, towards the east and western boundaries of the parish are the two small hamlets of Romney-street and Thimbling-bottom; in the south part of the parish, are the estates of Sepham and Filston; and in the northern, close to the river, those of Preston and Shoreham, alias Lullingstone-castle; and about three quarters of a mile westward from the former, close to the pales of Lullingstone-park, though within the boundary of this parish, the farm, formerly accounted the manor of Cockhurst, belonging to Sir John Dyke. The high

/b Text. Roff. p. 229.

3

road from Dartford through Farningham and Eynsford, towards Sevenoke, runs along the hills, on the eastern side of this parish, about a quarter of a mile from the village of Shoreham; which having no high road of any public intercourse through it, is but little frequented by travellers, nor does the nearness of the turnpike-road above mentioned contribute much towards it; the soil of which being wholly chalk, and very stony, renders it not very pleasant to travel on at any time. There is a fair held in the village, for pedlary, on the 1st of May.

THE MANOR was part of the antient possessions of the archbishop of Canterbury, and it continued so till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. conveyed it, among other premises, to that king, in exchange, together with all his lands and possessions in this parish, except presentations and advowsons, to the churches and vicarages of them./c It remained in the hands of the crown at the death of king Charles. I. after which the powers then in being seized on the royal estates, and passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, in order to their being surveyed and sold, to supply the necessities of the state;/d accordingly, in 1650, this manor was surveyed, when it was returned – That the quit-rents due to the lord of it, holden of the honour and manor of Otford, were held in free and socage tenure; that there was a court baron and a court leet; that there was in this manor yoakeland and inland, the former of which paid a heriot of the best living thing on demise or death; and that a reeve was chosen out of the tenants at the court baron, to collect all profits, and account for them./e After which this manor was sold by the state to John Singleton, with whom it remained till the restoration of king Charles II. when

/c Aug. Off Box A. 21. /d Scob. Col. pt. i. p. 51.

it again returned to the crown, where it continues at this time, being still accounted an appendage to the honour of Otford.

The dean and chapter of Rochester possesses, by purchase, from the crown, a fee farm of 20l. 14s. 5d. yearly rent from this manor.

Near the entrance into this parish, southward from Lullingstone, lies PRESTON, adjoining to the river Darent. This place was formerly accounted an appendage to the manor of Halsted, and was held of the archbishop of Canterbury as such.

In the book of Knights Fees, for collecting the aid, in the 20th year of king Edward III. Lora, late wife of Ralph Savage, and heir of Reginald de Preston, is said to hold half a knight's fee, which William de Chelsfield before held in Halsted and Preston of the archbishop of Canterbury, viz. the manor of Halsted with Preston.

At the latter end of king Edward III. Preston was become the estate and residence of Sir Thomas de Buckland, who both himself and his ancestors were possessed of good estates elsewhere in this country; they bore for the arms, Argent, an eagle sable, beaked and unguled or, which coat is now quartered by the family of Polhill. Thomas Buckland, with his wife, lie buried here, in a chapel of their own founding. His descendant, Thomas Buckland, in the latter end of king Henry VI. left an only daughter and heir, Alice, who carried this estate in marriage to John Polley, alias Polhill, of Polhill-street, in Detling, where this family was originally situated, bearing for their arms, Argent, on a bend gules, three cross crosets or. He had three sons; John, who was of Preston; Thomas and Christopher; Thomas, the second son, had issue by Joan Miller, his wife, five sons; of whom John was of Shoreham; Thomas retained the name

/f Weever, p. 331.

of Polley, and was ancestor of Sir Thomas Polley of Wrotham, and David Polhill, from whom came those of Otford and Chipsted; Robert; and William, whose descendants were of Philipotts, in Tunbridge; and were afterwards of Maidstone.

John Polhill, the eldest son, resided at Preston, which continued in his descendants, who seem to have removed their residence in general to Burwash, in Sussex, where several of them lie buried. One of them, John Polhill, of Burwash, at length passed away Preston by sale to Paul D'Aranda, esq. who died possessed of it in 1712. His son of the same name, was of Putney, in Surry, esq. and possessed this estate of Preston. He died in 1732, and lies buried in this church. This family bore for their arms, Azure, a castle of three towers argent, within a bordure or, charged with saltiers gules. Before his death, in 1715, he sold this estate to John Borrett, esq. who was originally of the county of Westmoreland, was master of the Inner Temple, and afterwards one of

the prothonotaries of the court of common pleas, and bore for his arms, Ermines, three boars heads erected and erased or. He was twice married; first, to Anne, daughter of Bartholomew Partridge, merchant of London, by whom he had a son, Thomas, who survived him; secondly, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Sir John Trevor, secretary of state to Charles II. by whom he had six children; of whom Elizabeth married David Polhill, esq. of Chipsted. Trevor settled in the bishopric of Durham, and died anno 1770, whose son Thomas, afterwards married the youngest daughter and coheir of Thomas, only surviving son of John Borrett, by his first wife, father of the said Trevor; Edward married Susan, the daughter of Thomas Dixon, esq. of the county of York; Mary; and Ruth was the second wife of Sir Isaac Shard. John Borrett, esq. above mentioned, built a handsome seat, close to the river, at the south

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end of the village of Shoreham, which he called New-house, where he resided to the time of his death. He died in 1739, and was succeeded in this seat of New-house, with Preston, and in his other estates in this parish, by Thomas Borrett, esq. his only surviving son by his first wife, to whom he had resigned his office of prothonotary many years before his death.

Thomas Borrett, in 1735, married the daughter of Sir Thomas Scawen, alderman of London, and died in 1751, leaving his wife surviving, and two daughters his coheirs; one of whom married William Glanvill Evelyn, esq. of St. Clere's, in Ightham, and the other, Martha, married her kinsman, Thomas Borrett, son of Trevor Borrett, as mentioned above. They, on the death of their mother, became possessed of this seat, and the rest of their father's estates in Shoreham; and on the division of their inheritance, between their husbands, New-house, Preston, Shoreham-castle, Filston, and the rest of their estates in Shoreham, were allotted to Thomas Borrett, esq. who now possesses them, but the seat of New-house is at present uninhabited.

SHOREHAM-CASTLE, formerly called Lullingstone, alias Shoreham-castle, is situated close to the river Darent, on the western side of it, and near adjoining to the southern pales of Lullingstone park. To this castle there was a manor appendant, called the manor of Lullingstone-castle, of which Hugo de Poyntz died possessed in the 1st year of Edward II. In the 20th year of Edward III. Sir Roger de Chaudois paid aid for the manor of Lullingstone-castle, as one knights fee, which Hugo de Poyntz before held of the archbishop of Canterbury. In the reign of Edward IV. John de Neuburgh brought his plea against Robert Poyntz for this manor before the king's justices, Thomas Bourchier, archbishop of Canterbury, having remitted for that time only, with a saving of the right of himself and his successors, the jurisdiction of trying the same in

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his own court./g The former seems to have prevailed in this suit, and to have established himself and his descendants in the possession of this place; one of

whom, Roger Newborough, in the 3d and 4th years of Philip and Mary, had possession granted of this manor, or castle of Lullingstone, alias Le Castell, with its appurtenances, holding it of the king in capite, as of the honour of Otford, by knights service.^{/h} In the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, John Newborough levied a fine of these premises, and then passed them away by sale to Thomas Polhill, of Preston, in this parish, whose descendant, John Polhill, of Preston, conveyed this estate, by sale, to Paul D'Aranda, esq. and his eldest son, Paul D'Aranda, esq. of Putney, in Surry, in 1715, sold both castle and manor to John Borrett, esq. whose descendant, Thomas Borrett, late of New-house, is the present owner of them.

Shoreham-castle, as it is now called, has been long in ruins; Leland tells us it was so in his time, in the reign of king Henry VIII. The present farm-house seems to have been built out of the ruins.

FILSTON, formerly written Vielston, is a manor here, situated about a quarter of a mile southward from the village of Shoreham. It was antiently held of the archbishop of Canterbury by the Clares, earls of Gloucester and Hertford. In the year 1264, anno 42 Henry III. there was a composition entered into between archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in relation to the customs and services, which the archbishop claimed of the earl, on account of the estates which the earl held of him in Tunbridge, Vieleston, and other places in this county; by which, among other things, it was agreed, that the earl should do homage and the service of one knight's fee for this manor of Vieleston,^{/i} and suit at the court of the archbishop and his successors at Ot-

^{/g} Harl. MSS. No. 324-3.

^{/h} Rot Esch.

^{/i} Regist. Christ church, Cant.

No. 177. See Tunbridge.

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ford. This manor was again held of the earl of Clare, in the reign of king Henry III. by a family who took their surname from it.

Hamon de Vielston possessed it in the above reign, and then demised several parcels of land in this parish to Sepham of Sepham, Timberden of Timberden, and others of lesser note.^{/k}

John de Vielston was sheriff of this county in the 10th year, and continued in that office to the 20th of Edward III. when it seems to have come to the crown; for in the book of aid made that year, Sir Reginald de Cobham is charged with one knight's fee, which John, son of John de Vielston, held in Vielston of the archbishop, and which fee Reginald then held by grant from the king.

Sir Reginald de Cobham died possessed of this estate, with Hiltisbury, Foucourt, and other lands here,^{/l} in the 35th year of the above reign.^{/m} His son Reginald was lord of Sterborough-castle, in Surry, from whom it descended to his grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, who left a daughter and sole heir, Anne, and she carried Vielston, and the other estates before-mentioned, in marriage to Sir Edward Borough. She survived her

husband, and died anno 20 Henry VIII. possessed, as appears by the inquisition taken after her death of the manor of Vielston, with the hamlets or tenements of Hyltsbury, Chedingstone, Bowsell, Tyesherst, and other members belonging to the same, held of the archbishop by knight's service, as of his manor of Otford.

From this family Vielston passed by sale to Robert Blague, and from him again, quickly after, to Mr. William Petley, one of whose descendants sold it to John Borrett, esq. prothonotary of the court of common pleas, and his grandson, Thomas Borrett, esq. late of New-house, in this parish, is the present owner of it.

/k Philipott, p. 329.

/l See more of this branch of Cobham of Sterborough, and of Borough, under Chidingstone.

/m Rot. Esch.

/n See more of this family under Halsted.

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SEPHAM is an estate in this parish, which is now called Up-Sephram, and lies about half a mile southward from Filston, which formerly had owners of that surname, an eminent family of long standing in this parish, one of whom William de Sepham died possessed of it in the 25th year of king Edward III. and it appears by the inquisitions made in the 12th and 13th years of king John, of knights and other services, which were held of the king in capite, and returned by the several sheriffs to the king's treasurer, that Ralph de Planers then held of the archbishop the eighth part of a knight's fee, in Sorham, which estate was afterwards called by his name, in which family Planers continued till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. and then it was conveyed by sale to Sepham, of Sepham, who bore for their arms, Sable, three cinquefoils argent, between seven cross-crosets fitchee of the second; which coat is still remaining on the roof of the cloysters of Canterbury cathedral.

After this family had continued owner of both these estates, one by purchase, and the other by descent, until the latter end of king Henry VII. Mr. John Sepham, who, in the 5th year of that reign, had rendered his services for them to the archbishop, of whom they were both held, passed away Sepham to William Martin, and Planers, the name of which is now almost unknown, to Cobbe, in which families, after they had remained till the latter end of king Henry VIII's reign, they were both demised by sale to Francis Sandback, esq. of the Inner Temple, whose sole child and heir, Alice, carried them in marriage to David Polhill, esq. the third son of Thomas, who was second son of Thomas Polley, alias Polhill, of Detling, by Alice his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas Buckland, and his direct descendant, Charles Polhill, esq. of Chipsted, in this county, is the present owner of these estates.

/o Lib. Ruber. Scacc.

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CHARITIES.

THOMAS TERRY, by will in 1728, gave to the use of the poor land vested in Jacob, Beard, then of the annual produce of 7l. but now of 14l. per annum.

JOHN BORRETT, esq. by will in 1736, gave to the use of the poor the annual sum of 3l. vested in Thomas Borrett, esq. and now of that annual produce.

MR. PETLEY, by will, gave out of the land of Filston farm, to be paid to three widows living in the alms-houses, 12s. per calendar month each, the land being now vested in Thomas Borrett, esq.

SHOREHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester. It is a peculiar of the archbishop, and is within its own deanry of Shoreham; the several parishes of which, having been part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, are exempt from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese in which they lie, and as such are peculiar to the jurisdiction of the archbishop only, from whence they have acquired the name of the archbishop's peculiars, all such being within this deanry of Shoreham, and subject to his prerogative only.

The church of Shoreham is situated on the east side of the village, on a rising ground. It is a neat building, the steeple is of brick, and has been lately erected, as well as the chancel at the east end. It is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church, at the west end are memorials for Rutter, Cowell, Wells, Everest, and Perry; a mural monument for Anne, second daughter of John Borrett, esq. of the Inner Temple, obt. 1735. In the north isle, memorials for Everests and Watts; a grave-stone, with a brass plate and inscription, for William Wall, S. T. P. obt. Jan. 13, 1727, æt. 82, vicar here for fifty-three years, and rector of Milton near twenty; he married Catherine, daughter of Edward Davenant, gent. and his sons Thomas and William, citizens of London, the former died 1709, æt. 25; the latter in 1725, æt. 40. A grave-stone at the entrance of the great chancel,

/p Text. Roff. p. 229.

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with an inscription in brass, for Mr. Thomas Polhill, obt. 1588, and Anne his wife, daughter of William Plumly, of Otford, by whom he had one son and three daughters; a mural monument, with the bust of a lady and inscription, that in a vault adjacent is deposited Susannah, wife of Edward Borrett, esq. obt. 1751. In the north chancel, at the east end, a grave-stone for Paul Daranda, esq. of Shoreham, obt. 1712, æt. 60; another for Paul Daranda, esq. of Putney, son of the above, obt. 1732, æt. 46; arms, a castle within a bordure, charged with crosses; at the west end a mural marble for John Polhill, esq. late of Preston, in this parish, descended from the elder house of the Polhills, of that place, obt. 1651, æt. 39; he left John, Edward, and Elizabeth, by his wife Anne, one of the daughters of Sir Edward Gilbourne, of Shoreham; arms, Polhill with quarterings. A beautiful monument, executed by Sir H. Cheere, on which are the busts of a man and woman, for John Borrett, esq. master of the Inner Temple, and prothonotary, obt. 1739, æt. 82; arms, Borrett, with a crescent for difference, with impalements. In the great chancel, are many memorials for the family of Polley, of this parish. On the south side of the altar a large elegant monument, with the busts of a gentleman and lady, and inscription that in

the north chancel lies buried Sir Abraham Shard, eldest son of Sir Isaac, of Lambeth, whose second wife was Ruth, daughter of John Borrett, esq. of this parish, by whom he left no surviving issue; he died in 1746, arms, argent a bend sable in chief, a bugle horn sable stringed gules, garnished, or, in base a buck's head couped, attired or impaling Borrett.

The church of Otford is a chapel to the church of Shoreham.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Shoreham was valued at fifty marcs./q It was part of the antient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, and continued so till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. granted it, by the name of the advowson and patronage of Shoreham, with the chapel of Otford annexed to the parsonage of Shoreham; together with all other estates belonging to him in this parish to that king, in exchange for other premises./r

King Edward VI. in the first year of his reign, granted the parsonage and advowson of this church,

/q Stev. Mon. p. 456. /r Augtn. Off. Box A 21.

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with the chapel of Otford, to Sir Anthony Denny, to hold of the king in capite;/s who presently after exchanged it with the dean and chapter of St. Peter's, Westminster, for the advowson and patronage of Ches= hunt, in Hertfordshire./t

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that Shoreham was a parsonage, valued at one hundred pounds per annum, with one barn, and one croft containing one acre, two acres of meadow, nine acres of arable, fifty-seven acres of wood, and one croft of half an acre, valued at fifteen pounds per annum; all in the hands of Erasmus Moyce, gent. and that there was also one old vicarage-house, and ten pounds per annum, which formerly belonged to the dean and chapter of Westminster, and valued at thirty pounds per annum; master Robert Rosse being the minister, and having no salary, but what the parishioners gave him./u

The rectory of Shoreham, with the chapel of Otford, is an appropriation now belonging to the dean and chapter of Westminster, and valued in the king's books at 34l. 9s. 9¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 8s. 11³/₄d./w The advowson of the vicarage is in the possession of the same dean and chapter. It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty-five pounds, and the yearly tenths at 1l. 8s. 8d.

The vicarage house was erected here in the twenty-third year of king Henry VIII. Among the archives of the dean and chapter of Westminster is an award, concerning the tithes of wood due to the vicar of this parish.

/s Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 9.

/t Chauncy's Hertfor. p. 299.

/u Parl. Sur. Lamb. lib. v. xix.

/w Ect. Thes. p. 387.

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CHURCH OF SHOREHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Westminster Duke, ejected Aug. 1662./x

William Wall, D. D. presented

1674, obt. Jan. 13, 1728,

æt. 82./y

Vincent Perronett, A. M. 1728,

obt. May 9, 1785, æt. 90.

Charles Wake, S. T. P. 1785,

obt. 1796.

William Cole, S. T. P. 1796, the

present vicar.

/x Calamy's Life of Baxter. See

Reg. Roff.

/y And rector of Milton by Gravesend.

He lies buried in this church.

- - -

HALSTED.

WESTWARD from Shoreham lies HALSTED, which takes its name from the height of its situation, quasi altus locus; a place situated on a hill.

THIS PARISH lies on high ground among the hills.

It contains about nine hundred acres of land, of which about eighty are wood. The soil is either chalk or a stiff clay, much covered with flints. The Place-house, with the church near it, is situated about half a mile westward from the high London road, leading through Farnborough towards Sevenoke, at the distance of about eighteen miles from London, on which is a hamlet called Lock's Bottom. The village of Halsted stands about a mile south-eastward from the church; southward of which the parish is bounded by a large coppice wood, reaching almost as far as Madamscott-hill, the whole of it is rather a lonely unfrequented place, having nothing further worth mentioning in it.

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THIS PLACE was, in very early times, owned by a family of the name of Malvil, who held it of the archbishop of Canterbury. They bore for their arms, Gules, a lion passant-guardant or, crowned argent; as the same is now quartered by the family of Dering. Roger de Malvil was one of the Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ, or justices of the great assise, in the 4th and 7th years of king John. Philip de Malvil is mentioned in one of the inquisitions made in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, of knights and other services, held of the king in capite, and returned by the several sheriffs to the king's treasurer, as possessing half a knight's fee in Altestede of the archbishop. William de Malevill was in possession of this estate in the reign of king Henry III. as appears by the escheat-rolls; soon after which it came into the family of Chellesfield. In king Edward III's reign it was owned by Ralph Savage, whose widow, Lora, heir of Reginald de Preston, paid aid for it in the 20th year of that reign, as half a knight's fee, which William de Chellesfield before held in Halsted and Preston of the archbishop./a

At the latter end of the above reign, this place was become the property of John, son of William Burys, who, as appears by an old deed, held it in the 4th year of king Richard II. his descendant, William Burys, was sheriff of this county in the 11th year of king Henry VI. and died possessed of Halsted in 1444./b

After which it did not continue long in this name; for in the next reign of king Edward IV. Thomas Bouchier, archbishop of Canterbury, was in possession of it. He died anno 1486, and by his will, that year, devised the manor of Halsted to his kinsman, Sir Thomas Bouchier the younger, whose descendant Alyce Bouchier, carried it in marriage to William, second

/z Rot. Esch. ejus an. No. 54. Philipott, p. 177.

/a Somn. Cant. part ii. append. p. 35.

/b Rot. Esch. and Philipott.

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son of Richard Petley, who bore for his arms, Argent two bends engrailed sable, a canton of the second./c

William Petley died possessed of Halsted in 1528, and lies buried in this church, with Alys his wife, by whom he left two sons; Stephen, of whom hereafter; and Thomas, who was of Vielston, in Shoreham, and was ancestor of the branch of this family settled there, and of those now remaining at Riverhead, in Sevenoke, where further mention will be made of them.

In whose descendants it continued down to Thomas Petley, who possessed this estate, and levied a fine of it in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, and quickly after passed it away by sale to Sir Thomas Watson, a generous benefactor to this church, who died in 1621, and was buried in it, with Elizabeth his wife, who survived him, leaving an only child and heir, Elizabeth, who carried this manor in marriage to Sir William Pope, of Wilcot, in Oxfordshire, knight of the Bath and baronet,/d who was in 1628, anno 4 king Charles I. created baron Pope, of Belturbett, and earl of Downe, in the kingdom of Ireland./e

He had issue two sons, William, who died in his life-time, leaving a son Thomas, heir to his grandfather, and earl of Downe; and a second son, Thomas, afterwards likewise earl of Downe./f Thomas, earl of Downe, succeeded his grandfather here, and afterwards passed away this manor, with the seat called Halsted court-lodge, and the lands belonging to it, to Mr. Edward Ashe, of Heytesbury, in Wiltshire, who bore for his arms, Argent, two chevrons sable./g

He left a son Joseph, and a daughter Elizabeth, married to Thomas Foley, of Kidderminster, father of the late lord Foley.

/c MSS. pedigree of Petley.

/d Guillim's Heraldry, part ii.

p. 183.

/e Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 33.

/f Atkins's Glouc. p. 197.

Baronetage, edit. 1720, vol. i.

p. 223, 357. Wood's Ath. vol.

ii. p. 545.

/g Guillim. part ii. p. 201.

See a pedigree of Ashe, Bar.

Edit. 1727, vol. ii. p. 151, and

appendix.

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Joseph Ashe was of Twickenham, in Middlesex, and was created a baronet in 1660. His descendant, Sir James Ashe, bart. was likewise of Twickenham, and sold this estate to Lansdell, in whose descendants it continued till the year 1738, when John Lansdell, esq. of Halsted, whose arms were, Azure, a chevron counter componée or and sable, cotised argent, between three crosses moline of the same, conveyed this manor, Halsted-court, the park, with sundry farms, messuages, lands, woods, &c. in Halsted, and the adjoining parishes, to trustees for the use of lord Vere Beauclerk, third son of Charles, first duke of St. Albans, by his first wife the lady Diana Vere, eldest daughter and at length sole heir of Aubrey de Vere, the last earl of Oxford of that name, who entering into a maritime life, distinguished himself in several commands, and by gradual promotions, rose to be admiral of the blue squadron of his Majesty's fleet, and in 1750, was created lord Vere, of Hanworth, in Middlesex.

In April, 1736, his lordship married Mary, eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Chambers, esq. of Hanworth, by whom he has had three sons, of whom Aubrey only is surviving; and a daughter, Mary, married to lord Charles Spencer, next brother to the duke of Marlborough./h

He died in 1781, and was succeeded in title and in this manor (the court-lodge, now called Halsted-place, having been sold off by his father lord Vere, some time before, as will be seen hereafter) by his only surviving son Aubrey lord Vere, who on the death of George, the late duke, succeeded to the dukedom of his grandfather in 1787, and in 1793 alienated this manor to Mr. William Brooks, of this parish, the present possessor of it.

/h Coll. Peer. vol. vii. p. 390.

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The manor of Halsted extends over part of Chelsfield. Besides the relief paid by the tenants of the quit-rent, there is paid a heriot of the best living beast, or otherwise three shillings and four pence for a dead heriot.

The mansion-house, or court-lodge of the manor, formerly called Halsted-court, but now HALSTED-PLACE, with its appurtenances, and some little quantity of land adjoining to it, being the two walks and roads leading to it both from London and Sevenoke, and two other pieces of land, containing in all about eight acres, were in 1755, sold by lord Vere, and Mary his wife, which sale was confirmed by an act passed next year, to Robert Bagshaw, who some time afterwards passed them away to Robert Ralph Foley, esq. who, in 1767, was created a baronet, being descended of a family of antient standing in Worcester-shire; one of whom, Thomas Foley, by Anne his wife, daughter of John Browne, esq. of Spelmonden, in this county, left several sons and daughters; of whom, Thomas, the eldest son, was father of the late

Thomas, lord Foley; and Philip, the youngest son, was of Prestwood, in Staffordshire, esq. and left two sons; Paul, who succeeded him at Prestwood; and Robert Foley, whose eldest surviving son, Robert-Ralph Foley, married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Hinchcliffe, esq. of Yorkshire, and purchased this seat as before-mentioned./i

He resided at Halsted-place for some years. After which he sold it, with the lands belonging to it, as before-mentioned, to John Sargent, esq. who resided here and died in 1791, after which it was sold to Arnold Arnold, esq. who now possesses it, and resides here.

There are no parochial charities.

/i Kimber's Baronetage, vol. iii. p. 239, et seq.

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HALSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, it is as such in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of one isle and a chancel, with a small chapel on the north side, and a pointed steeple, in which are four bells.

Sir Thomas Watson, lord of the manor of Halsted, was a great benefactor to this church; in the year 1609, he rebuilt from the ground the fair chapel of free-stone, on the north side of it, and adorned the east end of it, with curious painted glass, richly ornamented, now destroyed; he likewise new-built the steeple with stone from the ground, repaired and new-tiled both the church and chancel of it. He built the porch, and gave four new bells, a reading-desk, and pulpit, and made a wall from the north to the west side of the church-yard.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church, in the isle, is a grave-stone near the pulpit, with the figure of a man in armour, with a greyhound at his feet, and inscription in brass in black letter, for William Burys, esq. formerly lord of Halsted, obt. 1444, the shield of arms are lost. In the north chancel, two grave-stones, one for Sir Thomas Watson, of Halsted, obt. 1621; the other for Elizabeth his wife, the stone was laid by her grandson, Thomas, earl of Downe; at the east end a mural monument for Sir James Ashe, bart. of Twickenham, whose only surviving daughter Martha married Joseph Windham, esq. obt. 1733. In the high chancel, a monument for Thomas Holt, of London, obt. 1761, arms, argent on a bend engrailed sable, three fleurs de lis of the field. On the south side a gravestone, with the figures of a man and woman in brass, over their heads a dove, and beneath an inscription in black letter for William Petley, and Alys his wife, he died 1528; round the verge of a large gravestone in the middle of the isle, was an inscription in brass, capitals of the 13th century, cut separately into the stone, which are now all picked out, except one letter, so as not to be legible. Philipott supposes this to be the memorial of William de Chellesfield.

It is a rectory in the patronage of the archbishop of Canterbury, being part of the antient possessions of

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that see. In the 15th year of king Edward I. it was

valued at one hundred shillings./k

By virtue of the commission of enquiry in 1650, is= suing out of chancery, it was returned, that Halsted was a parsonage, with a house and little barn, and fifty-one acres of land, valued at thirty pounds per an= num, master Cottingham being the minister, and master J. Ash the proprietor thereof./l

It is valued in the king's books at 5l. 17s. 11d. and the yearly tenths at eleven shillings and nine-pence halfpenny./m

It has now only seven acres of glebe land.

CHURCH OF HALSTED.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Henry Farbrace, A. M. obt. Feb. 21, 1601./n

..... Cottingham, 1650.

John Hoadley, in 1720./o

Walter Foote, in 1734.

Caswell Winder, 1742, obt. July 30, 1770./p

John Stinton, D. D. 1770, re= signed 1771.

William Hardy, A. M. 1771, obt. Jan. 1797./q

Henry Dymock, A. M. 1797, the present rector.

/k Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/l Parl. Surv. Lambeth-lib. vol. xix.

/m Ect. Thes. p. 387.

/n Also vicar of Farningham, where he lies buried.

/o See Biog. Brit. vol. vii. append. p. 99, B.

/p Also vicar of Kemsing cum Seale.

/q And master of the school at Se= venoke.

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OTFORD.

NEXT to Shoreham southward lies OTFORD, called in Saxon, OTTANFORD, in the book of Domes= day, OTEFORT, and in the Textus Roffensis, OTTE= FORD; for it is observable, that the syllable an, when

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it is the second in the Saxon name of a place, is gene= rally left out in our modern pronunciation./r

OTFORD PARISH is about nine miles in circum= ference, and contains about two thousand four hundred acres of land, of which about seventy are woodland. It lies for the greatest part of it in a low damp situation, which makes it far from being pleasant, and gives it a lonely and gloomy appearance, and in all probability it would have been but little known had it not been for the residence of the archbishops at it for such a length of time. In the valley much of it is meadow land, and though the rivulets and springs throughout it render it very moist and marshy, yet it is here ra= ther fertile. Towards Sevenoke the soil becomes

sandy, and on the eastern and western hills it is entirely chalk mixed with flint stones, and is in general very barren. The river Darent runs through it northward, and it is otherwise watered by two other streams which join the river here. Hence the chalk hills rise on each side towards the east and west. The high road from Dartford to Sevenoke goes through the village of Otford, which stands at the foot of the chalk hills in the valley, not far from the eastern banks of the Darent, across which another road branches off from the village towards Chevening. At the entrance of the village from Eynsford, stood till lately, an antient seat, seemingly of the time of queen Elizabeth, which carried with it the appearance of its former opulence.

It seems formerly to have been known by the name of Colletwell, and to have been for many years the residence of the Petty's; several of whom lie buried in this church, after which it for some time remained uninhabited and dropping into ruin. From the heirs of the above family it passed at length by sale to George Lake, esq. whose sister Mary, about 1790; sold it to Mr. James Martyr, who pulled the whole of it down,

/r Camd. Brit. p. 128, 223.

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and built a good genteel house on the scite of it, in which he now resides. On the opposite or southern side are the ruins of the archiepiscopal palace, and near them the church. Here was a seat inhabited for many years by a branch of the family of Petley, and another by a branch of the Polhill family. David Polhill, esq. the last of that name, began to rebuild this house, intending to reside in it, but he again pulled it down before it was quite finished. The scite of it, with a considerable estate in this parish, is now in the possession of his son Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over a part of this parish. A fair is held here on the 24th of August, for pedlary ware, &c.

Antient history makes mention of two famous battles fought at Otford, one of which happened among the Saxons themselves, contending for glory and supreme sovereignty, the other between the Danes and Saxons, for their lands, lives, and liberties.

The first of these was fought in the year 773, when Offa, king of Mercia, having already joined to his dominion most part of Wessex and Northumberland; and perceiving the weak estate of the kingdom of Kent, thought it a fair opportunity to subdue it, and add it to his own domains. In consequence of which he invaded it, and fought a famous battle with Aldric, king of Kent, at this place; and though Offa gained the victory, yet it was not without great slaughter on both sides.

The other battle was fought in 1016, when king Edmund, surnamed Ironside, passing the river Thames with his army, marched after Canute, the Danish king, through Surry, into Kent, and encountering the Danes at this place, made a great slaughter of them; after which he pursued them as far as Aylesford, in their rout to the Isle of Shepey, and had he not desisted

/s Camd. Brit. p. 223. Lamb. Peramb. p. 563.

from the pursuit there, through the treacherous advice which was given him, he would, in all probability, in the compass of that day, have made the victory complete over their whole army.

The fields here are full of the remains of those slain in these battles; bones are continually discovered in them, particularly when the new turnpike road which leads from Eynsford, through Otford, to Sevenoke, was widened in 1767, many skeletons were found in the chalk banks on each side of it.

Mr. Polhill has a field in this parish, called Dane Field, which most probably was the spot on which the last-mentioned battle with the Danes was fought.

IN THE YEAR 791, Offa, king of Mercia, whose gifts to the British churches and monasteries in general were great and munificent, gave Otford to the church of Canterbury; not soon after which one Werhard, a powerful priest, and kinsman to archbishop Wlfrid, found means to gain the possession of it; but, at the command of the archbishop in 830, he by his last will, restored this place, then estimated at ten hides, again to the church of Canterbury; part of the possessions of which it remained at the coming of Lanfranc to that see, in the 4th year of the Conqueror's reign, anno 1070; who, when he divided the manors and possessions belonging to his church, reserved Otford to the use of himself and his successors, and it remained in the archbishop's possession at the taking the survey of Domesday, in which record it is thus entered, under the title of Terra Archiepi Cantuariensis, i. e. the land of the archbishop of Canterbury.

The archbishop himself holds Otford in demesne. It was taxed at 8 sulings. The arable land is 42 carucates; in demesne there are 6 carucates. There are 100 and one villein, with 18 borderers, having 45 carucates; there are 8 servants, and 6 mills of 72 shillings, and

/t Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 19. /u See above, vol. ii. p. 99.

50 acres of meadow. There is wood for the pannage of 150 hogs.

Of this manor three Thaines/w hold 1 suling and an half, and there they have in demesne 3 carucates, and 16 villeins, with 11 borderers, having 4 carucates. There are 5 servants, and 2 mills of 24 shillings, and 28 acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 30 hogs. The whole value of it, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, was Now the demesne of the archbishop is rated at 60 pounds, of the Thaines 12 pounds; what Richard de Tonbridge holds in his lowy is rated at 10 pounds.

From this period of time Otford continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. conveyed the manor, lordship, and seignory of Otford, and the manor of Otford Stuyens, alias Sergeants Otford, with the chapel of Otford annexed to the parsonage of Shoreham, and all other his estates in Otford, among other premises, in exchange to that king.

This manor, lordship, and seignory of Otford com=

ing thus into the king's possessions, appears thenceforth to have been stiled the HONOR OF OTFORD, having a high steward appointed to preside over it, and it remained with the view of frank-pledge, and the courts and law days of it, in the hands of the crown at the death of king Charles I. in 1648. After which the powers then in being seized on the royal estates; and passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, in order to their being surveyed, and sold to supply the necessities of the state.

Accordingly, in 1650, the honour of Otford was surveyed, when it was returned, that there belonged to it several court leets, within the hundreds of Codsheath, Sommerdenne, Sherborne Borough, and Kingsborough; all adjacent hundreds to this honour.

/w These were knights who owed military service.

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That there belonged to it a three weeks court held at Otford, wherein actions not above forty shillings were tried and determined./x

After the above survey, the honour of Otford was sold by the state to Edward Sexby, and Samuel Clerke, with whom it remained till the restoration of king Charles II. when the possession of it again returned to the crown, where it continues at this time.

The high stewardship of the honour of Otford has been from time to time granted by the crown to divers of the nobility and gentry of this county. John-Frederick, duke of Dorset, is the present high steward of it.

The archbishops of Canterbury had, from the earliest accounts, a HOUSE or PALACE here, in which they resided from time to time, as appears by their frequent mandates, dated from their manor house of Otford, being a most commodious and favorite retirement for them; adjoining to which they had two large parks, extensive woods, and other lands for their pleasure and convenience, in their own possession.

Archbishop Thomas Becket seems to have been greatly pleased with the retired situation of this palace, and several tales are told of the miracles he wrought whilst at it; among others, that the archbishop finding the house wanted a fit spring to water it, stuck his staff into the dry ground, and that water immediately burst forth, where the well called from thence St. Thomas's Well, now is, which afterwards plentifully supplied the palace.

Here that great prelate archbishop Robert Winchelsea entertained king Edward I. in his 29th year, anno 1300,/y and he resided here at the time of his death in the 6th year of king Edward II. anno 1313,/z at which time it appears that there was a park here,

/x Parl. Surv. Aug. Off. Box A

21. Roll of Partic. H. 22.

/y Prynne's Records, p. 883.

/z Weever, p. 221.

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which extended into Sevenoke parish, for four years afterwards the succeeding archbishop, Walter Reynolds, had the king's licence to purchase lands in that

parish towards the enlarging of it,^{/a} but this afterwards not being thought by one of his successors, archbishop Simon Islip, sufficient for his accommodation, he with the king's licence purchased lands and meadows here, in the 33d and 34th years of king Edward III's reign, in order to be inclosed with other lands by the archbishop, and for another park to be made here, since known by the name of the Lesser or Little Park.^{/b}

Archbishop Deane, who came to the see in the 16th year of king Henry VII. rebuilt great part of this house; notwithstanding which, his immediate successor,^{/c} archbishop Warham, thinking the house too mean for him to reside in, as he intended to do, on account of his quarrel with the citizens of Canterbury, rebuilt the whole of it, excepting the hall and the chapel, at the expence of 33,000l. a large sum at that time, and here he entertained that splendid prince king Henry VIII. who rested with the archbishop at it several times both in the 1st and 7th years of his reign.^{/d} His next successor, archbishop Cranmer, observing that this stately palace excited the envy of the courtiers, passed it away, with his other estates in this parish, in exchange, in the 29th year of that reign, to the king, as has been already mentioned.

After this palace, with its parks and appurtenances, had thus come into the king's possessions, he kept the mansion with the two parks, called the Greater and Lesser, or Little Park, and the woods and lands belonging to this estate in his own hands, and soon afterwards purchased of a descendant of Sir Edward Bo-

^{/a} Tan. Mon. p. 199.

^{/b} Ibid. p. 200.

^{/c} Weever, p. 231. Lamb. Peramb. p. 566, 568.

^{/d} Rym. Fœd. vol. xiii. p. 259, 263, and 516.

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rough, the manor of Danehull, in this parish, formerly possessed by the Cobhams of Sterborough, which he laid into his park here, all which continued pretty entire in the crown till king Edward VI. in his last year, and queen Elizabeth, afterwards made several grants of different parts of it. But the former in that year granted the little park of Otford, then lately disposed, to Sir Henry Sidney, as will be further mentioned below, and the latter in her 34th year granted to his son, Sir Robert Sidney, the scite of the honour of Otford, the archbishop's house commonly called the Castle, and the greater park, containing seven hundred acres, lying in Otford, Seal, and Kemsing; in the 15th year of king James I. bearing then the title of lord Sidney, he was created lord viscount Lisle, and that same year, with Barbara his wife, Sir Robert Sidney his son, and others his trustees, conveyed the whole of the above mentioned premises to Sir Thomas Smith, second son of Customer Smith, in whose descendants they continued down to Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe, chief baron of the exchequer, who died in 1778, as did his widow lady Sarah Smythe, in 1790, and by her will devised this estate, consisting of the ruins of the palace, and three farms, called the Place, Great Lodge, and

Greatness farms, containing about eight hundred and sixty acres of land, in trust, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which they were accordingly, next year, to Robert Parker, esq. of Maidstone, in which situation they still continue.

Most probably the palace was demolished, and the lands of the Greater Park disparted soon after the grant of them to Sir Thomas Smith. It stood behind the present ruins more to the south. There is nothing left of the mansion itself, but vast heaps of rubbish and foundations, which cover near an acre of ground. The present ruins were part of the outer court, the two remaining towers of which were not many years ago two stories higher, but the roof of the largest which was covered

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with lead falling in, the uppermost story of each was taken down.

THE MANOR OF SERJEANTS OTFORD, with the LITTLE PARK, part of those possessions likewise granted by the archbishop to king Henry VIII. as mentioned before, remained in the crown till king Edward VI. in the 7th year of his reign, granted to Sir Henry Sidney, his park, called the Little Park of Otford, lately disparted, and his lands, meadows, &c. inclosed within it, parcel of the honour of Otford, for the term of thirty years, which lease was renewed anno 10 queen Elizabeth. After his death, his eldest surviving son, Sir Robert Sidney, by letters patent, in the 44th year of that reign, had a grant in fee of the manor of Otford Stuyens, alias Sergeants Otford, the little park, and other premises here, late belonging to the see of Canterbury, at the yearly rent of thirty pounds. This manor came afterwards to be possessed in undivided thirds, by Mompesson, Hyde, and Wall. The two former sold their shares to Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart. of Kippington, in Sevenoke, whose son, Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe, bart. is the present possessor of them. The other third part of this manor descended from the Rev. Dr. William Wall, vicar of Shoreham, whose only daughter and heir, Catherine, married Mr. Waring, and had by him eight sons and eight daughters, to his grandson, Mr. Sampson Waring, of Rochester, who, some few years ago, sold it to Sir Jeffry Amherst, K. B. since created lord Amherst, baron of Holmsdale, and he is the present owner of it. By the name of Park-fields, which several lands, now belonging to Charles Polhill, esq. between the village and the river Darent, have immemorially been called by, it should seem that he is owner of some part of the lands formerly inclosed within these parks of Otford.

/e Rolls of Patric. temp. interregni.

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But the little or Lesser Park, lying on the north side of this parish, and parted on the west side by the river from that of Shoreham, now claims the reputation of a manor, and is called OTFORD NEW PARK. It has been for some years possessed by the family of Bostock, and is now the property of the Rev. Stillman Bostock, of East Grinstead, in Sussex.

RYE-HOUSE is an estate here, which was formerly accounted a manor, and seems in the reign of king Edward III. to have been owned by John At-Welle and Robert William; for they had, in the 46th year of it, the king's licence to assign four marcs yearly rent, issuing out of certain tenements, called Le Rye, in Otford, held of the archbishop, to Adam Fleming, chaplain, and his successors, celebrating divine offices in the chapel of Apuldefelde, for the good state of the king whilst he lived, and for his soul afterwards./f

This estate afterwards came into the name of Palmer, ancestors to those of Bekesborne, who bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron sable, between three palmers scrips or purses of the second, stringed and tasselled or.

One of this family, John Palmer, died possessed of the manor of Le Rye, in Otford, in the second year of king Richard III. his descendant, of the same name, conveyed it by sale to king Henry VIII. in the 30th year of his reign;/g who, in his 33d year, demised it to John Walker, yeoman, for a term of years; after which the family of Bosville had the fee of this estate, in which name it continued down to Henry Bosville, esq. of Bradborne, in Sevenoke, who dying without issue, in 1761, devised this estate, among others, to his kinsman, Sir Richard Betenson, bart. who dying, without issue, it came by the limitation

/f Pat. 46 Edw. III. ps. 2, m. 19. See Reg. Roff. p. 513.

/g Rot. Esch. Aug. Off. Inrol. Box B. 39.

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of the same will to Thomas Lane, esq. who is the present possessor of it./h

Sir George Harper, anno 33 king Henry VIII. conveyed to that king a messuage, called BROUGHTON'S, and other premises in Otford, in exchange for lands in Essex;/i all which were granted in the 1st and 2d of king Philip and queen Mary,/k to Humphrey Colwych, to hold in capite by knights service.

The Polhills afterwards became owners of this estate; David Polhill levied a fine of it in the 16th year of queen Elizabeth, in whose descendants this estate has continued down to Charles Polhill, esq. the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

In the rolls of the 13th of king Henry III. there is mention made of an hospital, or house of leprous persons here./l

SIR THOMAS SMITH, gave by will, in 1625, to six poor persons who do not receive alms, and frequent divine service, bread to be delivered to them weekly, to be paid out of land, vested in the Skinners company, now of the annual produce of 5l. 10s.

ONE OF THE FAMILY OF POLHILL gave by will, 20s. yearly, to be distributed among the poor, at the discretion of the trust, parish officers, to be paid out of land vested in Mr. Polhill, and now of that annual produce.

JOHN CHARMAN by will, gave 20s. yearly, for the like purpose, to be paid out of land, vested in Mr. Amhurst, as trustee of the children of Mr. Richard Round, deceased, and of that annual produce.

OTFORD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a

chapel to Shoreham, is a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, and consequently in that deanry.

The church, which is situated at the east end of the village, near the palace, is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, a saint of great credit here for the gift of

/h See Bradborne in Sevenoke, for a farther account of the families of Bosville and Betenson.

/i Aug. Off. Box C. 25. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 12.

/k Camb. Brit. p. 223. Lamb. Peramb. p. 563.

/l Tan. Mon. p. 222.

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curing barrenness in women, which caused great resort of people to his image and shrine in this church; and a fair was held at Otford on his anniversary. It consists of two isles and one chancel, having a pointed steeple at the west end, in which are two bells.

Among other monuments and memorials in this church, in the south isle, on the south side, is a mural monument, of elegant sculpture, with a busto of statuary marble, and inscription, for David Polhill, esq. of Cheapstead, son of Thomas Polhill, esq. of Otford, by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Ireton, by Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell; he was one of the Kentish petitioners in king William III.'s reign, obt. M. P. for Rochester, and keeper of the records in the Tower, in 1754, æt. 80; he married three wives, first Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Trevor, esq. of Glynd, in Sussex; secondly Gertrude, sister of Thomas Holles, duke of Newcastle, who both died, s. p. thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of John Borret, esq. of Shoreham, by whom he had four sons and one daughter; he left surviving Charles and Elizabeth; arms at top, Polhill with impalements; several memorials for the Rounds and Mainards. In the south chancel, a memorial for William Sidney and Alice his wife, descended from William Sydney lord of Kingsham, by Chichester, and of Isabella St. John, daughter of lord St. John, obt. 1625; arms, a pheon; memorials for the Everests and Pettys. In the great chancel, on the north side, a magnificent monument, with the statue of a gentleman, as large as life, standing and leaning on an urn, over him is the head of a lady, in profile, with figures of statuary marble on each side, most beautifully executed; and a memorial for Charles Polhill, esq. youngest son of Thomas Polhill, esq. by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Ireton, ob. 1755; he married Martha, daughter of Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoke, by whom he had no issue. Memorials for Bostock and Brasiers; a memorial on the south side of the altar for Robert Polhill, gent. of Otford, son of John and Jane, of Otford, obt. 1699, æt. 57; arms, Polhill. On the north side of the altar is an antient altar tomb, with an arch in the wall, ornamented with Gothic carved work, but the inscription is lost. In the east window is a shield of arms, Lennard, in stained glass, being or on a sesc gules, three fleurs de lis of the field, with quarterings, in the middle a mullet for difference. At the end of the chancel a mural monument for George Petty and Anne his wife, daughter of John Polhill, esq. of Otford, he died 1719, and for Robert their eldest son, obt. 1727.

The chapel of Otford, annexed to the parsonage of Shoreham, was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continued so till the same was

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exchanged by archbishop Cranmer with Henry VIII. in the 29th year of his reign, as has been mentioned

before.

King Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted the parsonage and advowson of Shoreham, with this chapel of Otford, to Sir Anthony Denny, to hold in capite by knights service, who presently exchanged the same with the dean and chapter of St. Peter's, Westminster, for the advowson and patronage of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire./m

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that Otford was a parsonage, rented at one hundred pounds per annum, the house and glebe of which was worth fourteen pounds per annum beyond that sum./n

It is an appropriation, now belonging to the dean and chapter of Westminster, the present lessee being the Right Hon. the lord Willoughby de Brooke.

The curate of this church, in 1719, had a stipend of twenty pounds per annum. In 1724, the dean and chapter of Westminster augmented this curacy with two hundred pounds./o

CHURCH OF OTFORD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES.

..... Haddock, in 1680.

..... Hunter, in 1687.

William Smith, 1690.

..... Owen.

Hugh Pugh, 1719./p

Thomas Norbury, obt. 1741.

William Winder, A. M. 1741,

obt. Oct. 30, 1790.

George Nathaniel Woodroff, 1790.

Present curate.

/m Chauncy's Hertfordsh. p. 299.

/n Parl. Surv. Lam. lib. vol. xix.

/o Ect. Thes. p. 387.

/p Also vicar of Birling.

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KEMSING.

THE next parish eastward from Otford is KEMSING, called in the Testa de Nevil, CAMESING, and in the Textus Roffensis, CIMICINGA./q The name of this place seems to have been given to it from some royal camp or fortress, situated here.

THIS PARISH of Kemsing, from its situation, is not much known or frequented, nor is it a pleasant one. It lies partly in the valley and partly on the chalk hills, at a small distance southward from the foot of which the village is situated, at the intersection of the roads from Otford to Ightham, and from the chalk hills to the high road by Seal Chart. Near the centre of it is a water, called St. Edith's well, who was a famous female saint, said to have been born in this parish, and to have wrought many miracles for such as applied to her for relief./r The parish is about two miles square; the soil of it, in the northern part, is mostly chalk, in the southern very fertile, it has about

one hundred acres of wood; in the eastern part of it is the seat of Crowdleham, situated near the boundary of the parish of Ightham.

There was a market antiently kept here on a Monday, by grant from king Henry III. which has been long since discontinued, and a fair, which is still kept on Easter Monday./s There was an old knightly family, who took their surname from this place, being called Kempesing, whose coat of arms was, Argent, a fess and chevron, interlaced sable, which was quartered by the Harts of Lullingstone, in right of Peche, who married the heir general of it./t

IN THE SCUTAGE, levied as well on the prelates as the rest of the barons, in the 32d of king Henry II. being

/q Text. Roff. p. 229.

/r Lel. Col. vol. iii. p. 356.

/s Kilb. Survey, p. 156.

/t Philipott, p. 201.

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the seventh of that reign, towards the expences of the army in Wales. The honour of Kemesing, as it is there called, then being in the king's hands, answered for twenty-nine shillings by the hands of the sheriff of the county./u Soon after which it came into the possession of the earl of Albermarle, who held it of Walter Fitzhelt, as he again did of the king in capite.

In the reign of king John, Baldwin de Betun, who, by favour of king Richard I. had enjoyed the earldom of Albermarle, in Hawis his wife's right, who was daughter and sole heir of William le Gross, earl of Albermarle, was owner of this place, and in the 5th year of that reign granted the lordships of Kemesing, Braborne, and Sutton, in this county, to William Mareschal, earl of Pembroke, with Alice, his sole daughter and heir, in frank marriage./w

In the reign of king John he attached himself closely to the rebellious barons, when his lands were seized on, as escheats to the crown; and this manor, then valued at thirty-six pounds per annum, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, was granted to Fulke de Brent; on the confiscation of whose estates, and the earl's return to his obedience, he again came into possession of it, which happened on the king's death, his father having persuaded him to return to his loyalty once more, and he had many favours conferred on him by king Henry III. in the 7th year of whose reign he had, for his good services against the Welsh, scutage of all his tenants in this and other counties. In the 10th year of that reign, his first wife being dead, he married Alianore, the king's sister, by which he greatly incurred his displeasure; but a reconciliation quickly after taking place, he was again taken into favour, and in the 14th year of that reign had a

/u Madox's Excheq. p. 431. Libr. Rubr. Scacc.

/w York's Honor, p. 240. Dugd. Baron. vol. i. p. 602. Newc. Rep. p. 546.

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confirmation of the manors of Kemesing, Braborne, and Sutton, in this county, upon condition, that in case Alianore, his wife, survived him, she should enjoy

them during life./x He died possessed of Kemsing in the 15th year of that reign without issue, and lies buried in the Temple church, having his effigies cross legged on his tomb; on which the sheriff of this county had the king's precept to make livery to Alianore, his widow, of those manors. She, after seven years widowhood, remarried Simon de Montford, earl of Leicester, and steward of England, in St. Stephen's chapel, Westminster, the king giving her away with his own hand.

In the 45th year of that reign, the earl of Leicester, heading the discontented barons against the king, continued with them till the battle of Evesham, in the 49th year of it, in which the earl was killed; after whose death, the countess Alianore and her children were forced to forsake England, and she died some time afterwards in the nunnery of Montargis, in France.

In the mean time the four brothers of William earl of Pembroke, successively earls of Pembroke, being dead without issue, their inheritance became divided between the heirs of their five sisters and coheirs; and upon the partition of their interest in the manor of Kemsing, it seems to have become the sole property of Roger, eldest son of Maud the eldest sister, by her husband, Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk,/y though the time of his coming into the possession of it I do not find, as Alianore, second wife of William earl of Pembroke, was then living, who was entitled to it for her life.

Roger earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, who bore for his arms, Per pale or and vert, a lion rampant gules, died of a bruise, which he received at a tour=

/x Sandford, p. 87. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 602. /y Ibid. p. 135.

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nement, about the 54th of Henry III.'s reign, leaving no issue by Isabel his wife, daughter of William king of Scots; upon which he was succeeded, as earl of Norfolk and marshal of the king's palace, as well as in the possession of this manor, by Roger his nephew, son of Hugh his brother, chief justice of England,/z who, in the 7th of king Edward I. claimed, before the justices itinerant, large privileges for this manor;/a and afterwards, in the 11th year of that reign, sold it, together with the advowson of this church, to Otho de Grandison, descended of a family, who were of the dukedom of Burgundy, in France, their residence there being called Grandison castle, a man of great account with that prince, who employed him much, and conferred many favours on him.

In the 18th year of that reign, he obtained free warren for all his demesne lands in Kemsing,/b and having had summons to parliament among the barons of this realm, he departed this life without issue, leaving William de Grandison, his brother, his next heir; who died possessed of this manor, leaving by his wife, Sibilla, youngest daughter, and one of the coheirs of John de Tregoze, three sons; Peter de Grandison, his eldest son and heir, who, as well as his father, had summons to parliament; John bishop of Exeter;

and Otho; and four daughters./c

On his death this manor became the property of Otho, the youngest son, who paid aid for it, in the 20th of king Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which William de Grandison before held in Kemsing of the earl of Leicester. He died possessed of this manor in the 33d year of that reign,/d leaving by Beatrix his

/z Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 134. Camb. Brit. p. 475.

/a Leland's Itin. vol. iii. p. 66. Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 166.

/b Philipott, p. 200. Rot. Cart. No. 71.

/c Leland's Itin. vol. iii. p. 67. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 18.

/d Rot. Esch. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 18. Cooke's Bar. MSS.

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wife, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Malmains, one son and heir, Thomas, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

Thomas de Grandison, being of full age, had possession granted of this manor, among others; he was afterwards knighted, and died possessed of it in the 50th year of king Edward III. without issue, leaving Margaret his wife surviving, who likewise possessed it at her decease, in the 18th year of king Richard II. After which it came to Sir William de Bryene, or Bryan, who died possessed of it in the 19th year of the same reign, and lies buried in Seale church.

After his death, Sir William Fynes (whose name was originally spelt Fiennes, but about this time came to be written both Fynes and Fenys) became possessed of it, bearing for his arms, Azure, three lions rampant or. He was son of William Fiennes and Joane his wife, third sister and coheir of William de Say; and by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of William Batisford, left issue two sons, Roger and James; from the former of which were descended the several lords Dacre of the south; and from the latter, the viscounts Say and Seale, both which titles are now extinct,/e and the present lord Say and Sele.

James, the second son, above mentioned, possessed this manor, and in the 14th of king Henry, VI. was sheriff of this county, and soon afterwards made esquire of the body to that king. In the 24th year of whose reign, being then a knight, he was, by reason that Joane his grandmother was third sister and coheir of William de Say, by a special writ, on March 3d, next year, summoned to Parliament by the title of lord Say and Sele;/f and two days afterwards, in consideration of his eminent services, he was, in open parliament, advanced to the dignity of a baron of

/e See a further account of these families under Cowdham, Chevening, and Seale.

/f The exemplification of this writ is among the Harleian MSS. No. 1178-21.

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this realm, by the above title, to him and his heirs male, and in the 27th year of that reign, he had a full confirmation and release of that title from John, lord Clinton, and of the arms of Say, which, on account of his descent from Idonea, the eldest sister of William de Say, might belong to him. In consideration of which he then granted to the lord Clinton, all advowsons of churches, knights fees, &c. which belonged to the

latter, by reason of the lordship of Say./g

After which he obtained a grant of the office of constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the five ports, to him and his heirs male; was made lord chamberlain, and one of the king's council, and next year lord treasurer of England.

This rise to so high a pitch of honour, increased the hatred of the commons towards him, and served but to make his fall the more sudden and unhappy, for next year they accused him and others in the parliament held at St. Edmunds Bury, of treason, for having assented to the release of Anjou, and the delivery of Maine to the French; upon which the king, to appease them, sequestered him from his office of treasurer, and shortly after, on the insurrection of the Kentish men, under Jack Cade, observing their clamour against him, to mitigate it, he committed him prisoner to the tower; shortly after which, this riotous mob entering London, and finding their numbers increase, fetched him thence to Guildhall, and there arraigned him before the lord-mayor, and other the king's justices, notwithstanding his request to be tried by his peers; after which hurrying him to the standard in Cheapside, they cut off his head there, and carried it about on a pole, causing his naked body to be drawn at a horse's tail into Southwark, and there hanged and

/g Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 245. These instruments are among the Harl. MSS. No. 1178, No. 22. Among these MSS. there are many pedigrees of this family of Fiennes, alias Fynes.

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quartered, though his body was afterwards buried in the church of the Grey Friars, London./h

He left issue, by Emeline Cromer his wife, one son and heir, Sir William Fienes, who was that year, by special writ, summoned to parliament, being seized of an estate tail of the office of constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the five ports, by virtue of the patent above-mentioned, to James, his father, his interest in which he soon afterwards sold to Humphry, duke of Buckingham, and his heirs male.

The unhappy contention subsisting at that time between the houses of York and Lancaster for the throne, in which he risked not only his person, but his whole fortune, brought him into great distresses, and necessitated him to mortgage, and sell the greatest part of his lands./i He married Margaret the daughter and heir of William Wickham, great-grandson of Agnes, sister to William of Wickham, founder of New College, Oxford. The lands of the lord Say being thus alienated the barony lay dormant, and the heirs male of the family were only called Fienes. Henry, his son and heir, though he used the title of lord Say, had never summons to parliament, and it remained unclaimed till the year 1733, when it was claimed by John Twisleton, esq. of Broughton, in Oxfordshire, descended by the female line from the above Sir William Fienes, lord Say and Sele, which claim, though it then failed, was renewed by his son Thomas, who was summoned to parliament as lord Say and Sele, in 1781, and was father to the present Gregory, lord Say and Sele. In the second year of king Edward IV. Sir William Fienes, lord Say

and Sele, mentioned above, sold this manor of Kem= sing to Sir Geoffry Bulleyn,/k a wealthy mercer of London, who had been lord mayor in the 37th year of king Henry VI. whose grandson Thomas, was sheriff

/h Strype's Stow's Survey, book iii. p. 133.

/i Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 246. /k Philipott, p. 201.

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of this county in the 3d and 9th years of Henry VIII. and became a man of great note in that reign; for the king in his 3d year made him one of the knights of his body, and afterwards ambassador several times to the emperor, and the kings of France and Spain, and in the 17th year of his reign, on account of the great affection which he bore to the lady Anne Bulleyn, his daughter, advanced him to the title of viscount Roch= ford; and in his 21st year, created him, being then knight of the garter, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and made him lord privy seal./l He died in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. possessed of this manor, have ing had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, one son, George, executed in his life-time, and two daughters; Anne, wife to king Henry VIII. and Mary, wife of William Carey, esq. of the king's body, and ancestor of the lords Hunsdon, and of the earls of Dover and Monmouth.

George Bulleyn, the son above-mentioned, bearing the title of viscount Rochford in his father's life-time, was, in the 26th year of that reign, made constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the five ports, and was much favored by that king, till the time of his change of affection from queen Anne Bulleyn; when the king, to make the path more easy towards the enjoyment of his new passion, in a sudden and unexpected gust of anger, in his 28th year, committed him to the tower, a few days after which, he was arraigned and beheaded, having had no issue, and was buried in St. Peter's cha= pel in the tower./m

On the death of the earl of Wiltshire without male issue, the king seized on this manor, in right of his late wife, the unfortunate Anne Bulleyn, the earl's elder daughter; and it remained in his hands till the 32d year of his reign, when by his indenture that year, recit= ing, that as the most noble lady, Anne of Cleves, daugh=

/l Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 305 et seq. /m Ibid. p. 306.

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ter of John, late duke of Cleve, &c. came into his realm of England, on a certain treaty of marriage be= tween himself and the said lady Anne; which mar= riage, although celebrated in the face of the church, yet was never consummated, for the conditions of it were never performed in due time, and there being other great and important causes, on account of which the convocation of the realm, with assent of the parties, and of the parliament, had declared the marriage to be invalid, there being no prospect of any children from it, notwithstanding which, the said lady was contented to conform to the laws of the realm, and to free herself and her conscience of the said marriage, and to remain at liberty within the realm; therefore the king, consi= dering her high birth and nobility, of his especial grace

and favour, granted her, for the maintenance of her noble estate, among other premises, his manors of Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, and his park of Hever, with all their rights, members, and appurtenances, late belonging to Thomas, earl of Wiltshire, deceased, and then in the king's hands; and all messuages, lands and hereditaments whatsoever, in Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, lately purchased by the king of Sir James Bulleyn, and William Bulleyn, clerk, to hold to her during life, so long as she should stay within the realm of England, and not depart out of it, without the licence of the king and his successors, and the king granted the premises free and discharged of all outgoing, rents, pensions, &c. except among others of forty shillings, issuing yearly out of the lands of John Tybolde, called Seale Park./n

The lady Ann of Cleves died possessed of these manors and estates in the 4th and 5th year of king Philip and queen Mary, when they reverted again to the crown; where the manors of Seale and Kemsing, and the other premises in those parishes, lay till queen Elizabeth, in

/n Izacke's Antiq. of Exeter, p. 72.

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her first year, granted them to her kinsman, Sir Henry Carey, whom she had advanced that year to the title of lord Hunsdon, baron of Hunsdon, in Hertfordshire, to hold in capite by knights service./o He was descended of an antient family, seated at Cockington, in Devonshire; one of whom was Sir Robert Carey, who in the beginning of king Henry V's reign, acquired great renown by his encountering and overcoming an Arragonian knight, who had performed many notable feats of arms in different countries, and then came to make trial of his prowess here in England, in a long and doubtful combat in Smithfield; for which he was by the king knighted, and restored to part of his father's inheritance, which had been forfeited. From which time he bore, as by the law of arms he might, the coat armour of the vanquished knight, viz. Argent, on a bend sable, three roses of the field barbed and seeded proper; the present bearing of this family: their antient bearing before this being, Gules, a chevron argent between three swans proper; one of which they still retain for their crest. His son was William Carey, who being in the battle of Tewksbury, in the 10th year of king Edward IV. on the part of the Lancastrians, upon the loss of that day, was taken prisoner, and notwithstanding he was promised a pardon, lost his head.

By his first wife he had a son, from whom the Careys of Cockington descended; and by his second a son, Thomas, who by Margaret, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Spencer, had two sons; John, ancestor of Lucius, viscount Falkland, slain at the battle of Newbery in the reign of king Charles I. and William, who being esquire of the body to king Henry VIII. married Mary, the youngest daughter of Thomas Bulleyn, earl of Wiltshire, and sister to queen Anne Bulleyn, by whom he had one son, Henry, created lord Hunsdon, as

/o Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 9.

before-mentioned; and a daughter, Catherine, married to Sir Francis Knolles, knight of the garter.

Lord Hunsdon was afterwards highly favored by the queen, who continually employed him in offices of trust, and negociations of great importance. In her 4th year he was elected knight of the garter, being then captain of the band of pensioners, and of the privy council, and afterwards lord chamberlain, and general warden of the marches towards Scotland; notwithstanding which, thinking himself slighted by the queen, in her not giving him the dignity of earl of Wiltshire, a title which he thought in some measure belonged to him, in right of Mary his mother, and which he had frequently solicited of her, he took it so much to heart, that it threw him into a dangerous sickness, which at length put an end to his life in the 38th year of that reign, though the queen, to make some amends for her hard usage of him, whilst he lay on his death bed, paid him a gracious visit, causing his patent for the above earldom to be drawn, his robes to be made, and both to be laid on his bed. But this lord, who could dissemble neither sick nor well, told her, that as he was counted by her unworthy of this honour whilst living, so he counted himself unworthy of it, then dying. He was buried in the abbey church of Westminster, where a noble and costly monument was erected to his memory. He left four sons, George and John, of whom hereafter; Sir Edmund Carye, whose descendants succeeded to the title of lord Hunsdon, after the failure of the descendants of his two elder brothers; and Robert, who, after being knighted, was created baron of Lepington, and earl of Monmouth, which branch is now extinct.

George, the eldest son, succeeded his father in honours, and in this estate; soon after which, he was made captain of the band of pensioners, and lord chamberlain. He was also elected knight of the garter, made governor of the Isle of Wight, and of the privy

council. He died in the 1st year of king James, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir John Spencer, of Althorpe, in Northamptonshire, one sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, afterwards married to Sir Thomas, son and heir of Henry, lord Berkeley, upon which this estate came to his next brother, John, who succeeded him likewise in the honour, and who, during his brother's life, being then a knight, had been constituted a warden of the east marches towards Scotland. John, lord Hunsdon, died possessed of this manor, in 1617. He was succeeded in the possession of it by Henry, his eldest son and heir, who soon afterwards conveyed the manors of Sevenoke, Kemsing, and Seale, to Richard Sackvill, earl of Dorset; who, reserving to himself and his heirs a lease of them for ninety-nine years, quickly after passed them away again to Mr. Henry Smith, citizen and alderman of London; who, during his life-time, vested them in trustees for the performance of certain charitable uses, which he confirmed by his last will, dated in 1627, as will be related more at large under Sevenoke;

but the possession of it continued by lease in the successive earls and dukes of Dorset, until his grace, John-Frederick, duke of Dorset, by exchange for other lands elsewhere, a few years ago obtained the fee of it, an act of parliament having passed for that purpose, and he is the present owner of it.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manor of Kemsing.

CROWDLEHAM is a seat in this parish, which has been for some generations in the possession of the family of Bunce, who came out of Wiltshire in the reign of king Henry VIII. and settled in Kent; one of whom, Edward Bunce, was of Malmsbury, and had a son, John, who was of Otterden, in this county, whose son James died in 1606, and was buried at Otterden,

/p Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 398.

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leaving, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Matthew Rayner, five sons and two daughters, of whom Simon, the eldest, was of Otterden and Linsted, in this county. He died in 1611, and lies buried at Otterden, with Dorothy his wife, daughter of — Grimsditch, of Chester, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, married to Sir William Brockman, of Newington; James was of London, of whom hereafter; Stephen was of Boughton Malherbe, and by Anne, daughter of Arthur Barnham, was ancestor of the Bunces, of Throwley, &c. Of the daughters, Anne, married Henry Elwin, of Stalisfield; and Margaret was the wife of Thomas Southouse./q

James Bunce, one of the younger sons as above-mentioned, was bred a merchant in London, for which city he was sometime burgess in parliament. He died in 1631, having left by his will several charities to the parish of Otterden, and augmented the vicarage of Kemsing, and lies buried in St. Benet, Grace-church, London, with Mary his wife, daughter of George Holmeden, gent. of this county, who died in 1612./r By her he left two sons, James and Mathew, and a daughter Mary.

James Bunce, the eldest son, was free of the Fishmonger's company, and was sheriff of London in the 19th year of king Charles I. and afterwards made an alderman; but being a steady royalist, and refusing to comply with those in power, in establishing a commonwealth in this kingdom, he was, with the lord-mayor, and others of his brethren, in 1647, committed to the tower; after which he was displaced from all his offices, and his estates were declared, by an order in parliament, passed in 1651, forfeited for treason against the parliament and people of England, and were vested in trustees, to be sold for the benefit of the state./t

/q Vistn. co. of Kent, 1619. /r Strype's Stow's Surveys, book ii. p. 178. /s Ibid. book v. p. 144.

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After the restoration of King Charles II. he was restored to his place as alderman, and knighted; and further, in consideration of his sufferings for the royal family, he had a warrant for a baronet's patent, which

neither he, nor any of his descendants, ever took out,^{/u} though I find him stiled in deeds and writings, Sir James Bunce, of East Greenwich, knight and baronet. He married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Gipps, esq. by whom he left James Bunce, who was of Kemsing, and in 1661 married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Hugessen, of Norton, by whom he had seven sons, and also two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, of whom John, the eldest surviving son, in 1699 married Mary, daughter of John Bernard, gent. of Playhatch, in Oxfordshire, his father being then living, who settled his estate in Kemsing, together with the parsonage or rectory impropriate of Kemsing and Seale, on his son, and his issue on this marriage. After his father's death he called himself Sir John Bunce, bart. of Kemsing.^{/w} He had by his wife above-mentioned, a son James, who likewise stiled himself of Kemsing, bart. He died in 1741, and was succeeded in this seat and estate by his son and heir, James Bunce, who now possesses it, and resides here. He has been three times married, and has by his present wife one son and two daughters. The family of Bunce bear for their arms, Azure, on a fess argent three eagles displayed vert, between three boars passant of the second.^{/x}

CHARITIES.

JOHN PORTER gave by will, in 1678, to the usher of Sevenoke school and his successors for ever, for educating the youth of Kemsing and Seale, out of lands in Seal, vested in Mrs. Harding, and now of the annual produce of 10l.

KEMSING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

^{/t} Scob. Coll. pt. ii. p. 156.

^{/u} Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 29.

^{/w} Family deeds, penes E. H.

^{/x} Guillim. pt. ii. p. 203.

Vistn. co. Kent, 1619,

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The church stands on the north side of the village, and is dedicated to St. Edith, whose image, set up in this church-yard, was greatly frequented for the singular benefits she daily dispensed in preserving corn and grain from blasting, mill-dew, and other harm incident to it.^{/y} It is a small church, consisting of only one isle and a chancel, having a pointed steeple at the west end, in which are two bells. There are but few monuments or inscriptions in it, in the chancel there is a grave-stone, with the figure of a man, and an inscription in brass in black letter, for Thomas de Hop, and at the east end a mural monument for Michael Jermin, D. D. obt. August 14, 1659, æt. 70.^{/z}

In the year 1397, anno 21 king Richard II. the king granted licence to Guy Mone, to give the advowson of the church of Kemsing to the prior and convent of Bermondsey for ever.^{/a} In which year they obtained the pope's bull,^{/b} to appropriate it with the chapel of Seale annexed to it, to the use and support of their convent; reserving, nevertheless, out of the fruits, rents, and profits of the church and chapel, for a perpetual vicar to be instituted in it by the ordinary, a fit portion, by which he might be maintained, the episcopal

dues be paid, and other burthens incumbent on him might be conveniently borne./c

In consequence of which, John (de Bottlesham) bishop of Rochester, by his instrument, dated Oct. 12, anno 1402, with the consent of the abbot and convent of Bermondese, endowed the vicarage of this church as follows:

First, he decreed, that there should be a perpetual vicarage, to be held and possessed as a perpetual ecclesiastical benefice in the church of Kemsing, which he endowed out of the fruits, rents, and profits of the said

/y Lamb. Peramb. p. 560.

/z See Wood's Ath. vol. ii.

p. 236.

/a Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 642.

/b Pope Boniface IX. in his 8th year.

/c Reg. Roff. p. 450.

/d Regist. Bottlesham, f. 177.

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church and the chapel of Seale; the vicar of which, who should be intitled to it, by the abbot and convent, proprietaries of this church, should be from time to time presented to the bishop and his successors, and inducted by the archdeacon; and he ordained, that the abbot and convent, and their successors, proprietaries of it, in right of the same, should take, have, and freely enjoy, all and every kind of great tythes, viz. of corn, of whatsoever sort it be, and of hay, growing within the bounds and limits, or titheable places of the church and chapel, the tithe of the grange or field of Budirevere within this parish only excepted; and he ordained, that the repair of the chancel of the church, in the walls, glass windows, and roof, and also the paying of all papal and royal tenths and procurations, and the procurations of legates of the apostolic see, of archbishops, bishops, and archdeacons, (the bishop and his church of Rochester being always saved harmless, on account of this appropriation) should belong to the abbot and convent, and their successors, to be paid and performed at their costs and expences; and he ordained, that the abbot and convent, and their successors, should cause forty pence in money, or meat and drink of as much value, to be yearly distributed to, and bestowed on, the poor, and more indigent parishioners of the church of Kemsing, towards their relief and support, out of the profits of the church; and he ordained, that the tithes of the food of all animals, and of pigeons, and other titheable matters accruing within the rectory, and the straw of the church and chapel, so long as the rectory should remain in the hands of the abbot and convent, and be in no wise let to ferm, should belong to them, as proprietaries of the parish church; but if the same should be let to ferm, then he ordained, that the tithes of the food of animals, &c. as above-mentioned, should belong to the vicar of the vicarage of the same, for the time being, for ever, with this exception however, that if the abbot and convent should

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let to ferm any of their stock, with the rectory, no

tithe should be taken of that stock; and he ordained, that the abbot and convent should cause to be built at their costs and expences, for that time only, a competent dwelling on a part of the glebe and soil of the rectory allotted for that purpose, in which he ordained, that the vicar for the time being should reside; and he ordained, that the portion of the vicar should be as follows: that he should take and have all oblations and obventions of the altar, as well in the parish church of Kemsing, as in the chapel of Seale, and the small tythes, of what kind or nature soever they be, accruing within the parish of the said church and chapel, and the titheable places of the same, and also all great and small tithes whatsoever, in and of the grange or field called Budyrevere, within the bounds and limits of the parish of the church of Kemsing; and he ordained, that the vicar for the time being should have the cure of all and singular the parishioners of the said church and chapel, and that he should find, at his own costs and expences, a proper chaplain to celebrate divine offices in the said chapel, and duly administer the sacraments and ecclesiastical sacramentals in the same, and also the bread, wine, and lights, necessary and accustomed at the celebrating divine offices in the said church and chapel; and, lastly, he pronounced and declared, that the above was a sufficient and competent portion for the vicar, and such as from it he would be able to support himself, to keep hospitality, and conveniently support the burthens incumbent on him. Which endowment was confirmed by the abbot and convent the day after, under their common seal./e

The above appropriation and endowment was confirmed by John Langdon, bishop of Rochester, in 1422, who further ordained, with the consent of the abbot and convent, that no future vicar might have any

/e Reg. Roff. p. 450.

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cause to complain, that he should receive yearly, from the abbot and convent, fourteen shillings of English money, beyond the portion before assigned to him as before-mentioned; and it was then agreed between the bishop and the abbot and convent, that the bishop should receive in future, out of the fruits and profits of the said church and chapel, 6s. 8d. yearly of English money, as an indemnity to the church of Rochester for any injury it might have received, by reason of the appropriation of this church and chapel.

All which was confirmed by the abbot and convent, under their common seal, the day and year above-mentioned./f

On the dissolution of the monastery of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, which happened in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. this church, with the chapel of Seale annexed was surrendered, among the rest of the possessions of that house, into the king's hands, and became part of the possessions of the crown, after which queen Elizabeth granted this rectory to Sir Peter Manwood; in king Charles I's reign, it was in the possession of James Bunce, esq. whose descendant, James Bunce, esq. of Crowleham, in this parish, is the present owner of it.

But the advowson of the vicarage seems to have been

granted, with the manor of Kemsing, to Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, since which it has continued unalienated, for many generations, the property of the earls and dukes of Dorset, and is now in the possession of his grace John Frederick duke of Dorset.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at fifteen marcs./g

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that here was a parsonage and vicarage; the parsonage tithes being about forty pounds per annum, and the glebe land thereunto belonging, worth

/f Reg. Roff. p. 453. /g Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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ten pounds, master Bunce being patron, but it was then sequestered, and that the vicarage, tythes, and house, were worth one hundred pounds per annum; that there was issuing out of the parsonage to the vicar, by composition from the abbot, two pounds per annum, and by the will of master Bunce six pounds per annum, in all eighteen pounds, master Barton then incumbent./h

This vicarage, with Seale annexed, is valued in the king's books at 19l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 9s. 4d.

CHURCH OF KEMSING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Abbot and Convent of Bermondsey James Sinebald, rector, anno 22 Edward I./i

John de Dittone, in 1316./k

VICARS.

Earl of Dorset John Baker, in 1644.

..... Barton, in 1650.

Max. Buck, 1673, obt. April

18, 1720./l

Rob. Parran, inst. Ap. 30, 1720.

Duke of Dorset Thomas Curteis, instituted June 1739.

Gregory Sharpe, D. D. resigned

1761./m

Caswell Winder, obt. July 30,

1770.

William Humphry, 1770, the

present vicar./o

/h Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-library, vol. xix. Ect. Thes. p. 383.

/i Prynne, p. 598.

/k Reg. Roff. p. 113.

/l He lies buried in the north isle of Seale church.

/m Master of the Temple.

/n Also rector of Halsted.

/o He was presented to Birling rectory in 1782, which he holds with this by dispensation.

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SEALE

LIES the next parish southward from Kemsing. It is called in antient records, LA SELE and DE LA SELE.

THIS PARISH has, in the upper part of it, much waste ground in it, which is a dreary barren sand, consisting in this and the adjoining parishes eastward, of several hundred acres, being in general covered with heath and furze, with some scrubby wood interspersed among the hills, which are high, and some of them of large extent; the soil in the middle part of the parish is Kentish rock stone, and below that very rich and fertile. It is computed to contain about three thousand acres of land. The high road from Westham, over Wrotham heath, to Maidstone, leads across this parish; on which, near the eastern boundary of it, is the village of Seale, having the church on the north side of it; and near the western boundary, on the same road, is a large hamlet, called Seale Chart, about half a mile northward of which is the old seat of Stonepit; and about as far on the other side that of Diggin's, now called the Grove, the residence of Mrs. Harding, widow of Nicholas Harding, esq. and sister to the late Charles earl Camden; beyond which is Hall-place, situated among the copse woods, where there are the several commons of Godding-green, Falk-Common, and Beechet-green; the parish extending here with a nook southward, as far as Under River. The parish of Sevenoke comes up as far as the grounds of Wilderness, which is situated only a small distance southward of Seale village, and likewise bounds it towards the west. There is a fair held here on June 6, for pedlary and toys.

THE MANOR of Seale has, from the earliest accounts of it, had the same owners that the manor of Kemsing has, as may be seen more at large in the

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description of that place. It will be sufficient therefore to observe, that in king John's reign it was in the possession of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, from whom it passed, by marriage, into the family of the Mareschals, earls of Pembroke, and thence again in like manner to Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, from whose heir it passed by sale to Otho de Grandison; and he, two years afterwards, procured the king's special charter for a market every week, upon a Monday, at his manor of De la Sele, near Kemsing, with a fair every year, upon the eve, day, and morrow of the apostles Peter and Paul, and one day following. He died without issue, leaving William de Grandison, his brother, his heir, whose grandson, Sir Thomas Grandison, died possessed of this manor in the 50th year of king Edward III. leaving his wife Margaret surviving, who likewise died possessed of it in the 18th year of king Richard II. After which it came to Sir William de Bryene, who died in 1395, and lies buried in this church, with his effigies mailed in armour, with a huntsman's horn at his head; which seems to denote that he held some land by cornage tenure, and after his death to Sir William Fynes,

in whose descendants, lords Say and Sele, it remained till it again passed by the sale to the Bulleyns, with whom it continued till Thomas Bulleyn, earl of Wiltshire, dying without male issue, king Henry VIII. seized on it in right of his late wife, the unfortunate Anne Bulleyn. Two years after which he granted it to his repudiated wife, the lady Anne of Cleves, to hold for her life, and she died possessed of this manor in the 4th and 5th years of king Philip and queen Mary, when it reverted again to the crown, where it staid till queen Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted it to her kinsman, Sir Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, from whom the

/p Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 63, 602. Philipott, p. 309.

/q Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 127. Rot. Esch. Philipott, p. 309.

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manor of Seale descended to his grandson, Henry lord Hunsdon, who, in the reign of James I. passed it away, with the manors of Kemsing and Sevenoke, to Richard Sackville earl of Dorset, who, reserving to himself and his heirs, a lease of the same, quickly after passed them away again to Mr. Henry Smith, citizen and alderman of London, who, vested them in trustees, for certain charitable uses, which he confirmed by his last will, in the year 1627, as will be related more at large under Sevenoke. But this manor, as well as Kemsing, were demised by lease to the successive earls and dukes of Dorset, until his grace John Frederick, duke of Dorset, a few years ago, by an exchange of lands elsewhere, obtained the fee of both these manors, and is the present owner of them.

The liberty of the duchy of Landcaster claims over the manor of Seale.

About three quarters of a mile south-eastward from the village of Seale lies the MANOR OF HALL, with the seat called HALL-PLACE, which, in the 36th of king Edward III. was the patrimony of Tho. Champneis, who that year conveyed part of it to Sir John Wroth, of Enfield, who had been lord-mayor of London in the 34th year of that reign; and he, in the 2d year of king Richard II. alienated his interest in it to Thomas Lovell, who purchased the remaining part of this estate of Robert Champneis, and thus became possessed of the whole of it. His feoffees, in trust, conveyed this manor, with Hall-place, in the 11th year of king Henry IV. to Thomas Theobald, alias Tybold, and Maud his wife; in which family it remained till John Theobald, alias Tybold, in the 27th year of king Henry VII. alienated it to William Porter, whose family seems to have had some property in this place before; for in the 10th year of king Edward IV. John Alphey released, by deed, his right in Hall to William Porter, esq.

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This estate continued in the descendants of this name to Mr. Andrew Porter, who, leaving a sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, she carried it in marriage, about the end of king Charles I.'s reign to Peter Stowell, register of the diocese of Rochester. After which it was sold into the name of Thompson, in which it continued for several generations till Mr.

T. Thompson sold it, in 1781, to his grace John Frederick duke of Dorset, who is the present owner of it, but Mr. Thompson still resides in it.

WILDERNESS is a seat near the boundaries of this parish, next to Sevenoke. It was formerly called Stidulfe's-place, to which belonged a manor of the same name, part of the demesne lands of which lay in that parish, where they are still known by the name of Stedall's Hoath-farm. This place afforded both residence and surname to the family of Stidulfe, who possessed it, and bore for their arms, Argent, on a chief sable two wolves heads coupé of the first; which arms were likewise borne by those of this name in Surry, who were descended from these in Kent.

Robert de Stidulfe is mentioned in antient deeds, without date, to have held this, and much other land, in Seale. In the 36th year of king Edward III. Reginald Stidulfe, of Stidulfe, accounted with Thomas Champneis for land held of his manor of Hall. One of this family married the daughter and coheir of Badsell, in Tudeley, in the reign of Edward IV. whose grand daughter, Agnes, carried that estate, and much land in this parish and East Peckham, to Richard Vane, alias Fane, ancestor to the earls of Westmoreland./r

William Stidulfe, about the 11th year of king Henry VI. conveyed this estate to William Quintin, who had before, anno 3 king Henry VI. purchased lands in this parish, called Hilks. His son, Oliver

/r Philipott, p. 310, 347.

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Quintin, was of Seale,/s and by his will, in the 2d year of king Edward IV. devised his estates here to his eldest son, Thomas, who signed his name Thomas Quintin, son of Oliver. His son John was called Quintin, alias Oliver, and possessed this estate, from whom it descended to his great grandson, Robert Oliver, alias Quintin, who was of Leyborne, in this county; and about the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, sold this manor, with Stidulfe's-place, in Seale, and Stidulfe's Hoath-farm, in Sevenoke, to Richard Tybold, alias Theobald, secondary of the queen's remembrancer in the exchequer, whose ancestors had resided in this parish, where they had possessed lands for some descents before; at which time it appears, that they had lands in this parish, called the Park, held of the queen, as of her honour of Newbery./t

He died in 1569, and lies buried in this church, as do his several descendants. At length one of them, Stephen Theobald, to whom Robert Cooke, clarencieux, in 1583, confirmed the coat of arms then used by him, viz. Gules, six cross crozlets fitchée or, dying in 1619, left by Catherine, his wife, daughter of Richard Caryll, esq. two daughters and coheirs, Catherine, married to Edward Michell, esq. and Margaret to David Polhill, gent. of Otford. They shared their father's inheritance between them; and upon the division of it, this manor, and the large and antient mansion, called Stidulfe's-place, together with Stidulfe's Hoath-farm, was allotted to the former; one of whose descendants, in the reign of king Charles II.

sold the manor, with Stidulfe's-place, and the lands belonging to it in this parish, to Sir Charles Bickerstaffe, descended of the antient family of Bickerstaffes, of Bickerstaffe, in the county of Lancaster. He resided at Stidulfe's-place, the name of which he changed

/s Visitation Co. Kent. Pedigree, Quintin.
/t Rot. Esch. anno 23 Elizabeth.

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to that of Wilderness, by which it has ever since been called, and enclosed the ground about his house for a park.

He died in 1704, and was buried here, being possessed of this manor and seat, which was soon afterwards sold, by his trustees, for which an act passed anno 2 and 3 queen Anne, to John Pratt, esq. sergent-at-law, descended originally from Devonshire, one of whom was owner of Careswell priory, near Colmpton, in that county, in the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, who bore for their arms, Sable on a fess, between three elephants heads, erased argent, as many mullets of the first. He resided at Wilderness occasionally, and in 1714, was appointed a justice of the King's-bench, and knighted, after that a commissioner of the Great-seal, and in 1718, chief justice of the same bench. He died in 1724, having been twice married, and leaving by each wife several children. By the second he had one son, Charles, created earl Camden, of whom an account has already been given under Chesilhurst; /u Jane married to Nicholas Harding, esq. Anne Maria to the late Thomas Lennard Barrett, lord Dacre, and several other sons and daughters. He was succeeded in this estate by his eldest son, by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Henry Gregory, John Pratt, esq. who married first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Jeffry Jeffries, of Brecknock-priory, by whom he had a son, John, and one daughter; and secondly Dorothy, daughter of Robert Tracy, esq. of Cosecombe, in Gloucestershire, by whom he had a son, Robert, who afterwards inherited that estate, but died, s. p. John Pratt, esq. above mentioned, eldest son of the chief justice, resided afterwards at Wilderness, of which he died possessed in 1770, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son, by his first wife, John Pratt, esq. who, in 1786,

/u See vol. ii. p. 14.

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married Sarah, daughter of Sir Joseph Eyles, by whom he had no issue; he removed to Sevenoke, where he died in 1797; at which time he gave this seat to his nephew, the present Rt. Hon. John Jefferies, earl of Camden, who is the present possessor of it.

About a mile eastward from the church stands an antient seat, called STONEPIT, from the soil where it is situated, which was formerly the estate of the Tybolds, or Theobalds, before mentioned, who possessed it in the reign of queen Elizabeth. It afterwards became the estate and residence of the family of Piers, of Westfield, in Sussex, of which place was Laurence Piers, who married Catharine, daughter of John Theobald, esq. of Stonepit, by which marriage

he came into the possession of this seat, to which he afterwards removed; and his son, Sir Thomas Piers, bart. died possessed of it in 1680, and lies buried in this church, as does his grandson, Sir George Piers, bart. who died possessed of this place, in 1720; soon after which it was sold to Richard Goodhugh, esq. from which name it passed, by a female heir, Sarah, in marriage to Mr. Richard Round; whose son, Mr. Richard Round, resided here, and died possessed of it, leaving by his wife, Sarah, one of the daughters of Mr. Stephen Amhurst, of West Farleigh, several infant children, whose trustees are now in possession of it.

There was an estate in this parish, called NULCOMB, now unknown; which, in the reign of king Edward III. was the property of Sir Thomas Cawne, who lies buried in Ightham church, his figure lying at length on his tomb; on his breast are his arms, A lion rampant ermine, a la queuee furchee.

CHARITIES.

JOHN PELSET gave by will, in 1558, lands then vested in Wm. Maynard, but now in the heirs of the late William Harvey, esq. for the use of the poor of this parish, and now of the annual produce of 6s. 8d.

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JOHN PORTER gave by will, in 1678, to the usher of Sevenoke school and his successors, for educating the youth of Kemsing and Seale, out of lands in this parish, vested in Mrs. Harding, and now of the annual produced of 10l. and out of the same lands 2l. per annum, the same being vested in Mrs. Harding, to be paid to the two most antient married persons, dwelling in Seale, and now of that annual produce.

FRANCIS BICKERSTAFFE gave by will, in 1731, for the cloathing and educating eight poor girls of this parish, 20l. per annum, to be paid out of lands vested in the heirs of the late lady Smythe, and now of that annual produce.

WILLIAM BAKER gave by will, in 1780, in land, for the use of the poor of this parish, 1l. 6s. per annum, vested in Thomas Turner and Judith Humphry, and now of that annual produce.

SEALE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malting. The church, which stands on the north side of the village, is dedicated to St. Peter. It was always esteemed as a chapel to Kemsing, and as such is not rated apart in the king's books. It consists of two isles and two chancels, having a square tower, and five bells.

Among other monuments and memorials, in the north isle, on a grave stone, were the figures of a man and woman, in brass, since lost, but those of ten boys and twelve girls yet remain, which, by tradition, belonged to one of the family of Theobald, and probably so, by the great number of children on John Theobald's monument. A mural monument for Mr. Maximilian Buck, vicar of Kemsing and Seale forty-six years, ob. Ap. 1720, æt. 70. In the chancel are several memorials for the Newmans of Stedalls, in the parish of Sevenoke; one for Harward Bickerstaffe, esq. late of Chelsham, in Surry, obt. 1648; another for Charles Bickerstaffe, his son, late of Wilderness, obt. 1704, leaving one daughter, Frances. A memorial for Elizabeth Hunt of Bounds, in Bidborough, first married to Henry Smythe, esq. of Bounds, by whom she had one child, Sir S. S. Smythe, baron of the exchequer; she

married secondly William Hunt, esq. by whom she had no issue, obt. 1754, and was buried here near her mother, Elizabeth Lloyd, widow of Dr. John Lloyd, and sister to Sir Charles Bickerstaffe, of Wilderness. A memorial for John Chichester and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Charles Bickerstaffe, both died 1680. On a grave Stone, the figure, in brass, at large, of a man in armour, with a bugle horn near his head, and a lion at his feet, with an inscription round the stone, in black letter, for Sir William de Bryene lord of Kemsing and Seale, obt. 1395. A monument

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for Stephen Theobald, esq. and his two wives, ob. 1619. A monument for Sir John and lady Chichester above named. In the south chancel, a stone, with the figure of a man in brass and inscription, in black letter, for John Tebold, alias Theobald, gent. ob. 1577. A memorial for Thomas Piers, of Stonepit, bart. ob. 1680. On a grave-stone, the figure of a man in brass, and inscription in black letter, for Richard Tybold, esq. secondary of the remembrancer's office in the exchequer, obt. 1569. A small mural monument for John Theobald, sen. gent. he had seven sons and nine daughters, by Clemence, who was mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, before she died, to one hundred and fifteen children; he died 1577. Thomas de Brinton, bishop of Rochester, who died anno 1389, is supposed to have been buried in this church, in which there is still remaining a grave-stone, on which was the figure of a bishop. inlaid with brass, long since torn away, most probably over the grave of that bishop./w

The vicar of Kemsing has the cure of this parish, under the description of which place an account has already been given of the endowment. patron, vicars, and other particulars relating to the church of Seale.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that the parish of Seale was divided into three parsonages and one vicarage, whereof one parsonage and the vicarage belonged to the parish church of Seale, and was worth thirty-five pounds per annum, and one little house worth twenty shillings per annum, master Goodwin being patron of the cure, and master Martin incumbent, who had thirty-six pounds per annum as his salary; that there was one other parsonage impropriate, belonging to Mr. Bunce, worth about twenty pounds per annum; and that there was likewise a third parsonage impropriate, belonging to Mrs. Mary Nicholson, worth about thirty pounds per annum./x The second parsonage, mentioned above, continues in the same family being now the property of James Bunce, esq. of Kemsing; and the third belongs to Mr. Keble.

/w See the mon. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 893.

/x Parl. Surveys, Lambeth lib. vol. xix. Weever, p. 325.

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SEVENOKE.

NEXT southward from Seale lies the parish and town of SEVENOKE, called, in the Textus Roffensis, SEOUENACCA, which name was given to it from seven large oaks, standing on the hill where the town is, at the time of its being first built. It is now commonly called SENNOCK.

THE PARISH of Sevenoke is situated partly above and partly below the great ridge of sand hills which runs across this county, and divides the upland from the Weald or southern district of it. It is divided into three districts, the Town Borough, Rotherhith or Rethered, now called Riverhead, and the Weald. The parish is of considerable extent, being five miles in length, from north to south, and about four miles in width. The soil of it varies much; at and about the town, it is a sand, as it is towards the hill southward, below which it is a stiff clay, and towards the low grounds, to Riverhead, a rich fertile soil. It reaches more than a mile below the hill, where there is a hamlet, called Sevenoke Weald, lying within that district, for it should be known, that all that part of this parish, which lies below the great range of sand hills southward, is in the Weald of Kent, the bound of which is the narrow road which runs along the bottom of them, and is called, to distinguish it, Sevenoke Weald; thus when a parish extends below, and the church of it is above the hill, that part below, has the addition of Weald to it, as Sevenoke Weald, Sundridge Weald, and the like.

THE TOWN of Sevenoke lies about thirty-three miles from London, on high ground above the sand hill, the church, which is situated at the south end of it, is a conspicuous object each way to a considerable dis-

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tance. The high roads from Westram; and from London through Farnborough, meeting at about a mile above it; and that from Dartford through Farningham and Otford, at the entrance of the town; and leading from thence again both to Penshurst and Tunbridge. Between the town and the hill there is much coppice wood, and a common, called Sevenoke common, on which is a seat, called Ash-grove, belonging to Mrs. Smith. The town of Sevenoke is a healthy, pleasant situation, remarkable for the many good houses throughout it, inhabited by persons of genteel fashion and fortune, which make it a most desirable neighbourhood. In the middle of the High-Street is the house of the late Dr. Thomas Fuller, afterwards of Francis Austen, esq. clerk of the peace for this county; near which is the large antient market-place, in which the market, which is plentifully supplied with every kind of provisions, is held weekly on a Saturday; and the two fairs yearly, on July 10, and Oct. 12, and where the business of the assizes, when held at Sevenoke, as they were several times in queen Elizabeth's reign, and in the year before the death of king Charles I. and once since, has been usually transacted. At the south end of it is a seat, the residence of Multon Lambard, esq. at a small distance westward is the magnificent mansion and park of Knole; and eastward, a small valley intervening, the seat of Kippington; at a little distance northward of the town is an open space, called Sevenoke Vine, noted for being the place where the great games of Cricket, the provincial amusement of this county, are in general played; this joins to Gallops common, so called from the execution of criminals on it formerly. In the valley below it is Brad-

borne, and the famous silk mills, belonging to Peter Nonaille, esq. called Greatness, near which are the ruins of the hospital or chapel, dedicated to St. John, where this parish bounds to Otford.

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About a mile north-west from the town, where the two roads from London and Westerham meet, is the large hamlet of Riverhead, bounded by the river Darent and the parish of Chevening; in which, among others, is the seat of Montreal; that of Mrs. Petley; and of the late admiral Amherst and others; most of which the reader will find described hereafter.

In the Account of the Roman Stations in Britain, written by Richard, a monk of Cirencester, published by Dr. Stukely, the station, called Vagniacæ, is supposed to have been at Sevenoke, which is there set down as eighteen miles distant both from Medum, Maidstone; and Noviomagus, Croydon; but in this opinion he has hardly been followed by any one.

THE MANOR OF SEVENOKE was always esteemed as an appendage to that of Otford, and as such was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, till it was exchanged with the crown for other premises, by archbishop Cranmer, in the 9th year of Henry VIII. as will be further mentioned below.

THE MANOR OF KNOLE, with that of Bradborne, in this parish, had, according to the earliest accounts, for some time the same owners as the manors of Kemsing, Seale, and Bradborne. Accordingly, in king John's reign, they were in the possession of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albemarle, from whom they went in marriage into the family of the Mareschalls, earls of Pembroke. Whilst one of these, William Mareschal, earl of Pembroke, sided with the rebellious barons at the latter end of king John's, and beginning of king Henry III's reign, the king seized on his lands, as escheats to the crown; during which time these manors seem to have been granted to Fulk de Brent, a desperate fellow, as Camden calls him. He was a bastard by birth, of mean extraction, who had come out of the low countries, with some foreign auxiliaries and freebooters, to king John's assistance, and became a great favorite, both with that king and his son, Henry III.

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from both of whom he was invested with much power, and had the lands of many of the barons conferred on him; till giving loose to his natural inclination, he became guilty of many cruelties and oppressions, and at length sided with prince Lewis of France in his design of invading England. But failing in this, he fled into Wales, and the king seized on all his possessions throughout England; after which, returning and pleading for mercy, in consideration of his former services, he was only banished the realm, and died in Italy soon afterwards, as is said, of poison. After which, the earl returning to his obedience, obtained the possession of these manors again. Hence they passed again in like manner to Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk, whose heir in the 11th year of king Edward I. conveyed them to Otho de Grandison; on whose death without issue, William de Grandison, his brother, became his heir;

his grandson, Sir Thomas Grandison, passed away Knole to Geoffry de Say, and Braborne, Kemsing, and Seale, to others, as may be seen under their respective descriptions.

Geoffry de Say was only son and heir of Geoffry de Say, by Idonea his wife, daughter of William, and sister and heir of Thomas lord Leyborne, and was a man of no small consequence, having been summoned to parliament in the 1st year of king Edward III. and afterwards constituted admiral of all the king's fleets, from the river Thames westward, being then a banneret. He died in the 33d year of king Edward III. leaving William, his son and heir, and three daughters. William de Say left issue a son, John, who died without issue in his minority, anno 6 king Richard II. and a daughter Elizabeth, who was first married to Sir John de Fallesley, and afterwards to Sir William Heron, but died s. p. in the 6th year of king Edward IV./z so

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 743. Camd. Brit. p. 1091.

/z Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 512.

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that the three sisters of William de Say became coheirs to the inheritance of this family./a

How the manor of Knole passed from the family of Say I do not find; but in the reign of king Henry VI. it was in the possession of Ralf Leghe, who then conveyed it by sale to James Fienes, or Fenys, as the name came now to be called, who was the second son of Sir William Fynes, son of Sir William Fienes, or Fynes, who had married Joane, third sister and coheir of William de Say above-mentioned. He was much employed by king Henry V. and no less in favor with king Henry VI. who, in the 24th year of his reign, on account of Joane, his grandmother, being third sister and coheir to William de Say, by an especial writ that year summoned him to parliament as lord Say and Seale; and, in consideration of his eminent services, in open parliament, advanced him to the dignity of a baron, as lord Say, to him and his heirs male. After which he was made constable of Dover-castle, and warden of the five ports, lord chamberlain, and one of the king's council; and, in the 28th year of that reign, lord treasurer; which great rise so increased the hatred of the commons against him, that having arraigned him before the lord mayor and others, they hurried him to the standard in Cheapside, where they cut off his head, and carried it on a pole before his naked body, which was drawn at a horse's tail into Southwark, and there hanged and quartered.

His only son and heir, Sir William Fenys, or Fynes, lord Say and Seale; being much engaged in the unhappy troubles of those times, occasioned by the contention of the houses of York and Lancaster, was necessitated to sell the greatest part of his possessions./b In consequence of which, in the 34th year of king Henry VI. he conveyed to Thomas Bouchier, archbi=

/a See Deptford, vol. i. p. 347, and Cowdham, vol. ii. p. 61.

/b Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 246.

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shop of Canterbury, for four hundred marcs, his manor

of Knolle, with its appurtenances, in the shire of Kent, and also all those messuages and lands, called Panter's, Jose's, and Frenches, in Sevenoke and Tunbridge, and all his other lands and tenements lying in the same, with all the tymbre, wood, ledde, stone, and breke, lying within the said manor, at the quarry in Seale; all which manor the father of the said William Saye late bought of Rauf Legh, /c the archbishop being at that time possessed in fee, in right of his archbishopric, of the hundred of Codsheath, and the manor or lordship of Sevenoke. /d

King Edward IV. by letters patent, in his 3d year, granted to archbishop Bourchier, several large and great liberties, enfranchisements, and exemptions for his manor or lordship of Sevenoke, /e the archbishop being then possessed of the hundred, leet, or view of frank pledge, held twice in a year, and of two fairs, one on the feast of St. Nicholas the bishop, /f and the other on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, in Sevenoke, and a market weekly there on a Saturday.

Archbishop Bourchier rebuilt the manor-house of Knole, /g and inclosed a park round it, and resided much at it, and at his death in 1486, bequeathed it with its appurtenances, to his successors in the see of Canterbury for ever. /h

Archbishop Morton, his successor in the see, cardinal of the church of Rome, and lord chancellor of England, resided here much, during which he laid out great sums in repairing and augmenting this house, among others, belonging to the archbishopric. /i

King Henry VIII. in his 6th year, appears to have honoured him with a visit here more than once. /k

/c Deeds penes Dom. Dacre.

/d Coke's Ent. p. 94.

/e See a long enumeration of these liberties in Coke's Entries, p. 93.

/f Dec. the 6th.

/g Kilb. Survey, p. 244.

/h Battely's Somn. append. ii.

No. 13. g.

/i Godwin de Præsul. p. 131.

/k Rym. Fæd. vol. xii. p.

431, 512.

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This great prelate, who left behind him the character of having been born for the good of all England, of being deeply learned and honorable in his behaviour, and who deserved so well both of the church and commonwealth, that the high honors and offices which were conferred on him, were too small a recompence for his singular worth, died at his manor-house here, in October, 1500, /l and was succeeded in the see of Canterbury by Henry Deane, afterwards lord chancellor; who, preferring the situation of Otford in this neighbourhood, laid out much money in the archiepiscopal house there, where he mostly resided. He died at Lambeth in 1502, /m and was succeeded by William Warham, who was likewise lord chancellor, a most perfect and accomplished prelate, as Erasmus calls him. /n After his coming to the see, he resided much at Knole,

as appears by king Henry VII. and king Henry VIII. being frequently to visit him here from the year 1504 to 1514; after which, laying out vast sums at the neighbouring palace at Otford, he resided chiefly there till his death in 1532.

His successor, archbishop Thomas Cranmer, observing the murmurings and envy his possession of this, and his other sumptuous palaces and lordships in these parts occasioned among the hungry courtiers, in compliance with the rage of that time, in stripping the church of its rights and possessions, was obliged to give up several of them, to save the rest of his church's patrimony. He therefore compounded with the king, to give up the best and richest of them, by way of exchange, if it could be called so; and accordingly in the 29th year of that reign, the archbishop and the prior and convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury, granted to the king, among several other estates, his manors of

/l Weever, p. 231.

/m Ibid.

/n Somn. Cant. p. 137.

/o Rym. Fœd. vol. xii. and
xiii. passim.

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Otford, Wrotham, Bexley, Northflete, Maidstone, and Knole; and his manors and lands of Otford Stuyens, alias Sergeants Otford, Sevenoke, Shoreham, Chevening, Panters, and Brytains, and the advowsons of Shoreham and Sevenoke, with the chapel of Otford annexed to the parsonage of Shoreham; the advowsons of the hospital or chapel of St. John, in the parish of Sevenoke; and the advowson and nomination of one chantry, and chantry-priest, in the church of Sevenoke; and his messuages, lands, and tenements, called Panters and Brytains, and all liberties, &c. belonging to them within the county of Kent, and all rents and services in the Weald to them belonging, except to the archbishop and his successors, all presentations, advowsons and donations to all churches and vicarages to the above manors and estates belonging, and not otherwise therein excepted and named. All which were of the yearly value of 503l. 14s. 5d. over and above all reprises, excepting certain small payments and annuities, as mentioned in it, of all which the king covenanted to save the archbishop harmless./p

The manors of Sevenoke and Knole, with Knole-house, the park and lands belonging to it, and the messuages and tenements called Panters and Brytains remained afterwards in the hands of the crown, and it appears that the king, in his 35th year, purchased lands to inclose within his new park here, but Edward VI. in his 4th year, by his letters patent, granted to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, and his wife, in exchange for other premises, the manor of Sevenoke, and a messuage there called Britayns, the park called Panters, and the manor and park of Knole, together with other estates in this county and elsewhere; and in the month following, the king granted to him, among other premises, the forest, chase and wood of Whitcliffe, late parcel

/p Augtn. off. box A. 21.

of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, to hold in capite by knights service./q

The earl of Warwick was the eldest son of Edmund Dudley, a man of infamous memory, for his numberless acts of cruelty and extortion, to satisfy the avarice of king Henry VII. whose instrument he was, in oppressing the people, by stretching the penal laws to their utmost extent, who as soon as king Henry VIII. ascended the throne, was attainted in parliament and beheaded. The earl of Warwick was so great a favorite with both king Henry and Edward VI. that he seems to have been the peculiar object of their bounty, which was continually lavished on him; and being thus elated with titles, commands, trusts and large domains, he became vain, proud, and ambitious, insomuch that he cared not whom he ruined, so he accomplished the ends he aimed at. In the 5th year of the latter reign he was created duke of Northumberland; two years after which he sold in exchange for other manors and lands, to the king, the manors and lordships of Sevenoke and Knole, and all other lands, tenements, &c. to them belonging, which had been let by him to Sir George Harper and Thomas Culpepper, esq. excepting to the duke, the capital mansion-house of the manor of Knole, and the orchards, gardens, houses, &c. belonging to it, and the park of Knole, and the woods and underwoods in it, which deed was the same day inrolled in the Augmentation-office. On the attainder and execution of the duke for high treason, in the first year of queen Mary, Knole, and the other premises above excepted to the duke's use, came into the queen's hands.

Soon after the duke of Northumberland's attainder, which was confirmed in parliament the same year, queen Mary granted the manors and lordships of Sevenoke and Knole, with the mansion-house of Knole, and the

/q Augtn. off. box G. 18. and Rot. Esch. pt. 3.

park and lands belonging to it, the park of Panthurst, Whitley-wood, and other premises, to Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, and cardinal of the church of Rome, to hold during the term of his life, and one year after, as he should by his last will determine.

Cardinal Pole died possessed of these manors and estates in 1558, the same day that queen Mary died; and as it should seem without any particular devise of them, upon which they came to the crown; and queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her first year, granted the manor of Sevenoke, with its appurtenances, and the hundred of Codsheath, and the leets and views of frank pledge, and fairs, and markets, in Sevenoke, with their rights, members, franchises, liberties, &c. to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, who, in the 13th year of that reign, claimed certain franchises, liberties, and immunities for this his manor, as having been granted to it by king Edward IV. by letters patent in his 3d year, to Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, all which were then allowed to him./r

His grandson, Henry lord Hunsdon, conveyed this

manor, with its appurtenances, to Richard Sackvill, earl of Dorset, in the reign of king James I.

As to Knole, queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, granted the manor and house of Knole, with the park and lands belonging to it, and the park of Panthurst, and part of Whytley-wood, all the demesne lands of Rotherden, (now called Riverhead) and lands called Le Bredgers, in Sevenoke, to Sir Robert Dudley, afterwards earl of Leicester, to hold in capite by knight's service; all which the earl again surrendered up into the queen's hands in the 8th year of her reign.

There had been two leases of the above estates granted by the possessors of them, the terms of which

/r Rot. Esch. N. 4. ejus an. See Coke's Entries, p. 93, where these liberties are severally named. /s Rot. Esch. pt. 12.

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were still subsisting. John, duke of Northumberland, made a lease of the inclosed ground, late the park of Panthurst, and the wood called Whytley, alias Whyt-clyff wood, in Sevenoke, to Sir George Harper and Thomas Culpepper, esq. who granted their interest in them to Christopher Roper; on whose death, Elizabeth his wife, carried it to her second husband, Thomas Bacon, who, in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, claimed the same, against the executors of one Rolf, who had possession of them, together with the manor of Knole, and other premises which they then held at an annual rent, for the remainder of a term, granted to Rolf by the earl of Leicester. This claim was determined by the executors of Rolf, conveying their interest in these estates that year, to the assigns of Bacon and his wife, on whose behalf entry and delivery of possession was then made. Soon after which, John Lennard, esq. of Chevening, became possessed of this subsisting term in the manor of Knole, the house, park and appurtenances belonging to it, and of the fee of the rest of the premises above-mentioned.

After which, John Lennard, esq. then of Knole, and Sampson Lennard, gent. his eldest son, and Margaret his wife, in the 16th year of queen Elizabeth, granted to Henry Lennard, gent. son of the said Sampson, the park of Panthurst, and the inclosed ground called Panthurst-park, and the park, forest, woods, &c. called Whytlyff-wood, or the forest of Whytlyff, in the county of Kent.

Sampson Lennard, after his father's death before-mentioned, resided at Knole till after the year 1603, when his term in it being expired, he surrendered up the manor of Knole, and the mansion, park, lands, and woods belonging to it, to Thomas Sackvill, earl of Dorset, and lord high treasurer, to whom the reversion and fee simple of them had been granted by queen

/t See more of the Lennards under Chevening.

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Elizabeth, in the 8th year of her reign, soon after the earl of Leicester's surrender of his grant to her, as before-mentioned.

The earl of Dorset resided much at Knole-house, which he is said to have much improved by the additions he made to it. His grandson, Richard, earl of

Dorset, about the year 1612, purchased the manor of Sevenoke, with its appurtenances, of Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, as has been before-mentioned.

After which this earl became so excessive in his bound= ties, and so prodigal in his house-keeping, that he was necessitated to sell the manor of Sevenoke, the manor seat and park of Knole, and the lands, woods, and appurtenances belonging to them, and the manors of Kemsing and Seale adjoining to them, to Mr. Henry Smith, citizen and alderman of London, reserving, however, to himself, and his heirs, a lease of them, at an annual reserved rent.

Mr. Smith was possessed of a very considerable estate both in lands and money, gave large sums to charitable uses in his life time; for it appears, by his epitaph, that whilst he lived, he gave to the towns of Croydon, Kingston, Guildford, Darking, and Farnham, one thousand pounds each, to buy lands in perpetuity, for the relief and setting the poor people on work in the said towns; and by his last will one thousand pounds for the like purpose, unto the town of Rygate; and five hundred pounds unto the town of Wandsworth, for the like purpose; and likewise one thousand pounds, to buy land in perpetuity, to redeem poor captives and prisoners from the Turkish tyranny; and in 1620, conveyed several of his estates, among which were those in Sevenoke, Kemsing, and Seale, above mentioned, to Robert earl of Essex, Richard earl of Dorset, and others, in whom he likewise vested his large personal property in trust, to pay him five hundred pounds yearly, towards his maintenance and livelihood, and the residue in such manner as he

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should, by writing or will, appoint to charitable uses; after which, being dissatisfied with the conduct of his trustees, he obtained, by a decree of the court of chancery, in 1625, the disposition of his estates during his life, and the appointment of the charitable uses, to which they should be applied after his decease; and a new trust was decreed, which should be filled up from time to time by the archbishop of Canterbury and the lord chancellor, or lord keeper for the time being. The year after which he executed another deed, by which he did not appoint his estates to the use of any particular persons or parishes, but directed the rents of them to be bestowed for the yearly relief of the poor of any parish, according to the several directions pointed out by him in it.

He died in 1627, aged seventy; and was buried at Wandsworth, in Surry, in which parish he was born, having by his will given some directions as to part of his estates, and left the bulk of them, among which were the manors of Sevenoke, Kemsing, Seale, and Knole, with the capital mansion of Knole, and the park and lands belonging to it, to the disposition of his trustees.

In 1641, the earl of Essex, and other the then surviving trustees, by deed inrolled in chancery, allotted the rent of Knole manor, house, and park, then let to the earl of Dorset, at one hundred pounds per annum, to be yearly distributed to five several parishes in Surry; and the rents of certain woods there,

then let to that earl, at thirty pounds, to be distributed to seventeen other parishes in that county; and the manors of Sevenoke, Kemsing, and Seale, and the lands thereto belonging, being of the yearly value of one hundred pounds per annum, as then let to the earl of Dorset, to twelve other parishes in the said county of Surry.

There are other very considerable estates in other counties, under the management of this trust, which has been several times renewed and filled up with gen=

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tllemen of rank and fortune, mostly of the county of Surry, where the rents of the chief parts of the estates are distributed; every parish in that county, except four or five, having some share, though many other parishes in other counties likewise partake of this bounty.

The manor of Sevenoke remained till lately vested in this trust for the above purposes; but the possession of it was, from time to time, demised by leases for three lives to the successive earls and dukes of Dorset, in which state it continued till within these few years, when the present John Frederick, duke of Dorset, having obtained an act of parliament for the purpose, exchanged lands in Surry, with the trustees, for the fee simple of this manor, with those of Kemsing and Seale, as has been already mentioned, and he is now the owner of it.

But the fee simple of the manor, mansion, and park of Knole, with the lands, woods, and appurtenances belonging to it, were, by the trustees of this charity, in the 13th of king Charles II. conveyed in Richard earl of Dorset, nephew of earl Richard, who had alienated them, in consideration of a perpetual clear yearly rent charge of one hundred and thirty pounds, in lieu of them, issuing out of the earl's estate, in Bexhill and Cowding in Sussex, to be applied in the same manner, which was confirmed by an act, passed that year. Since which this venerable and stately mansion, with the park, in which it is situated, and the rest of the lands, woods, and appurtenances, belonging to it, has continued in the descendants of the earl of Dorset, to his grace John Frederick Sackville duke of Dorset, the present possessor of them, who makes this place the constant seat of his residence.

The FAMILY of Sackville derive their origin from Herbrand de Salchevilla, Salcavilla, Saccavilla, or Sackvill, a town in Normandy, who came over with William the Conqueror in the year 1066; after which he

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returned into Normandy, and was living in the year 1079.

He had three sons, John, William, and Robert, and a daughter, Alice. Sir Jordan de Sackvill, the eldest son, resided in Normandy; Sir William, the second son, resided in England, and was possessed of lands in Essex and Buckinghamshire, and ended in three female coheirs; Sir Robert de Saukevil, the third son, held lands in Essex and Suffolk, and left by Letitia his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Woodvile, four sons; of whom the eldest, Jordan de Sauke=

vil, lived in the reign of king Stephen and Henry II. and was a baron, as appears by a deed, wherein he is written Jordanus Saukevil Miles, Baron de Bergholt Saukevill, filius et Hæres Roberti Saukevil. He married Ela, daughter of Ralph de Dene, and coheir to her brother Robert, lord of the manor of Buckhurst, with whom he had large possessions, both in England and Normandy. She survived her husband, as appears by the licence she gave to the abbat and convent of the monastery, which her father had first founded at Ottenham, in Sussex, to remove themselves to Begham, in that county, which abbey was, for some ages, the burial place of this family./u

Sir Jordan de Saukeville, the eldest son, is mentioned to be a baron, in a charter of king Richard I. and was with that king, in his expedition to Jerusalem. In the 2d year of king John he obtained certain privileges for his town of Sauquevill, in Normandy. He married Clementia, daughter of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, but died without issue, in the 9th year of king John.

Richard de Saukeville, next brother to Jordan, succeeded him in his possessions, and was likewise a baron, but died without issue; so that his estates devolved to his next brother, Sir Jeffry de Saukeville,

/u Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 339. Collin's Peer. vol. i. p. 260, et seq.

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third son of Jordan, who with Ralph his brother, who bore the surname of Marsey, both lived in the reign of king John.

Sir Jeffry de Saukeville, possessor of the manor of Buckhurst, left issue by Constance his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Broke, two sons and one daughter. The eldest son, Jordan de Saukeville, was a man, not only wealthy, but potent among the nobility, and being himself a baron, sided with those, who at that time opposed king John; by which, as his father had done before, he lost his lands in Ireland; to which, however, on his submission, he was again restored. There are several deeds remaining, with his seal affixed to them, being, Quarterly, gules and or, a bend vary, the arms this family now bear, with this legend: + S. IORDANI DE SAVKEVILE.

He had by Maud his wife, daughter of Normanville, three sons; William, the eldest son, who was lord of Saukvill, Bergholt, Buckhurst, &c. He afterwards married Clara, daughter of Matthew de Hastings, and died before the 19th of Henry III. His son and heir, was Jordan de Saukavill, who in the 40th year of that reign was summoned to receive the order of knighthood; after which, being in arms with the rebellious barons, he was taken prisoner in the battle of Evesham, in the 49th year of king Henry III. and died in the 1st year of king Edward I. leaving by Margery his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Aguillon, Andrew, his son and heir, who being in his minority at his father's death, and the king's ward, was kept in the custody of Sir Stephen de Penchester, constable of Dovercastle; and then, by the mediation of his friends, obtained his enlargement, but was enjoined by the

king's especial command, to marry, without dower, Ermytrude, a lady of queen Eleanor's household, and daughter of Sir Roger Malyns, by which means

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he not only obtained his liberty, but thenceforwards the king's favour.

Thus may be seen the honourable and eminently distinguished situation of the ancestors of this noble family in those early times, whose descendants the small compass of this volume will not allow a minute and particular description of; sufficient therefore it must be to observe, that they continued afterwards, in their several descents, equally conspicuous and eminent, from time to time, as well in their alliances as in their military and civil employments, of sheriffs and knights in parliament, especially for Sussex, where they seem to have fixed their principal residence in Buckhurst, in which county their burial place, in king Henry VI.'s time, was at Withiam, where it continues at this time. The spelling of their name then seems to have been altered from Saukevyle to Sackvile, as it soon afterwards was to its present spelling of Sackville.

In king Edward VI.'s reign, the direct descendant of this family was Richard Sackville, chancellor of the court of augmentations, who was knighted, and made *custos rotulorum* for the county of Sussex. When queen Elizabeth came to the crown, she chose him of her privy council. He was elected to parliament for the county of Kent in the 1st year of that reign, and in the next parliament for Sussex, as he was afterwards in every parliament, as long as he lived. He died in the 8th year of queen Elizabeth, leaving one son and heir, Thomas Sackville, who, in the 4th and 5th years of king Philip and queen Mary, was elected in parliament for the county of Westmoreland, and in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth for Sussex, and afterwards for Buckinghamshire; after which he had a grant of the reversion of the manor-house and park of Knole, as has been already mentioned. In the 9th year of it he was, by the queen's order, knighted by the duke of Norfolk, in her presence, and the

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same day advanced to the title of lord Buckhurst, baron of Buckhurst, in Sussex, and afterwards made knight of the Garter; from which time the queen continued to distinguish him by particular marks of her favour.

He is said to have been a very fine gentleman, as well in his person, as in his endowments, both natural and acquired. He was in his youth without measure lavish and magnificent; but years and good counsels, together with frequent admonitions, as is said, from the queen herself, to whom he was related, at length allayed this humour, and turned him from those immoderate courses; and he made amends to his family for his mispent time, as well in the increase of estate as honours.

In the 14th year of her reign he was sent ambassador extraordinary to king Charles IX. of France, to congratulate him on his marriage, and afterwards am=

bassador to the United Provinces. In the 34th year he was stiled Baron of Buckhurst and chief butler of England; and at the latter end of that year, succeeded Sir Christopher Hatton as chancellor of the university of Oxford. On the death of lord Burleigh he was constituted lord high treasurer, and afterwards one of the lords commissioners for exercising the office of earl marshal of England.

King James, on his accession, confirmed him in his office of treasurer, granting him a patent of it for life; and on the 13th of March, in his 1st year, created him earl of Dorset. At length this great man died suddenly at the council table, on April 19, 1608, aged seventy-two, and was buried at Withiam, in Sussex. By Cecile, daughter of Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, he left several sons and daughters; of whom Robert, the eldest son, succeeded as earl of

/w Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 400. Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 280.
/x See his life, Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3543.

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Dorset, and likewise to the inheritance of this manor and seat of Knole; but he enjoyed his dignity not quite a year, when dying, he was succeeded by Richard Sackville, his eldest surviving son (by his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk) in his honours, as earl of Dorset, &c. and in this mansion of Knole, as well as his other estates. He married, two days after his father's decease, the lady Anne, daughter and heir of George Clifford, earl of Cumberland. He being then not quite twenty years old, and she about nineteen. He resided at Knole with great magnificence and hospitality, and purchased of Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, the manor of Sevenoke, with its appurtenances, as has been before-mentioned./y

He died in 1624, leaving by his wife, who survived him, two daughters, his coheirs; Margaret, married to John Tufton, earl of Thanet; and Isabella, to James Compton, earl of Northampton.

This earl's prodigality and expensive housekeeping here, by which he so greatly diminished his estate, has already been noticed before, which brought him to the necessity of selling, among other estates, his seat and park of Knole, reserving however to himself and his heirs a lease of them, at an annual reserved rent.

On the earl's decease, Sir Edward Sackvill, K. B. his youngest and only surviving brother, succeeded him as earl of Dorset, who in the reign of king James I. had been elected member for the county of Sussex; and had been one of the principal commanders of the forces sent to assist Frederick, king of Bohemia, and was in the battle of Prague, fought in 1620, and was next year sent Ambassador to Lewis XIII. of France; after which he was called by king James to be of his privy council./z

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 400. Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 323.
/z See his life in Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3550.

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After the accession of king Charles I. he was elected knight of the garter, and on the king's marriage made

lord chamberlain to the queen, (as he was afterwards to the king,^{/a} being then a privy counsellor, and joint lord lieutenant of Sussex); and in 1640 he appears to have been lord lieutenant of Middlesex.

He shewed himself, on every occasion, a loyal and faithful subject to king Charles I. during his troubles; and when the king was murdered, he took it so much to heart, that he never after stirred out of his house, but dying in 1652, was buried with his ancestors at Withiam.

By Mary his wife, daughter and heir of Sir George Curzon, of Croxhall, in Derbyshire, he left Richard, his eldest, and at length only surviving son, who succeeded to his father's titles and estates, and inheriting at the same time his loyalty and noble principles, became a chief promoter of the restoration of Charles II. after which he was appointed, in 1660, joint lord lieutenant of Middlesex and the city of Westminster, and next year he again purchased the inheritance of the manor, mansion, and park of Knole, making it his chief residence, as it has been of his family ever since.

In 1670 he was constituted, jointly with Charles, lord Buckhurst, his son, lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of Sussex, and died in 1677.

By the lady Frances his wife, daughter of Lionel Cranfield, earl of Middlesex, and at length heir to her brother Lionel, earl of Middlesex, he left several sons and daughters; of whom, Charles, the eldest-son, succeeded him in honors and estates. He had the character of being one of the best bred men of the age, and became noticed for the sprightliness of his wit, which recommended him very early to the intimacy of king Charles II. with whom he soon became a great favorite. He was of a temper generous to excess, and

^{/a} Camd. Brit. p. 64.

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a constant and munificent patron to men of genius, learning, and merit. Being possessed of the estates of his uncle, the earl of Middlesex, who died in 1674, he was created Earl of that county, and baron Cranfield, in Bedfordshire, by letters patent dated April 4, 1675, and in 1677, he succeeded his father as earl of Dorset. He was lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of Sussex; and having been warmly engaged in those measures, which brought on the revolution, and placed king William and queen Mary on the throne, he was, the day after their acceptance of it, sworn of the privy council, and made lord chamberlain of their household, and was elected knight of the garter; after which he was four times one of the lords regent of the kingdom during the king's absence from it.

The earl died at Bath in 1706, and was buried with his ancestors at Withiam,^{/b} leaving one son, Lionel Cranfield, earl of Dorset and Middlesex, who in the year 1708 was appointed constable of Dover-castle, and lord warden of the five ports; and after the accession of king George I. was sworn of the privy council; and a few days afterwards elected a knight of the garter; on June 13, 1720, he was by letters patent advanced to the dignity of Duke of Dorset; in 1724 he was made lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of Kent,

after which continuing high in the royal favor and confidence, he had from time to time the greatest and most important offices of the state conferred on him, which he continued to hold during that reign.

At the accession of his present Majesty, George III. he was continued of the privy council, and in his commission of lord lieutenant, custos rotulorum, constable of Dover-castle, lord-warden, and vice-admiral of this county, of which he had had a grant in the former reign during life; and he was high steward of Tamworth and of Stratford-upon-Avon, and LL. D. After

/b See his life Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3557.

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which, being greatly advanced in years, he retired from public business, and died in 1765, aged about eighty-two years.

The Duke, in 1709, married Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant-General Walter-Philip Colyear, brother to the earl of Portmore, who survived him, and died in 1768. By her he left six children; Lady Anne, who died in 1721; Charles, earl of Middlesex, who was twice elected to serve in parliament for Sussex, and in 1747, was appointed master of the horse to Frederick, prince of Wales; in which office he continued till the prince's death, who shewed him continual marks of his favor and confidence; Lady Elizabeth, married to Thomas, lord viscount Weymouth, but died before cohabitation, whilst on his travels, in 1729; lord John-Philip, who married lady Frances, daughter of John, earl Gower, by whom he left a son, John-Frederick, now duke of Dorset, and a daughter Mary, married in 1767 to Sackville, earl of Thanet. Lord John died in 1765 at Tour du Pin, on the Lake of Geneva. Lord George Sackville was the youngest son, who, following a military life, arrived to the highest preferments and rank in the army, and in 1758 was sworn of the privy council, and next year was commander in chief of the British forces in Germany; but before the end of it he gave up all his military posts, and retired from the army. After which, on the death of lady Elizabeth Germaine, who bequeathed a large fortune to him, he took the name of Germaine, in addition to his own, and was afterwards one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state for the American department. By letters patent in 1782, he was created viscount Sackville, &c. and dying in 1785, was succeeded by his eldest son, (by his wife Diana, daughter and coheir of John Sambrooke, esq.) Charles, the present viscount Sackville.

The youngest of the duke's children was lady Caroline, who married Joseph Damer, afterwards created lord Milton.

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On the decease of Lionel, duke of Dorset, Charles, earl of Middlesex, his eldest son before-mentioned, succeeded him in titles and estate. In 1766 he was appointed lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum for this county, and died in 1769, leaving no issue by his wife Grace, daughter and sole heir of Richard Boyle, viscount Shannon, who died in 1763. On which he was succeeded in titles and estate by his nephew, John-Fre-

derick, only son of his next brother, the lord John Philip Sackville, who is now duke and earl of Dorset, earl of Middlesex, baron of Buckhurst and of Cranfield, lord lieutenant and custos rotularum, and vice-admiral of the county of Kent, being so appointed in the room of his uncle. In 1782 he was sworn of the privy council, and made captain of the yeomen of the guard; after which he was made master of the horse. In 1784 he was sent ambassador and plenipotentiary to the court of France; on his return from which he was elected a knight of the garter, and appointed lord steward of the king's household; he is high steward of Stratford-upon-Avon, and colonel of the West-Kent regiment of militia. His grace married in 1790, Arabella-Diana, daughter of the late Sir Jonathan Cope, bart. by whom he has a son, George Frederick, and several daughters. He resides at this noble and stately mansion of Knole, to which and the park he has made considerable improvements.

He bears for his arms, Quarterly, or and gules, a bend over all vair; which single bearing, without quarterings, it has been the constant custom of this family to use; and for his crest, an estoile of eight points argent. His supporters are, Two leopards argent, spotted sable.

BRADBORNE is a manor here, the seat of which is situated near a mile north-west from the town of Sevenoake. This estate had the same owners as Knole, as has been already described, till Sir Thomas Grandison, in the reign of king Edward III. passed it away

/c Philipott, p. 317.

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by sale to Walter de Pevenley, or Pemley, who very probably first erected this mansion, which in old deeds was written Pevenley, alias Pemley-court; but before the beginning of king Henry VI's reign, this family was extinct, and then the Ashes succeeded to the possession of it, who were before owners of much property in this neighbourhood. They were written, in antient Latin deeds, De Fraxino, and were probably descended from Thomas de Esse, who was one of the recognitores magnæ assisæ, in the 4th year of king John, as appears by the pipe rolls of that time. They rebuilt undoubtedly a great part of this antient fabric, as appeared by their coat of arms, Azure, three chevrons argent, in several of the windows./d

After this estate had remained for some generations this family, it became part of the possessions of the family of Isley, in which it remained till Sir Henry Isley, of Sundridge, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. exchanged it with that king./e

How long it remained in the crown I do not find; but in the reign of queen Elizabeth it was become the property of Sir Ralph Bosville, clerk of the queen's court of wards, who was descended from Sir John Bosville, lord of Ardesley, in Staffordshire, who was living anno 19 king Henry III. whose direct descendant was John Bosville, esq. of Newhall and Ardesley, who lived in the reign of king Henry V. He was twice married; first, to Maria, daughter and coheir of Thomas Barley, esq. of Woodsome, by whom he was ancestor of the Bosvilles, of Newhall; and secondly,

to Isabel, daughter of Percival Gusacre, of Brandenburg, afterwards remarried to Henry Langton, by whom he had Richard Bosville, of Guilthwayte, whose grandson John Bosville, of Guilthwayte, left by Maria his wife, daughter of John Barnby, of Barnby-hall, a son, Ralph, who was of Bradborne, as before-men-

/d Philipott, p. 318. /e Augtn. off. box E. 18.

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tioned, and clerk of the queen's court of wards, who bore for his arms, Argent, a fess lozengy gules, in chief three bears heads erased sable./f

He died in the 23d year of queen Elizabeth, leaving by his first wife Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Clement, two sons, Henry Bosville, esq. who was of Bradborne, and married Elizabeth, daughter of William Morgan, of Chilworth, in Surry, and Robert, who was knighted, and was ancestor of the branch at Eynsford, in this county; whose sister was married to Thomas Petley, of Halsted. Henry Bosville, esq. the eldest son before-mentioned, left Sir Ralph Bosville, who married Mary, second daughter of Sampson Lennard and the lady Margaret Dacre, his wife, by whom he had two children, Lennard Bosville, who married Anne, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Ridley, LL. D. by whom he had no issue; and Margaret, who at length became her brother's heir, and carried this estate of Bradborne in marriage to Sir William Boswell, who was resident at the Hague twenty-one years for king Charles I. She survived her husband, and dying in 1692, æt. 88, without issue, was buried in this church.

By her will, in which she was a munificent benefactor to the schools of Tunbridge and Sevenoke, as will be mentioned hereafter, she bequeathed this manor and estate to her kinsman, William Bosville, esq. who died possessed of it, having had by Jane his wife, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Clement Hobson, several children, of whom Henry Bosville, esq. the eldest, succeeded his father in this estate. He rebuilt the mansion-house of Bradborne, as it now remains, and dying in 1761 unmarried, bequeathed this estate in tail to his kinsman Richard, only son and heir of Sir Edward Betenson, bart. who was son of Edward Betenson, of Lincoln's-Inn, who died in 1700, (by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir John Rayney, bart. of Wrotham) the se-

/f Vistn. co Kent, anno 1619.

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cond son of Sir Richard Betenson, created a baronet in the 15th year of king Charles II. On failure of the descendants of the eldest son of Sir Richard, in 1733, the title of baronet came to Sir Edward Betenson, who was of Wimbledon, in Surry, from whence he removed to his son's seat at Bradborne, where he died in 1762, and lies buried in Wrotham church, leaving by Ursula his wife, daughter of John Nicks, late of Fort St. George, merchant, an only son and heir, Richard, before-mentioned, who succeeded him in title and estate; and a daughter named Helen, who died unmarried in 1788 leaving by her will several extensive charities. Sir Richard Betenson, after his father's death continued to reside at Bradborne, the house of which, as well as the park,

he greatly improved, and in 1765 served the office of high sheriff of this county. He married Lucretia, one of the daughters and coheirs of Martin Folkes, esq. late president of the Royal Society, who died without issue, and was buried in Wrotham church.

On the death of Sir Richard Betenson without issue, Bradborne, with the rest of the Bosville estates in this parish, went, by the limitation of Mr. Bosville's will to Thomas Lane, esq. of Sevenoke, who is the present owner of this seat, but John Hatsell, esq. resides in it.

The liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims over the manor of Bradborne.^{/g}

There is an estate called BLACKHALL in this parish, which was formerly in the possession of a family called Totihurst, of which William de Totihurst flourished here, as appears by antient court rolls, in the reigns of king Edward III. and king Richard II. Thomas de Totihurst held it in the reigns of Henry V. and VI. His son, Robert Totihurst, who was, as appeared by the inscription on his tomb in this church, now defaced, servant to cardinal Bouchier, archbishop of Canterbury, died possessed of this estate in 1512. He

^{/g} Kilb. Survey, p. 243.

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was succeeded in it by his son, Thomas Totihurst, esq. who was a justice of the peace for this county. He some years afterwards alienated it to Ralph Bosville, esq. afterwards knighted,^{/h} and clerk of queen Elizabeth's court of wards; since which this estate has had the same proprietors as Bradborne, and as such is now in the possession of Thomas Lane, esq.

KIPPINGTON is a seat here, which was formerly the estate of a younger branch of the family of Cobham, of Cobham in this county. Reginald de Cobham, of Sterborough, so called from his residence at that castle in Surry, died possessed of this place in the 35th year of king Edward III. as did Joane his wife, daughter of Sir Maurice Berkeley, in the 43d of the same reign. Their grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, died possessed of it in the 11th year of king Edward IV.^{/i} leaving a daughter and sole heir, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, who survived him, and died anno 21 king Henry VIII.

Thomas, their son and heir, was summoned to parliament as lord Borough the next year. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Tirwhit, of Lincolnshire, by whom he had Thomas, his son and heir, who bequeathed this estate to his younger son, Sir William Borough, and he, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Burges, by whose sister and heir it was carried in marriage to Hanger, from whence it was sold to Cowper, and he, in the reign of king Charles I. conveyed Kippington, and the estate belonging to it, to Mr. Thomas Farnaby,^{/k} who was the most eminent schoolmaster of that time.

He was an excellent scholar, so famous in his teaching, and his school so much frequented, that more eminent men, in church and state, issued thence, than from any other schools taught by one man in England.

^{/h} Philipott, p. 318. ^{/i} Rot. Esch. ejus an.

^{/k} Philip. p. 319. See account of him, Biog. Brit. v. 5. p. 3670.

He had removed from London, where he had upwards of three hundred noblemen and others under his care, to Sevenoke, in 1636, and taught here with great esteem, and, what is scarcely to be heard of in his possession, grew rich, and purchased Kippington and other estates here and at Otford, and near Horsham, in Sussex.

At length, on the breaking out of the civil wars, being suspected of being a loyalist, he was much persecuted till his death, which happened in 1647, He was then about seventy-two years old, and lies buried in the chancel of Sevenoke church. His direct descendant and grandson, Charles Farnaby, was of Kippington, and in the 2d year of king George I. was knighted; and in the 6th year of that reign, was sheriff of this county, and in the 12th, viz. July 21, 1726, was advanced to the dignity of a baronet.

This family at first bore for their arms, Gules, two bars gemells argent, on a bend or, a lion passant of the field, armed and langued azure; which coat was granted to John Farnaby, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Farnaby, by his first wife, by Sir Edward Walker, garter, in 1664, in consideration of his services to the royal family; but in the 2d of queen Anne, the above coat was altered to, Argent, three bars gemells gules, on a bend or, a lion passant of the second; and then confirmed to Charles Farnaby, esq. of Kippington above mentioned, afterward a baronet, by Sir Henry, St. George clarencieux.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel Letten, merchant, of London, by whom he left only one son, Thomas, his successor in title and estate; and two daughters, Sarah, who married Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe, late lord chief baron of his majesty's court of exchequer; and Elizabeth, who married William

/l Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 104.

/m Kimb. Bar. vol. iii. p. 77.

Hale, esq. of Abbot's Langley, in Hertfordshire; he died in London, in 1741.

Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart. his only son, was of Kippington, and in 1737, married Mary, one of the daughters and coheirs of Montague Lloyd, D. D. He died in 1760, leaving three sons, Charles, his successor in title and estate; John, now of West Wickham, esquire; and Thomas; and one daughter, married to Charles Dering, esq. of Barham, in this county.

Sir Charles Farnaby, bart. the eldest son, is the present baronet, who married Penelope, daughter of Ralph Radcliffe, esq. of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, widow of Mr. Charlton, of London, merchant, by whom he has no issue, and on his brother-in-law, John Radcliffe's death, in 1784, s. p. he became, in right of his wife, his heir, and has since taken the name of Radcliffe. In the 7th of king George III. he was chosen in parliament for this county, and in the next parliament for Hythe, as he has been ever since to the present time. He resided for some years at Kippington, the house of which he almost rebuilt,

but removing to Hitchin, he sold this seat to Francis Motley Austen, esq. only son of Francis Austen, esq. of Sevenoke, by his first wife, the daughter and heir of Thomas Motley, esq. Mr. Austen married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Wilson, of West Wickham, by whom he has six sons and three daughters, and now resides at Kippington.

There is an estate in this parish, called RUMP=SHOT, which is written, in old evidences, Rumpsted. It was antiently the inheritance of a family of the surname of Rumpsted, which seems to have been its original name, who possessed it for many generations. Sir William de Rumpsted was an eminent man, and flourished here in the reign of king Edward III. and, as the constant tradition of the inhabitants is, was the foster-father of William de Sevenoke, who was found

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a desolate and forlorn orphan, in the hollow body of an oak, and received both maintenance and education from his charity and benevolence.

In the reign of king Henry VI. this place was in the possession of the family of Nisell, of Wrotham, in which it remained till Alice, only daughter and heir of William Nisell, carried it in marriage to John Bere, of Dartford; who, in the reign of Henry VIII. alienated it to Peckham, who not many years after conveyed it to Bedell; and Nicholas Bedell, in the 3d and 4th year of king Philip and queen Mary, passed it away to John Stacy, of Hollenden, in Tunbridge, who quickly after sold it to Mr. Richard Lone, of Sevenoke, son of Robert Lone, of Ellow, in Suffolk, who bore for his arms two coats, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Lone, azure, a tiger passant or; 2d and 3d, ermine, a cross formee sable./n

His second son, Richard, seems to have succeeded to this estate, which he soon after conveyed by sale to Thomas Lambard, esq. son of Sir Multon Lambard, and grandson of William Lambard the perambulator; of whom a full account has been given in the description of Westcombe, in Greenwich, in the first volume of this History. Thomas Lambard, the purchaser of this estate, as above mentioned, married Isabella, daughter of Sir John Garrard, of Hertfordshire, by whom he had Thomas, who died s. p. and William, who became his heir, and two daughters, Isabella, married to Allington Paynter, esq. of Gillingham, and Mary, to Thomas Hatton, of London; he died, in 1675, and was succeeded by William, his only son and heir, who was of Sevenoke, esquire, where he died, in 1711, leaving by Magdalen, his wife, daughter of William Humphries, esq. of Merioneth, two sons, Thomas, who succeeded him at Sevenoke, and Multon, who was knighted

/n Visit. 1619. Philipott, p. 318.

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at the coronation of king George II. and died in 1758, leaving Jane his wife surviving, who was the sole daughter and heir of Edward Fowler, esq. of Ash, by whom he had no issue. Thomas Lambard, esq. the elder brother, was of Sevenoke, and died in 1769,

leaving by Grace, his wife, daughter of Sir William Parsons, bart. of Nottingham, who died in 1778, two sons, Multon, esq. now of Sevenoke, who married in 1789, Aurea, daughter of the late Francis Otway, esq. of Ashgrove, and is the present possessor of this estate. Thomas, now rector of Ash, near Wrotham, who married Sophia Otway; and four daughters, Grace, now unmarried; Mary, married to John Halward, A. M. Anne to Sackville Austen, A. M. and Jane to John Randolph, D. D. They bear for their arms, Gules a chevron vair between three lambs of the second.

The house and lands, called BRITAINS, in this parish, were, with the manors of Sevenoke, Knole, and other premises, conveyed in exchange, by archbishop Cranmer, anno 29 king Henry VIII. to that king, as has been mentioned more fully before.

King Henry VIII. in his 35th year, granted this estate for life to Matthew Colthurst,^{/o} but the fee remained in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted it by the name of the manor, messuage, and brewhouse, with the appurtenances, called Britains, in Sevenoke, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who that year granted a lease of the same for forty years to Sir George Harper and Thomas Culpeper. The earl of Warwick was the next year created duke of Northumberland; and in the 7th year of that reign, conveyed this estate, among other premises in Sevenoke, back again to the king;^{/p} where it staid but a short time, for queen Mary, in her 1st

^{/o} Dal. and Bendl. Reports.

^{/p} Aug. Off. Inrolments. Dyer's Reports, p. 183.

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year, granted the fee of it to Sir Thomas Woodhouse and Thomas Reynowe,^{/q} who, that year, passed it away to John Dawnsey and Anne his wife.

Sir Ralph Bosville of Bradborne, in this parish, died anno 23 queen Elizabeth, possessed of the manor, or farm of Brittons, and three hundred acres of land, and one water mill, holding the same in capite by knights service, whose second son, Sir Robert Bosvyle (for so he spelt his name) succeeded him in this estate; in whose descendants, seated at Eynsford, in this county, it seems to have continued till Sir Henry Bosvyle, dying without issue in 1702, devised it by will to his kinsman, Robert Bosville, esq. of Staffordshire; whose son, of the same name, about the year 1765, sold it to Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart. of Kippington, in this parish; whose son, Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe, bart. in 1797, alienated it to Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Kippington, the present owner of it.

Sampson Lennard, esq. of Herstmonceaux, in Sussex, in 1611, in consideration of twelve hundred pounds, conveyed to John Cacott, gent. of Sundridge, among other premises, the manor or farm, called WICKHURST, with its appurtenances, containing one hundred and sixty acres of land, in Sevenoke; out of which there was a rent of ten shillings and eight pence, granted by deed, indented to Thomas Lock and James Wood, churchwardens of Sevenoke, and

their successors. This estate afterwards became the property of Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoke; since which it has passed to Nathaniel Barham, esq. the present owner of it.

STEDALLS, or Stidulfe's Hoath, is an estate in this parish, adjoining to Seal, which has already been mentioned in the description of that parish, as having been part of the demesnes of that manor, and as ha=

/q Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 5. 2 Phil. and Mary.

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ving passed from the family of Stidulfe to that of Quintin, alias Oliver, from whence it was sold to Richard Tybold, alias Theobald, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. His grandson, Stephen Theobald, esq. died in 1619, leaving by Catharine his wife, daughter of Richard Caryll, esq. two daughters and coheirs; whom Catherine married to Edward Michell, esq. who upon the division of their inheritance had this estate, with Stidulfe's-place, in Seale, and other premises there, allotted to her; and in this name of Michell, Sted-alls continued till a female heir of this family carried it in marriage to Bishe Shelley, esq. of Sussex, who married Elizabeth, second daughter of William Perry, esq. of Turville-park, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Col. Thomas Sidney, and grand daughter and heir of Robert earl of Leicester, by whom he had one son, John Shelley, esq. who, in 1793, took the surname of Sidney, pursuant to the will of his grandmother above mentioned, and he is the present possessor of this estate.

The family of Newman were for some generations tenants of this house and estate, and resided here; many of whom lie buried in this and in Seale church; a younger branch of them afterwards settled at Westbere, near Canterbury, where a farther account of them may be seen.

Of the THREE DISTRICTS, into which this parish is divided, of which those of Town Borough and the Weald have already been described, the remaining one of Riverhead is by no means inconsiderable. It lies about a mile from Sevenoke town, and seems formerly to have been written both Rotherhith and Rothered, comprehending the western part of this parish; it contains the large hamlet of Riverhead, in which are situated lord Amherst's seat of Montreal; that of Cool Harbour, late admiral Amherst's; and Mrs. Petley's; through this hamlet the road branches on the one hand to Westerham, and on the other

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across the river Darent towards Farnborough and London; hence it extends beyond Bradborne to the bounds of this parish, north-eastward, at Greatness, which is within it.

In this hamlet was the antient mansion, called Brook's Place, supposed to have been built by one of the family of Colpeper, out of the materials taken from the neighbouring suppressed hospital of St. John. It afterwards came into the possession of a younger branch of the family of Amherst. Jeffrey Amherst, esq. bencher of Gray's-inn, was owner of it, and re=

sided here at the latter end of the last century. He was descended of ancestors, who had been seated at Pembury in the reign of king Richard II. from whom, in a direct line, descended Richard Amherst, esq. who left three sons; the eldest of whom, Richard, was serjeant at law, and of Bayhall, in Pembury, in the description of which a full account will be given of him and his descendants. Jeffry, the second, was ancestor of the Riverhead branch, as will be mentioned hereafter; and William, the third son, left an only daughter, Margaret, married to John Champs of Tunbridge.

Jeffry Amherst was rector of Horsemonden, and resided at Southes, in Sussex, where he died, and was buried in 1662; whose grandson, Jeffry Amherst, esq. was of Riverhead, as has been before mentioned, and a bencher of Gray's-inn, and dying in 1713, was buried at Pembury. By his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Yates, esq. of Sussex, he had several children, of whom, Jeffry, the second son, only arrived at maturity, and was of Riverhead; he was a bencher of Gray's-inn, and dying in 1750, was buried in Sevenoke church, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Kerrill, esq. of Hadlow, by whom he had seven sons and two daughters, viz. Elizabeth, married to John Thomas, clerk, of Wel-

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ford, in Gloucestershire; and Margaret, who died unmarried.

Of the sons, Sackville, the eldest, died unmarried in 1763, Jeffry the second, will be mentioned hereafter; John, the third, was of Riverhead, and vice-admiral of the blue squadron; he married Anne, daughter of Thomas Lindzee, of Portsmouth, by whom he had no issue; he died in 1778, and his widow re-married Thomas Munday, esq. The seventh son, William, was a lieutenant-general in the army, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Patterson, esq. of London. He died in 1781, leaving one son, William-Pitt, and a daughter, Elizabeth-Frances.

Jeffry Amherst, esq. the second son, became, at length, possessed of the mansion of Brooks, and attaching himself early in life to the profession of a soldier, he acquired the highest military honours and preferments, after a six years glorious war in North America, of which he was appointed governor and commander in chief in 1760; which, when he resigned, the king, among other marks of his royal approbation of his conduct, appointed him governor of the province of Virginia.

The victorious achievements of the British forces in North America, during Sir Jeffry Amherst's continuance there, cannot be better summed up than by giving two of the inscriptions on an obelisk, in the grounds of his seat at Montreal; viz.

LOUISBOURGH surrendered, and six French battalions prisoners of war July 26, 1758.

FORT DU QUESNE, taken possession of Nov. 24, 1758.

NIAGARA surrendered, July 25, 1759.

TICONDERAGO taken possession of, July 26, 1759.

CROWN POINT taken possession of, August 4, 1759.

QUEBEC capitulated, Sept. 18, 1759.

THE OTHER:

FORT LEVI surrendered, Aug. 25, 1760.

ISLE OF NOIX abandoned, Aug. 28, 1760.

MONTREAL surrendered, and with it all Canada, and ten French battalions laid down their arms, Sept. 8, 1760.

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland, retaken, Sept. 18, 1762.

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In 1761, he was made a knight of the Bath, and afterwards a privy counsellor; after which he succeeded to the highest military preferments; being, in 1796, made field marshal of his majesty's forces; before which he had been created a peer of this realm, by the title of lord Amherst, baron of Holmsdale; and on August 30, 1788, he had a new grant of that barony, with remainder to his nephew, William Pitt Amherst, eldest son of his younger brother, lieut. gen. Amherst before mentioned.

Soon after lord Amherst's return from America, having pulled down the old mansion of Brookes, he erected, at a small distance from it, an elegant mansion, built of Stone, in which he now resides, naming it MONTREAL, in remembrance of his great success in taking that city in Canada.

In 1764, lord Amherst, with consent of the lord of the manor, inclosed some common ground, and turned the road farther from his house; to effect which there was a writ, Ad quod damnum, issued, which was returned and recorded at the Easter sessions, held at Maidstone for that year.

His lordship has been twice married; first to Jane, only daughter of Thomas Dalyson, esq. of Hampton's, in this county, who died without issue; and, secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Major General George Cary, only brother to lord viscount Falkland, by whom he has as yet no issue. He bears for his arms, Gules, three tilting spears erect or, headed argent; for his crest, on a wreath, or and gules, a turf vert, and on it three tilting spears, one erect, and two saltier-wise or, headed argent, incircled with a garland vert; and for his supporters, on the dexter side, a Canadian war Indian, his exterior arm embowed, holding a war-axe proper; on the sinister side, a like Canadian, holding in his exterior hand a staff argent, thereon a scalp proper.

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There is ANOTHER SEAT in this hamlet, which has been for some generations the property and residence of a branch of the family of Petley, of whom some account has already been given in the former part of this History. Ralph Petley, eldest son of Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, who lived in the reign of king James I. by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Cam, of London, first removed hither. His son, Ralph Petley, was sheriff of this county, in the 31st year of king Charles II. He married Jane, daughter of Sir John Seyliard, bart. of Chidingstone, by whom he had four children; Thomas; John, who married Jane Lockyer, by whom he left one son, Charles, afterwards heir to his

first cousin, Ralph Petley; and a daughter Jane, who died unmarried; Jane, wife of Fowler, esq. and Ralph, who died without issue. He died in 1704, and lies buried in this church, with Jane his wife.

His eldest son, Thomas Petley, esq. succeeded him in this seat, and married Margaret, one of the three daughters and coheirs of Thomas Gifford, esq. by whom he left Ralph Petley, esq. his son and heir, and other children.

Ralph Petley died unmarried, in 1751, and at his death bequeathed this seat, and the rest of his estates, to his first cousin, Mr. Charles Petley, (son of his uncle John, by Jane Lockyer) who was store-keeper of the ordnance at Chatham. He removed hither; and, in 1752, married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Paul, esq. of Northumberland. He died at Riverhead, in 1765, leaving his wife surviving, and three sons and three daughters; of the former, Ralph Robert Carter married Miss Elizabeth Campbell of Poole, and died in 1788, leaving three sons, Charles, John, and Horace. John was a captain of

/r Under Downe, Shoreham, Halsted, and Otford.

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dragoons, and died in 1792, unmarried; and Twisden died under age and unmarried; of the three daughters, Elizabeth married Philip Cade, esq. Judith is unmarried, and Sarah married K. Mackenzie, esq. of Cromartie. After Mr. Charles Petley's death, the fee of this seat became at length vested, by the death of the third son unmarried, in his two elder brothers, Ralph and John, the latter of whom left his interest in it to his mother, who is now possessed of one moiety of it, and resides here; the other moiety of it is vested in Elizabeth, widow of Ralph, the eldest brother; after whose death it will become the property of her two younger sons, John and Horace. They bear for their arms, Argent two chevrons in-grailed sable, a canton ermine.

THE SCHOOL AND ALMS HOUSE.

ABOUT the latter end of king Edward III.'s reign, there was found, by Sir William Rumpsted, in the hollow of a tree, or, as some report, in the street of Sevenoke, a poor child, whose parents were unknown, who for that reason was named after the place where he was discovered, William Sevenoke, or Sevenokes, as his name was sometimes written. This orphan was, by the assistance of Sir William, and other charitable persons, brought up, and put out apprentice, and was admitted to the freedom of the Grocers company. By degrees he accumulated wealth, and rose to be lord mayor of London, which office he served in the 6th year of king Henry V. and received the honour of knighthood, then bearing for his arms, Seven acorns, three, three, and one. He served in parliament for the city of London, in the 8th year of king Henry V. and was, by his will, a benefactor to the parish of St. Dunstan in the East, and was buried in the church of St. Martin, Ludgate.

In gratitude to the place of his birth, he by his

will, in 1432, founded an hospital, consisting of an

/s Lamb. Peramb. p. 574. /t Strype's Stow's Surv. p. 117, 118.

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alms house and a free school within this town, endowing both with a sufficient maintenance. After which, in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, through the care of Sir Ralph Bosville, and several of the inhabitants here, not only the yearly stipends were much increased, but their former litigated possessions were settled and quietly established by the queen's letters patent that year, which directed, that there should be for ever, in the town of Sevenocks, a free grammar-school, called The grammar school of queen Elizabeth; and that there should be an incorporation of it, to consist of two wardens of the school, four assistants of the town and parish of Sevenocks, which was confirmed by an act, passed in the 39th year of that reign, not only as to this school, but the incorporation was more firmly established as to the hospital or alms house, for the relief of the poor, supported in it; the endowment of both having been greatly augmented, among others, by John Potkyn, D. D. in king Henry VIII.'s reign, who lies buried in this church.

This school is at this time a free grammar school, for the education of poor children of this parish (and two from each of the parishes of Kemsing and Seale, by Dr. Potkyn's donation) free of all expences of education. The alms houses are appropriated for elderly trades people to live in, and an allowance of 2s. 6d. each, being in number thirty-two, and sixteen out pensioners, with the like allowance. There is a house and school, with a salary of fifty pounds per annum, allotted to the grammar master, who must be a bachelor of arts, and a pension to the minister of Sevenoke of 6s. 8d. per annum. There are four exhibitions to Cambridge for four scholars, at fifteen pounds each; the endowment of all which arises from houses, wharfs, and warehouses, in the parish of All Saints Barking, in London; in annuities or yearly rent charges, issuing out of lands; and in the stock

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of one thousand pounds, New South Sea annuities, vested in the four assistants and two wardens, amounting to thirty pounds per annum interest 3 per cent. the whole annual produce being 654l. 12s. 9d. of which a farther account will be given below.

The lady Margaret, daughter of Sir Ralph Bosville, and widow of Sir William Boswell, before her death, in 1675, settled a farm in Essex upon trustees, to pay the rents and profits to the founding and endowment of two scholarships in Jesus College, in Cambridge, of twelve pounds per annum each; the scholars to be called Sir William Boswell's scholars, and to be chosen out of Sevenoke school; and from want of lands fitting there, out of Tunbridge school; and upon every vacancy three pounds a-piece to two of the fellows of Jesus College, to come over to prove the capacities of the lads, and five pounds to one examiner, or six pounds between the two for a

piece of plate; twelve pounds yearly to a school=master, to instruct fifteen of the poorest children, born in this parish, in the catechism of the church of England, and to write and cast accounts; and eigh=teen pounds per annum more, to be kept in public stock, to place them so taught to handicraft trades or employments. In the 8th year of king George I. the leases of the warehouses, erected on part of the lands, called Woolquay, devised by Sir William Sevenoke, for these charitable purposes, being expired, and the school and alms-houses much out of repair; on a pro=posal made to the wardens and assistants for the pur=chase of them, tending greatly to the advantage of this charity, an act of paliament passed to vest the fee and inheritance of them in trustees, for the use of the crown, as lying contiguous to the royal custom-house, that they might be fitted up for warehouses, offices, or other conveniences for merchants, or the commissioners and officers of the customs; and the king, to promote this so useful and beneficial a cha=riety, ordered the wardens and assistants to be then

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paid 2500l. towards the rebuilding the school, alms house, &c. which sum was confirmed to them by the act then passed. And the wharf, quay, and other pre=misses, were made subject by it to a yearly rent of 550l. to be paid for the future to the wardens and assistants, and their successors, for ever, for the per=petual support and maintenance of the charitable uses, ordered by the founder and other benefactors.

In pursuance of which the present school house was erected on the old foundation, in 1727; and the hos=pital or alms house was completely repaired and fit=tied up.

There are at present six exhibitions belonging to this school, four of which are of fifteen pounds a year, and confined to no college or either university in particular; and it is now in a flourishing condition, being of good esteem in the county as a seminary of learning, for the education of youth.

Dr. Thomas Fuller, M. D. of this place, who died in 1734, is said to have prosecuted the managers of this charity, and obtained an order, that they should pass their accounts in chancery, and be sub=ject in future to annual elections.

CHARITIES.

GEORGE SCOTT. gent. gave by will, in 1645, to be distri=buted among such poor of the ville or precinct of Riverhead, frequenting divine service every Sunday morning, fifteen two-penny loaves, of good wheaten bread, arising out of a house called the Bull and Bush formerly, and estates in Riverhead li=berty, vested in the churchwardens and clerk, being 2s. 6d. per week, and of the annual produce of 6l. 10s.

SIR HENRY FERMOR gave by will, in 1732, to forty indus=trious poor people, men and women, not receiving alms of the parish, one load of wheat bread corn yearly, on Oct. 18, arising out of his estate in Hadlow and Great Peckham, now vested in his heirs.

RALPH BOSVILLE, gent. gave by will, in 1748, established by decree in chancery, in 1751, to provide sixteen three-penny loaves of good wheaten bread, to be given away every Sunday

morning to sixteen of the poorest housekeepers of Sevenoke town liberty, not receiving alms of the parish, money, being now the

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sum of 1184l. S. S. Ann. of the year 1751, at 3 per cent. annual produce, 10l. 10s. and to two of the oldest poor persons of Riverhead liberty, not receiving alms of the parish, the occupier of the post-house to be one, 2s. 6d. per week, each vested in trustees, amount in money, 35l. 10s. 4d. annual produce 13l. and for educating ten poor children of Riverhead liberty, 12l. all which are vested in three trustees.

JEFFRY AMHERST, esq. on or about the year 1725, gave to the poor of this parish in general, an annuity of 5l. per annum, issuing out of his estate in this parish, and of that annual produce.

MRS. EWER gave by will, in 1781, 150l. a part of it to put two children out apprentices, and the remainder to be distributed among the poorest and most deserving families; which gift is now depending in the court of chancery.

SEVENOKE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester. It is a peculiar of the archbishop, and as such is in the deanry of Shoreham. The church stands at the south end of the town, and is an handsome large building, with a square tower at the west end. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Among other monuments and memorials in it, are the following: In the middle isle, memorials for Heath, Wall, Dr. Oliver Theobald, M. D. of Sevenoke, and others of this name; Duck, Fowlers, and Streatfields, of this parish. In the north isle, a memorial for John Fermor, esq. ob. 1722; a mural monument, removed hither from Greenwich church, for Wm. Lambarde, the perambulator, who died in 1601, at Westcombe, in that parish; and for Sir Moulton Lambarde of that place, his son and heir, who died at Westcombe, in 1634. On the north side, a monument for John Fermor, esq. son of Wm. Fermor, esq. of Walshes, in Sussex, obt. 1722, erected by his brother, Henry Fermor, esq. In the south isle, memorials for Woodgate and Lucknor; a monument for Thomas Fuller, M. D. obt. 1734; his mother, wife, and several of his children. In the chancel, memorials for Ralph Petley, esq. of this parish, and Jane his wife, ob. 1704; another for Sir Charles Farnaby, bart. of Kippington, ob. 1741, and lady Elizabeth his wife, ob. 1757; and for Sir Tho. Farnaby, bart. their only surviving son, ob. 1760; for Tho. Farnaby, esq. ob. 1647; and one for dame Anne Coell, eldest daughter of John Howson, bishop of Durham, first married to Thomas Farnaby, esq. of Kippington, and afterwards to Sir John Coell of Suffolk, ob. 1683. Within the rails of the altar, a grave stone, on which has been the effigy of a man in brass, underneath an inscription for Hugh Owen, formerly rector of this church; a monument,

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with the figure of a woman kneeling, with a book in her hand, and other figures of sculpture on each side, for the lady Margaret, relict of Sir Wm. Boswell, resident at the Hague for twenty-one years for king James I. with an inscription, reciting her charities to this parish and elsewhere; she died in 1692, and lies buried in a vault underneath. At the east end, a monument for the lady Margery Clerke, of the antient family at Ford, in Wrotham, wife of Thomas Scott, esq. of those of Congherst, in Hawkhurst, ob. 1618. There were formerly inscriptions, but long since lost, for Edward Bourgchier, son and heir of Sir Tho. Bourgchier, son of John Lord, of Berners, and Agnes, the wife

of the said Tho. Bourghier, daughter of Sir Tho. Carlton, which Edward died in 1496. One for Robert Law, chaplain of St. Mary's Chantry, in this church, ob. 140; and for Wm. Potken and Alexandria, his wife; he died in 1499. And of Brooke, Gregby, Tottlehurst, and Yardley./w

The church of Sevenoke was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, where it remained till archbishop Cranmer, by that great deed of exchange, which he made with king Henry VIII. in the 29th year of that reign, conveyed it to the king, by the name of the advowson and patronage of Sevenoke.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, it was returned, that there were in Sevenoke a parsonage and vicarage, with houses to each, and that the parsonage had been let at one hundred and forty pounds per annum, and the vicarage at 20l. per annum, and that Mr. Kentish was the only incumbent put in by the parliament./x

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 13l. 6s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s. 8d. The vicarage is there valued at 15l. 3s. 1½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 10s. 3¼d./y Pension to the rector of Shoreham, 3l. 6s. 8d.

The rectory of Sevenoke has been for many years a sinecure, divided from the vicarage, each requiring

/w Weever, p. 323. See the monuments and inscriptions more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 866.

/x Parliament. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/y Ect. Thes. p. 387. MSS. Twysden. Augmentation Office.

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separate institution and induction, and a conformity, in every particular, to the act of Uniformity. The patronage of both was for some time possessed by the family of Curteis. Dr. Thomas Curteis, rector and vicar of this parish, died in 1775, which then descended to his daughter, Hester, married to David Papillon, esq. of Acris, who in her right became entitled to it, and he is the present possessor of this patronage.

Mr. John Lennard had a judicial sentence in the arches, in 1579, for tithe wood in this parish, against Foster and Peacock.

He had inclosed lands and wood into Otford-park, and seventy-four acres of land and wood into Knole-park, which joined to Whittley, and lay below the hills, and sixty acres into Panter's park, adjoining to Whittley, but lying nearer the Weald; and because the tithe of land and wood belonged to the vicar of Sevenoke, and twenty shillings for tithe pannage out of Knowle; therefore, by decree of the court of augmentation, by the king's command, the vicar had five pounds decreed to him, 35 king Henry VIII. which has been paid ever since.

There was, before the Reformation, a CHAPEL, or CHANTRY, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in this church, which was founded by Sir Henry Gawdy, clerk, sometime parson of this church, for a priest to celebrate in it, for his soul, and the souls of all other Christian people. The advowson and nomination of whom was to be in the archbishop of Canterbury and his successors.

Archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged this right of nomination with the king, for other premises elsewhere, and it remained in the hands of the crown at the suppression of the chantry itself, by the act of the 1st of king Edward VI. when the revenues of it, consisting of a messuage and garden, called the Chanter's-house, and other

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premises, of the clear yearly value of 8l. 9s. 4d. were surrendered into the king's hands; and in 1553, there was remaining a pension of six pounds paid to William Hopkins, late incumbent of this chantry./z

At the northern extremity of this parish, near Greatnesse, there was an HOSPITAL with a chapel, dedicated to St. John Baptist, in the patronage of the archbishop, as appears by the patent of the 23d of Edward III. when the king granted to John de Tamworth the custody of it, by reason of the vacancy of that see.

This seems to have been the chapel mentioned in the Textus Roffensis, by the name of Gretenersce, as paying a yearly chrim rent to the mother church of the diocese.

Archbishop Cranmer, by deed of exchange, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. conveyed to that king the advowson of this hospital, after which the king, in his 31st year, procured, from John Clayton, the master, a surrendry of it, with all the lands, rents, &c. belonging to it, in Sevenoke, Otford, or elsewhere; in consideration of which, the king, of his especial favour, granted him, during his life, an annual pension of 8l. 2s. 10d./a

CHURCH OF SEVENOKE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Roger de Sevenoke, anno 22 king Edward I./b

Thomas de Capella, in 1286,
1297./c

Henry Gawdy./d

Thomas Havard, presented in
1553./e

/z Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. ii.
p. 104.

/a Aug. 10th that year. Inrolment,
Augment. Off.

/b Prynne, p. 590.

/c He was also parson of Blechesdon, in Oxfordshire, and clerk in chantery. Ken. Par. Ant. p. 329. Prynne, p. 712.

/d Founder of the chantry in this church.

/e He had this rectory by the queen's presentation. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 350.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Richard Milbourne, in 1607./f
 Nicholas Gibbon, D. D. presented
 in 1632./g
 Kentish, in 1650./h
 Nicholas Gibbon restored in 1660,
 obt. 1692./i
 Owen.
 Hugh Owen./k
 Curteis, esq. Thomas Curteis, obt. 1747.
 Thomas Curteis, D. D. 1747, ob.
 April 27, 1775./l
 William Hardy, A. M. 1775, re=
 signed 1778./m
 David Papillon, esq. Thomas Curteis, 1778. Present
 rector and vicar./n

/f Willis says, he was vicar of this church. In 1611, he was made dean of Rochester, and was then rector of Cheam. In 1615, he was made bishop of St. David's, and in 1621 promoted to Chichester. He died in 1614. Will. Cath. vol. i. p. 299. Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 724. Fasti, p. 148.

/g He was a great sufferer for his royalty to king Charles I. and was ousted of this rectory. After the Res= coration he became rector of Purbeck, in Dorsetsh. Wood's Ath. v. 2. p. 1128.

/h Put in by the parliament.

/i He was patron of this church. Walk. Suff. of the Clergy, p. 251.

/k Son of the former.

/l Son of the former, and patron of this church, prebendary of Canter= bury, and rector of St. Dionis Back= church, London. He lies buried in this church.

/m And rector of Halsted.

/n Son of the late Dr. Curteis.

- - -

CHEVENING.

NORTHWESTWARD from Sevenoke lies CHE= VENING, a small part of which is in the hundred of Somerden.

THE PARISH is about three miles long from north to south, and about a mile and a quarter on an average from east to west. Its northern boundary is the sum= mit of the great ridge of chalk hills at Nockholt pound, where the soil is a chalk mixed with clay; near the foot of the hills, though on somewhat high ground, in comparison of that southward, are Chevening-house, the church and parsonage, Dunton, and Madams-

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court. Hence the ground descends to a more fertile soil and the river Darent, which flows through the more southern part of this parish north-eastward, near which is the hamlet of Chepsted, and The Place. At the eas= tern extremity of it the high roads from Sevenoke and from Wrotham, through Riverhead, divide that on the right, leads along the eastern side of this parish

through the hamlet of Dunton-green, towards Farnborough, and that on the left, along the middle part of the parish by the grounds of Chepsted-place towards Westerham, southward of which is the great ridge of sand hills and the Weald, into which this parish extends.

THIS PLACE, in the reign of king John, was held by one of the great family of Crevequer, as appears by one of those inquisitions made in the 12th and 13th years of that reign throughout England, of the knights, and other services held of the king in capite; in the rolls of which, delivered to the king's treasurer by the several sheriffs, it is recorded, that Robert de Crevequer held of the archbishop of Canterbury one knight's fee in Cheveninges, which Adam de Cheveninges again held of him. In the 33d year of king Edward III. the archbishop obtained a patent for liberty of a chace in Chevening.

This manor remained parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury till the reign of king Henry VIII. when archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged with that king, among other premises, the manor of Chevening, together with all his lands, tenements, &c. in Chevening, Chipsted, Donyngton, and other parishes therein mentioned, which had at any time been reputed members, or belonging to it, within forty years before; excepting to the archbishop and his successors, the advowson of the church of Chevening.

/o Libr. Rubr. Scacc. p. 132.

/p Pat. p. 3, m. 10, vol. xi.

/q Augmentation Office, Box

A. 21.

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This manor remained in the hands of the crown till the death of king Charles I. after which the powers then in being seized on the royal estates, and passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, that they might be surveyed and sold, to supply the necessities of the state. Accordingly, in 1652, the manor of Chevening was surveyed; when it was returned, that there were quit-rents due to the lord of the manor, holden of the honor and manor of Otford, in free socage tenure. That there were rents due to the lord from the copyholders in certain cottages, holden of the said honor by fine certain, the total profit being 17l. 4s. 1d.

That there was a court-leet and court-baron belonging to it, and two sorts of lands, yokeland and inland; that yokeland paid a heriot, being the best living thing, and the fourth part of the quit-rent; or in lieu thereof, if no goods could be found, 3s. 4d. in money, on a demise or death; and inland paid for a heriot one full year's quit-rent. At the court-baron a Reeve was chosen, who had for his pains 3s. 4d.

After this survey, the manor of Chevening was sold by the state to Christopher Bodley; with whom it remained till the restoration of king Charles II. when the possession and inheritance of it again returned to the crown, where it now remains; but the fee-farm rents of it, with those of other manors within the honor of Otford, were alienated from the crown in the reign of king Charles II. and afterwards became part of the

possessions of Sir James Dashwood, bart. of Oxfordshire, who died in 1779, and was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Henry Dashwood, bart. the present possessor of them.

Besides the above manor there appears to be ANOTHER MANOR in this parish, called likewise THE MANOR OF CHEVENING, and Subordinate to that before-mentioned. Adam de Chevening, who had been one of

/r Parl. Surv. Augtn. off. /s Ibid. Roll of Partic. H. 16.

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the justices of the great assize in the reign of king John, possessed this manor in the next reign of Henry III. and resided here. His descendant, William de Chevening, held it of the archbishop in the 20th year of king Edward III. when he paid respective aid for it as half a knight's fee.

This family of Chevening, or Chowning, as it began then to be called, was succeeded in the possession of this place soon afterwards by that of De la Pole; one of whom, John De la Pole, held it in the 10th year of king Henry VI. soon after which it was passed away by sale to Isley; and William Isley, in the next reign of king Edward IV. gave it by deed to John Harneys; in whose posterity it continued for some descents, till at length a female heir carried it in marriage to John Mills, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. as appears by a recovery, exemplified in the 7th year of that reign.

His son, John Mill, by deed poll, anno 3 king Edward VI. conveyed it to Henry Fitzherbert, who, in the 4th year of the above reign, passed it away to John Lennard, esq.

This family was settled at Chevening as early at least as king Henry VI's time, when we find George Lennard living here, who, by Maud his wife, had John Lennard, his son and heir, whose eldest son John married Catherine, the sister of Thomas Weston, of Chested, one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas, by whom he left two sons; John, of whom hereafter, and William, whose son Sampson, was in the low countries with Sir Philip Sydney, and was a skilful and industrious member of the college of arms, as may be seen by his large collections preserved in the British museum.

/t Philipott, p. 113.

/u Rot. Esch. N. 34.

/w What follows relating to this manor is most of it taken from the late lord Dacre's papers.

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John Lennard, the eldest son, inherited his father's house and lands in this parish. He studied the law, and by his abilities in that profession raised his family to that degree of eminence it afterwards held. He was of Lincoln's-Inn, and being called to the bar, besides other offices, in the 37th year of king Henry VIII. obtained the office of prothonotary of the common pleas, and in the 4th of Edward VI. purchased this manor as before-mentioned, he was in the commission

of the peace from the 34th year of king Henry VIII. to his death. In the 4th year of queen Elizabeth he obtained the office of custos brevium of the common pleas. In the 12th year he was sheriff of this county; and soon afterwards became possessed of a term in the manor of Knole, in Sevenoke, where he thenceforth resided much, as did Sampson, his son, afterwards.

He died in 1590, and was buried in this church, under a sumptuous tomb of alabaster, on which are the figures of himself and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Harman, of Elham, in Crayford, who lies buried with him.

He was possessed, at the time of his death, as appears by his will, of the manors of Chevening, Chepsted, Appulderfield, Northsted, and Wickhurst, with estates in the parishes adjoining to them, besides other manors and lands in different counties, all which he left to his eldest son Sampson, for he had two sons. Of whom Samuel, the youngest, was knighted, and being settled at West Wickham, in this county, was ancestor to the Lennards, baronets, of that place, and he left besides five daughters.

Sampson Lennard, the eldest son, married, in his father's life-time, Margaret, daughter of Thomas, and sister and heir of Gregory, Fynes, Lord Dacre of the south, at which time his father delivered up to them Knole manor, where they afterwards resided.

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On her brother's death, anno 36 queen Elizabeth, without issue, she not only inherited a great fortune from him in this and several other counties, but became entitled to the barony of Dacre; which, on her laying claim to it, was adjudged in the 2d year of James I. to her and her issue, to be held and enjoyed in as full and ample a manner as any of her ancestors had enjoyed the same./x

Margaret lady Dacre died in 1611. Her death prevented the king's intention of calling her husband, Sampson Lennard, up to the house of peers, as lord Dacre. However, he granted him, by his patent that year, the like place and precedence during his life, that the eldest son of the late lord Dacre of the south, formerly had and enjoyed. He had been sheriff of this county in the 33d year of queen Elizabeth, and dying in 1615, lies buried in Chevening church, with the lady Dacre his wife, under a stately tomb of alabaster, on which are both their effigies in full proportion, with their children kneeling round.

Sir Henry Lennard, who had been knighted by the earl of Essex, at the taking of Cales, in Spain, was their son and heir, and on the death of his mother in 1611, became lord Dacre, and on his father's death, succeeded, as well by settlement as by his father's will, to an estate tail in all the manors, lands, &c. which he possessed, at the time of his death, in the county of Kent./y

Henry lord Dacre married Grysogon, daughter of Sir Richard Baker, of Sissinghurst, and, in the 13th year of king James I. suffered a common recovery of the manor of Chevening, and all his lands in Chevening and Nockholt, except the manor of Chepsted and

appurtenances, to the use of him and his right heirs,

/x See more of the Lennards and Dacres family under Cowdham, vol. ii. p. 66.

/y From lord Dacre's papers and Coll. Peer. last edit. vol. vi. p. 521, et seq.

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and died soon after, in the 14th year of king James I. leaving one son Richard, who succeeded him in titles and estate; and four daughters.

Richard Lennard, lord Dacre, the son, succeeded to his father's estates in Chevening, and elsewhere, and rebuilt Chevening house, on a plan of Inigo Jones.

He died in 1630 at Hurstmonceaux, in Sussex, where he lies buried, on which Dorothy, his widow, daughter of Dudley lord North, who was his second wife, took possession of lands in Chevening and Chepsted among others, as part of her jointure, but none of his manors, or Chevening-house, were included in it, but Francis lord Dacre, his eldest son by his first wife, when but nine years of age, succeeded him in title and in his manors, and all other his estates in this county, the above only excepted, which had been settled on him by his father, as well by deed, anno 22d James I. as by his last will.

He married Elizabeth, sister and coheir of Paul viscount Banning, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. Of the sons, Thomas, was his successor; Francis died without issue in 1706; and Henry left three daughters, and died in 1703.

Lord Dacre died in 1662, and was buried at Chevening, leaving Elizabeth his wife surviving, who was afterwards created countess of Shepey for her life, and died in 1686.

By his will in 1655, he gave all his manors and lands to his eldest son, Thomas, in tail male, who accordingly succeeded his father in them, as well as to the title of lord Dacre, and was created earl of Sussex by king Charles II. in his 26th year.

In June, 1706, Mary, widow of Henry Lennard, the earl's youngest brother, who died in 1703, had exhibited a bill in chancery against him, demanding a third part (for Francis, the earl's other brother, was then living) of all the manors and lands that Francis, lord Dacre, father of the said Henry, or Richard, lord Dacre, his grandfather, were possessed of in this county,

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and among others, of these of Chevening and Chepsted, according to the custom of gavelkind, in behalf of her three infant daughters, Margaret, Anne, and Catherine, daughters and coheirs of her late husband, Henry Lennard, who was one of the three sons and coheirs in gavelkind, as she alledged, of Francis and Richard, lords Dacre; to which the earl of Sussex put in his answer, wherein he proved, that this manor of Chevening, with its appurtenances, was held of the king by knights service, and consequently not subject to the custom of gavelkind; upon which no further proceedings were had, till after the death of Mary Lennard before-mentioned; when, in Trinity term,

1709, her three infant daughters by their guardian, laid claim to the moiety of this manor, among other of the earl's estates in Kent; for that Francis Lennard, the earl's other brother, being dead without issue, one moiety only of the above manor and lands descended to the earl, and the other moiety to them, as coheirs of their father, Henry Lennard, who was one of the three sons and coheirs in gavelkind to Francis and Richard, lords Dacre, before-mentioned.

But the earl of Sussex, in a trial had at the queen's bench bar, in Michaelmas term, 1709, and on full evidence, proving this manor to have always been held of the king by knights service, had a full verdict in his favor. The earl of Sussex had come very young and unexperienced to the court of king Charles II. and was therefore very easily drawn into the extravagant fashions then in vogue there; and which was most fatal to him, contracted a love for play, which he never shook off; this, and the neglect of his affairs, from an easy indolence of temper not to be excused, as he neither wanted parts or capacity, involved him in such vast expences, that he was obliged at times to sell several considerable estates, and at last his noble seat at Herstmonceaux, and all the estate round it, in Sussex; and the manors of Cowdham and Apperfield, and other estates in

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Kent. As the first part of his life had been spent in gaiety and the bustle of the court, so the latter part of it was dedicated to retirement at his house of Chevening; where that sweetness of temper and affability, for which he was so remarkable, gained him the love and esteem of all the gentry of his neighbourhood.

He died possessed of Chevening manor and house, with Chepsted, alias Wilkes manor, the warren, and other estates in this parish, in 1715, and lies buried in Chevening church.

He left Anne, his countess, surviving, who died in 1722, by whom he left two daughters, Barbara and Anne, his coheirs, the former of whom was married to Charles Skelton, lieutenant-general in the French service, and grand croix of St. Louis; and the latter to Richard Barrett Lennard, esq. of Belhouse, in Essex, grandson of Richard Lennard, who took on him the name of Barrett, and was only son of Richard Lennard, lord Dacre, by Dorothy, daughter of Dudley, lord North, his second wife before-mentioned.

The ladies Barbara and Anne not only succeeded to the earl's, their father's, estates at Chevening, Brasted, Sundridge, and elsewhere, in Kent, but likewise became entitled to the barony of Dacre, which rested in abeyance between the two sisters; of whom the eldest, lady Barbara, died at Paris, without issue, in 1741; on which lady Anne, as sole heir of her father, became baroness Dacre. Richard Barrett Lennard, her first husband, died in his father's life-time, in 1716, leaving by her an only son, the late Thomas Barrett Lennard, lord Dacre. She married secondly, Henry Roper, lord Teynham, by whom she had two sons and a daughter; the eldest of whom, George, left a son, Trevor Charles Roper, who succeeded after the death of Thomas Lennard Barret, lord Dacre, to the barony of Dacre, and died s. p. in 1794. She was, thirdly,

married to Robert Moore, a younger son of Henry, earl of Drogheda, by whom she had one son.

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But to return – the ladies Barbara and Anne, the earl of Sussex's daughters and coheirs as before-mentioned, in 1717, joined in the sale of Chevening manor and house, the manor of Chepsted, alias Wilkes, and the rest of their lands in this parish, and elsewhere, in the county of Kent, to major-general James Stanhope, who was the eldest son of Alexander Stanhope, only son of Philip, first earl of Chesterfield, by his second lady, Anne, daughter of Sir John Packington, of the privy council to queen Elizabeth, who died in 1707, leaving by Katherine his wife, daughter of Arnold Burghill, esq. of Herefordshire, five sons and two daughters.

James, the eldest son, who purchased the manor of Chevening, following a military life, rose by degrees to the highest honors in it. In 1708, being declared commander in chief of the British forces in Spain, he reduced the castle of St. Philip, and the celebrated port of Mahon, in the island of Minorca; in 1710, the signal victory at Almenara was owing to his prudence and valour.

On the accession of king George I. he was sworn of the privy council, and made one of the principal secretaries of state; after which, being much in the king's confidence, he was appointed first minister to manage the affairs of the nation, and on July 2, the same year 1717, was promoted to the dignity of lord viscount Stanhope, of Mahon, in the island of Minorca, and baron Stanhope, of Elvaston, in Derbyshire, with limitation for want of heirs male, to Thomas Stanhope, of Elvaston, and his brothers Charles and William, which last was created earl of Harrington.

In 1718, he was again made principal secretary of state, in the room of the earl of Sunderland, who, by mutual exchange, had his place at the treasury board; and on April 14 following, was further advanced to the dignity of earl Stanhope. In 1719 and 1720, he was appointed one of the lords justices for the govern=

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ing of this kingdom during the king's absence, and continued a principal minister of state to the time of his death. He was suddenly taken ill in the house of lords, from too great an agitation of spirits, as is said, on Feb. 4, 1721, and died the next day. He was buried at Chevening, where his funeral was attended with all the honors due to a great general, by the king's express command.

He married Lucy, youngest daughter of Thomas Pitt, esq. of Stratford, in Hants, sometime governor of Fort St. George, who survived him, and dying in 1723 lies buried in this church, beside her husband. He had by her four sons and three daughters; of whom Philip, the eldest son, succeeded him as earl Stanhope, and married lady Grizel Hamilton, sister to Thomas, earl of Haddington, by whom he has had two sons; Philip, who died at Geneva in 1763; and Charles, who succeeded him as earl Stanhope, and is the present possessor of this manor, as well as Chevening-house, which he makes

the principal place of his residence. He married in 1774, Hester, one of the daughters of William, the great earl of Chatham, who died in 1780, by whom he has three daughters; Hester-Lucy, married to Mr. Taylor, of Sevenoke; Grisilda, and Rachael. He married secondly in 1781, Louisa, daughter of Henry Grenville, esq. late governor of Barbadoes, by whom he has two sons and one daughter. He bears the same arms as the earl of Chesterfield, a crescent for difference. And for his supporters: on the dexter side, a talbot ermine; on the sinister, a wolf or, ducally crowned azure; each charged on the shoulder with a crescent azure. His crest is the same as the earl of Chesterfield's./z

There was a part of the demesne lands of this manor in Chevening, containing three hundred acres, called Chevening-warren, alias the Warren-farm, which was conveyed by John Mills and Margaret his

/z Coll. Peer. last edit. vol. v. p. 37.

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wife, by deed and fine in the 32d year of Henry VIII. to William Roper, who in the 2d and 3d year of king Edward VI. procured his lands to be disgavelled, by the general act then passed for this purpose. He in the 3d and 4th years of Philip and Mary, conveyed the above estate to William Isley; who, anno 20 queen Elizabeth, enfeoffed John Lennard in it; from whom it descended to the earl of Sussex by hereditary descent, and on the trial of the earl's lands in this county, at the queen's bench bar, in 1709, as above related, he had a verdict for this farm too. Since which it has passed, with the earl's other estates in this parish, to the right honorable Charles earl Stanhope, the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF CHEPSTED, alias WILKES, in the reign of king Edward III. was in the possession of a family who took their name from it; in the 20th year of which, the heirs of John de Chepsted paid aid for it, as the tenth part of a knight's see, which John de Chepsted formerly held of the archbishop of Canterbury.

From the heirs of John de Chepsted this manor, with Whitley-woods, a small division in this manor, lying near the sand hills, passed into the name of Wilkes, whence it acquired the name of Chepsted, alias Wilkes; in which family it continued till about the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. when Anne, daughter of Ralph Wilkes, carried her interest in it to James Hall; whose ancestor, Hubert de Haule, was possessor of lands in Chevening in the reign of king Edward III. which he then conveyed to Adam de Chivenigg and his heirs.

Another heir of John de Chepsted above-mentioned, as appears by an old pedigree once in the hands of Sir Sackville Crow, married John de Bore, who in her right became possessed of some interest in this manor. From which name it was again carried in marriage by another female heir to Stocket, who passed away his

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right in it to William Isley, about the end of king Henry VI's reign./a

His descendant, Sir Henry Isley, of Sundridge, in the reign of king Henry VIII. had several suits at law with the before-mentioned Hall, and his wife, concerning this manor; however, they, by bonds entered into, in the 15th year of that reign, agreed to stand to the award of certain persons; who awarded that Sir Henry Isley should hold to himself and his heirs for ever, this manor, and all lands therein, late the said John Chepsted's; and that James Hall and his wife, should assure the same to him and his heirs.

Sir H. Isley continued in possession of this manor during the remainder of the reign of king Henry VIII. and all the reign of king Edward VI. and he held court for it in the 34th year of the former reign and the 1st year of king Edward VI. as appears by the rolls, in the 2d and 3d years of which latter reign, all his lands subject to the custom of gavelkind, by the general act of parliament were disgavelled.^{/b}

Soon after which, Sir Henry Isley, and William, his eldest son, by way of mortgage, conveyed to Robert Cranwell the chief house of Chepsted, and certain lands there, and he in the 1st year of queen Mary, sold all his estate in them to John Lennard; and Sir H. Isley having joined in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion that year, was attainted, and all his manors and lands forfeited to the queen; who, in her 1st year, by her letters patent, (reciting the above attainder, and that Sir H. Isley, before that, was seized in fee of the manor of Chepsted, alias Wilkes, with its appurtenances, in Chevening, in the tenure of several persons therein named; and in a heath, or waste, called Chevening-heath, and East-hoth; and certain rent issuing out of divers lands in Chevening and Chepsted, held of him as of this manor: and further, reciting the mortgage

^{/a} Philipott, p. 113. ^{/b} See Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 300.

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made to Cranwell, who had sold his interest in them to John Lennard), at the humble petition of the latter, released to him all her right and title, and equity of redemption in them; and further granted them with their appurtenances to him and his heirs, for ever.

Since which, this manor, now called by the name of Wilkes only, with Whitley-woods, and land, formerly called the Moss, alias the Brickhills, but now Rayly-banks, in Chevening and Sundridge, (all which were Sir Henry Isley's at the time of making the disgavelling act of the 2d and 3d year of king Edward VI. and which passed to John Lennard, under the denomination of the manor of Chepsted, with its appurtenances), continued in his descendants, in like manner as the manor of Chevening, till the ladies Barbara and Anne, the two daughters and coheirs of Thomas, earl of Sussex, joined in the sale of it, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to it, as before-mentioned, to Major-General Stanhope, afterwards created viscount Mahon and earl Stanhope; whose grandson, the right honorable Charles, earl Stanhope, is the present possessor of them.

CHEPSTED-HOUSE is a seat and estate, situated on the southern verge of this parish, and was probably once part of the demesne land of the last-described manor. The first mention I find of it, separate from it,

is in the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth; when it was in the possession of Robert Cranmer, who resided here. He was son of Thomas Cranmer, esq. of Asflacton, in Nottinghamshire, and married Jane Graie, daughter of Henry. Graie, esq. of Sussex, by whom he had an only daughter and heir, Anne, who on her father's death in 1619, carried this seat and estate in marriage to Sir Arthur Herrys, eldest son of Sir William Herrys, of Cricksey, in Essex, by him she had two sons; Cranmer and John, and a daughter, Jane./c

/c Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 363.

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Sir Arthur died possessed of this estate in 1632, and was succeeded in it by his second son by his first wife before-mentioned, John Herrys, esq. who married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacre, of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, and widow of Mr. John Norris./d She survived her second husband, by whom she had one son, and afterwards carried this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to her third husband, William Priestley, of Wild-hill, in Essingdon, Hertfordshire, who with Frances, his wife, Cranmer Herrys, gent. her son by her second husband, and Sir Thomas Dacre, her trustee, in 1652, conveyed Chepsted, and the estate belonging to it, to Jeffrey Thomas, gent. who in 1654, conveyed it to Ralph Suckley; and he, in 1658, parted with it in like manner to Mr. David Polhill, gent. of Otford,/e who was descended from David, the third son of Thomas, the second son of Thomas Polhill, alias Polley, of Detling, in this county, by Alice, daughter and heir of Thomas Buckland, of Luddesdown.

David Polhill having purchased Chepsted of Ralph Suckley, as before-mentioned, resided here, and on his grandfather's death, in 1658, became his heir, and entitled, among other of his estates, to his seat at Otford, where he frequently afterwards resided.

He was high sheriff in 1662, and died without issue, leaving his estate by will to his only surviving brother, Thomas Polhill, esq. of Clapham, in Surry, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Ireton, esq. by Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell, by whom he left three sons; David, of whom hereafter; Henry, who died in 1753; and Charles, who was a commissioner of excise, and died in 1755, leaving no issue by Martha his wife, daughter of Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoke.

/d Chauncy's Hertf. p. 301.

/e From the information of Mr. Polhill.

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Thomas Polhill, esq. before his death, in 1665, conveyed this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to Sir Nicholas Strode, of Westerham, whose widow and two daughters passed it away in 1693 to William Emerton, esq. of the Temple, London, who bore for his arms, On a bend three lions passant. He pulled down the old house, and rebuilt the present seat. He married Elizabeth, youngest daughter and coheir of Sir John Beale, bart. of Farningham, by whom he left two daughters and coheirs. They joined with Eliza=

both his widow, in the 8th year of queen Anne; in procuring an act of parliament for vesting his freehold and copyhold estates in Chevening, in trustees, to be sold for the better support of his widow, and advancement of his two daughters. In consequence of which this estate was sold to David Polhill, esq. eldest son of Thomas Polhill, esq. who had sold the same to Sir Nicholas Strode as before-mentioned; he afterwards resided at Chepsted, and in 1708 was chosen to represent this county in parliament, and in 1715 he was sheriff of it, and was keeper of the records in the tower.

He died æt. 80, in 1754, having had three wives; first, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Trevor, esq. of Glynd, in Sussex; secondly, Gertrude, sister of Thomas, lord Pelham, (afterwards duke of Newcastle) by neither of whom he left any issue; and thirdly, Elizabeth, daughter of John Borrett, esq. of Shoreham, in this county, prothonotary of the court of common pleas, who died here in 1785, æt. 87, by whom he had Charles, his eldest son and heir; Thomas, and John, who died unmarried; and one daughter, Elizabeth.

Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted, in 1754 married Tryphena, daughter of Sir John Shelley, bart. of Sussex, by whom he had one daughter Tryphena Penelope, now living, of whom her mother died in childbirth. Mr. Polhill is since remarried to Mrs. Patience Haswell, by whom he has issue four sons, and one

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daughter. He is the present possessor of this seat, with the estate belonging to it, and resides in it. He bears for his arms, quarterly of four coats; first, Polhill, or, on a bend gules three cross-crosets of the field; second, Argent, an eagle displayed or; third, Azure, a fess between three garbs or; fourth, Theobald, gules, six cross-crosets fitchee, three, two, and one, or; over all a crescent for difference.

There is a fair held yearly at Chepsted, on Whit-Tuesday.

MORANTS-COURT, vulgarly called Madams-court, is a manor here, which lies close at the foot of the chalk-hills, and gave both residence and surname to the possessors of it. In the 21st year of king Edward I. an assize was had before the justices itinerant, on a complaint brought against Ralph de Berners, and others, guardians of the temporalities of the archbishopric of Canterbury, for having unjustly disseised William, son of Thomas de Moraunt, and Jordan and Henry his brothers, of their free-tenement in Chevening and Sevenoke, &c.

When the former pleaded, that they were guardians of the see of Canterbury, and that the archbishops used to have the custody of their tenants in gavelkind, when under age, for all such lands, whether holden of others, or of the archbishopric.

To which the latter replied, that their father Thomas had only part of the said tenement of the archbishop, and that the same was gavelkynde, of which there was no wardship, but to the next of kin, to whom the inheritance could not descend, and who was bound to render an account of the same when the heirs attained the age of fifteen years; and they further alledged that

the residue of the said tenement was likewise gavel-kynde, and not held immediately of the archbishop; and that all the aforesaid tenement was situate on the western side of the Medway, where, such as were held of the archbishop, were of a different sort from those

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on the eastern side of that river, nor was any wardship due for them; and the jury found accordingly./f

Jordan and William de Moraunt before-mentioned, were possessors of this manors, with the seat and lands belonging to it, in the 14th year of king Edward II. in which year the king granted to them charter of free warren, in all their lands in Chevening, Shoreham, Otford, Brasted, Sundridge, and Chiddingstone.

William de Moraunt was sheriff of this county in the 12th and 13th years of king Edward III. and kept his shrievalty at this place. His son, Sir Thomas Moraunt, left an only daughter and heir, Lora, who carried this estate in marriage, first, to Sir Thomas Cawne, of Ightham, and secondly, to James de Peckham, of Yaldham, in Wrotham, who was sheriff of this county in the 3d and 12th years of king Richard II. in which family it continued in the reign of king Henry VIII. in the 16th year of which, Reginald Peckham was found to die possessed of the manors of Morantscourt, Wynsolds, and Goldsmiths, with their appurtenances, held of the archbishop as of his manor of Otford;/g in whose descendant Morants-court continued till the beginning of the reign of king James I. when it was alienated to Blackswell, and thence again, in the reign of king Charles I. to Watson, of Oxfordshire, who bore for their arms, Three martlets in chief, in whose descendants it remained till the reign of queen Anne, when one of that name alienated it to Pendock Price, of Westerham, whose son, Pendock Price, dying possessed of it about the year 1768, and without issue, it came to his brother, Thomas Price, esq. the widow of whose son and heir, Mrs. Mary Price, is at this time intitled to the possession of it. There is a court baron now held for this manor, over which the liberty of the duchy of Lancaster claims jurisdiction.

/f Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 191.

/g Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/h Philipott, p. 113.

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NORTHWARD from Morants-court, at the foot of the chalk hill, close to the boundary of Otford parish, lies the manor of Donington, now called DUNTON, which in the reign of king Edward III. was in the possession of William Morante, who in the 20th year of that reign paid respective aid for it, as one quarter of a knight's fee, which the heirs of Osbert Longechampe formerly held at Denyngton of the archbishop.

This estate passed in like manner as Morants-court above-mentioned, to the Peckham's, and Reginald Peckham was possessed of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. After which it passed by sale to the family of Polhill, in whose possession it has been many years, and at present is the property of Charles Polhill,

esq. of Chepsted.

There is a house in this parish called POLLARDS, which was formerly possessed by the family of Thomas.

CHARITIES.

REBECCA WINDHAM, gave by will, in 1714, to be applied every two years to place out one or more children to trade or business, at the appointment of the minister and churchwardens, in money vested in Charles Polhill, esq. the sum of 100l. now of the annual product of 3l.

Mrs. CATHERINE STROUD gave by will in 1718, to be applied to the setting up in trade or business, girls put out apprentices under the trust and inspection of the ministers and churchwardens, a sum of money, being 100l. vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 3l.

LUCY, COUNTESS STANHOPE, gave by will in 1724, for the putting out three or more children to such trades and occupations, as the trustees appointed by her will should think fit, a sum of money, now increased to 3332l. 5s. in O. S. S. Annuities, being of the annual product of 39l. 19s. 4d.

A GIFT, by whom unknown, of 100l. which in 1741, by agreement between the parish officers and David Polhill, esq. was limited to the putting out of apprentices, now vested in his heir Charles Polhill, esq. and of the annual produce of 3l.

CHEVENING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a

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peculiar of the archbishop, it is as such in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Botolph, is situated on the north west side of the parish. It is a handsome building, consisting of three isles and three chancels.

Among other monuments and memorials in this church are the following: – In the south isle, memorials for the Denhams, and for William Fuller, gent. of this parish, obt. 1710; in a pew adjoining to the south chancel, a fine altar tomb of Bethersden marble, with a brass plate and inscription for John Lennard, gent. obt. 2d and 3d Philip and Mary, æt. 76; arms, Lennard with quarterings. In the north isle, a memorial for Mrs. Mary, widow of Richard Thomas, of Sevenoke, gent. obt. 1638. In the south chancel, a stately tomb of alabaster, on which are the figures of a man in armour, and a lady in her robes, with their heads resting on cushions; at his feet is a brass head out of a ducal crown, and at her's a dog; on the south side are three sons kneeling on cushions, the first in robes, the others in armour; on the north side are five daughters, erected for Sampson Lennard, esq. with his wife Margaret Fiences, lady Dacre, &c. obt. 1615; on the top are six coats of arms with their quarterings. On the north side is a noble altar tomb, with the figure of a man in armour lying at length, with his crest, a boar's head out of a ducal crown, at his feet at his right side is his lady resting on a cushion, at her feet a dog, erected for John Lennard, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, obt. 1590, æt. 82; in the east window of this chancel are the arms of Lennard with quarterings. – In the great chancel, are memorials for the Watsons of Madams-court, arms in chief, three martlets, a label of three points for difference; on the north side a monument for lady Anne Herrys, sole daughter and heir of Robert Cranmer, esq. of Chepsted, wife of Sir Arthur Herrys, of Crixey, in Essex, by whom she had Cranmer, Jane, and John, obt. 1613, æt. 27; arms above, Herrys, or, on a bend azure three cinquefoils of the

field impaling on a chevron three cinquefoils, or, both with quarterings. At the east end a mural monument, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a desk with books open; in an arch underneath sits a daughter, erected for Robert Cranmer, esq. of Chepsted, son of Thomas Cranmer, esq. of Asflacton, in Nottinghamshire, whose only daughter Anne married Sir Arthur Herry, obt. 1619; within the rails, on a grave-stone, are the figures of a man and woman curiously engraved in brass, the inscription for them is lost, but there remains the date, obt. 1596, æt. 61; above are these arms, ermine a saltier charged with a crescent in chief, an escallop and eleven quarterings, beneath are the figures in brass of seven boys and two girls.

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This church is a rectory; the patronage of which was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and continues so at this time; the same being expressly excepted to the archbishop and his successors in that great deed of exchange which archbishop Cranmer made with king Henry VIII. in the 29th year of that reign, when he conveyed to that king the manor of Chevening, and all other his estates in this parish.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the rectory of Chevening was valued at twenty-five marcs.ⁱ By virtue of the commission of enquiry, taken by order of the state, in 1650, it was returned, that Chevening was a parsonage and a vicarage; the parsonage-house and seven acres of glebe land being worth nine pounds per annum; the vicarage being worth 10*l.* per annum, in all 11*l.* and that master Clarke was incumbent, being put in by the parliament.^k

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 21*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and the tenths at 2*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* Pension to the rector of Shoreham twenty shillings.^l

Mr. Sidney, rector of this parish, in the 19th year of the reign of king James I. claimed the tythe of cordwood and faggot, felled in woodland in this parish, called Calverley's, in Whitley, as being in the hill country, i. e. above the lower or sand hill, and he accordingly on trial recovered the same.^m

In 1718 there was an exchange of glebe lands in this parish, made by Edward Gee, D. D. then rector, and earl Stanhope.

CHURCH OF CHEVENING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. Peter de Brixia.ⁿ
Panucius Bonoditi, professor of
physic and arts, 1320.

ⁱ Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

^k Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xix.

^l Ect. Thes. p. 386.

^m MSS. Twysden.

ⁿ He exchanged this rectory with Panucius in 1320. Blomfield's Norf.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. Richard Astall, A. M. obt. Aug.
21, 1546.^o

Griffin Fludd, 1572./p
Francis Sidney, 1621./q
..... Buckner, D. D. 1640./r
..... Clarke, 1650./s
Henry Maurice, D. D. in 1680,
resig. April 1685./t
..... Skinner, obt. 1713.
Edward Gee, D. D. 1713, obt.
March 1, 1730./u
William Geekie, D. D. presented
1730, resig. 1732./w
Edward Bateman, D. D. 1733,
obt. 1751.
Thomas Herring, A. M. 1751,
obt. April 20, 1774./x
Samuel Preston, 1774, the pre=
sent rector.

/o He was also rector of Ightham,
and prebendary of Wingham. He lies
buried in Ightham church.

/p From lord Dacre's papers.

/q MSS. Twysden.

/r Put in by the parliament.

/s Ibid.

/t And rector of Llandrillo in Wales,
and treasurer of Chichester. He re=
signed Chevening for the rectory of
Newington, in Oxfordshire, and was
afterwards Margaret Professor at Ox=
ford. He died in 1691. Wood's Ath.
vol. ii. p. 872.

/u He was also dean of Lincoln, se=
nior prebendary of Westminster, and
rector of St. Margaret's, in West=
minster.

/w Also prebendary of Canterbury,
and archdeacon of Gloucester. He re=
signed Woodchurch on being presented
to Chevening, and was afterwards
rector of Southfleet.

/x In 1751, a dispensation passed for
his holding the rectory of Cullesden,
in Surry, with this of Chevening. He
was also prebendary of Southwell,
treasurer of Chichester, and one of the
principal registers of the prerogative
court of Canterbury.

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SUNDRIDGE.

WESTWARD from Chevening lies SUNDRIDGE,
written in most antient deeds Sundrish, which ap=
pears to have been its proper name, though now it is
in general both written and called Sundridge. In
Domesday it is written Sondresse, and in the Textus
Roffensis, Sunderersce.

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The VILLAGE of Sundridge is situated on the high
road leading to Westerham, which crosses the middle
of this parish, as does the river Darent, in a double
stream, a little to the northward of it; hence the ground

rises still further northward for near a mile and a half to the great ridge of chalk hills, where it is little more than a mile in width; midway to the foot of these hills, is the seat of Combebank, the hamlet of Oveney's-green, and the seat of Overden, the residence of the dowager lady Stanhope. Just below the village, southward, is the seat not many years since belonging to Tho. Mompesson, esq. who lies buried in the church yard, under a monument, with his brother Henry, who was murdered by robbers in France; it is now the residence of Edward Peach, esq. who is related to the Mompessons by his mother, wife of the Rev. Mr. Peach, rector of Titsey, in Surry. Mr. Peach married, in 1790, Mrs. Elizabeth Leathes, widow of the reverend Edward Leathes, rector of Rodeham, in Norfolk. Near the above seat is the church, and close by it the antient scite of Sundridge-place, on which is now only a farm-house; and about a half a mile eastward the manor of Dryhill, formerly the estate of the Isleys, and now of Mr. Woodgate of Summerhill. Southward from hence the parish extends three miles to the great ridge of sand hills, about midway to which is Brook's-place, near which there is on each side both coppice woods, and much rough ground, and the land becomes very poor. On the top of the hills is the hamlet, called Ide-hill. These hills separate the upland district from that below it, called the Weald, the part above them being distinguished by the name of Sundridge Upland, as that below it is by the name of Sundridge Weald, in the same manner as the other parishes are in the same situation. Near the foot of these hills, in the Weald, is the estate of Hendon, where the soil becomes a stiff clay and a strong tillage land.

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SUNDRIDGE was, in very early times, part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury. In the reign of king Edward the Confessor, Godwin unjustly withheld it from the archbishop. After the conquest, Odo, the powerful bishop of Baieux, and half brother to the Conqueror, took possession of it; but archbishop Lanfranc recovered it again, in the solemn assembly of the whole county, at Pinenden-heath, in 1076, together with other estates, which had been unjustly taken from his church.

In the general survey of Domesday, it is thus entered, under the title of the archbishop's land, as follows:

The archbishop himself holds Sondresse. It was taxed at one suling and a half. The arable land is In demesne there are three carucates and 27 villeins, with nine borderers, having eight carucates. There are eight servants, and three mills and a half of 13 shillings and a half. There are eight acres of meadow; wood for the pannage of 60 hogs. There is a church. In the whole, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth 12 pounds, when he received it, 16 pounds, and now 18 pounds, yet he pays 23 pounds, and one knight in the service of the archbishop.

In the reign of king Henry III. the manor of Sundrish was held of the archbishop of Canterbury, by the family of Apulderfield, from whom it passed to that

of Fremingham; one of whom, Sir Ralph de Fremingham, paid aid for it in the 20th of king Edward III. at the making the Black Prince a knight, as one knight's fee, which Henry de Apuldfreield formerly held in Sundreshe of the archbishop.

Sir Ralph de Fremingham resided at Farningham, in this county, of which he was sheriff in the 32d year of king Edward III. and died the next year. His son, John de Fremingham, was of Lose, and was sheriff of Kent in the 2d and 17th years of Richard II. He died in the 13th year of king Henry IV. leaving no issue by Alice his wife, being at the time of his

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death possessed of this manor, /y which he gave to his kinsman and next heir, Roger Isley, and his heirs male. This family of Isle or Isley, called in French deeds, L'Isle, and in Latin ones, De Insula, was seated in this parish in early times, and John de Insula obtained a charter of free warren to his lands in Sundrish, in the 11th year of king Edward II. whose grandson, Roger Isley, married Joane, sister of Sir Ralph de Fremingham. Their son, John, left Roger Isley, esq. of Sundridge; who, on the death of his kinsman, John de Fremingham of Lose, without issue, in the 13th year of king Henry IV. inherited the manor of Sundridge by his gift, as above mentioned. /z They bore for their arms, Ermine, a fess gules.

Roger Isley, above mentioned, died possessed of this manor in 1429, leaving two sons, William and John, the former of whom inherited this manor in fee tail. He was sheriff in the 25th year of king Henry VI. and died possessed of it in the 3d of king Edward IV. holding it of Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, by knights service, and the yearly rent of 22l. 12s. as was found by the inquisition, taken at St. Mary Cray, in the next year after his death; and that he also died possessed of the manor of Dreyhill, and messuages called Brooke place, Blounte's tenement, and Usmondes, with other lands therein mentioned, all in this parish; and that he died without issue, and that John Isley, son of John, his younger brother, then deceased, was his next heir.

John Isley, esq. nephew and heir of William, was justice of the peace and sheriff in the 14th year of king Edward IV. he died in 1483, and was buried in this church, leaving Thomas Isley, esq. who died possessed of Sundridge manor, in the 11th year of Henry VIII. having had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Guldeford, knight banneret and of the Gar=

/y Rot. Esch. anno 4 king Edward IV. No. 34.

/z Philipott, p. 131; and MSS. Dering.

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ter, and comptroller of the household to Henry VIII. /a ten sons and three daughters, as appears by their figures on his tomb in this church.

Their eldest son, Sir Henry Isley, was sheriff in the 34th year of king Henry VIII. and in the 5th year of king Edward VI. in which last reign, by an act passed in the 2d and 3d year of it, he procured, among others, his lands in this county to be disgavelled. /b

Being concerned in the rebellion, raised by Sir Tho. Wyatt in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was then attainted and executed at Sevenoke, and his lands were confiscated to the crown. He left a son, William, who, before the accession of king Edward VI. had married Ursula, daughter of Nicholas Clifford, esq.

Queen Mary, by her letters patent, anno 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary (reciting that Sir Henry Isley, being attainted, was possessed, among other premises, of the manor of Sundridge, and other lands in this parish) in consideration of one thousand pounds, paid by Wm. Isley, his eldest son, granted and restored them to him and his heirs, on their paying yearly, at the manor of Otford, 22l. 12s. 1d. and in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth an act passed for the restitution in blood of Sir Henry Isley's heirs.

William Isley afterwards possessed this estate in queen Elizabeth's reign, in the 18th year of which, becoming greatly indebted to the crown and others, an act passed for selling so much of his lands as would pay his debts; and by it the lord treasurer and others were appointed for that purpose, who conveyed this manor to the queen, her heirs and successors; from which time it seems to have remained in the crown till king James, by his letters patent, dated at Nonsuch, in the 22d year of his reign, granted the manor of Sundridge, alias Sundrich, late parcel of the possessions of Sir

/a Visitat. Co. Kent, of 1619. Pedigree, Guldeford.

/b See Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 320.

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Henry Isley, attainted, to Nicholas Street and George Fouch, at the yearly fee farm rent of 42l. 12s./c

Soon after which, I find this estate in the possession of Brooker, when it appears to have been esteemed as two manors; for he, at the latter end of the reign of king Charles I. conveyed it, by the name of the manors of Sundridge Upland and Sundridge Weald, by sale, to Mr. John Hyde, second son of Bernard Hyde, esq. a commissioner of the customs, and possessor of Bore-place, in the adjoining parish of Chidingstone, who bore for his arms, Gules a saltier or, between four besants, a chief ermine, as may be seen by their monuments in this church, which afterwards became the burial place of his descendants. His descendant, John Hyde, esq. was of Sundridge-place, and died in 1729, leaving two sons; John, of the Temple, esquire; and Savile. After which, this manor seems to have been divided into moieties, called, from their different situations, Sundridge Upland and Sundridge Weald manors, the latter of which became the property of John Hyde, esq. who residing at Quarendon, in Leicestershire, about the year 1773, pulled down the antient Place-house, leaving only a farm house in its stead; and the former became the property of Savile Hyde, esq. but since their deaths, both these manors are become centered in the person of Savile John Hyde, esq. who continues the present proprietor of them.

There are two court barons kept, one for Sundridge Upland and other for Sundridge Weald.

The present fee farm rent, paid for these manors, is 32l. 12s. the remainder of the original sum being paid

by the several possessors of the other parts of these manors in this parish, by grants of them at different times from the crown.

OVERNEY, alias Overney's-green, now called OVENDEN, is a manor or farm in this parish, which was

/c Patic. for the sale of fee-farm rents, temp. interregni.

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part of the estate belonging to the Freminghams, and afterwards, as before mentioned, to the Isleys, in whom it continued in like manner, as has been already described, to William Isley, who possessed it in queen Elizabeth's reign; and, in pursuance of the act, passed in the 18th year of it, for the payment of his debts, was sold by the lord treasurer and other commissioners, appointed for that purpose, two years afterwards, to Leven Bufkin, and his heirs, as a collateral security for protecting other land, which he had purchased of the commissioners. Soon after which he reconveyed this estate back again to Henry Isley, son of William before mentioned, who, by deed, in the 22d year of that reign, sold this estate, then called Overney's-green, alias Austin's, to James Austin, who with Henry Isley, and William his father, by deed and by fine, conveyed it to John Lennard and Sampson Lennard, and their heirs, from whom it descended, with another estate, called Cotland barn, in this parish, purchased by Sampson Lennard of one Cacott, to Thomas earl of Sussex, the estate of Overneys being included among those for which the earl had a verdict at the Queen's bench bar, in 1709, as may be further seen under Chevening, whose two daughters and coheirs conveyed them, with Chevening, and other lands in this neighbourhood, to major general James Stanhope, afterwards created earl Stanhope, whose grandson, the Rt. Hon. Charles earl Stanhope, is the present possessor of these estates./e

BROOK-PLACE, so called from its contiguity to the small brook or rill of water here, was once accounted part of the manor of Sundridge, and was most probably the first habitation of the Isleys in this parish; the last who died possessed of it was William Isley,

/d This account is taken mostly from lord Dacre's papers.

/e See more of this family, under Chevening.

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who died in the 3d year of king Edward IV. and as appears by the inquisition taken the year after his death, was then possessed of Brook-place, with the lands and woods belonging to it. He conveyed this estate, by sale, to John Alphew of Bore-place, in Chidingstone, on whose death, in 1489, without male issue, his two daughters and coheirs became entitled to his estates; and on the partition of them, Sir Robert Read, chief justice of the common-pleas, in the reign of king Henry VII. in right of his wife, became entitled to this estate./f He left four daughters and coheirs; one of whom, Catherine, marrying Sir Thomas Willoughby, a younger son of those of Eresby, in Lincolnshire, and lord chief justice of the common pleas, entitled him to Brook-place. His

descendant, Thomas Willoughby, esq. about the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, sold it to Sir Thomas Hoskins of Oxsted, in Surry, descended from an antient family of that name in Herefordshire, who bore for their arms, Per pale gules and azure, a chevron engrailed or, between three lions rampant argent; on whose decease it came to his eldest son, Charles Hoskins, esq. who died in 1657; whose grand son, Charles Hoskins, esq. of Croydon, in Surry, left an only daughter and heir, who carried this estate, in marriage, to John Ward, esq. of Squeries, in Westham, who died possessed of it in 1775, and his eldest son and heir by her, John Ward, esq. of Squeries, is the present owner of it.

HENDEN, called in antient writings, Hethenden, is a manor, which lies at the southern edge of this parish, in the Weald, below Ide-hill, and is a member of the manor of Boughton Aluph, in the eastern part of this county.

/f See more of Alphew and Read, under Chidingstone.

/g Guillim, p. 387. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 34.

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This estate had, for a continued series of years, owners of the highest rank and title in this kingdom, for it was formerly part of the possessions of Barth. de Burghersh, who died possessed of it in the 29th year of king Henry III. leaving, by Elizabeth, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of Theobald de Verdon, a great baron of Staffordshire, two sons, Bartholomew and Henry; of whom Bartholomew, the eldest, being a man eminent for his valour, was made choice of by king Edward III. in his 24th year, on the institution of the order of the Garter, to be one of the knights companions thereof.

He died in the 43d year of king Edward III. leaving by his second wife, Margaret, sister of Bartholomew lord Badlesmere, who survived him, one daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to Edward le Despencer, the eldest son of Edward, who on the death of his uncle, Hugh le Despencer, without issue, became his heir.

He received summons to parliament from the 31st to the 39th year of the above reign, and departed this life at his castle of Kaerdiff, in the 49th year of it, being then possessed of this manor, in right of his wife, who surviving him, died in the 10th year of king Henry IV. By her he left a son and heir, commonly called Thomas lord Despencer, of Glamorgan and Morganok, who was, among others, in the 20th year of king Richard II. advanced to great titles of honour, being created earl of Gloucester, and exhibiting his petition in the same parliament, for revocation of the judgment of exile against his great grandfather, Hugh le Despencer, had it granted. In which petition it appears, that Hugh le Despencer was then possessed of no less than 59 lordships in different counties, 28000 sheep, 1000 oxen and steers, 1200 kine with their calves, 40 mares with their colts of two

/h Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 389, 395, et seq.

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years, 160 draft horses, 2000 hogs, 3000 bullocks, 40 tons of wine, 600 bacons, 80 carcasses of Martin=mas beef, 600 muttoms in his larder, 10 tons of cyder, armour, plate, jewels, and ready money, 10000l. 36 sacks of wool, and (what was of no small value in those times) a library of books.

This earl married Constance, daughter of Edmond Langley, duke of York, and although he was one of the chief of those peers who formerly acted in the de=position of king Richard II. yet he was soon after degraded from his honour of earl, by parliament, in the 1st year of king Henry IV. as all others were who had been concerned in the death of Thomas of Wood=stock, duke of Gloucester; after which, being con=scious of his danger, he fled; but being taken at Bristol, he was carried into the market place there, by the rabble, and beheaded; and the next year, by the name of Thomas, late lord Spencer, he was ad=judged a traitor, and to forfeit all his lands. His daughter, and at length sole heir, Isabel, in the year her father died, was married to Richard Beauchamp, lord Bergavenny, and afterwards earl of Worcester, who in the 2d year of king Henry V. had possession granted to him of all these lordships and lands, which, upon the death of her brother, under age and with=out issue, descended to her, among which was this manor of Henden, and upon the death of Constance, her mother, had the like possession granted of what she held in dower.

Richard earl of Worcester died before her, and she afterwards, by a special dispensation from the pope, they being brothers children, married Richard Beauchamp earl of Warwick, one of the most consi=derable persons of his time; for, at the coronation of king Henry IV. he had been made a knight of the Bath, being then only nineteen years of age. In the 5th year of whose reign, he behaved bravely against Owen Glendower, then in rebellion, whose standard

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he took in open battle, and afterwards gained great honour in the battle of Shrewsbury, fought against the Percies.

At the coronation of king Henry V. he was consti=tuted lord high steward, as the patent expresses it, for his wisdom and indefatigable industry in the king's service; after which he was declared captain of Ca=lais, and governor of the marches of Picardy, and in 1417, created earl of Aumarle, or as we usually call it, Albermarle, in reward for his bravery in France, and elected knight of the Garter; and upon the death of king Henry V. was appointed governor to the young king, Henry VI. and afterwards, on the death of the duke of Bedford, regent of France, and lieu=tenant general of all the king's forces in that realm, and in Normandy. He died at the castle of Roan, in 1439, leaving Isabel, his second wife, before men=tioned, surviving, /i by whom he had Henry, of whom hereafter, and Anne, married to Richard Nevill earl of Salisbury, and afterwards earl of Warwick; she died within a few months after the earl her husband, being then possessed of this manor. /k

Their son, Henry de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick,

succeeded his mother in this estate at Sundridge, being little more than fourteen years of age at his father's death. He was so great a favourite with king Henry VI. that the highest honours were thought insufficient to express the king's affection towards him. In the 22d year of king Henry VI. he was created premier earl of England, and for a distinction between him and other earls, he had granted to him, and the heirs male of his body, licence to wear a golden coronet on his head, as well in the king's presence, as elsewhere; and within a few days afterwards he was further advanced to the rank of duke of War-

/i Hist. Greville, p. 46, et seq. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 243.
/k Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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wick, with precedence next after the duke of Norfolk, and before the duke of Buckingham; after which he had the grant of the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, and others adjacent, together with other castles, lands, and manors; and, lastly, he was declared king of the isle of Wight, the king placing the crown on his head with his own hands; but he lived not long to enjoy these honours, being taken off in the flower of his age, in 1445, in the twenty-second year. His body was carried to Tewksbury, where it lies interred among his ancestors, in the middle of the choir; he died possessed of this manor of Henden, leaving Cicely, his wife, daughter of Richard Nevill earl of Salisbury, surviving, whom he had married in his father's life time, when he was scarce ten years of age, being then called by the name of lord Despencer, and one daughter, Anne, who died an infant. Upon which Anne, her aunt, sister to the late duke of Warwick, became heir to the earldom and her brother's estates, being at that time the wife of Richard Nevill earl of Salisbury, before mentioned, having been married to him the same year that Henry, her brother, married Cicely, his sister; by reason of which marriage, and in respect of his special services, he had the title of earl of Warwick confirmed to him and his wife, and their heirs.

This earl, who is so well known in English history by the title of the King-maker, finding himself of consequence sufficient to hold the balance of the families of York and Lancaster, by his changing from one side to the other, rendered England, during the continuance of his power, a scene of constant confusion and bloodshed, and made or unmade kings, of this or the other house, as suited his passions, or served his purposes; at length he was slain, endeavouring to re-place king Henry on the throne, at the battle of Barnet, in 1471.

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By Anne his wife, before mentioned, he had only two daughters, whom he married into the royal family; Isabel, the eldest, being married to George duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward IV. and Anne, the youngest, first to Edward prince of Wales, son of king Henry VI. and 2dly to Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards king Richard III./i

After the earl's decease, the countess, his widow, lived in great distress. The vast inheritance of the Warwick family was taken from her by authority of parliament, as if she had been naturally dead, most of which was given to her two daughters, Isabel and Anne.

King Henry VII. after his accession to the throne, in the 3d year of his reign, recalled the old countess of Warwick from her retirement in the North, where she lived in a mean condition, and both her daughters being dead, he, by a new act of parliament, annulling the former, as against all reason, conscience, and course of nature, and contrary to the laws of God and man, so are the words, and in consideration of the true and faithful service, and allegiance, by her borne to king Henry VI. as also, that she never gave cause for such desherison, restored to her the possession of all the inheritance of the Warwick family, with power to her to alien the same, or any part of it. But this was not done with any purpose, that she should enjoy any part of it, but merely that she might transfer the whole of it to the king, which she did that year by a special feoffment, and a fine thereupon had, granting the same, consisting of one hundred and fourteen lordships and manors, among which was this of Henden, to the king and his heirs male, with remainder to herself and her heirs for ever.

/l Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 306. Hist. Greville, p. 54.
/m Hist. Greville, p. 57, et seq. Inrolments, Augm. Off.

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From this time the manor of Henden seems to have remained in the crown till king Henry VIII. in his 9th year, exchanged this his manor and park of Henden, with Sir Thomas Bulleyn, for the manor of Newhall and other lands, in Essex; who, on account of the great affection which the king bore to his eldest daughter, the lady Anne, was advanced, in the 17th year of that reign, to the title of viscount Rochford, and three years afterwards to that of earl of Wiltshire and Ormond.

From him this estate passed to William Stafford, esq. who, in the 33d year of that reign, conveyed it to the king; and he, in the 34th year of his reign, demised his park, and the lands called Henden-park, with their appurtenances, in Henden, Brasted, Sundridge, and Chedyngstone, and the lodges in the park, to George Harper, for a term of years; and the next year he granted, among other premises, the fee of this manor, parcel of the possessions of William Stafford and Mary his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas earl of Wiltshire, and the park of Henden, in the parishes above mentioned, to Sir John Gresham, to hold in capite by knights service. He was of Tisbury, in Surry, and third son of John Gresham, of Holt, in Norfolk, younger brother of Sir Richard, who was lord mayor and uncle to Sir Thomas, who built the Royal Exchange. He was lord mayor of London, in 1547, and died possessed of this estate in 1556, some little time before which the park here seems to have been disparked.

His grandson, Sir William Gresham, sold it, at

the end of queen Elizabeth's reign, to Sir Thomas Hoskins of Oxsted, in Surry, whose grandson, Sir William Hoskins, died possessed of it in 1712; and in his descendants it continued down to Charles Hos-

/n Kimber's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 77. Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 258.

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kins, esq. of Barrow-green place, in Oxsted, whose only daughter and heir, Susannah Chicheley Hoskins, then an infant, became intitled to the inheritance of it. She married, in 1790, Richard Gorges, esq. who now in her right possesses this manor.

COMBEBANK is a seat here, so called from some antient camp or fortification, placed at or near it, comb, in Saxon, signifying a camp. Most probably here was once likewise a burying-place for the Roman soldiers, as many urns of an antique shape and figure have been found in digging near it; and some have imagined there was a Roman military way, which led from Oldborough, in Ightham, through this place to Keston camp, near Bromley, in this county.

Combebank was formerly esteemed as part of the manor of Sundridge, and as such now pays a portion of the antient fee farm rent of that manor. As such, it was for many descents the estate of the Isleys, lords of Sundridge manor, with whom it remained till the 18th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, when it was vested, by the act passed that year, in the lord treasurer and others, to be sold with the rest of his estates in this parish, towards the payment of Wm. Isley's debts. By them Combebank was accordingly sold to one of the family of Ash, who were of good repute in this neighbourhood, as well for their possessions as for their long standing in it. The last of them here was William Ash, esq. who alienated it to Col. John Campbell, who, on the death of Archibald, duke of Argyle, in 1761, succeeded to that title.

This noble family is derived from a series of illustrious ancestors, of whom there are traditional accounts so high as the reign of Fergus, the second king of Scotland, anno 404.

In 1545, Sir Duncan Campbell, eldest son of Sir Colin. was advanced to the dignity of a lord of parliament, as was his grandson, Colin, in 1457, to the title of earl of Argyle, whose descendant, Archibald,

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eighth earl of Argyle, was by king Charles I. in 1641, created marquis of Argyle, in Scotland; all which titles he forfeited for treason, of which he was found guilty, and beheaded at Edinburgh, in 1661.

His son, Archibald, was, in 1663, restored by the king to the estate, title, and precedency, formerly enjoyed by his ancestors, earls of Argyle; but in 1681, being accused of treason, he was found guilty, and though he then made his escape, yet landing with a force from abroad, in 1685, he was taken, and on his former sentence, was beheaded at Edinburgh that year. He married Mary, daughter of James Stuart, earl of Murray, by whom he had four sons and two daughters; of the former, Archibald was created duke

of Argyle; John, the second son, was of Mammore, and was father of the late duke; Charles and James were both colonels in the army.

Archibald, the eldest, his father's attainder being taken off by the parliament, immediately after the Revolution, was tenth earl of Argyle, and afterwards, in 1701, created duke of Argyle, marquis of Kyntire and Lorn, earl of Campbell and Cowell, viscount of Lochow and Glengla, and lord Inverary, Mull, Morvern, and Terry, who dying in 1703, left by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Lionel Talmash, two sons and a daughter; John, the great duke of Argyle, who was created a peer of England, by the titles of duke and earl of Greenwich, and baron Chatham; and died in 1743, leaving only four daughters his coheirs, so that these titles expired with him; but as duke of Argyle, &c. in Scotland, he was succeeded by his brother, Archibald, who, in 1706, had been created earl of and viscount Ila, and lord Ornsay, Dunoon, and Aros, in Scotland, but died without issue, in 1761.

He was succeeded as duke of Argyle, marquis of Lorn, &c. by colonel John Campbell, of Mammore,

/o See Greenwich, vol. ii. p. 557.

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second son of Archibald, ninth earl of Argyle; p which John, duke of Argyle, purchased this seat of Combebank, before mentioned, and made it one of the principal seats of his residence. He married Mary, daughter of John lord Bellenden, by whom he had John, marquis of Lorn, who succeeded him in titles and estate; three other sons, and one daughter. He died in 1770, but in his life time he gave this seat to his third surviving son, the Right Hon. lord Frederick Campbell, who is the present possessor of it, and resides here.

His lordship married, in 1769, Mary, daughter of Amos Meredith, esq. and widow of Laurence Shirley earl Ferrers, and by her, who died in 1791, has issue. He is a privy councillor, a lord of trade and plantations, lord register of Scotland, and member of parliament for Argyleshire, in that kingdom.

HIS PRESENT GRACE, the duke of Argyle, whilst marquis of Lorn, his father being living, was on December 20, 1766, created a peer of England, by the title of, BARON SUNDRIDGE OF COMBEBANK, in the county of Kent, to him and his heirs male, and in failure of which to the lords William and Frederick, his brothers and their heirs male successively. His Grace married, in 1759, Elizabeth, daughter of John Gunning, esq. and widow of James, late duke of Hamilton, who, in 1776, was created a baroness of England, in her own right, by the title of baroness Hamilton, and who died in 1790, by whom he had George marquis of Lorn, one other son, and two daughters. He bears for his arms, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Campbell; 2d and 3d, the lordship of Lorn. For his crest, on a wreath, a boar's head, couped proper, or; and for his supporters, two lions guardant, gules.

/p Collins's Peerage, last edition. vol. vii. p. 638, et seq. and Scots Compend. p. 98.

CHARITIES.

MRS. ELIZABETH SMITH, alias CRANE, gave by will, in 1638, for the poor of the parish who do not receive alms, part of a tenement, in the occupation of John Shenstone, now of the annual produce of 2l. 16s. 8d.

MRS. ELLEN LEWIS gave by will, in 1646, for four sermons, to be preached, 1l. 6s. 8d. for three Bibles, 2s. and for bread, 3s. 4d. payable out of land, the property of Edward Peach, esq. the annual produce being 2l. 10s.

HUMPHRY HYDE, esq. gave by will, in 1719, for the education of ten poor children, the annual sum of 6l. payable out of a farm, of which John Hulks is tenant, and now of that annual produce.

JOHN HYDE, esq. gave by will, in 1776, for twelve poor families, not receiving alms of the parish, a sum of money, vested in the funds, by the trustees, now of the annual produce of 6l.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave, for the use of the poor, the annual sum of 3s. 4d. payable out of land, the property of Thomas Hambleton, and now of that annual product.

ANOTHER PERSON UNKNOWN gave, for that purpose, a like annual sum, payable out of a tenement belonging to Queen's college, and now of that annual produce.

SUNDRIDGE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham. The church consists of two isles and two chancels, having a pointed steeple at the west end.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it, on the north side is a fine antient altar tomb, under an arch of Gothic work, on the side of it were the figures of a man and woman, with an inscription now lost, but Philipott says, it was for John Isley, esq. sheriff of Kent, anno 14 Edward IV. and deceased anno 1484. At the foot of the above is a grave stone, on which are the figures in brass of a man in armour, and his wife, with ten sons and three daughters, but the inscription is gone, and one shield of arms, yet there are three remaining, which shew it to have been for one of the Isleys, who married a Guldeford. On the south side is a gravestone, with the figure in brass, of a man in armour, with a lion at his feet, with an inscription in black letter for Roger Isley, lord of Sundresh and Fremingham, ob. 1429; above two shields, one Isley, second the like, impaling ermine a bend. A memorial before the rails for Gervasius Nidd, S. T. P. rector of this parish, ob. Nov. 13, In the south chancel, a mural mo-

nument for John Hyde, esq. lord of the manor of Sundridge Weald and Millbrook, ob. 1729; above these arms, Gules, a saltier or, between four besants of the second, a chief ermine, impaling ermine on a canton argent a crescent or; another like monument for John Hyde, esq. ob. 1677, arms as the former. An oval mural monument for Elizabeth, wife of Humphry Hyde, esq. ob. 1713. A monument for Frances, widow of Peter Shaw, M. D. and daughter of John Hyde, esq. ob. 1767. A memorial for Henry Hyde, gent. A. M. ob. Oct. 26, 1706; and for Humphry Hyde, gent. second son of John Hyde, esq. lord of Sundridge manor, ob. 1709, æt. 18. Near this last stone is one, having a large brass plate, with the figure of a man in somewhat a singular habit, but the inscription and four shields of arms are torn off. In the north chancel is a vault for the Aynsworths. In the middle

of the great chancel are two adjoining grave stones, on which were inscriptions in brass capitals of the thirteenth century, let in, separate round the verge of the stones, all which are now picked out; they belonged most probably to one of the family of Isley.

In the first window of the above chancel are two shields, with the arms of Isley, in very antient coloured glass, the first ermine, a bend gules, impaling ermine a cross gules; the second as above, impaling Colepeper. In the third window, a shield quarterly, 1st and 4th, Isley; 2d and 3d, ermine a fess gules.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, to which it belongs at this time.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marcs./q

By virtue of a commission of enquiry, taken by order of the state, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that Sundridge was a parsonage, with a house, barn, and twelve acres of land thereto belonging, which, with the tithes, were worth one hundred pounds per annum, Mr. Samuel Sharpe then incumbent, being put in by the parliament, who received the profit thereof for his salary, and the vicars tithes also./r

It is valued in the king's books at 22l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 5s. 4d./s

/q Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/r Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/s Ect. Thes. p. 387.

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CHURCH OF SUNDRIDGE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Hugo Forsham, in 1320./t

Gervas Nidd, S. T. P. obt. Nov.

13, 1629./u

Richard Hall, S. T. P. in 1634.

John Kayes, A. M. ind. 1643, ob.

Nov. 1644.

Samuel Sharpe, in 1645, obt.

1680./w

James Goodwin, ind. Nov. 18,

1680. obt. Mar. 1684.

Benjamin Maldin, ind. May 31,

1685, obt. Sep. 1688.

Edw. Brown, A. M. ind. Feb. 8.

1689, obt. 1699./x

Edw. Tenison, LL. B. in 1700./y

John Lynch, S. T. P. in 1728, re=

signed in 1733./z

Samuel Weller, LL. B. 1733, and

1753./a

John Frankland, A. M. 1753, re=

signed 1777./b

Wm. Vyse, LL. D. 1777. Pre=

sent rector./c

/t Reg. Roff. p. 207.

/u He lies buried in this church.

/w Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xix.

/x Author of the Fasciculus, and

other learned books.

/y Archdeacon of Carmarthen, and prebendary of Canterbury; afterwards bishop of Ossory. See Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3929.

/z Afterwards dean of Canterbury &c. He resigned this rectory for that of Bishopsborne.

/a Before curate of Maidstone.

/b Son of the dean of Ely.

/c Before curate of Brasted. In 1777 a dispensation passed for his holding this rectory with that of Lambeth, in Surry.

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WOODLAND,

WHICH was once a parish of itself, though now united to Kingsdown, is in this hundred of Codsheath; a particular description of it has already been given under that parish, in the hundred of Axstane.

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THE

PARISH AND VILLE OF BRASTED.

ADJOINING to Sundridge westward, lies the parish of Brasted, called in the Textus Roffensis BRADESTEDE, and in Domesday, BRIESTEDE. It seems to take its name from the long narrow form of it; brade, in Saxon, signifying length, and stede, a place. Within this parish is a district, called, The Ville of Brasted, which is a jurisdiction separate from any hundred, having a constable of its own, the remaining part of the parish being the most northern part of it, called Brasted Up-land, is in the hundred of Westerham and Eaton-bridge. The church stands within the ville.

THE VILLAGE of Brasted is situated on the high road to Westerham, which leads through the parish westward, midway between the two ranges of the chalk and the sand hills, to the former of which this parish extends, about a mile in length. About a quarter of a mile southward of the village, the river Darent flows through the parish eastward, a little southward of which is the church, and near the foot of the chalk hill, Brasted-court lodge, within the hundred of Westerham and Eatonbridge.

Near the east end of the village is Brasted place, southward from which is a large parcel of waste, rough, and woody ground, called Brasted Chart common, extending for two miles to the sand hill, below which it extends for some length into the Weald, where it has the name of Brasted Weald, in like manner as the other parishes mentioned before; where, at the southern boundary of it, is the estate, called Delaware. The whole parish, notwithstanding its great length, at no part of it exceeds a mile in width; the soil of it,

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above the hill, excepting near the river, is but very indifferent, being near the northern hills chalky, and

near the southern hills an unfertile sand; below the latter it is a stiff clay.

A fair is kept at Brasted on Holy Thursday or Ascension day, for horses, cattle, &c.

THE MANOR of Brasted seems to have been formerly accounted an appendage to the manor of Tunbridge. It was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, before the Norman conquest; accordingly it is thus entered, in the record of Domesday, under the general title of the lands held of the archbishop by knights service:

Haimo, the sheriff, holds Briestede of the archbishop. It was taxed at one suling and an half. The arable land is ten carucates, in demesne there are 2 carucates and 24 villeins, with 16 borderers, having 12 carucates. There is a church and 15 servants, and two mills of 24 shillings. There is wood for the pannage of 20 hogs, and as much herbage as is worth nine shillings and sixpence. In the whole it was worth, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, 10 pounds, and as much when he received it, and now 17 pounds. Alnod, the abbot, held this manor of the archbishop of Canterbury.

Soon after the reign of the Conqueror it came into the eminent family of Clare, afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford, who held it of the archbishop of Canterbury in grand serjeantry; and there having been great disputes between the archbishops and these earls, concerning the customs and services claimed by the former, on account of these premises, as well as others, which the earls held of them in Tunbridge, Hadlow, and other places in this county, the whole was finally settled in 1264, anno 42 king Henry III. by a composition then entered into between archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in which it was agreed, that the earl should hold the manor of Bradsted, by the service of being chief butler to the

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archbishop and his successors, at their great feast of inthronization, and that he should do suit for it at their court of Otford; and the archbishop agreed, that the earl should receive of him and his successors certain fees and allowances, as therein mentioned, whenever he, or his heirs, should perform this office, at such time as above mentioned./c

Richard earl of Gloucester and Hertford died possessed of this manor, at his house at Eschemerfield, in this county, in the 46th year of king Henry III. whose grandson, Gilbert, died possessed of it in the 7th of Edward II. being slain at the battle of Bannocksburne, near Strivelin;/d and on the partition of the inheritance of his three sisters and coheirs, this manor, among other estates in Kent, was allotted to Margaret, the second sister, then wife of Hugh de Audley, jun. who not only succeeded to these lands of her inheritance, but was likewise, in the 11th year of king Edward III. created in parliament earl of Gloucester. He died possessed of the manor of Bradsted, in the 21st year of that reign,/e leaving an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then the wife of Ralph Stafford, who in her right became possessed of it.

He was so greatly esteemed by king Edward III.

that, among other marks of his regard, he chose him one of the knights of the order of the Garter, at the first institution of it; and soon afterwards, in his 24th year, advanced him to the title of earl of Stafford. He died possessed of this manor in the 46th year of this reign, and from him it descended to his great grandson, Humphry Stafford, who was created duke of Buckingham, anno 23 king Henry VI. and was afterwards slain in the battle of Northampton, fighting valiantly there on the king's part. From him it at length de=

/c Regist. Christ church, Cant. No. 177. See a further account of this composition, under Tunbridge.

/d Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 213, 751, et seq.

/e Rot Esch. ejus an. Philipott, p. 65.

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scended to his great grandson, Edward, duke of Buckingham, who, in the 13th year of king Henry VIII. being accused of conspiring the king's death, was brought to his trial, and being found guilty, was beheaded on Tower-hill that year.

In the parliament, begun in the 14th year, though there passed an act for his attainder, yet there was likewise an act for the restitution in blood of Henry his eldest son, but not to his honours or lands, /f so that this manor, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, at which time there appears to have been a park here, though as I find no mention of one after this, it is likely it was disparted soon afterwards.

This manor seems to have remained in the hands of the crown till that king, in his 31st year, granted it to Sir Henry Isley, and his heirs, by the name of the manor, ville, and park of Brasted, to hold in capite by the service of the twentieth part of a knights fee, and the yearly rent of 5l. 2s. 3d. per annum, in exchange for the manors of Bradborne and Tymberden; /g which exchange was confirmed by the king's letters patent, under his great seal the year after.

By the act of the 2d and 3d year of Edward VI. the lands of Sir Henry Isley were disgavelled, but being concerned in the rebellion, raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was attainted and executed at Sevenoke, and his estates were confiscated to the crown; after which the queen, by her letters patent, anno 1st and 2d Philip and Mary, for the consideration therein mentioned, to be paid by William Isley, eldest son of Sir Henry, granted and restored unto him and his heirs, the manor of Brasted, and the rents of assize there, and all other lands, tenements, &c.

/f Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 171. See a further account of the Staffords, under Tunbridge.

/g Aug. Off. Box. E. 18. and Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 4. The following account of this mansion is taken mostly from the late lord Dacre's papers.

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which had come into her hands, by reason of the attainder, in as ample a manner as Sir Henry held them, paying to the queen yearly, at her manor of Otford, 102s. 3d. for this manor; /h which Wm. Isley remained possessed of till the 18th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, when becoming greatly indebted

to the crown, in 3644l. and upwards, and others, an act of parliament passed for selling so much of his lands as would pay his debts, and by it the lord treasurer and others were appointed commissioners for that purpose, who next year conveyed the manor of Brasted, and all lands and tenements belonging to it, to Sampson and Samuel Lennard, against whom, notwithstanding the above act of parliament, the attorney-general, in the 21st year of that reign, brought an information in the court of exchequer for seizing this manor, with the lands belonging to it, in Brasted, into the queen's hands, under pretence of their having purchased them without licence first had from the crown, they being held at that time of the queen in capite; to which the Lennards pleaded the statute of the 18th queen Elizabeth, before mentioned, which they alledged was sufficient in law for the lord treasurer and others to sell the same, without any other or further licence obtained of her, and they had judgment against the crown on this plea.

In the 22d year of that reign, Samuel Lennard released all his right in this manor and premises, to Sampson Lennard, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas, and sister and heir of Gregory Fynes, lord Dacre of the South;ⁱ who, on her brother's death, Sept. 25, anno 36 queen Elizabeth, without issue, became entitled to the barony of Dacre, which was adjudged to her in the 2d year of king James I. in as full and ample a manner as any of her ancestors had enjoyed the same; and her descendants, lords Dacre: this ma-

^{/h} See more of the Isleys, under Sundridge.

^{/i} See Chevening, for a full account of these families.

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nor continued in like manner as has been already more fully related under Chevening, down to Thomas Lennard, created by king Charles II. earl of Sussex, against whom the same claim was made by the daughters and heirs of his youngest brother, Henry, deceased, to this manor, as being of the nature of Gavelkind, but the earl of Sussex proved, that the manor and lands in Brasted were part of the possessions of Sir Henry Isley, at the time of the disgavelling act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. and consequently entirely free from the custom of gavelkind from that time, in a trial held at the Queen-bench bar, in Michaelmas term, anno 1709, on full evidence, this estate to have been disgavelled by the above act, and had thereupon a full verdict in his favour.

Thomas earl of Sussex died possessed of this manor and the estate belonging to it, in 1615, leaving two daughters, Barbara and Anne, his coheirs, the former of whom married Charles Skelton, lieutenant general in the French service, and the latter married Richard Barrett Lennard, esq. of Belhouse. They, in 1717, joined in the sale of Brasted manor, with the rest of their estates in this parish, to major general James Stanhope, who that year, being then minister of state, was created viscount and baron Stanhope, and next year, earl Stanhope. He died possessed of this manor, in 1721, and his grandson, the Right Hon. Charles earl Stanhope is the present possessor of it.^k

This manor is now charged with a yearly fee farm

of 5l. 2s. 3d. to the crown.

BRASTED-PLACE is an estate here, which was once accounted a manor, and was heretofore called Crow-place, from the residence of that family at it, as it was before that called Stocket's, for the like reason.

Walter de Stocket, sometimes written in records and old deeds Stoks, held this estate of the earl of

/k Coll. Peer. last edit. vol. v. p. 32. et seq. See more of this family under Chevening.

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Gloucester as the fourth part of a knight's fee, in the reign of king Edward I. whose family bore for their arms, Per pale gules and azure, a lion rampant argent, pelletée./l

Simon Stocket possessed this estate in the next reign of king Edward II. and built a chancel in the church of Brasted, as appears by a deed of that time.

His daughter Lora carried this estate in marriage to Richard Boare, who bore for his arms, Gules, a boar passant argent, and was succeeded here by his son John, as he again was by Nicholas Boare, his son, who leaving an only daughter and heir, Joane, she carried this house and estate, called Stocket's, together with the chancel above mentioned, and certain land, called Boare's, to Thomas Crow the younger, son of Thomas Crow, of an antient family of Suffolk, who had before purchased lands in Brasted, in the reign of Edward IV.

From this family, who bore for their arms, Gules, a chevron or, between three cocks argent,/m which coat was afterwards allowed to Giles Crow, of Brasted, by Robert Cooke, clarencieux, anno 1586, it acquired the name of Crow-place, and continued in the descendants of it till the latter end of the reign of king James I. when Mr. William Crow alienated it to Robert Heath, esq. afterwards Sir Robert Heath, then of Mitcham, in Surry, and successively chief justice of the common-pleas and King's-bench, who was, though born in the adjoining parish of Eatonbridge, descended out of Surry from John Heath, who was of Limpsfield, in that county. Sir Robert bore for his arms, Argent, a cross engrailed, between twelve billets gules, being his paternal coat. In one of the south windows of the Inner Temple hall, his arms, as chief justice of the common-pleas, depicted anno 1631, are a shield of four coats; 1st, Heath; 2d, on a bend, between two cotizes inden-

/l Philipott, p. 65, 66; Book of Knights Fees, in the Excheq.
/m Peacham's Comp. Gent. p. 239.

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ted, three mullets; 3d as the 2d; 4th as the 1st; over all an escutcheon of pretence, ermine, a fess between three foxes heads erased./n

He was a great sufferer for his loyalty to Charles I. for which, being obliged to fly in foreign parts, he died at Calais in 1649, and his body was brought over and buried in this church, where there is a stately monument erected for him and his wife. Margaret, daughter and heir of John Miller, gent. by Mary, daughter of Henry Crow, gent. by whom he had several sons and daughters who survived him. After his death this estate continued sequestred by the powers then in

being till the restoration of king Charles II. when Edward Heath, esq. his eldest son, took possession of it, in whose family it continued till Sir John Heath, leaving by Margaret, daughter of Sir John Mennes, knight of the Bath, an only daughter and heir, Margaret, she carried it in marriage to George Verney lord Willoughby, D. D. afterwards dean of Windsor, who was descended of the family of Verney, seated, in the reign of king Henry VI. at Compton Murdock, in Warwickshire, where Richard de Verney, the possessor of it, then built a noble manor house, the present seat of the family; who bear for their arms, Three crosses recercele or, a chief vair ermine and ermines.

His descendant, Sir Richard Verney, flourished in the reign of queen Elizabeth and king James I. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Fulk Grevile, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and coheir of Edward Willoughby, esq. eldest son of Robert lord Willoughby, of Broke, and at length heir to her brother, Fulk Grevile lord Broke of Beauchamp's-court, in Warwickshire, and dying in 1630, was buried with his wife, at Compton above mentioned, which from this family acquired the name of Compton Verney. His younger

in Visitation Co. Kent, 1619. Guillim, p. 293.

in Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 549, et seq. Dugd. Warw. p. 435.

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son, Richard, of Belston, in Rutlandshire, succeeding to it at length on the death of his nephew, William, son of his eldest brother, Sir Grevile, without issue.

After which he resided at Compton, and was knighted in 1685. In the first parliament of king William and queen Mary he was chosen in parliament for Warwickshire, and being a descendant, through the female heir of Grevile, from Robert lord Willoughby of Broke, as has been already mentioned, he made his claim to that title in parliament, in 1695, anno 8 William III. which being allowed, he had summons to parliament accordingly, and took his seat in the house of lords, according as the antient barons of Broke were placed there, who were originally summoned Aug. 12, 1492, anno 7 king Henry VII. and dying in 1711, was buried at Compton Verney.

He was succeeded by his second, but eldest surviving son, George, D. D. afterwards dean of Windsor, and lord Willoughby de Broke, who married Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir John Heath, and in her right, as has been already mentioned, became possessed of this seat in Brasted; which his great grandson, John Peyto Verney, now lord Willoughby de Broke (who, in 1761, married lady Louisa North, daughter of Francis earl of Guildford, by whom he had several children) alienated some years ago to the Right Hon. lord Frederick Campbell, as he did not long afterwards to John Turton, esq. M. D. who is the present owner of it.

DELAWARE is a seat of great antiquity, situated in the southernmost part of this parish. It was the residence of gentlemen of this name as early as the reign of king Henry II. of whom Robert Delaware was the last, who, about the latter end of king Edward III.'s reign, died without male issue, so that Dionysia, his daughter, became his heir, who carried this seat and

/p Philipott, p. 137, by old evidences then in the hands of Mr. Seyliard.

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estate in marriage to William Paulin, of Paulin's, in this parish; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of king Henry VI. when William Paulin, having an only daughter and heir, Elenora, married to John Seyliard of Seyliard, in Hever, she entitled him to the possession of both these seats. His descendant, of the same name, resided at Delaware, and was created a baronet in 1661, who bore for his arms, Azure, a chief ermine, which was the antient paternal coat of this family; and among the Harleian manuscripts in the British museum, is the pedigree of Seyliard, of De la Ware, set forth, anno 1578, and continued to 1630. From him this seat descended to Sir Thomas Seyliard, bart. who about the year 1700, alienated it to Henry Streatfield, of Chidingstone, esq. whose great grandson, Henry Streatfield, esq. of Highstreet-house, in Chidingstone, is at this time intitled to this estate.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM CROW, esq. gave by will, in 1618, to the parish an alms-house, which was exchanged for the present workhouse, now vested in the parish.

ELIZABETH SMITH, alias CRANE, gave by will, in 1638, a house, vested in the parish, of the annual produce of 5l. 13s. 4d.

WILLIAM NEWMAN, gent. gave by will, in 1736, land, for cloathing the poor, vested in the ministers and churchwardens, of the annual produce of 12l. 8s.

BRASTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham. The church, which is situated in the ville of this parish, is dedicated to St. Martin. It consists of three isles and two chancels.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it, are the following: In the north and middle isles, memorials for the Kidders. In the great chancel, memorials for the Bulls and Newmans; on the north side of the altar, a monument for Margaret, wife of Tho. Seyliard, daughter and heir of Francis Rogers, esq. of Otford,

/q Guill. 204. Harl. MSS. No. 810-110. /r Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 112.

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who left six children, obt. 1615; above, the arms of Seyliard, Azure, a chief ermine in a lozenge, with a number of quarterings; beneath the above is a beautiful altar tomb for Dorothy, daughter of William Crowmer, esq. of Tunstall, first married to William Seyliard, of Brasted, by whom she left four sons and two daughters; 2dly, to Michael Beresford, esq. of Westerham, by whom she left one son and two daughters, ob. 1613. In the east window is a shield, with the arms of Christ church, Canterbury, impaling Parker. In the north chancel, a memorial for Margaret, daughter of the Hon. John and Abigail Verney, ob. 1733, æt. 17; and for George, eldest son of the Hon. George and Margaret Verney, 1698, æt. 7. A mural monument for Margaret Mennes, daughter and heir of Sir Matthew Mennes, K. B. and the lady Margaret Stuart, married, secondly, to Sir John Heath; she left Margaret, her only daughter, ob. 1676. On the north side, a stately monument, on which is the figure of a judge, in his robes

and cap, and on his right side his lady, resting on cushions, erected for Sir Robert Heath, justice of the common pleas, obt. 1649; Margaret his wife, ob. 1647; beneath an inscription, shewing that he was the son and heir of Robert Heath, esq. by Anne, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Posier, gent. by whom he left six sons and one daughter; arms at top, Heath argent billettee gules, a cross ingrailed of the second, with quarterings, which shield is likewise in coloured glass in a window over the monument. In the middle of the great chancel is a very antient grave stone, on which was an inscription in brass capitals of the 13th century, round the verge, now picked out, and illegible.

The church, is a rectory of the antient patronage of the see of Canterbury, the archbishop being the present patron of it. By an antient valuation, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at forty marcs./s

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, taken by order of the state, in 1650, it was returned, that Brasted was a parsonage, containing a house, fifty acres of glebe land, and seventy-eight acres of woodland, worth together thirty pounds per annum, and the tithes of the said parsonage ninety pounds per annum; that it formerly was in the gift of the archbishop of Canterbury, and that Mr. John Watte was then incumbent, put in by the parliament./t

/s Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. /t Par. Surv. Lam. lib. vol. xix.

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This church is valued, in the king's books, at 22l. 6s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 4s. 8d.

There was an inquisition taken concerning the glebe of this rectory, which had been withheld by the parishioners, and a decree on it was given by archbishop Islip, in 1352./u

CHURCH OF BRASTED.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Edmund de Mepham, S. T. P./w
Andrew Pearson, B. D. about
1560./x

Thomas Bailey, about 1634./y

John Saltmarsh, resig. 1646./z

John Watte, in 1650./a

..... Pinder, S. T. P.

Robert Barker, S. T. P.

Michael Bull, A. M. in 1723, ob.

Aug. 27, 1763./b

George Secker, S. T. P. 1763, ob.

1768./c

James Parker, A. M. 1768, ob.

July 1772.

William Vise, S. T. P. inducted

Jan. 5, 1773, resigned 1777./d

Thomas Franklin, S. T. P. 1777,

ob. Mar. 22, 1784./e

Wm. Skinner, obt. Mar. 1795.

George Moore, A. M. collated June,
1795. Present rector./f

/u Reg. Islip. Lambeth library.

/w He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

/x He was also vicar of Wrotham and rector of Chidingstone.

/y A man of great parts and profound learning, especially in the Greek tongue. He was sequestered from this rectory, worth 200l. per annum, in the time of the troubles; after the Restoration he was made dean of Downe, and afterwards, in 1664, bishop of Killala, as a reward for his sufferings and loyalty. Walk. Suff. of the Clergy, p. 202.

/z He was a bigotted enthusiast. See much of him in Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 287. He was put into possession of this rectory by the parliament.

/a Put in likewise by the parliament.

/b He lies buried in this church.

/c He was nephew to abp. Secker, and was likewise canon residentiary of St. Paul's, and rector of Allhallows, Thames-street. He had been before prebendary of Canterbury.

/d He is a prebendary of Litchfield, and resigned this rectory on being presented to that of Lambeth, in Surry.

/e Formerly Greek professor in the university of Cambridge, and vicar of Ware, in Hertfordshire.

/f Prebendary of Canterbury, and son of archbishop Moore.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
WESTERHAM AND EATONBRIDGE

LIES the next south-westward from that of Codsheath. It is described in the survey of Domesday by the name of the Hundred of Ostreham, as it was in king Edward III.'s reign by that of the Hundred of Westerham; soon after which the name of the lower half hundred of it, called Eatonbridge, was added to it; by both which names it has been called ever since.

IT CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. WESTERHAM, and
2. EATONBRIDGE.

And the churches of those parishes:

And also part of the parishes of Brasted and Cowden, the churches of which are in another district.

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WESTERHAM,
USUALLY CALLED, AND FREQUENTLY WRITTEN,
WESTRAM,

IS the next parish westward from Brasted, being

called in Domesday, Oistreham, and in the Textus Roffensis, Westerham; taking its name from its situation at the western extremity of this county.

WESTERHAM is a parish of large extent, and like those before described in a similar situation is much longer than it is in breadth. It extends to the summit of the range of chalk hills northward, where it bounds to Cowden, and southward, beyond the

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sand hill, into the Weald. In the whole it is about five miles and a half from north to south, and on an average, in breadth, about two miles and a half, bounding westward to Surry. The soil is much the same as the last described parishes, adjoining to the double range of hills. The high road from Maidstone and Sevenoke, across this parish, midway between these hills, towards Surry; on it is situated the town of Westerham, a very healthy and pleasant situation, at the west end of which is a seat, which has for many years belonged to the family of Price, and continues so now; and at the east end is the church and parsonage; besides which there are many genteel houses dispersed in it. The high road from Bromley by Leaves-green joins the Sevenoke road, on the north side of the town, near the south side of which is the mansion of Squeries. The river Darent takes its rise in this parish, at a small distance southward from Squeries, and having supplied the grounds of it, runs along near the south side of the town, and having turned a mill, it takes its course north east, and in about half a mile, passes by Hill-park towards Brasted; northward from hence the land rises about a mile and a half to the foot of the chalk hills, near which, close to the boundaries of Surry, is Gasum. From the town southward, to the summit of the sand hill, is about two miles, over a very hilly unfertile soil, interspersed with commons, waste rough grounds, and woods, among which, bounding to Surry, is Kent-hatch, taking its name from its situation; and on the summit of the hill the hamlet of Well-street, and a seat called Mariners, belonging to Mr. Stafford Whitaker; from whence, down the hill, this parish extends two miles further southward into the Weald, where, near the boundaries of it, is the estate of Broxham; the soil over which is a stiff clay and deep tillage land. The abbot of Westminster, in the 25th year of king Edward III. obtained the grant of a

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market, to be held weekly here on a Wednesday, which is still continued, and is plentifully supplied with all sorts of provisions; and a fair yearly, on the vigil, the day, and the day after the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, being Sept. 8; which is now, by alteration of the style, held on the 19th and the following days, for bullocks, horses, and toys.

In the year 1596, the following astonishing scene happened in this parish, in two closes, separated from each other only by a hedge, about a mile and a half southward from the town, not far from the east side of the common highway, called Ockham-hill, leading from London towards Buckhurst, in Sussex; where

part of them sunk, in three mornings, eighty feet at the least, and so from day to day. This great trench of ground, containing in length eighty perches, and in breadth twenty-eight, began, with the hedges and trees thereon, to loose itself from the rest of the ground lying round about it, and to slide and shoot all together southward, day and night, for the space of eleven days. The ground of two water pits, the one having six feet depth of water, and the other twelve feet at the least, having several tufts of alders and ashes growing in their bottoms, with a great rock of stone underneath, were not only removed out of their places, and carried southward, but mounted aloft, and became hills, with their sedge, flags, and black mud upon the tops of them, higher than the face of the water which they had forsaken; and in the place from which they had been removed, other ground, which lay higher, had descended, and received the water on it. In one place of the plain field there was a great hole made, by the sinking of the earth, thirty feet deep; a hedge, with its trees, was carried southward; and there were several other sinkings of the earth, in different places, by which means,

/g Pat. 25 Edw. III. No. 32. Philipott, p. 359.

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where the highest hills had been, there were the deepest dales; and where the lowest dales were before, there was the highest ground.

The whole measure of the breaking ground was at least nine acres; the eye witnesses to the truth of which were, Robert Bostock, esq. justice of the peace; Sir John Studley, vicar; John Dowling, gent. and many others of the neighbourhood.

In the spring of 1756, at Toy's-hill, about a mile and a half eastward from the above, a like circumstance was observed, in a field of two acres and an half, the situation of which was on the side of a hill, inclining towards the south; the land of which kept moving imperceptibly till the effect appeared, for some time, by which means the northern side was sunk two or three feet, and became full of clefts and chasms, some only a foot deep, others as large as ponds, six or eight feet deep, and ten or twelve feet square, and most of them filled with water. Part of a hedge moved about three rods southward, and though straight before, then formed an angle with its two ends. Another hedge separated to the distance of eight feet, the southern part, which was on a level before with the rest of the field, after this, overhung it like a precipice, about the height of twelve feet; and the land on each side, which had not moved, was covered with the rest, which folded over it, to the height of six or seven feet.

Dr. Benjamin Hoadly, late bishop of Winchester, was born in this parish, in the year 1676.

General James Wolfe was likewise born here, on Jan. 2, 1727. He died in America, Sept. 13, 1759, the conqueror of Quebec, and an honour to his profession and his country.

THIS PLACE, in the reign of William the Conqueror, was in the possession of Eustace, earl of Bo-

logne, and it is accordingly thus entered in the general survey of Domesday, taken in that reign, under the title of Terra Comitum Eustachii.

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Earl Eustace holds of the king Oistreham. Earl Godwin held it of king Edward (the Confessor) and it was then, and is now taxed at four sulings. The arable land is In demesne there are two carucates, and 42 villeins, with 7 borderers, having 30 carucates. There are ten servants and one mill of five shillings, and 16 acres of meadow, and wood sufficient for the pannage of 100 hogs. – In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth 30 pounds, when he received it 24 pounds, and now 40 pounds.

This place came afterwards into the possession of the family of Camvill, called in Latin, De Cana Villa, the ancestor of which came into England with William the Conqueror, and bore for their arms, Azure, three lions passant argent, which coat still remains carved on the roof of the cloisters of Christ church, in Canterbury.

It appears by the second scutage, levied in the reign of king John, in the 2d and 3d years of that reign, that Thomas de Camvill then held this place of the honour of Bologne, as did his descendant, John de Camvill, in king Henry III.'s reign.

Roger de Camvill, son of Walter, a younger son of Richard de Camvill, founder of Cumbe abbey, held it in the same reign. He left issue an only daughter, Matilda, who married Nigell de Moubray, but died without issue, soon after which it came into the hands of the crown, where it remained till Edward I. by his letters patent, in his 20th year, granted the manors of Westram and Edulnebrugg, now Eatonbridge, the manor paramount of which parish has long been esteemed only as an appendage to this of Westerham, with their appurtenances, together with other estates, to Walter, abbot of Westminster, and his successors, for the performance of certain religious duties, for the repose of the soul of his queen Alianor, in the abbey there, and at the same time the king granted several liberties and free warren in all the de-

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mesne lands of the manors, hamlets, and members of them, and the next year the abbot brought in his plea for these liberties/h within the hundred of Westerham, and had them allowed to him./i

In the 27th year of that reign, the king granted a confirmation of these manors to the abbot and convent, with several more liberties within them./k

In the 1st year of the reign of king Edward II. the abbot of Westminster again brought his plea for certain liberties in Westerham, Edelinebrigge, &c. which were allowed him.

In the 9th year of king Edward III. the abbot had a fresh confirmation of these manors from the king, and in the 25th year of that reign he had a grant for a market and fair at Westerham.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. the abbot of Westminster paid respective aid for two knights fees,

which he held in Westerham, and Edelnesbregge of Robert de Camvill, and he of the king, as of the honour of Bologne.

King Richard II. by his patent, in his 17th year, confirmed these manors, with all manner of liberties, to the abbot and his successors, with whom they remained till the final dissolution of that abbey, when they were, with their appurtenances, by an instrument under the common seal of the convent, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. surrendered, together with the rest of their possessions, into the king's hands; who, by his letters patent, under his great seal, in his 32d year, for certain considerations therein mentioned, granted, among other premises, these manors, with all their members, rights, and appurtenances, lately belonging to the above monastery, to Sir John Gre=

/h Tremain's Pleas of the Crown, p. 627. Dugd. Warwicksh. p. 701; where may be seen the conditions and services to be performed, at large.

/i Quo Warr. Rot. 18. Tan. Mon. p. 295.

/k Patent Rolls. Tan. Mon. p. 295.

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sham, to hold in capite by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee, paying yearly, for ever, the rent of 9l. 6s. 9d. sterling in his court of augmentation.

The family of Gresham is said to have been so named from the village of Gresham, in Norfolk. John Gresham of Gresham, gent. lived in the reigns of king Edward III. and king Richard II. His son, James Gresham, was of Holt, in that county, and was twice married; by the first marriage he had John, who succeeded him at Holt; and William, who was of Walsingham Parva, in Norfolk. John, the eldest son, had three sons; William, who succeeded him at Holt; Richard, who was afterwards knighted, and lord mayor of London in 1537, whose second son, Sir Thomas Gresham, by his industry in trade, rose to great credit and riches, and built the Royal Exchange. And Sir John, the third son, had the grant of the manors of Westerham, &c. in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. as above mentioned. They bore for their arms, Argent a chevron ermines between three mullets pierced sable./l

Sir John Gresham was of Titsey, in Surry, sheriff of London in 1537, and lord mayor in 1547. He died in 1556, having been a good benefactor to the poor, as well in London, as elsewhere, and was most sumptuously buried in the church of St. Michael Bassishaw, in London./m At his death he was possessed of the manors of Westerham and Eatonbridge-stan=grave, which he held of the queen in capite by knights service, and also of the rectories of Westerham and Eatonbridge. He was twice married, but he left issue only by his first, five sons and six daughters. Of

/l Visit. Co. Norfolk, anno 1563, by Harvy, clar. Kimber's Bar. vol. ii. p. 75. Pedigrees among the Harl. MSS. in the British museum. Biog. Brit. vol. iv. p. 2372.

/m Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 263; and book iii. p. 67. Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 75.

whom William was his eldest son and heir, and John was of Fulham, in Middlesex, and was ancestor to those of Fulham, Albury, and Haslemere, in Surry; as to the rest I find no mention of them.

William Gresham, esq. succeeded his father in these estates, and was of Titsey, in Surry, and afterwards knighted; he died at Limpsfield, in Surry, in the 21st year of queen Elizabeth; in whose descendants, resident at Titsey, all of whom had the honour of knighthood, this estate continued down to Marmaduke Gresham, esq. who was advanced to the dignity of a baronet on July 31, 1660, and died possessed of this manor of Westerham, with that of Eatonbridge, alias Stangrave, with their appurtenances, being greatly advanced in years, at Gresham college, in 1696, and was buried at Titsey.

Sir Charles Gresham, bart. his great grandson, died possessed of this estate in 1718, and was succeeded in it by his eldest son, Sir Marmaduke Gresham, bart. who, about the year 1740, sold this manor to John Warde, esq. of Squeries, in this parish, who died possessed of it in 1775, and his eldest son, John Warde, esq. now of Squeries, is the present owner of it.

There is both a court leet and a court baron held for this manor.

SQUERIES is a manor here, which gave both surname and seat to a family who resided at it, as appears by antient evidences, as early as the reign of king Henry III. when John de Squeries was possessed of it, and bore for his arms, A squirrel brouzing on a hazel nut, which coat was formerly painted in the windows of Westerham church.

His descendant, Thomas Squerie, possessed this estate in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. in the 17th year of which he died possessed of it with

in Coke's Entries, p. 35. Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 78.

in Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 78. MSS. Le Neve.

out issue male, leaving two daughters his coheirs; of whom Margaret, the eldest, married Sir William Cromer of Tunstal, in this county; and Dorothy, the youngest, married Richard Mervin of Fontels, in Wiltshire; and upon the division of their inheritance, this estate was allotted to Sir William Cromer, whose descendant, William Cromer, esq. possessed it in the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. when by some means it came into the hands of the crown, and that king, in his 36th year, granted, among other premises, this manor of Squeries, a messuage, called Painters, now an inn, known by the sign of the King's arms, and other lands in Westerham, to Thomas Cawarden, to hold in capite by knights service.

His descendant, about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated this estate to Michael Beresford, esq. descended of a family seated in Derbyshire for many generations, who bore for their arms, quarterly, first and fourth, Argent, semee of cross crozlets fitchee sable, three fleurs de lis of the last within a bordure gules; second, Argent, a bear salient sable, muzzed and collared, the cord wreathed over the back, or,

third, Party per chevron argent, and or, three pheons sable; he left by Rose, daughter of John Knevit, esq. several sons and daughters, of whom Tristram, the third son, was ancestor of the present Marquis of Waterford, and the others of this family in Ireland. George, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Squeries, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Cam, of London, afterwards remarried to Thomas Petley, of Filston, by whom he had several sons and daughters; of whom Michael Beresford, the eldest son, was of Squeries, which he alienated to George Strood, esq. afterwards knighted, who passed away this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to Thomas Lambert, esq.

/p See more of this family, under Tunstal.

/q Philipott, p. 359. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 28.

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the parliamentary general; and he soon afterwards conveyed it to John Leach, esq./r whose son, Sir William Leach, sheriff, in 1667, sold it in 1681 to Sir Nicholas Crisp, of Hammersmith, who had been created a baronet in 1665, and bore for his arms, Or, on a chevron sable five horse-shoes argent, nailed of the second,/s and his son, Sir John Crisp, bart. about the year 1701, sold it to William Villiers, earl of Jersey, whose son, William, earl of Jersey, passed it away by sale to John Warde, esq. and his son, John Warde, esq. died possessed of Squeries in 1775. He left by the daughter and sole heir of Charles Hoskins, esq. of Croydon, in Surry, who was his second wife, his first being the daughter of Mr. Gore, two sons, John and Charles, the eldest of whom in 1781 married Susannah, sister of James, viscount Grimston, and the youngest married in 1784 the daughter of Arthur Annesley, esq. of Oxfordshire, and one daughter, who in 1783 married Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield, bart. He died in 1751, and was succeeded in this seat by his eldest son, John Warde, esq. before-mentioned, the present possessor who resides in it.

There is a court-baron held for this manor, which pays a fee-farm to the crown of seventeen shillings per annum.

GASUM is an estate in this parish, lying at the foot of the chalk-hill, which was antiently possessed by the family of Shelley; one of whom, Thomas Shelley, in the 46th year of king Edward III's reign, settled it by his will on Thomas, his son; whose descendant, about the latter end of king Henry VI's reign, demised it by sale to John Potter, who bore for his arms, Sable, a fess ermine between three cinquefoils argent, whose descendant, in the next reign of king Edward IV. purchased another estate at Well-street, near the summit of the lower ridge of hills in the more southern part of

/r Philipott, p. 359. /s Guillim. part ii. p. 207.

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this parish, of the heirs of Cothull, which estate had formerly had proprietors of its own name; one of whom, William At-Well, was in the possession of it in the 35th year of king Edward III. as appears by an antient court-roll of that date.

This branch of the family of Potter was descended

from John Potter, who held lands at Dartford, in the 12th year of king Edward II./t

After the purchase at Well-street, they resided there, and continued possessors of it till the reign of king James I. when Thomas Potter, esq. of Well-street, died possessed of it, leaving an only daughter and heir Dorothy, married to Sir John Rivers, bart. of Chaf=ford, who procured an act of parliament in the 21st year of that reign, to alter the tenure and custom of his lands, those of Sir George Rivers, and those of Thomas Potter, esq. deceased, being then of the na=ture of gavelkind, and to make them descendible ac=ording to the course of the common law, and to settle the inheritance of them, upon the said Sir John Rivers and his heirs, by dame Dorothy before-mentioned, his wife.

Sir John Rivers becoming thus possessed both of Gaysum and Well street, joined some years afterwards with his eldest son John Rivers, esq. in the conveyance of Well-street to Mr. Thomas Smith, of London, scri=ver; who about the year 1661 alienated it to Ro=bert Whitby, whose son, Samuel Whitby, in 1664 passed it away to John Bridger, esq. who left two daugh=ters and coheirs, one of whom married with Mr. Francis Ellison, and the other sister dying without issue, he in his wife's right became intitled to it, their son, Mr. Thomas Ellison gent. of Westerham, afterwards in=herited this estate and died possessed of it some few years ago, and his devisee is the present proprietor of this estate.

/t Philipott, p. 359.

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But Gaysum continued in the descendants of Sir John Rivers, till the reign of king William, when it was sold, about the same time that Squeries was, to William earl of Jersey, since which it has had the same owners as that seat, the inheritance of it being at this time vested in John Warde, esq. of Squeries.

BROXHAM is a manor situated below the sand hills in that part of this parish within the Weald, and so close to the boundaries of it, that a part of it is within the adjoining parish of Eatonbridge. It was antiently in the possession of the family of de Insula, or Isley.

John de Insula, or Isley, was lord of this manor, and obtained a charter of free-warren for it, in the 11th year of king Edward II. From this name it soon af=terwards passed into that of Ashway; Stephen de Ash=way obtained a licence to inclose a park here, in the 41st year of king Edward III./u At the latter end of the next reign of Richard II. Sir John de Clinton was possessed of this manor, of which he died possessed in the 20th year of that reign.

He had by Idonea his wife, one of the sisters, and at length coheirs, of William de Say, two sons, Wil=liam and Thomas. The former of whom died in his life-time, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir John Deincourt, a son, William; who on his grandfather's death became his heir, and by reason of the descent of Idonea, his grandmother, bore the title of lord Clinton and Say, by which he received summons to parliament from the 23d of king Richard II. to the

time of his death, in the 10th year of king Henry VI. He left by Anne his wife, daughter of lord Botreaux, a son John, /w who soon after his father's death, passed away this manor to Thomas Squerie, of Squeries-court in this parish, with which it descended, in the same tract of ownership, to Michael Beresford, who possessed it about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, as may

/u Philipott, p. 359. /w Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 532.

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be seen more fully before, in the account of Squeries-court. His grandson, Michael Beresford, esq. of Squeries, alienated Broxham to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, in whose family it descended in like manner as their seat in Riverhead already described in this volume, to Elizabeth, widow of Charles Petley, esq. in whom the possession of it continues vested at this time.

There is a court-baron now held for this manor.

HILL-PARK is a seat in this parish, which was formerly the residence of a family, called in old dateless deeds, De Valoniis, in English, Valons, by which name it was called till within these few years; after which it continued for many descents in the family of Casinghurst, one of whom, in the reign of Henry VII. conveyed it to John Islip, abbot of Westminster, who gave it to his servant, Wm. Middilton, and he much improved the building of this seat. He died in 1557, and lies buried in this church, together with Elizabeth and Dorothy, his wives, by whom he had fifteen children. He bore for his arms, Quarterly gules and or, in the first quarter a cross patoncè argent, which coat was confirmed by patent to his son, David Middleton, descended, as is there said, from those of Bletsoe castle, in Northumberland, by William Segar, anno 8 king James I./x

In his family it continued till the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, and then it was conveyed to Jacob Verzelini, esq. of Downe, in this county, a Venetian born, and he died possessed of it in the 5th of king James I. and lies buried in that church./y By his daughter and coheir Elizabeth, it went in marriage to Peter Manning, esq. of Trowmer, in the parish of Downe; one of whose descendants, in the next reign of Charles I. passed it away to Mr. Ranulph Manning of London, a branch of them, who bore for their arms,

/x Guill. p. 382. Philipott, p. 359. /y See vol. ii. p. 58.

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Argent, a chevron gules, between three cinquefoils of the second, in whose family it remained till the year 1718, when it was alienated to colonel Henry Harrison, who about the year 1732, passed it away to Wm. Turner, esq. and he, in 1753, conveyed it by sale to captain Peter Dennis, of the royal navy, who about the year 1766, sold it to William M'Gwire, esq. who had formerly been a governor in the East Indies; and he again, a few years afterwards, alienated it to Wills Hill, earl of Hilsborough, who having almost rebuilt this seat, and greatly improved the park and grounds about it, changed its former name of Valons to that of HILL-PARK, and afterwards resided here till the death

of his lady, in 1780; soon after which he sold it to John Cottin, esq. who resided here, and served the office of sheriff, in 1787, and he still continues the owner of it.

The college of St. Peter, at Lingfield, in Surry, was possessed of a house, called Painters, in Westerham, with other lands in this parish, which were surrendered into the king's hands at the suppression of it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. and were afterwards granted, to hold in capite by knights service. This house has been for many years an inn, known by the name of the King's arms.

King Henry VIII. in his 31st year, granted to Sir John Gresham the manor of Lovestede, in Surry and Kent, to hold in capite by knights service. One of the former owners of this manor, John Lovestede, of Westerham, lies buried in this church, where his inscription on brass still remains.

CHARITIES.

EDWARD COLTHURST, by deed in 1572, gave for decayed housekeepers lands and tenements vested in the vicar and churchwardens.

ALICE PLUMLEY gave by will in 1584, to ten poor persons, to be paid on Christmas and Easter days, land vested in the same, of the annual product of 1l.

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JOHN BRONGER gave by will in 1615, for the use of the poor, the annual sum of 3s. 4d. vested in the same.

ARTHUR WILLARD gave by will in 1623, sundry cottages for the use of poor widows resident in the parish, now vested in the same.

JOHN TROT gave by will in 1629, for a penny loaf to six poor widows each, every Friday, land vested in the same, of the annual product of 1l. 6s.

GERTRUDE STYLE gave by will in 1635, for twenty housekeepers on Good-Friday, the sum of 20l. vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 1l.

WILLIAM HOLMDEN gave by will in 1640, for the use of the poor, land vested in the same, of the annual product of 4l. 4s.

THOMAS HARDY, citizen of London, gave by will in 1747, for the repairing his wife's monument in this church, remainder for the use of the poor, 100l. stock in S. S. Annuities, vested in the same, with six of the most substantial inhabitants, and of the annual product of 3l.

CHARLES WEST gave by will in 1765, for the use of the poor, 100l. stock vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 3l.

RALPH MANNING gave by will in 1786, for the use of twelve poor persons in equal shares, 100l. stock, vested in William Pigot, and of the annual produce of 3l.

WESTERHAM is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of a nave, two side isles, and a cross isle; but being too small for the use of the inhabitants, a gallery has been erected for their accommodation in it.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it are the following: – In the cross isle, at the west end, is a grave-stone near the south door, having the figure of a priest in brass, and inscription in black letter, for Sir William Dyne, priest, sometime

parson of Tattisfylde, obt. 1567; a memorial for Bridget, daughter of Ranulph and Catherine Manning, obt. 1734. — In the middle isle, at the entrance, a stone, on which is the figure of a man, that of his wife is lost, and inscription in black letter, for Richard Hayward, and Anne his wife, he died in 1529, beneath were four sons now lost, six daughters now remain; in the pew, where the font is, a stone, with an inscription for Nicholas Manning, gent. of this parish, obt. 1723, and Mary his wife, daughter of Samuel Missenden, esq. deputy governor of the Merchant Adventurers of England, residing at Hamburgh, obt. 1735, arms, a chevron charged with a crescent for difference between three quarters

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terfoils, impaling a cross engrailed, a bird in the dexter point; on the south side is a mural monument, shewing that near it, in a brick grave, (which being full was arched over in 1733) lies interred Ranulph Manning, gent. obt. 1712, and Catharine his wife, daughter of Saul Missenden, esq. mentioned before, obt. 1732, erected by Ranulph Manning, their eldest son, who died in 1760; above, argent, a chevron gules between three cinquefoils of the second, and quarterings impaling Missenden; over the south door is a plain neat monument of marble, for the brave general James Wolfe, the son of colonel Edward Wolfe, and Henrietta his wife, who was born in this parish Jan. 2, 1727, and died in America, Sept. 13, 1759, conqueror of Quebec, and these lines: —

Whilst George in sorrow bows his laurell'd head,
And bids the artist grace the soldier dead,
We raise no sculptur'd trophies to thy name,
Brave youth! the fairest in the list of fame;
Proud of thy birth, we boast th' auspicious year —
Struck with thy fall, we shed a general tear;
With humble grief inscribe one artless stone,
And from thy matchless honours date our own.

In the south isle, a memorial for John Thorpe, descended of an antient gentleman's family in Kent and Sussex; he married Anne, daughter, and at length coheir of John Luck, S. T. B. of Mayfield, in Sussex, by whom he had four sons and three daughters, obt. 1703, erected by his grandsons, John and Oliver, sons of his son John Thorpe, of Penshurst, arms, quarterly, 1st and 4th, a fess dancette ermine; 2d and 3d three crescents; at the upper end a grave-stone, with the figures of a man and his two wives in brass, and inscription in black letter for Richard Potter, obt. 1511, beneath the figures of five boys and three girls; another with the figure of a man in brass, and like inscription for Thomas, son of John Potter, gent. obt. 1531; another, with the figure of a man and his two wives in brass, and inscription in black letter for William Myddleton, esq. and Elizabeth and Dorothy, his wives, he died 1557; beneath were the figures of fifteen children, seven of which yet remain. — In the middle of the isle, a brass plate and inscription for John Lovestede, of Westeham; on the south side a mural monument for Anthony Earning, merchant; he married the only daughter of Thomas Manning, esq. of Valens, by whom he left two sons and a daughter, obt. 1676: on the south side are two adjoining altar tombs for Thomas Manning, esq. of Valence, obt. 1695, and for Susan, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Dacres, obt. 1654; arms on both, Manning with quarterings; on the north side, at the upper end next the chancel, a mural monument, with the figures of a man and

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woman kneeling at a desk, for Thomas Potter, esq. of Westeham

ham, who married Mary, daughter and coheir of Richard Tichbourne, esq. of Eatonbridge, by whom he left one son Nisell, and a daughter Dorothy, married to John, eldest son of Sir John Rivers, of Chafford; he married 2dly, Elizabeth, widow of Sir J. Rivers, late lord mayor of London, obt. 1611; above, the arms of Potter sable, a fess ermine between three cinquefoils, argent with impalements. – In the middle isle, are two gravestones, with figures and inscriptions in brass, for the Stacys. In the north isle, are several grave-stones, with memorials for the Dallings, of this parish, arms, on a bend, three acorns; a grave-stone and memorial for Mr. Andrew Daulinge, citizen of London, (son of Richard Daulinge, rector of Ringswold) who married Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. John Daulinge, gent. of Westerham, by whom he had seven sons and two daughters, and left her great with child, obt. 1714; several more memorials for the Dallings, who by their arms appear to have been the same family as the Daulings before-mentioned; on the north side a mural monument for Mr. Thomas Hardy, citizen of London, who died in 1747, and for others of his family; near it is a brass plate fixed to the wall, with an extract from his will, relating to his charity bequeathed to this parish, which has been given above among the other charities belonging to it; at the east end is a mural monument for Mary, wife of Henry Street, daughter of Sir John Gerrard, bart. obt. 1651, and left only one son Edward. – In the cross isle, at the east end, an elegant mural monument for Thomas Knight, esq. of Westerham, obt. 1708, being clerk of the assize for Norfolk; he married first, Catherine, daughter of Mr. Crispe, of Maidstone, and secondly, Jane, daughter of Mr. Blome, of Sevenoke, but left no issue; near it another for Eleanor, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Seyliard, second baronet of that antient family, and of the lady Frances, his first wife, sole daughter and heir of Henry Wyat, esq. eldest son of Sir Francis Wyat, of Boxley-abbey, who died in 1726; she married Robert Paynter, esq. son of Allington, son of William, son of Anthony, son of William Paynter, esq. clerk of the ordnance to queen Elizabeth, and lord of the manors of East-court and Twydall, in Gillingham, he died in 1731, arms, Paynter gules, a chevron or, between three griffins heads erased of the second on a chief; or an helmet between two balls sable, with impalements and quarterings. A grave-stone for the Heaths, of Leigh; another for Anthony Earning, merchant, obt. 1695; a grave-stone within the rails, shewing that Sir John Crisp, bart. paved this communion space in remembrance of Nich. Crisp, esq. eldest son of Sir Nich. Crisp, bart. who died in 1697, æt. 17, arms above, on a chevron five horse-shoes./z

/z See the monuments and inscriptions in this church, in Reg. Roff. p. 1029.

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George Strood, esq. in consideration of 16l. 14s. had granted to him, by the vicar, churchwardens, and major part of the parishioners, the uppermost part of the north isle of the church, called the organ-room, for a burying place for himself and his successors, owners of the mansion house of Squeries, to be decently kept and repaired at the cost of him and his successors for ever, which was ratified and confirmed in 1637, (the see of Rochester being then vacant) by the archbishop of Canterbury, as it was afterwards in 1640, by John, bishop of Rochester.

Alianor, queen to king Edward I. gave an acre of land, with its appurtenances in Westerham, and the advowson of the church, together with the chapels, tythes, and all other things and rights belonging to it,

to the prior and convent of Canterbury, in pure and perpetual alms, free from all secular service for ever.

This grant appears, by the Chronicles of Christ church, to have been made, among other premises, in exchange for the port of Sandwich.

King Edward I. in his 18th year, confirmed the above gift, and farther granted to the prior and convent his licence, to appropriate this church, and the chapels belonging to it, and to hold the same to their own proper use for ever; which pope Celestine V. in 1294, confirmed, with the allowance of twenty marcs sterling to the vicar, out of the profits of this church and chapel; but the church not becoming vacant, this bull did not take place, and the prior and convent, in 1327, making heavy complaints of their great losses, by the inundation in Romney-marsh, among other grievances, petitioned Hamo, bishop of Rochester, for relief; who, accordingly, that year, appropriated this church, with the chapel of Edulwesbrogge annexed to it, to their use; and at the same time endowed a perpetual vicarage in this church, and a fit portion for a perpetual vicar in it, to be presented by the religious, and to be instituted

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by him and his successors; and he further decreed, with the consent of the religious, that the vicar should take and have entirely and wholly for his portion, the tithes of silva cedua, pannage, hay, herbage, flax, hemp, milk, butter, and cheese, wool, lambs, calves, pigs, swans, geese, apples, pigeons, mills, fisheries, fowlings, merchandizing, and all other small tithes and oblations whatsoever, and all legacies and mortuaries to the church or chapel, of right or custom due, as well dead as living; and that the vicar should have, on the soil belonging to the church, to be chosen and assigned by the bishop, a competent house to reside in, to be built for this first time by the religious; and he decreed, that the portion of the vicar should for ever consist in the things above mentioned; and further, that the vicar, for the time being, should as often as there should be occasion, cause the books to be bound, and the vestments to be washed, mended, and renewed; and should find and provide, at his own costs, bread and wine, and processional tapers, and other necessary lights in the chancel, and ministers, as has been accustomed, as well in the church of Westerham as in the chapel of Edulwesbregge; and should, for the future, keep and maintain the buildings of the vicarage, and should wholly pay all episcopal and archidiaconal procurations; and that he should sustain and take upon him the tenth and other extraordinary burthens then incumbent, or which might be imposed in future, according to the value of his portion; which, so far as related to the sustaining of the burthens of this kind, he taxed, and rated at ten marcs sterling; and lastly, that the religious should sustain, and take upon them for ever, the payment of the pension of ten shillings due to him and his successors, from this church, and all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, according to the value of their portion, which he valued at forty marcs.

Richard de Haute, the rector of this church, dying in 1327, the prior and convent of Christ-church were, by the archdeacon, put into the possession of it, with the chapel of Edelnesbregge annexed, in the person of Robert Hathebrand, monk of it, their proctor specially appointed for this purpose.

The rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Westerham, with the chapel of Eatonbridge, remained with the prior and convent of Christ-church till the general dissolution in the reign of king Henry VIII. in the 31st year of which, it was surrendered into the king's hands.

After which, the king granted to Sir John Gresham, the rectories of Westerham and Eatonbridge, with the advowson of the church and chapel belonging to it, and he died possessed of them in 1556,^{/a} as did his eldest son and heir, Sir William Gresham, of Titsey, in Surry, in the 21st year of queen Elizabeth, holding them in capite by knight's service. By his will in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, he gave these rectories to his second son, Thomas, and his heirs male,^{/b} who, on the death of his elder brother, William, without male issue, became likewise his heir, and from him the rectory of Westerham, with Eatonbridge, descended to Sir Marmaduke Gresham, bart. who in his life-time gave it to his eldest son, Edward Gresham, esq. and he in the 30th year of king Charles II. procured an act of parliament to vest it in trustees to be sold for the payment of his debts.

Accordingly, Sir Marmaduke and Edward, his eldest son, joined in the conveyance of the rectory or parsonage of Westerham, with its appurtenances, to James Hudson, esq. of London, and John Steers, of Westerham, yeoman. By which word, appurtenances, the advowson of the church appurtenant to the rectory, though not intended so to do, passed with it.

^{/a} Rot. Esch. 1 queen Elizabeth. ^{/b} Coke's Entries, p. 35.

After which, partly in right of his wife, and partly by purchase from the name of Steers, it came into the possession of John Bodicoate, esq. whose son, the Rev. Mr. John Bodicoate, died in 1791, and his widow, Harriet, re-married to Edward earl of Winter-ton, is at this time proprietor of the church of Westerham, with the advowson of the vicarage appurtenant to it.

By an antient valuation made in the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at fifty marcs.^{/c}

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that the parsonage and vicarage of Westerham were two distinct things. That the parsonage house, buildings, and sixty acres of glebe land were worth twenty pounds per annum, and the tythes were worth eighty pounds per annum, and one acre and an half of glebe land worth thirty shillings per annum, all which were impropriate and belonging to master Gresham the proprietor thereof. That there was a vicarage, house, garden and backside, worth forty

pounds per annum, and vicarage tythes, worth fifty pounds per annum, which was the vicar's salary, and the said Mr. Gresham was patron thereof; that in former times the vicars of Westerham had been presented vicars of Westerham, with the chapel of Eatonbridge, and had hired a curate there; but it was conceived that Eatonbridge had been, and still continued fitting to be, a distinct parish church.

The church of Westerham, with the chapel of Eatonbridge annexed, is valued in the king's books at 19l. 19s. 4½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 19s. 11¾d.

/c Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/d Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xix.

/e Ect. Thes. p. 383.

/f Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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CHURCH OF WESTERHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and Convent of Christ church

Canterbury Radolphus, anno 6 king Edw. I./g
Richard de Haute, obt. 1337./h

VICARS.

Family of Gresham John Studley, in 1596./i

George Dale, S. T. P./k

Charles Bray, in 1637./l

Thomas Walter, in 1655./m

William Holland,

Hudson and Steers Saltmarsh, in 1695.

George Sclater, A. M.

George Lewis, A. M.

John Bodicoate, esq. John Bodicoate, A. M. 1771, ob.
June 1791./n

Mrs. Harriet Bodicoate Richard Board, present rector.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 661.

/h Ibid. p. 681.

/i MSS. E. H.

/k Ibid.

/l Reg. Roff. p. 684.

/m Biog. Brit. vol. ii. p. 1419.

/n In Nov. 1772, a dispensation passed for his holding the rect. of Titsey, in Surry, with Westerham cum Eatonbridge, the former of which he resigned for the rectory of Ethingham, in Suff. which he held with this rect.

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EATONBRIDGE.

SOUTHWARD from Westerham lies Eatonbridge, called in old records, Eddelnesbregge, and Edilnebrigg, and in Latin, Pons Edelmi. Its present name of Eatonbridge, is a corruption of its true one of Edenbridge, which it took from its situation on the banks of the little river Eden, one of the heads of the river Medway.

A small district of the eastern part of this parish is in

the hundred of Somerden.

THE PARISH OF EATONBRIDGE lies at some little distance below the ridge of sand hills southward, and

/o Text. Roff. p. 230. /p Tan. Mon. p. 295.

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it is accordingly accounted within that part of the county called The Weald, and is bounded westward by the county of Surry, from whence the little river Eden, the two streams of which from Oxsted and Lingfield having united, enters this county and directs its course across this parish, and receiving in its way several small streams, especially from the sandhills, it flows on eastward and joins the Medway at Peshurst. The river Eden crosses the village of Eatonbridge, which has the church on the east side of it, about half a mile south of which is Gabriel's house, belonging to Mr. John Stanford, and a little farther the two hamlets of Marshgreen and Stanford's-end, and about a mile distant from it on the other side are those of Marlepit-hill and Medhurst-row. The country here, and for the most part of the neighbouring parishes in this district, bears a far different aspect from that before described above the hills, the soil being for the most part a deep tillage land of stiff clay, moist and swampy, the hedge roads round the fields broad, and much filled with broad spreading oaks, and the roads deep and miry, broad, and very much covered with green sward; the farmhouses are old-fashioned timber buildings, standing single and much dispersed, all which give the country rather a gloomy appearance, but whatever it may want in pleasantness is made up by health, fertility of soil, and its many local advantages equally profitable both to the landlord and occupier. A fair is held annually in the village on St. Mark's day, April 25, for cattle, toys, &c.

An extraordinary and surprising agitation of the waters, though without any perceptible motion of the earth, having been observed in different parts of England, both maritime and inland, on November 1, 1755; and on the same day, and chiefly about the time that the more violent commotions of both earth and waters so extensively affected many very distant parts of the globe, the like phenomenon appeared in this

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parish in a pond about an acre in size, across which was a post and rail fence, which the water almost covered, when some persons near it hearing a noise, as if something had tumbled into the water, hastened to see what it was, when to their surprise they saw the water open in the middle, so that they could see the post and rail almost to the bottom, and at the same time they observed the water dashing up over a bank about two feet high, and perpendicular to the pond. They did not feel the least motion upon the shore, nor was there any wind, but a dead calm./q

On January 24, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in this parish and the adjacent parts, which shook the furniture of the houses, and went off with a noise like a small gust of wind. It alarmed many of the inhabi-

tants, but no damage ensued./r

THE MANOR OF WESTERHAM is paramount over this parish, which was formerly within its own manor, called the manor of Eatonbridge, as may be plainly seen in the description of that parish, and the several records from which it is drawn up./s

THE MANOR OF STANGRAVE, alias EATONBRIDGE, which claims over the greatest part of this parish, notwithstanding it has the above-described manor paramount over it, antiently gave name to a family, who made it their capital mansion.

Robert de Stangrave obtained a charter of free-warren, to him and his heirs, in the 6th year of king Edward I. for his demesne lands in Eatonbridge and Hockenden, in this county;/t his descendant, Robert

/q Philos. Trans. vol. xlix. part i. p. 360. /r Part ii. p. 614.
/s Viz. Rot. Cart. anno 26 Edward I. N. 13. Tremaine's Pleas of the Crown, p. 627. Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 3. Quo. Warr. an. 21 Edw. I. Rot. 18. Tan. Mon. p. 295. Claus. Rot. 2. anno 1 Edw. II. Rot. Cart. No. 50, anno 9 Edw. III. Ibid. anno 25 Edw. III. No. 32. See Westerham above.
/t Rot. Cart. anno 26 Edward, N. 13.

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de Stangrave, was with king Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, and received the honor of knighthood for his gallant behaviour there.

He died, possessed of this manor, in the 12th year of king Edward III./u Quickly after which it passed into the possession of John Dynley, who had a confirmation of the charter of free-warren to his lands in Edenbride, in the 14th year of that reign, and immediately afterwards passed away his interest in this estate to Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, and lord of the castle and manor of Tunbridge,/w who died possessed of it in the 21st year of it,/x leaving by Margaret his wife an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then the wife of Ralph Stafford, who in her right became possessed of this manor, then stiled the manor of Edenbrugge, alias Stangrave, and was afterwards made earl of Stafford, and in his descendants dukes of Buckingham; it continued down to Edward, duke of Buckingham, who in the 13th year of king Henry VIII. being accused of conspiring the king's death, he was brought to his trial, and being found guilty, was beheaded on Tower-hill that year, and his body was buried in the church of the Friars Augustines, near Broad-street, London.

In the parliament begun April 15, in the 14th year of that reign, though there then passed an act for his attainder, yet there was likewise another for the restitution in blood of Henry, his eldest son, but not to his honors or lands;/y so that this manor, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, where it lay, till king Henry VIII. granted it to Sir John Gresham, who died possessed of this manor of Stangrave in 1556, holding it in capite by knights service./z In whose descendants it continued, till Sir Charles Gresham, bart.

/u Rot. Esch. ejus an. No. 52.
See Philipott, p. 136.
/w Philipott, p. 139.
/x Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 171.

/z Rot. Esch. an. 1. Eliz.

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in the reign of queen Anne, alienated it to Mr. Richard Still; whose only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Mr. Dyke, of Burwash, in Sussex, on whose death it came to their only son and heir, Richard Still Dyke, esq. who married one of the daughters of the reverend Mr. George Jordan, of Burwash. He devised this manor by his will to his wife, who survived him; and she, about the year 1765, conveyed it by sale to Thomas Streatfeild, esq. of Oxsted, in Surry, descended from Richard Streatfield, esq. of Chidingstone, who lived in the reign of king Charles I. and left four sons; of whom, William, the third son, was of Hever, in this county, and by his wife, daughter of Terry, left Robert, who was of Hever; William, who was of Oxsted; George, who was of Stoke Newington, in Surry; and Thomas, who was of London. Which William, the second son, was father of Thomas Streatfeild, esq. of Oxsted, the purchaser of this manor as before-mentioned; whose widow, Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, is the present owner of it./a

There is a court-baron held for this manor.

There is likewise in this parish a farm, called STANGRAVE, which is a reputed manor, and was many years since sold to Mr. John Bassett, whose grandson, Mr. Michael Bassett, is the present possessor of it.

SHARNDEN, in this parish, was once a manor, though now it is reputed to be within the manor of Stangrave. It was antiently part of the possessions of the branch of the family of Cobham, settled at Sterborough-castle, in Surry./b

In the 14th year of king Edward III. Reginald de Cobham obtained a charter for free warren within his lands in this parish.

He was son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his second wife, and died possessed of this manor of Sharendon in the 35th year of the above

/a See Chidingstone. /b Philipott, p. 137.

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reign, leaving Reginald, his son and heir, who was lord of Sterborough-castle, from whence this branch of the Cobhams were henceforward called Cobhams, of Sterborough; who bore for their arms, On a chevron three stars of six points.

At length his grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham,/c died possessed of it in the 11th year of Edward IV. leaving an only daughter and sole heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose son and heir, Thomas, was summoned to parliament in the 21st year of Henry VIII. by the title of lord Burgh./d

After which this manor at length descended to his grandson, Thomas, lord Burgh, who died possessed of it in the 40th year of queen Elizabeth, and was buried in Westminster-abbey, having had by Frances his wife, Robert, who died without issue in his life-time, and four daughters, who at length became his coheirs, Elizabeth, married to George Brooke; Frances, to

Francis Coppinger, esq. Anne, to Sir Drew Drury, and Katherine, afterwards married to Thomas Knyvett, esq./e They, in the next reign of king James I. to defray debts, and other uses, joined in the conveyance of it to Sir Thomas Richardson, who was speaker of the house of commons in the last parliament but one in the reign of king James I. and was in the 2d year of king Charles I. made chief justice of the king's bench. He was of Hunningham, in Norfolk, and married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Beaumont, of Leicestershire, and widow of Sir John Ashburnham, who in 1627 was created baroness Cramond, in Scotland, with an intail of that dignity on her male issue by her second husband before-mentioned.

Her son, by Sir Thomas Richardson, succeeded as lord Richardson, of Cramond, and was member of

/c See more of this family under Chidingstone.

/d Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 67. /e Philipott, p. 137.

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parliament for the county of Norfolk, in the 1st and 2d parliaments of king Charles II. one of whose descendants alienated this estate to the family of Stanford, in which name it continued till it was sold, a few years since, to Mr. James Glover, the present owner, who resides in it.

MARSH-GREEN is a district here, the manorial rights of which are appendants to the manor of Cowdham, with which it was purchased in 1707, of Thomas Leonard, earl of Sussex, by Thomas Streatfeild, esq. who was the second son of Richard Streatfeild, esq. of Chidingstone, who lived in the reign of Charles I. he died in 1730, and was buried in Sevenoke church, leaving by Martha his wife, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Godwin, esq. of Trottesclive, one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Martha, married to Charles Polhill, esq. Thomas, the son, was of Sevenoke, esq. and dying in 1722, was buried there, leaving by his wife, daughter of Mr. Fuller, of Sussex, one son Thomas, and two daughters; Thomas Streatfeild, esq. the son, is now of Sevenoke, and married Miss Green, by whom he has issue; and he, as owner of Cowdham manor, is intitled to the manorial rights of this district likewise.

But the estate or farm, called MARSH-GREEN likewise, which lies in the district above-mentioned, adjoining to Sterborough and the county of Surry, was several years ago alienated, by Robert Nightingale, esq. to Mr. Francis Green, whose son, Mr. Thomas Green, lately died seised of it, leaving his widow surviving, whose son, Mr. Francis Green, of London, a few years since, sold it to the Hon. Mr. Lumley, the present possessor of it.

BROWN'S is a small manor here, the mansion of which has been long since demolished; but the foundations, and the moat round it, are still visible.

This place was formerly the seat of a family of this name; one of whom, Hamon de Brown, died pos=

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sessed of it in the 4th year of king Edward III. but leaving no issue, he bequeathed it by his will to his

kinsman, Thomas Brown, who dying likewise childless about the end of that reign, his sister, Agnes, then the wife of Laurence de Bedenstede, became by his will, as well as by inheritance, entitled to it.

He soon after alienated this manor to his wife's kinsman, Henry At-Browns; in whose descendants it continued till towards the end of king Henry VIII's reign, and then Ursula, daughter and heir of Hamon Brown, carried it in marriage to Mr. John At-Lee, of Effingham; whose descendant, John Lee, about the middle of king Charles II's reign, conveyed it by sale to Mr. James Beecher, whose ancestors bore for their arms, Vaire argent and gules, on a canton or, a stag's head caboshed vert; which coat was confirmed to James Beecher, of Shorne, in this county, by Rob. Cooke, clerk, in 1574, who purchased of Sir Charles Gresham the tithes of this estate. He died in 1749, and by will devised Brown's, with the above tythery, to his wife's grandson, Beecher Walter, on whose death intestate, it came to his two brothers, William and George, and on a partition of their estates, this in Eatonbridge fell to the share of the former, who afterwards sold it to John Boddington, esq. since which it has been sold to the Hon. Mr. Lumley, the present owner of it.

GABRIEL'S is a house in this parish, which was anciently the residence of a branch of the Seyliards, of Brasted. Nicholas Seyliard, gent. principal of Clifford's inn, and third son of Nicholas Seyliard, gent. of Brasted, resided here, and died possessed of it in 1625, leaving by Sarah his wife, daughter of Richard Potter, esq. of Westerham, two sons, Robert and John, and two daughters, viz. Dorothy, married to Richard Antrabus, gent. and Margaret, to Richard Jemett, gent. From the name of Seyliard it passed into that of Petley;

/f Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 112. /g Guillim. p. 160.

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and John Petley, second son of Ralph Petley, esq. of Riverhead, alienated it to Mr. John Stanford, whose son of the same name is the present possessor of it, and resides in it.

Besides the above, there are several small manors in this parish, as Hilder's farm, the property of the Hon. Mr. Lumley; Scane's, belonging to Henry Streatfeild, esq. Crouch house, to Mr. Richard Killick; and Coben Bere, to John Major Henniker, esq.

CHARITIES.

ROBERT LEIGH gave by will in 1720, twenty shillings, to be paid to twenty poor persons yearly, payable out of land in the possession of George and Mary Piggot, and now of that annual produce.

MARY SMITH, widow, gave by will in 1737, five shillings yearly, for five poor widows, and 58. yearly to be distributed in prayer books, to be paid out of a house and land in the possession of James-John Humphrey, and of that annual produce.

MR. ROBERT HOLMDEN, gent. of this parish, gave 3l. per annum to the use of the poor.

EATONBRIDGE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St.

Paul, is a large handsome building, having a spire steeple at the west end; in it there are the remains of a rood loft, and of some good painted glass.

Among other monuments and memorials in it, in the chancel is a memorial for John Standford, sen. obt. 1729, and for Mary his wife, obt. 1730; on the north side of the altar is the figure of a man in brass, and inscription in black letter for John Selyard, gent. late of Bracedsted, who had by Alice his wife three sons and a daughter, obt. 1558; within the rails of the altar are several grave-stones for the Jemets, of Skaines; on the north side a monument for Nicholas Seyliard, gent. of Gabriel's, third son of Nicholas Seyliard, gent. of Brasted, he was principal of Clifford's-inn, and left by Sarah his wife, daughter of Richard Potter, esq. of Well-street, two sons and two daughters, obt. 1625. — In the south chancel, an altar tomb, and round it a brass plate for Thomas Martyn, esq. and Richard Martyn, esq. son of the laid Thomas,

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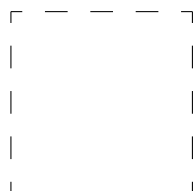
and Thomasine his wife; at the east end a mural monument for Robert Seilyard, gent. of Pawlins, in Brasted, 7th son of Thomas Seilyard, gent. of Pawlins aforesaid, obt. 1577, unmarried; on the south side a mural monument, with the figure of a man in armour, kneeling on a cushion before a desk, with a book open, for Wm. Seilyard, esq. of Pawlins, obt. 1595, by Dorothy his wife, daughter of W. Crowmer, esq. of Tunstall, 6 sons and 2 daughters.

It is in the nature of a chapel to Westerham, and therefore is not rated separately in the king's books.

The account of the patronage of this church, its value, the appropriation of it to the monastery of Christ-church, Canterbury, and the several other particulars relating to it, together with the names of the incumbents, may be seen fully described in the account of the church of Westerham.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in this diocese, in 1650, it was returned, that in Eatonbridge there was a parsonage impropriate, then in the hands of one John Streatfeild, who farmed the same of the heirs of Sir Edward Gresham, at the rent of fifty pounds per annum; that the vicarage tithes were worth thirty pounds per annum, but there was no house nor glebe land; that the vicar of Westram had formerly received the tithes, but then master John Head supplied the cure there, and received them for his salary; that the church was well situated, and had been a chapel of ease to Westram, from which it was almost five miles distant, and from which it had ever had distinct officers.

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THE HUNDRED OF SOMERDEN.

THE next hundred eastward is that of Somerden, being the last undescribed in this lath.

IT CONTAINS PART OF THE PARISHES OF

1. HEVER.
2. COWDEN.
3. CHIDINGSTONE.
4. PENSHURST.
5. LYGHE, and
6. SPELDHURST.

And the churches of those parishes:

And also part of the parishes of Chevening and Eatonbridge, the churches of which are in another hundred.

There is no description of any place within this hundred in the general survey of Domesday; nor indeed, to the best of my recollection, is there any in that record of any of the parishes, situated wholly

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within the bounds of the Weald, excepting those of Hadlow and Tudeley. The court leet of the hundred of Somerden is an appendage to the honour of Otford.

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HEVER.

SOUTH-EASTWARD from Eatonbridge lies Hever, called in the Textus Roffensis, and some ancient records, Heure, and in others, Evere.

This parish lies below the sand hill, and is consequently in that district of this county called The Weald.

There is a small part of it, called the Borough of Linckhill, comprehending a part of this parish, Chidingstone, and Hever, which is within the hundred of Ruxley, and being part of the manor of Great Orpington, the manerial rights of it belong to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. the owner of that manor.

THE PARISH of Hever is long, and narrow from north to south. It lies wholly below the sand hills, and consequently in the district of the Weald; the soil and face of the country is the same as that of Eatonbridge, last described, the oak trees in it being in great plenty, and in general growing to a very large size. The river Eden directs its course across it, towards Penshurst and the Medway, flowing near the walls of Hever castle, about a quarter of a mile southward from which is the village of Hever and the parsonage; near the northern side of the river is the seat of Polebrooke, late Douglass's, now Mrs. Susannah Payne's; and a little farther, the hamlets of Howgreen and Bowbeach; part of Linckhill borough, which is in the hundred of Ruxley, extends into this parish. There is a strange odd saying here, very frequent among the common people, which is this:

Jesus Christ never was but once at Hever,
And then he fell into the river.

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Which can only be accounted for, by supposing that it alluded to a priest, who was carrying the host to a sick person, and passing in his way over a bridge, fell with it into the river.

HEVER was once the capital seat and manor of a

family of the same name, whose still more antient possessions lay at Hever, near Northfleet, in this county, who bore for their arms, Gules, a cross argent. These arms, with a lable of three points azure, still remained in the late Mote-house, in Maidstone, and are quartered in this manner by the earl of Thanet, one of whose ancestors, Nicholas Tufton, esq. of Northiam, married Margaret, daughter and heir of John Hever of this county./h

William de Heure possessed a moiety of this place in the reign of king Edward I. in the 2d of which he was sheriff of this county, and in the 9th of it obtained a grant of free warren within his demesne lands in Heure, Chidingstone, and Lingefield.

Sir Ralph de Heure seems at this time to have possessed the other moiety of this parish, between whose son and heir, Ralph, and Nicholas, abbot of St. Augustine's, there had been, as appears by the register of that abbey, several disputes concerning lands in Hever, which was settled in the 4th year of king Edward I. by the abbot's granting to him and his heirs for ever, the land which he held of him in Hever, to hold by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

William de Hever, in the reign of king Edward III. became possessed of the whole of this manor, and new built the mansion here, and had licence to embattle it; soon after which he died, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Joane, carried one moiety of this estate in marriage to Reginald Cobham, a younger son of the Cobhams of Cobham, in this

/h Philipott, p. 185. MSS. Le Neve. MSS. pedigree, Tufton.

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county;/i whence this part of Hever, to distinguish it from the other, acquired the name of Hever Cobham.

His son, Reginald lord Cobham, in the 14th year of that reign, obtained a charter for free warren within his demesne lands in Hever./k He was succeeded in this manor by his son, Reginald lord Cobham, who was of Sterborough castle, in Surry, whence this branch was stiled Cobhams of Sterborough.

The other moiety of Hever, by Margaret, the other daughter and coheir, went in marriage to Sir Oliver Brocas, and thence gained the name of Hever Brocas. One of his descendants alienated it to Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterborough, last mentioned, who died possessed of both these manors in the 6th year of king Henry IV.

His grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, sold these manors to Sir Geoffry Bulleyn, a wealthy mercer of London, who had been lord mayor in the 37th year of king Henry VI. He died possessed of both Hever Cobham and Hever Brocas, in the 3d year of king Edward IV. leaving by Anne, his wife, eldest sister of Thomas, lord Hoo and Hastings, Sir William Bulleyn, of Blickling, in Norfolk, who married Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Boteler, earl of Ormond, by whom he had a son and heir, Thomas, who became a man of eminent note in the reign of king Henry VIII. and by reason of the king's great

affection to the lady Anne Bulleyn, his daughter, was in the 17th year of that reign, created viscount Rochford; and in the 21st year of it, being then a knight of the Garter, to that of earl of Wiltshire and Ormond; viz. Wiltshire to his heirs male, and Ormond to his heirs general.

/i See more of the Cobhams of Sterboro' under Chidingstone.
/k Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 67. Philipott, p. 186.

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He resided here, and added greatly to those buildings, which his grandfather, Sir Geoffry Bulleyn, began in his life time, all which he completely finished, and from this time this seat seems to have been constantly called HEVER-CASTLE.

He died in the 30th of the same reign, possessed of this castle, with the two manors of Hever Cobham and Brocas, having had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, one son, George, executed in his life time; and two daughters, Anne, wife to king Henry VIII. and Mary, wife of William Carey, esquire of the body, and ancestor of the lords Hunsdon and the earls of Dover and Monmouth.

On the death of the earl of Wiltshire, without issue male, who lies buried in this church, under an altar tomb of black marble, on which is his figure, as large as the life, in brass, dressed in the robes of the Garter, the king seised on this castle and these manors, in right of his late wife, the unfortunate Anne Bulleyn, the earl's daughter, who resided at Hever-castle whilst the king courted her, there being letters of both extant, written by them from and to this place, and her chamber in it is still called by her name; and they remained in his hands till the 32d year of his reign, when he granted to the lady Anne of Cleves, his repudiated wife, his manors of Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, among others, and his park of Hever, with its rights, members, and appurtenances, then in the king's hands; and all other estates in Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, lately purchased by him of Sir William Bulleyn and William Bulleyn, clerk, to hold to her during life, so long as she should stay within the realm, and not depart out of it without his licence, at the yearly rent of 931. 13s. 3½d. payable at the court

/l There are several pedigrees of this family of Bulleyn among the Harleian MSS. in the British museum.

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of augmentation. She died possessed of the castle, manors, and estates of Hever, in the 4th and 5th year of king Philip and queen Mary, when they reverted again to the crown, where they continued but a short time, for they were sold that year, by commissioners authorised for this purpose, to Sir Edward Waldegrave and dame Frances his wife; soon after which the park seems to have have been disparked.

This family of Waldegrave, antiently written Walgrave, is so named from a place, called Walgrave, in the county of Northampton, at which one of them was resident in the reign of king John, whose descendants afterwards settled in Essex, and bore for their

arms, Per pale argent and gules. Warine de Walgrave is the first of them mentioned, whose son, John de Walgrave, was sheriff of London, in the 7th year of king John's reign, whose direct descendant was Sir Edward Waldegrave, who purchased this estate, as before mentioned. He had been a principal officer of the household to the princess Mary; at the latter end of the reign of king Edward VI. he incurred the king's displeasure much by his attachment to her interest, and was closely imprisoned in the Tower; but the king's death happening soon afterwards, queen Mary amply recompensed his sufferings by the continued marks of her favour and bounty, which she conferred on him; and in the 4th and 5th years of that reign, he obtained, as above mentioned, on very easy terms, the castle and manors of Hever Cobham and Brocas; and besides being employed by the queen continually in commissions of trust and importance, had many grants of lands and other favours bestowed on him. But on the death of queen Mary, in 1558, he was divested of all his employments, and committed prisoner to the Tower, where he died in the 3d

/m MSS. pedigree of Waldegrave. There are several pedigrees of this family among the Harleian MSS. in the British museum.
/n Coll. Peer. vol. v. p. 89, et seq. Morant's Essex, p. 182.

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year of queen Elizabeth. He left two sons, Charles, his heir; and Nicholas, ancestor to those of Boreley, in Essex; and several daughters.

Charles Waldegrave succeeded his father in his estates in this parish; whose son Edward received the honour of knighthood at Greenwich, in 1607, and though upwards of seventy years of age, at the breaking out of the civil wars, yet he nobly took arms in the king's defence, and having the command of a regiment of horse, behaved so bravely, that he had conferred on him the dignity of a baronet, in 1643; after which he continued to act with great courage in the several attacks against the parliamentary forces, in which time he lost two of his sons, and suffered in his estate to the value of fifty thousand pounds.

His great grandson, Sir Henry Waldegrave, in 1686, in the 1st year of king James II. was created a peer, by the title of baron Waldegrave of Chewton, in Somersetshire, and had several offices of trust conferred on him; but on the Revolution he retired into France, and died at Paris, in 1689. He married Henrietta, natural daughter of king James II. by Arabella Churchill, sister of John duke of Marlborough, by whom he had James, created earl of Waldegrave in the 3d year of king George II. who, in the year 1715, conveyed the castle and these manors to Sir William Humfreys, bart. who that year was lord mayor of the city of London. He was of Barking, in Essex, and had been created a baronet in 1714. He was descended from Nathaniel Humfreys, citizen of London, the second son of William ap Humfrey, of Montgomery, in North Wales, and bore for his arms two coats, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, sable, two nags heads erased argent; 2d and 3d, per pale or and gules, two lions rampant endorsed, counterchanged.

/o Manuscript pedigree of Waldegrave. Collins's Peerage, last edit. vol. iii. p. 98, et seq.

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He died in 1735, leaving by his first wife, Margaret, daughter of William Wintour, of Gloucestershire, an only son and heir, Sir Orlando Humfreys, bart. who died in 1737, having had by Ellen, his wife, only child of colonel Robert Lancashire, three sons and two daughters; two of the sons died young; Robert, the second and only surviving son, had the castle and manors of Hever Cobham and Brocas, and died before his father possessed of them, as appears by his epitaph, in 1736, ætat. 28.

On Sir Orlando's death his two daughters became his, as well as their brother's, coheirs, of whom Mary, the eldest, had three husbands; first, William Ball Waring, of Dunston, in Berkshire, who died in 1746, without issue; secondly, John Honeywood, esq. second brother of Richard, of Mark's-hall, who likewise died without issue, in 1748; and lastly, Thomas Gore, esq. uncle to Charles Gore, esq. M.P. for Hertfordshire; which latter had married, in 1741, Ellen Wintour, the only daughter of Sir Orlando Humfreys, above mentioned.

They, with their husbands, in 1745, joined in the sale of Hever-castle and the manors of Hever Cobham and Hever Brocas, to Timothy Waldo. He was descended from Thomas Waldo, of Lyons, in France, one of the first who publicly opposed the doctrines of the church of Rome, of whom there is a full account in the Atlas Geograph. vol. ii. and in Moreland's History of the Evangelical Churches of Piedmont. One of his descendants, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to escape the persecution of the duke D'Alva, came over to England, where he and his descendants afterwards settled, who bore for their arms, Argent a bend azure, between three leopards heads of the second; of whom, in king Charles II.'s reign, there were three brothers, the eldest of whom, Edward, was knighted, and died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs; the eldest of whom,

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Grace, married first Sir Nicholas Wolstenholme, bart. and secondly, William lord Hunsdon, but died without issue by either of them, in 1729. The second brother was of Harrow, in Middlesex; and Timothy, the third, was an eminent merchant of London, whose grandsons were Edward, who was of South Lambeth, esq. and died in 1783, leaving only one daughter; and Timothy, of Clapham, esquire, the purchaser of this estate, as above mentioned, who was afterwards knighted, and died possessed of it, with near thirteen hundred acres of land round it, in 1786; he married, in 1736, Miss Catherine Wakefield, by whom he left an only daughter and heir, married to George Medley, esq. of Sussex, lady Waldo surviving him is at this time intitled to it.

The castle is entire, and in good condition; it has a moat round it, formed by the river Eden, over which there is a draw bridge, leading to the grand entrance, in the gate of which there is yet a port

cullis, within is a quadrangle, round which are the offices, and a great hall; at the upper end of which, above a step, is a large oak table, as usual in former times. The great stair case leads up to several chambers and to the long gallery, the ceiling of which is much ornamented with foliage in stucco; the rooms are all wainscotted with small oaken pannels, unpainted. On one side of the gallery is a recess, with an ascent of two steps, and one seat in it, with two returns, capable of holding ten or twelve persons, which, by tradition, was used as a throne, when king Henry VIII. visited the castle. At the upper end of the gallery, on one side of a large window, there is in the floor a kind of trap door, which, when opened, discovers a narrow and dark deep descent, which is said to reach as far as the moat, and at this day is still called the dungeon. In a closet, in one of the towers, the window of which is now stopped up, there is an adjoining chamber, in which queen Anne Bulleyn is said to have been confined after her dis-

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grace. The entrance to this closet, from the chamber, is now by a small door, which at that time was a secret sliding pannel, and is yet called Anne Bulleyn's pannel.

In the windows of Hever-castle are these arms; Argent, three buckles gules, within the garter; a shield of four coasts, Howard, Brotherton, Warren, and Mowbray, argent three buckles gules; a shield of eight coats, viz. Bulleyn, Hoo, St. Omer, Malmains, Wickingham, St. Leger, Wallop, and Ormond; and one, per pale argent and gules, for Waldegrave./p

It is reported, that when Henry VIII. with his attendants, came to the top of the hill, within sight of the castle, he used to wind his bugle horn, to give notice of his approach.

There was a court baron constantly held for each of the above manors till within these forty years, but at present there is only one, both manors being now esteemed but as one, the circuit of which, over the neighbouring parishes, is very extensive.

SEYLIARDS is an estate here which extends itself into the parishes of Brasted and Eatonbridge, but the mansion of it is in this parish, and was the antient seat of the Seyliards, who afterwards branched out from hence into Brasted, Eatonbridge, Chidingstone, and Boxley, in this county.

The first of this name, who is recorded to have possessed this place, was Ralph de Seyliard, who resided here in the reign of king Stephen.

Almerick de Eureux, earl of Gloucester, who lived in the reign of king Henry III. demised lands to Martin at Seyliard, and other lands, called Hedinden, to Richard Seyliard, both of whom were sons of Ralph at Seyliard, and the latter of them was ancestor to those seated here and at Delaware, in Brasted./q

/p See Biog. Brit. vol. ii. p. 1050. Brook's Errors, p. 9.

/q MSS. pedigree of Seyliard; and Philipott, p. 137.

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This place continued in his descendants till Sir Tho.

Seyliard of Delaware, passed it away to John Petley, esq. who alienated it to Sir Multon Lambarde, of Sevenoke, and he died possessed of it in 1758; and it is now the property of his grandson, Multon Lambarde, of Sevenoke, esq.

CHARITIES.

A PERSON gave, but who or when is unknown, but which has time out of mind been distributed among the poor of this parish, the sum of 10s. yearly, to be paid out of land vested in the churchwardens, and now of that annual produce.

The Rev. JOHN PETER gave by will, about 1661, the sum of 10s. yearly, to be paid for the benefit of poor farmers only, out of land vested in the rector, the heirs of Wm. Douglass, and the heirs of Francis Bowty, and now of that annual produce.

The Rev. GEORGE BORRASTON, rector, and several of the parishioners, as appears by a writing dated in 1693, purchased, with money arising from several bequests, the names of the donors unknown, except that of WILLIAM FALKNER, to which the parishioners added 15l. a piece of land, the rent to be distributed yearly among the poor of the parish, vested in the rector and churchwardens, and of the annual produce of 3l. 12s.

Rev. THOMAS LANCASTER, rector, gave by will in 1714, for buying good books for the poor, and in case books are not wanting for the schooling of poor children at the discretion of the minister, part of a policy on lives, which was exchanged for a sum of money paid by his executor, being 20l. vested in the minister and churchwardens.

SIR TIMOTHY WALDO gave by will in 1786, 500l. consolidated 3 per cent. Bank Annuities, one moiety of the interest of which to be applied for the placing of some poor boy of the parish apprentice to a farmer, or some handicraft trade, or to the sea service, or in cloathing such poor boy during his apprenticeship, and in case no such poor boy can be found, this moiety to be distributed among such of the industrious poor who do not receive alms. The other moiety to be laid out in buying and distributing flannel waistcoats, or strong shoes, or warm stockings, among such of the industrious or aged poor persons inhabiting within this parish, as do not receive alms, vested in the Salters Company.

HEVER is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a parson of the archbishop, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham. The church, which stands at the east end

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of the village, is a small, but neat building, consisting of one isle and two chancels, having a handsome spire at the west end of it. It is dedicated to St. Peter.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it are the following: – In the isle is a grave-stone, on which is the figure of a woman, and inscription in black letter in brass, for Margaret, wife of William Cheyne, obt. 1419, arms, a fess wavy between three crescents. – In the chancel, a memorial for Robert Humfreys, esq. lord of the manor of Heaver, only son and heir of Sir Orlando Humfreys, bart. of Jenkins, in Essex, obt. 1736. Against the wall is a brass plate, with the figure of a man kneeling at a desk, and inscription in black letter for William Todde, schoolmaster to Charles Waldegrave, esq. obt. 1585. – In the north chancel, an altar tomb, with the figure on it at large in brass, of Sir Thomas Bullen, knight of the garter, earl of Wilcher and earl of Or-

munde, obt. 1538. A small slab with a brass plate, for Bullayen, the son of Sir Thomas Bullayen. – In the belfry, a stone with a brass plate, and inscription in black letter in French, for John de Cobham, esquire, obt. 1399, and dame Johane, dame de Leukenore his wife, and Renaud their son; near the above is an antient altar tomb for another of that name, on which is a shield of arms in brass, or, on a chevron, three eagles displayed, a star in the dexter point. These were the arms of this branch of the Cobhams, of Sterborough-castle./r

This church is a rectory, the advowson of which belonged to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, and came to the crown with the rest of its possessions at the time of the surrendry of it, in the 7th year of king Henry VIII. in consequence of the act passed that year for the surrendry of all religious houses, under the clear yearly revenue of two hundred pounds. Soon after which this advowson was granted, with the scite of the priory, to Thomas Colepeper, but he did not long possess it; and it appears, by the Escheat Rolls, to have come again into the hands of the crown, and was granted by the king, in his 34th year, to Sir John Gage, to hold in capite by knights service; who exchanged it again with Tho. Colepeper,

/r See the mon. and inscrip. more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 892.

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to confirm which an act passed the year after./s His son and heir, Alexander Colepeper, had possession granted of sundry premises, among which was the advowson of Hever, held in capite by knights service, in the 3d and 4th years of king Philip and queen Mary; the year after which it was, among other premises, granted to Sir Edward Waldegrave, to hold by the like tenure.

Charles Waldegrave, esq. in the 12th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated this advowson to John Lennard, esq. of Chevening, and being entailed to his heirs male, by the last will of Sampson Lennard, esq. his eldest son, under the word hereditament possessed it, and it being an advowson in gross, was never disentailed by Henry, Richard, or Francis, lords Dacre, his descendants, so that it came to Thomas lord Dacre, son of the last mentioned Francis, lord Dacre, afterwards earl of Sussex, in 1673, and at length sole heir male of the descendants of John Lennard, esq. of Chevening, above mentioned; and the same trial was had for the claim of a moiety of it, at the Queen's-bench bar, as for the rest of the earl's estates, and a verdict then obtained in his favour, as has been already fully mentioned before, under Chevening.

The earl of Sussex died possessed of it in 1715,/t whose two daughters, his coheirs, on their father's death became entitled to this advowson, and a few years afterwards alienated the same.

It then became the property of the Rev. Mr. Geo. Lewis, as it has since of the Rev. Mr. Hamlin, whose daughter marrying the Rev. Mr. Nott, of Little Horsted, in Sussex, he is now intitled to it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church of Heure was valued at fifteen marcs.

/s Acts in the Rolls chapel. Bundle of Certiorari.

/t See Chevening. Ect. Thes. p. 387.

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By virtue of a commission of enquiry, taken by order of the state, in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that Hever was a parsonage, with a house, and twelve acres of glebe land, which, with the tithes, were worth seventy-seven pounds per annum, master John Petter being then incumbent, and receiving the profits, and that Francis lord Dacre was donor of it./u

This rectory was valued, in 1747, at 1831. per annum, as appears by the particulars then made for the sale of it.

It is valued, in the king's books, at 15l. 17s. 3½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 10s. 8¾d. It is now of the yearly value of about 200l.

The priory of Combswell, in Goudhurst, was endowed by Robert de Thurnham, the founder of that house, in the reign of king Henry II. with his tithe of Lincheshele and sundry premises in this parish, for which the religious received from the rector of this church the annual sum of 43s. 4d.

CHURCH OF HEVER.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

William de Bradestede, in the
reign of king Edward I./w
John Petter, in 1650, ejected in
1662./x

..... Nurse.

George Boraston, A. M. in 1670,
obt. 1700./y

Thomas Lancaster, in 1700, obt.
1714.

George Lewis, A. M. 1714, obt.
1771./z

Stafford New, 1771. Present
rector.

/u Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xix.

/w He was indicted for homicide in
the iter of J. de Berwick, and acquitted.
Reg. Christ ch. Cant. Cart. 301.

/x He was ejected by the Bartholomew
act. Calamy's Life of Baxter.

/y His father was minister of Bewdley,
in Worcestershire, where he was
born. See Wood's Ath. vol. ii. Fasti,
p. 107.

/z Also vicar of Westerham.

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COWDEN.

SOUTHWARD from Hever lies COWDEN, at
the extremity of this county adjoining to Sussex. It
is called in the Textus Roffensis, CUDENA.

THIS PARISH, wholly within the Weald, lies at the
confines of this county, adjoining to Sussex southward,
from which it is parted by a stream of the Medway,
which comes from one of its four principal heads,

which rises at Gravely-hill in that county, whence directing its course eastward along the southern bounds of this parish, it joins the principal stream of it at Penshurst.

The parish of Cowden is but little known, being situated in a deep soil of clay, very wet and miry. The village, having the church on the east side, stands on a rise, though at a small distance only from the river, which here forms an elbow round the south side of it, where it turns a corn-mill; close to the river about a mile from hence is the Moat-farm, and about half a mile westward that now called the Wood, both described hereafter, and at a small distance from the latter is Cowden-furnace. A small quantity of land, and two houses in this parish, were in Kilburne's time, /a reputed to lie within the hundred of Axstane, but more probably in that of Ruxley, as being perhaps a small part of the borough of Linkhill, parcel of that hundred. A fair is held here on the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, now on the second of August, for cattle and pedlary ware.

THE MANOR OF COWDEN, now called the manor of Lewisham, was antiently part of the possessions of Agnes de Montacute, who made a gift of all her demesne in Cuden, and in Hertfield, in Sussex, together with

/a Kilburne's Survey, p. 62.

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her capital messuage, and their appurtenances, to the prior and convent of Michelham, in Sussex, being a priory of Black Canons, founded by Gilbert de Aquila, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry III. to the Holy Trinity, /b whose possessions in this place were augmented by the further donation of Sir Walter de Letton, and Gunnora his wife, who gave them all his land called Greggeslond, in Cuden, and he confirmed the grant of those possessions, which lay within his fee in Cuden, which they had of the gift of Agnes de Montacute, as above-mentioned, and that they should be forever freed from the suit of court, which the land was accustomed to make at his court at Tiches; all which were confirmed to the prior and convent, by a charter of Inspeximus, granted by king Edward II. in the 14th year of his reign.

This priory was dissolved before the 29th year of king Henry VIII. and the possessions of it in this parish, among the rest of its estates, given up to the king, who the same year granted them to Thomas, lord Cromwell, and he soon afterwards exchanged them with the crown, from whence they were again exchanged by the name of the manor of Cawdeane, for other lands with William Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, in the 33d year of that reign. For the king, by Cromwell's advice, obtruded many of the estates, late belonging to the monasteries, upon the nobles and others, in exchange for their own lands, in order to bind them more firmly against the re-establishment of such houses, and of the papal power.

He died two years after, possessed of this estate, and was succeeded in it by his only son and heir Henry, on his father's decease, earl of Arundel, who conveyed this estate again to the crown, where it lay till the 3d

and 4th year of king Philip and queen Mary, when the queen granted to Richard Sackville and Thomas

/b Tan. Mon. p. 562.

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Winton, among other premises, the manor of Cowden, with its appurtenances, late belonging to the priory of Michelham, and parcel of the possessions of the earl of Arundel; and all lands, called Warefeld and Waremead, as they lay together at the southern part of the water, called Kentwater, in Cowden, late in the tenure of William Wickenden, whose ancestor Thomas Wickenden had given them to the priory; to hold in capite by knights service.

They seem to have joined in the sale of this estate to William Wickenden, whose grandson, in the reign of king Charles I. died possessed of it, leaving at his decease two sons, who divided this estate between them. One of them alienated his moiety to Ashdown, from which family it was bequeathed by will to Piggott, in which name it descended to Nicholas Piggott, from which name it passed to Mr. John Driver, who sold it to Henry Streatfeild, esq. the present possessor.

The other moiety, which remained in the name of Wickenden, passed afterwards from thence into that of Bassett; the last of whom, Mr. Michael Bassett, left three daughters and coheirs, one of whom married Mr. John Burgess, and entitled him to it. Robert Burgess, esq. afterwards died possessed of it in 1794, and his widow Mrs. Sarah Burgess having re-married James Harbroc, esq. he is now become the owner of it.

There was antiently a court-baron held for this manor, which has been disused for a great many years.

COWDEN LEIGHTON is a manor here, which had antiently owners of the surname of Leighton, who were succeeded in the possession of it by the Cobhams, of Sterborough./c

Reginald, lord Cobham, in the 14th year of king Edward III. procured a grant of free-warren within his lordship of Cowden Leighton, among others./d In whose descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 11th year of

/c Philipott, p. 125, Addenda. /d Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 67.

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king Edward IV. leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose descendant, Sir Thomas Borough, lord Burgh, having expended vast sums in the service of queen Elizabeth, was necessitated to alienate this manor to Henry Streatfeild, esq. and Richard Streatfeild his son, after whose deaths it was, by deed, and a recovery in the 15th year of king James, settled upon Thomas Streatfeild, the youngest of the three sons of Richard above-mentioned. He died possessed of it in 1628, without heirs male; so that his four daughters, Frances, married to Mr. John Shefferden, Jane, to Edward Taylor; Dorothy, to Edward Powel, and Anne, first to William Stanley, and secondly to Samuel Dillingham, became his coheirs, and they and their heirs at several times conveyed their respective interests in it by sale to Henry

Streatfeild, esq. of Highstreet-house, in Chidingstone, eldest son of Richard, and great grandson of Richard first above-mentioned, by Henry his eldest son.

His descendant, Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Highstreet-house, in Chidingstone, died possessed of it in 1762, whose eldest son, Henry Streatfeild, esq. now of Highstreet house, is the present possessor of it.

There is a manor in this parish called ST. JOHN'S, alias the Manor of St. John of Jerusalem, most probably as having once belonged to the Knights of that order. This manor has for many years had the same owners as that of Stangrave, alias Eatonbridge, and as such it is now with the antient mansion of Crittenden, in the possession of Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, the widow of Thomas Streatfeild, of Oxsted, esq./g

THE MOAT, alias COSINS, is a manor and antient seat in Cowden, situated near the banks of the river, which was for many generations owned by a family of the name of Cosin, or Cosins, most probably descended

/f See Chidingstone. /g See Eatonbridge.

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out of Norfolk, where this family was formerly of some eminence.

This estate continued so long in their possession, that they affixed their name to it; but in the 32d year of king Henry VI. William Cosin who gave for his arms, Azure, a lion rampant, gutté de sang, crowned or, alienated it to William Hextal, William and Nicholas Gainsford. The former of whom, in the 5th year of king Edward IV. conveyed all his interest in it to William Gainsford, esq. descended of a family seated at Crowhurst, in Surry, before the Norman conquest, in which parish are the memorials of the interment of many of them; several of whom were sheriffs of that county, and justices of the peace, from the reign of king Henry VI.

Those of this name, owners of Cosins, were a younger branch of those at Crowhurst, and bore the same arms, Argent, a chevron gules, between three greyhounds curreant sable, collared or./h The descendants of William Gainsford continued possessors of it till the year 1720, when Thomas Gainsford, esq. died possessed of it; soon after which his heirs conveyed it by sale to Mr. John Woodgate, of Somerhill, in Tunbridge, whose son, the reverend Mr. Francis Woodgate, rector of Mountfield, in Sussex, is the present owner of it.

WAYSTRODE, otherwise called Westwood, and now most commonly THE WOOD, is an estate here, situated about half a mile north-westward from the church, which was formerly accounted a manor. It had antiently owners of the name of Waystrode, who continued in possession of it till the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. and then it was alienated to May; from which name it was again sold, at the latter end of it, to Still; in whose descendants it continued to Mr. Richard Still, who resided here; his only daughter and

/h Aubrey's Antiq. of Surry, p. xxxiv. et seq. and vol. ii. p. 176, and vol. iii. p. 37, 47, 62.

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heir carried it in marriage to Mr. Dyke, of Burwash,

in Sussex, on whose death it descended to their only son and heir, Richard Still Dyke, esq. who married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Mr. George Jordan, of Burwash, who surviving her husband, is now by his will intitled to the present possession of it.

The college of Lingfield, in Surry, held an estate in this parish, called Cold Alleyns, which king Henry VIII. in his 36th year, granted to Thomas Cawarden, to hold in capite by knights service.

CHARITIES.

JOHN PELSETT gave by will in 1602, the sum of 20s. yearly, to be paid half yearly out of land, and to be distributed to the poor people of this parish, by the minister and churchwardens, for ever, vested in Mr. Cary Saunders, of Croydon, the owner of the estate, and of that annual profit.

EDWARD CRIPPS and EDWARD KNIGHT, RICHARD TURNER and THOMAS WICKENDEN, churchwardens and overseers of this parish, in 1665, for the sum of 50s. bought by deed made to them, and their successors for ever, an alms-house, now five cottages, inhabited by five poor families, who pay no rent, now vested in the parish officers above-mentioned.

COWDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is a small mean building, has a handsome spire, and stands on the eastern side of the village. It is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen.

Among other monuments and memorials in it, in the chancel, are memorials for the Knights, Harbys, and Aynscombes; on the south side is a memorial for Thomas Aynscombe, rector of this parish, obt. April 16, 1668; another for Edward Harby, L. L. B. rector of this parish, obt. May 22, 1761, æt. 61.

This church is a rectory, the advowson of which was granted, among other premises, by king Edward VI. in his fourth year, to Ralph Fane, to hold in capite by

/i See the monuments and memorials at large in Reg. Roff. p. 911.

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knight's service, in which name it remained in the 7th year of king James I. soon after which, it was alienated to Sir Robert Sidney, lord Sidney, of Penshurst, viscount Lisle, afterwards created earl of Leicester, in whose descendants it continued down to Josceline Sidney, earl of Leicester, who died possessed of it in 1743, without lawful issue, and by his will bequeathed it, among his other estates, to his natural daughter, Anne Sidney; but his two nieces (daughters and coheirs of colonel Thomas Sidney, his next elder brother, Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and Elizabeth, to William Perry, esq.) claimed his estates in this county, as his coheirs, by virtue of an entail created by the marriage settlement of Robert, earl of Leicester, father of the earl, in 1700; but after much litigation, a compromise was entered into in 1746, between them, which was confirmed by act of parliament, by which this advowson, among the other Kentish estates, was vested in Sir Brownlow Sherard and Wm. Perry, esq.

In the division of these estates, the advowson of this church was part of that moiety allotted to Sir Brownlow Sherard, who died without issue; after which his

widow, in 1758, gave it, by her will, to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. and knight of the Bath, for life, remainder to her eldest son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire, and they in 1770, joined in the sale of the patronage of this church to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1779, and devised it by his will to his eldest son Thomas Harvey, esq. the present patron of it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this rectory was valued at fifteen marcs./l

By virtue of the commission of enquiry, taken by order of the state in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that in Cowden there was a parsonage house and three acres of glebe land, which, with the tithes

/k Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 9. /l Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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thereto belonging, were worth 83l. per annum, that Mr. Thomas Aynscombe was then incumbent, and the earl of Leicester patron.

It is valued in the king's books at 9l. 18s. 11¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 19s. 10³/₄d./m

CHURCH OF COWDEN.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Sidneys, Earls of Leicester Thomas Jackson, A. M. obt. 1608.

Thomas Aynscombe, in 1650, obt.

April 16, 1668./n

Thomas Cockman, obt. 1719.

William Egerton, LL. D. instit.

Nov. 16, 1719./o

Edward Harby, LL. B. March

1737, obt. May 22, 1761./p

William Lloyd, 1761, obt. Jan. 1778.

John Francis, A. M. Jan. 21,

1778, resig. 1785./q

Thomas Harvey, LL. B. 1785.

Present rector and patron.

/m Ect. Thes. p. 383.

/n He lies buried in this church.

/o Afterwards rector of Penshurst and Allhallows, London; chan. and preb. of Hereford; and preb. of Canterbury.

/p He lies buried in this church.

/q Now second master of the King's school, Canterbury, vicar of Willesborough, and rector of Orgarswick.

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CHIDINGSTONE.

NORTH-EASTWARD from Cowden lies CHIDINGSTONE, called in the Textus Roffensis, CHIDINGSTONE.

THE PARISH OF CHIDINGSTONE lies below the sand hills, and consequently in the district called the Weald. It is about six miles in length from north to south, but not more than two on an average in breadth; the river Eden crosses the centre of it towards Pens-

hurst, where it joins the river Medway. Northward

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of this stream the country is very much covered with woods, among them are situated Sharp's-place, Boar-place, and nearer the foot of the hill, Boar's-hill, usually called Bowsell-gate, which names, among many others of the like import hereabouts, certainly took their origin from the wild boars, formerly in plenty in these parts. About a mile southward from the Eden is the village of Chidingstone, which from the rise on which it is situated was called High-street, in which is the seat of the elder branch of the family of Streatfield, called Highstreet-house, having been their residence from the time of king James I. as it is now of Henry Streatfield, esq. The face of the country throughout this parish is much the same as those last described, within the Weald the soil is very moist, and in general a deep strong clay, the grounds having many fine large oaks interspersed over them, and in the broad hedge rows round the fields. There are many greens and small hamlets in different parts of it, as Wickhurst-green, Bow-beach, Hill-heath, Carey's-cross, Ranesley-heath, and others. At the southern bounds of this parish the branch of the river Medway, which rises at Gravely hill, in Sussex, directs its course eastward, and divides the two counties.

THIS PARISH was formerly divided into two manors, which were distinguished from each other by the addition of the names of their respective owners. The one being called the manor of Chidingstone Cobham, and the other, the manor of Chidingstone-Burghersh.

THE MANOR OF CHIDINGSTONE-COBHAM was part of the possessions of a younger branch of the Cobhams, of Cobham, in this county. In the 14th year of king Edward III. Reginald de Cobham procured a charter of free warren in all the demesne lands within his lordship of Chedingstane among others. He was son of Reginald de Cobham, the only son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his second wife Joane, daughter of Hugh de Nevill, by Joane, daugh-

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ter and coheir of William de Hever. Following a military life, according to the custom of those times, he was much employed by king Edward III. not only in his wars in France, but as a special ambassador to foreign states, on account of his great wisdom and fidelity./r

He was more than once constituted admiral of the king's fleet from the Thames mouth westward, and in the 30th year of the above reign was with the king in the famous battle of Poytiers, where the English obtained a glorious victory, and having been summoned to parliament from the 16th to the 35th of king Edward III. he died of the pestilence in the latter year, being then possessed of this manor of Chidingstone, and leaving Reginald, his son and heir, and Joane, his wife, daughter of Sir Maurice de Berkeley, surviving. She died in the 43d year of that reign, having by her will ordered her body to be buried in the church-yard of St. Mary Overy, Southwark, and being possessed at the time of her death of this manor, to which Reginald,

her son above-mentioned, succeeded.

He was lord of Sterborough-castle, in Surry, from whence this branch of the Cobham's was henceforward called Cobhams, of Sterborough. They bore for their arms, Gules, on a chevron or, three stars of six points sable, in like manner as his father had borne them, but his grandfather Reginald, son of John de Cobham, bore the stars azure./s

This Reginald had summons to parliament likewise, and was twice married; first to Elizabeth, widow of Fulke le Strange, of Blackmere, and secondly to Alianore, daughter and coheir to John, lord Maltravers, widow of Sir John Fitzalan, otherwise called Arundel, and having by his will ordered his body to be buried in the parish church of Lyngefild, at the head of his father's tomb, died about three years after in the 4th year

/r Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65. /s Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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of king Henry IV. being then possessed among others, of this manor, and leaving Reginald, his son and heir, and Alianore, his wife, surviving.

Reginald, the son, in the 6th year of that reign, had possession granted of the lands of his inheritance, among which was this manor. He married two wives; first, Eleanor, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, and secondly, Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas, lord Bardolph, widow of Sir William Clifford. He died in the 24th year of Henry VI. having by his will ordered his body to be buried in the collegiate church of Lingfeld, and this manor to his eldest surviving son, Sir Thomas Cobham, Reginald, his eldest son, dying in his life-time, leaving an only daughter, Margaret, afterwards married to Ralph, the second earl of Westmoreland, of that name.

Sir Thomas Cobham died possessed of this manor in the 11th year of king Edward IV./t leaving by Anne his wife, daughter of Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham, an only daughter and heir Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire.

This family of Borough, alias Burgh, derive their descent from Hubert de Burgh, a younger son of the famous Hubert de Burgh, sometime chief justice of England, and earl of Kent, and bore for their arms, Azure, three fleurs de lis ermine.

Of these, Sir Thomas Borough, was a firm friend to the cause of king Edward IV. for which he was obliged to quit the realm; but returning to that prince's assistance, met him at Northampton, and accompanied him to Barnet field, where he became victorious.

He married Elizabeth, daughter and one of the coheirs of Sir Henry Percy, of Athol, by whom he left Thomas, his son and heir, who, in king Richard III's reign, was made knight of the garter, and in the third

/t Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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year of king Henry VII. was made a baron of this realm, and accordingly had summons to parliament that year, and afterwards.

By his will, anno 11 king Henry VII. he ordered

his body to be buried in his new chapel, within the church of All Saints, in Gainsborough; shortly after which he died, leaving by Margaret his wife, daughter of Thomas, lord Roos, of Kendal, and widow of Sir Thomas Botreaux, two sons; Sir Edward Borough, who married Anne, sole daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Cobham, as above-mentioned; and Thomas; and two daughters, the eldest of whom married the lord Fitzhugh, and Anne.

By her he left Thomas, his son and heir, who was summoned to parliament among the peers of this realm, in the 21st year of Henry VIII. by the title of lord Burgh. He left by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir William Tirwhit, of Ketilby, in Lincolnshire, Thomas, his son and heir, who procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act of the 31st of king Henry VIII. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir David Owen, from whom he was divorced for her incontinency, and in the 35th year of that reign obtained a special act of parliament for the bastardizing of the children born by her; by Alice his second wife, who survived him, and afterwards married Edmund Rokewood, he had, as appears by his will, Henry, his son and heir, William, Thomas, and other children, and died in the 4th year of king Edward VI.

Henry, if he succeeded his father in title, did not long enjoy that honour, for in the 15th year of queen Elizabeth, his brother William bore the title of lord Burgh, he being that year one of the peers who sat in judgment on the duke of Norfolk.

William, lord Burgh, had by Katherine his wife, daughter of Edward, earl of Lincoln, Sir John Bo-

/u Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 288. Lel. Itin. vol. i. p. 35.

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rough, who died in his life time, and Thomas, and three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Anne, and died about the 27th year of queen Elizabeth, bearing for his arms, four coats quarterly, 1st and 4th, Borough; 2d, Cobham of Sterborough; 3d, quarterly, 1st and 4th, Percy; and 3d, Athell.

Which Thomas, lord Burgh, resided, as his ancestors had done, at Sterborough-castle, and was a man of no small eminence. In 1587 he was appointed governor of the Brill, and afterwards sent ambassador into Scotland, made a knight of the garter, and lastly, in the year 1597, on the death of Sir William Russell, appointed lord deputy of Ireland; before which, viz. in the 38th year of queen Elizabeth, having expended great sums in the queen's service, he was necessitated to alienate this manor of Chidingstone Cobham, with that of Tyhurst in this parish, to Richard Streatfeild, esq. son of Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Chidingstone, by the daughter of Moodie; who was son of Robert Streatfeild, by his wife, the sister of Sir John Rivers, lord mayor of London.

Richard Streatfeild, above-mentioned, was of High-street-house, in this parish, and married Anne, daughter and coheir of Fremling, by whom he had three sons, Henry, Silvester and Thomas, and a daughter Margaret, married to Edward Moody.

On the partition of the father's estates, in this pa-

rish, Henry had Tyhurst, and married Susan, daughter of Christopher Lambe, whose descendants will be mentioned hereafter, and Thomas had the manor of Chidingstone Cobham, and married Frances, daughter of Sir John Reeve, of London, by whom he left four daughters and coheirs, who possessed Chidingstone Cobham after his decease. They and their descendants at different times alienated their shares in this manor to Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Highstreet-house,

/w MSS. pedigree of Cobham. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 289.

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eldest son of Richard, and grandson of Henry before mentioned, by his wife Susan, daughter of Christopher Lambe./x

Richard Streatfeild, esq. of High-street house, the eldest son of Henry by Susan Lambe, left four sons; of whom Henry the eldest, purchased the manor of Chidingstone Cobham of the heirs of Henry Streatfeild, as above mentioned; Thomas was of Sevenoke, and was ancestor of the present Thomas Streatfeild, esq. of Sevenoke; William was of Hever, and ancestor of the Streatfeilds of that place and of Penshurst, in this county; of Oxsted; of Stoke Newington, in Middlesex; and of London; and John, the fourth son, who was ancestor of William Streatfeild, now of Penshurst.

Henry Streatfeild, esq. the purchaser of this manor, as above mentioned, was of Highstreet house, and died possessed both of Tyhurst and Chidingstone Cobham manors, in 1709, and was buried in this church, as was Sarah his wife; by her he left Henry Streatfeild, esq. who was of Highstreet house, and succeeded his father in these manors and estates. He left by his wife, daughter of Mr. Baird, a son, Henry Streatfeild, esq. who was likewife of Highstreet house, and in 1752, married Miss Anne Sidney.

He died in 1762, leaving his wife surviving, and by her two sons, Henry and Richard; and two daughters, Sophia; and Harriet, who married Walter Bracebridge, esq. On his death, Henry Streatfeild, esq. the eldest son, became entitled to the inheritance of both Tyhurst and Chidingstone Cobham manors, and of Highstreet house, the family seat in this parish, to all which he continues entitled at this time.

There are courts baron regularly held for each of these manors.

/x Visitation of the county of Kent, in 1619.

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The MANOR of CHIDINSTONE BURGHERSH, or Burgherst, called formerly Burwash-court, was part of the possessions of the eminent family of Burghersh, vulgarly called Burwash.

In the 16th year of king Edward I. Robert de Burghersh was made constable of Dover-castle, and constituted warden of the cinque ports. In the 32d year of Edward I. he was summoned to parliament among the barons of this realm, and died two years afterwards, being then possessed of this manor, and leaving Stephen his son and heir, who in the 1st year of Edward II. obtained a charter of free warren for

all his demesne lands within this manor.

To whom succeeded Bartholomew, who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and heirs of Theobald de Verdon, a great baron in Staffordshire. He took part with the Spencers, and others, the king's favourites, and was taken prisoner after their defeat at Boroughbridge; but on the arrival of queen Isabel, and her son, prince Edward, in the 20th year of that reign, he was not only released from his confinement in the Tower, but was made constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports, in which offices he continued till the accession of Edward III. in the 1st and 2d years of whose reign he had a new commission for them. He was much employed by that prince, as well in civil as military trusts of great importance; in the 5th year of that reign he was constituted seneschal of Ponthieu; in the 9th, he was made warden of all the king's forests south of Trent, and in the 11th, admiral of the seas westward; in the next year he obtained a confirmation of his charter for free warren in all his demesne lands in this parish; in the 16th year of this reign he obtained another charter for free warren for his lands here; in the

17th Patent, dated Aug. 11, anno 11 Edward III. Rym. Foed. vol. iv. p. 792. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 36.

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17th he was again made constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports, and during the time above mentioned, was, with others of the nobility, employed in several embassies into foreign parts; in the 20th year of it he was present at the famous victory gained over the French at Cressy; in the 23d year he was lord chamberlain of the king's household, and in the 29th, constable of the tower of London; and having been summoned to parliament from the 1st of king Edward III. till the 28th inclusive, he died soon afterwards possessed of this manor, leaving two sons, Bartholomew and Henry, and a daughter, Joane.

Bartholomew, the eldest son, married Cicely, daughter and heir of Richard de Weyland; and in the 24th year of the same reign, upon the institution of the order of the Garter, the king had such an high esteem for his valour and military skill, that he was made choice of as one of the knights companions of it; after which he was continually employed in the wars in France, where he behaved with remarkable courage, especially at the famous battle of Poytiers, where the English gained a signal victory over the French. His arms were, Gules, a lion rampant, double queued or, were formerly in Newington church, near Sittingbourne, and still remain on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

About the 43d year of king Edward III. he conveyed this manor, with much other land in this county and in Warwickshire, to Sir Walter de Paveley, knight of the Garter, in whose family it remained until the latter end of the reign of king Richard II. when it was conveyed to Vaux, of the county of Northampton, in which name it staid till the reign of king Henry VI. when it was alienated to John

Alphegh, or Alpheu, of Bore-place, in this parish, who bore for his arms, Argent, a fess between three boars heads couped, sable. He died in 1489, and lies

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buried in this church, leaving by Isabel, his wife, daughter of Richard Petit, esq. two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, who was twice married, first to George Gainsford, esq. a younger son of Sir John Gainsford, of Crowhurst, in Surry;^{/z} and secondly to William Brograve, esq. of Beckenham; and Margaret, who married Sir Robert Read, who had this manor allotted to him on the division of their inheritance. He was descended from an antient family in the county of Northumberland, and being bred to the law, was, in 1507, made chief justice of the common-pleas,^{/a} and was so highly esteemed by king Henry VII. that he had made him one of his executors. Sir Robert Read bore for his arms, Gules, on a fess wavy, three pheasant cocks sable; which coat, impaling Alpheu, is still remaining in a window, in Sergeant's-inn.

By Margaret, his wife, Sir Robert had one son, Edmund, who was one of the justices of the King's-bench, and dying before him, without issue, in 1501, lies buried in this church, and four daughters; Bridget, wife of Sir Thomas Willoughby; Jane, of John Caryll, esq. serjeant at law; Mary, of Sir William Baringtyne; and Dorothy, of Sir Edward Wotton. He died about the 10th year of the reign of Henry VIII. without issue male; so that his four daughters became his coheirs, and on the partition of their inheritance, this manor, with other estates in this parish, was allotted to the share of Sir Thomas Willoughby and Bridget his wife.

Sir Thomas Willoughby was the fifth and youngest son of Sir Christopher Willoughby, and younger brother of William lord Willoughby, ancestor of the present baroness Willoughby of Eresby, and of Christopher, ancestor of the lords Willoughby of Parham, now extinct; the origin of the family in this king=

^{/z} Strype's Stow's Surv. b. iii. p. 256. Chaunc. Hertf. p. 227.

^{/a} Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 256.

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dom being Sir John de Willoughby, a Norman knight, who had the lordship of Willoughby, in Lincolnshire, by the gift of the Conqueror.

Sir Thomas Willoughby being bred to the law, was knighted in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. was made a chief justice of the common pleas,^{/b} and by his wife Bridget, as above mentioned, became entitled to this manor of Chidingstone Burghersh, with his seat called Bore-place, and other estates in this parish.^{/c} In the 31st year of that reign he, among others, by an act then passed, procured his lands to be disgavelled.

He died in the 37th year of king Henry VIII. and lies buried with Bridget, his wife, in this church. His arms, being Gules, on a bend wavy argent, three birds sable, impaling argent, a fess between three boars heads couped sable, are still remaining in one of the windows of Sergeant's inn, in Fleet-street.

His grandson, Sir Thomas Willoughby, was sheriff of this county in the 15th and 32d years of queen Elizabeth, and bore for his arms, Or, fretty azure. He married Catharine, daughter of Sir Percival Hart, of Lullingstone, by whom he left several sons and daughters; of whom Percival, the eldest, succeeded to these estates, and was, on the accession of king James I. knighted by that prince. He married Bridget, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton-hall, in Nottinghamshire, by which means he not only possessed that mansion, but a large estate in that county, for which he was elected to serve in the first parliament of king James, and was ancestor of the present Henry Willoughby lord Middleton. Being desirous of increasing his interest in Nottinghamshire, he alienated the manor of Chidingstone

/b Coll. Peer. vol. v. p. 559, et seq. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 33, 83. Hist. Grevile, 70, et seq.

/c Dugd. Bar. p. 88, 109. Col. Peer. vol. vi. p. 569. vol. vii. p. 174, Phillipott, p. 115. Harris's Hist. p. 75.

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Burghersh to Mr. John and Robert Seyliard, of Delaware, from whom it descended to John Seyliard, esq. of Delaware, who was created a baronet in 1661, and from him to Sir Thomas Seyliard, bart. who, about the year 1700, conveyed it, with Delaware, above mentioned, to Henry Streatfeild, esq. and he, at his death, bequeathed it to his youngest son, Thomas Streatfeild, esq. of Sevenoke, who devised it to his nephew, Henry Streatfeild, esq. of High-street house, in this parish; since whose death, in 1762, the inheritance of it is become vested in his eldest son, Henry Streatfeild, esq. of High-street house.

BORE-PLACE is a seat here, which, with the MANOR of MILBROKE, was antiently, as high as the reign of king Henry III. the estate of a family, which assumed its surname from hence, and was called Bore, and assumed a boar for its arms. In the name of Bore this seat and manor continued till John Bore, in the reign of king Henry VI. conveyed them by sale to John Alphem, who rebuilt Bore-place, and died possessed of them both in 1489, leaving two daughters and coheirs; one of whom, Margaret, became the wife of Sir Robert Read, lord chief justice of the common pleas, of whom a full account has already been given; and on a division of their inheritance entitled him to this seat and manor, as well as the rest of her father's estate in this parish. He resided at Bore-place, which he much enlarged, and dying without male issue surviving, his four daughters became his coheirs; of whom Bridget, the eldest, was married to Sir Thomas Willoughby, chief justice of the common pleas, and on the partition of his estates, had this seat, Milbroke, and his other possessions in this parish, allotted for her share.

Sir Thomas Willoughby likewise resided at Bore-place, and added much to the buildings of it. His grandson, Sir Percival Willoughby, in the beginning of the reign of king James I. alienated Bore-place and Milbroke, to Mr. Bernard Hyde, of London, after

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wards one of the commissioners of the customs to king Charles I. who was a charitable benefactor, by his will, to several parishes in London, as well as others, in trust to the Skinners company./d His descendant, Bernard Hyde, esq. alienated them about fifty years ago to Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Highstreet house, in this parish; since whose death, in 1762, the inheritance of both Bore-place and Milbroke are become vested in his eldest son, Henry Streatfeild, of High-street house, esq.

There is a court baron held for the manor of Milbroke.

BOWZELL, antiently called Boresell, is a manor, the greatest part of which lies in the adjoining parish of Chevening, under which indeed it ought more properly to have been described. It was antiently part of the possessions of that branch of the Cobhams settled at Sterborough castle, in Surry.

Reginald de Cobham died possessed of this manor in the 35th year of Edward III. as did Joane his wife in the 43d year of that reign; from them it descended down to Sir Thomas Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 11th year of king Edward IV. whose only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire; she survived her husband, and died anno 20 king Henry VIII. being then possessed, as appears by the inquisition taken after her death, of this manor, among others, held of William, archbishop of Canterbury, as of his honour of Otford, by knights service./e Their descendant, Sir Thomas Borough, lord Burgh, and knight of the Garter, died possessed of it in the 40th year of queen Elizabeth, leaving four daughters his coheirs; Elizabeth, married to George Brooke, esq.

/d Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 36, 46, 48, 64, 81, 170; book iii. p. 62, 100; book v. p. 67.

/e Inquis. post Mort. Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 75.

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brother of Henry lord Cobham; Frances to Francis Coppinger, esq. whose direct descendant, Fysh Coppinger, esq. of West Drayton, in the year 1790, had a licence, under the king's sign manual, to assume the name of Burgh; Anne, to Sir Drew Drury; and Catharine, afterwards the wife of Thomas Knyvett, esq. by which, though the heir male of this family endeavoured to succeed to the barony, yet he failed in it, and it still continues in abeyance. They some years afterwards, to defray debts and other uses, joined in the sale of it to Thomas of Whitley, near Sevenoake, from which name it again passed by sale to Watterson; from whom, by a female, it was carried in marriage to Bonnell, whose descendant, James Bonnell, esq. of London, about the year 1784, alienated it to the Rev. Richard Rycroft, D. D. rector of Penshurst, in this county; who, on Dec. 10, 1783, was created a baronet. He died possessed of this manor, in 1786; and his son, Sir Nelson Rycroft, bart. is the present owner of it.

RANESLEY, formerly spelt Rendesley, is a manor in this parish, lying near the boundaries of Penshurst, the owners of which were in antient deeds, written both

Rendesley and Rennesley, but before the end of king Henry VI.'s reign, this family was extinct here, and the possession of it was alienated to Alphew of this parish, whose descendant, John Alphew of Bore-place, dying in 1489, without male issue, one of his daughters and coheirs, Margaret, carried it in marriage to Sir Robert Read, chief justice of the common pleas, on the partition of the inheritance, of whose daughters and coheirs this manor fell to the share of Bridget, married to Sir Thomas Willoughby, chief justice likewise of the common-pleas, whose descendant, Robert Willoughby, esq. alienated it to Bond, and Mrs. Anne Bond possessed it in the 1st year of Edward VI./f

/f See particulars of chantries, Aug. Off. title Penshurst chapel.

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Her heirs conveyed it to Nathaniel Studley, esq. the son of John Studley of Emborne Minster, in Yorkshire, who bore for his arms, Argent, on a fess vert three stags heads caboshed or. His only son and heir, Nathaniel, succeeded his father in this manor, and in the time of the civil wars of king Charles I. alienated it to Mr. Christopher Knight of Cowdham, /g on whose death it came into the possession of his son, Mr. Michael Knight of Westerham; to whom Sir Edward Byshe, clarencieux, in 1662, granted these arms, Party per chevron engrailed sable and argent, three griffins passant, counterchanged, armed, and langued gules. From this family this manor passed, by sale, to Robert Sidney earl of Leicester; after which it continued in his descendants, in like manner as the rest of his estates in this parish, till with them it came into the possession of two female coheirs, Mary and Elizabeth, daughters of colonel Thomas Sidney, and heirs general of Robert earl of Leicester, who was the grandson of Robert, who purchased this manor, and they carried it, by marriage, to Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and William Perry, esq. who possessed it in undivided moieties. /g The former died in 1748, without issue, and his widow possessed one moiety of this manor till her death, in 1758, when she, by her will, gave it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. with remainder to her son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. William Perry, esq. died possessed of the other moiety of this manor in 1757, leaving his wife surviving, who in 1770, purchased of lady Yonge, and her son Sir George, their moiety of it, and thus became owner of the whole of this manor, which she gave by her will, at her death in 1783, to her eldest grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq. who is the present owner of it.

/g Philipott, p. 114. Visit. Co. Kent, p. 1619. Guillim, 394.

/h See more particular account of the Sidneys, and the descent of their estates, under Penshurst.

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CHARITIES.

RICHARD STREATFIELD, esq. of Chidingstone, gave by will, in 1601, a house for poor people to dwell in, close to the church yard, now vested in his heirs, and of the annual produce of 1l. 10s. and also lands in this parish, for the use of the poor, vested like=

wise in his heirs, and of the like annual produce.

JOHN PELSETT of Penshurst, gave by will, in 1602, lands, &c. in Cowden, for the use of the poor, vested in Cary Sanders of Croydon, and of the annual produce of 1l.

THOMAS NEVILL of London, gave by will, in 1633, lands in Romney-marsh, for the like use, vested in the Girdlers company, and of the annual produce of 1l.

ROBERT GOODHUGH, of Tunbridge, gave by will in 1662, lands in Tunbridge, for the use of the poor, vested in his heirs, and of the annual produce of 1l.

ANNE HYDE of London, gave by will, in 1637, for the benefit of the poor of Bore-place, in this parish, vested in her heirs, money to the amount of 5l.

MARGARET HYDE of Halnaker, in Sussex, in 1698, assigned over, by indenture, for poor people to dwell in, two tenements in this parish, vested in Henry Streatfeild, of the annual produce of 3l.

HENRY STREATFEILD, esq. of Chidingstone, gave by will, in 1708, lands in this parish, for the use of the poor, vested in his heirs, of the annual produce of 2l.

CHIDINGSTONE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, as such is within the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three isles and three chancels, with a handsome tower steeple at the west end.

Among other monuments and inscriptions, in the middle isle, is an iron plate and inscription for Richard Streatfeild, obt. 1601. A stone, with a brass plate and inscription in black letter, for Richard Streatfeild of Cransted, obt. 1584; a like stone, for William, son of Thomas Birchensty, of Sussex, by Anne, coheir of John Fremling, who left two daughters, Anne and Catherine, obt. 1637. In the south isle, a memorial for Anne, wife of John Basset, of Eatonbridge, who left three daughters and two sons, obt. 1714; and for Thomas Basset of Cowden, son of Michael Basset of Chidingstone, obt. 1714; on a pillar, in the body of the church, a monument for Henry Streatfeild, gent. late of Great Highstreet house, the eldest son of Rich. Streatfeild of the same, obt. 1709. and is buried under the iron plate in the middle isle, erected by Henry his eldest son, and for Sarah his

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wife, obt. 1716. In the chancel, a memorial for Richard Nurse, rector of Chidingstone, obt. June 10, 1705, æt. 65; another with a brass plate, for Margaret Waters, widow, first married to John Reeve, of London, obt. 1638; her daughter, Frances, was wife of John Seyliard, esq. on a pillar, a hatchment for Thomas Streatfeild, gent. obt. 1628; on the north side, called Bore-place chapel, against the wall is a brass plate and inscription for Strode Hyde, esq. of Bore-place, obt. 1742; on the south side of the altar, an escutcheon and inscription for John Shefferden, gent. who married Frank, daughter and coheir of Thomas Streatfield, of this parish, obt. 1645. An altar tomb for Frances, daughter of John Reeve, married first to Thomas Streatfield; secondly, to John Seyliard; by the former she had four sons, by the latter two, obt. 1650. In the south chancel, a memorial for Tho. Woodgate, citizen and ironmonger of London, son of Wm. Woodgate, of this parish, gent. obt. 1706; he married Susannah, daughter of Thomas Seyliard, esq. of Penhurst, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. Against a pillar, a small monument for W. Streatfeild, gent. late of Burgherst court, second son of Henry

Streatfeild, gent. of Highstreet house, obt. 1724, s. p. On the same pillar an escutcheon, with an inscription, for Rich. Streatfeild, of this parish, gent. ob. 1676; arms, Streatfeild, parted per pale gules, and sable three besants or./i The chapel on the north side, called Bore-place chapel, was built by Sir Robert Read, in 1516, and was dedicated to St. Catherine, in which he founded a chantry by his deed, dated in the year following./k

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marcs.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, within this diocese, taken in 1650, by order of the state, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that in Chidingstone there was a parsonage, with a house and five acres of land, worth one hundred and ten pounds per annum, master Thomas Seyliard then incumbent, who received the profits of the parsonage for his salary, and that the late archbishop of Canterbury was donor thereof.

It is a rectory of the antient patronage of the see of Canterbury, the archbishop of which continues patron at this time. It is valued in the king's books at 28l. 9s. 4d¹/₂. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 16s. 11¹/₄d.

/i See the mon. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 889.

/k Weever, p. 327. This deed is remaining in the Aug. Off.

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CHURCH OF CHIDINGSTONE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury John Wood, ob. May 7, 1487./l

Andrew Pearson, B. D. about
1560./m

Thomas Seyliard, in 1650./n

Richard Nurse, obt. June 10,
1705./o

Thomas Cockman, S. T. P. 1705./p

Edward Tenison, S. T. P. resig.
1727./q

Thomas Tenison, S. T. P. 1727,
obt. 1742./r

John Potter, 1742, resig. 1747./s

Walter Walker Ward, S. T. P.
Jan. 1747, ob. 1755./t

Sackville Spencer Bale, LL. B. in
1755. Present rector./u

/l He was prebendary of Hastings, and lies buried in this church. Weever, p. 327.

/m Also vicar of Wrotham and rector of Brasted. Strype's Life of abp. Parker, p. 510. He was also prebendary of Canterbury.

/n Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xix.

/o He lies buried in this church.

/p Master of University coll. Oxford.

/q See Sundridge. Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3929.

/r Son of the former, and prebendary of Canterbury.

/s And vicar of Lydd, by dispensa=

tion, dated June 1742. He was eldest son of the abp. of Canterbury, and was afterwards rector of Wrotham, dean of Canterbury, &c.

/t He had been before rector of Bidenden and Marden, both which he resigned. In Feb. 1747, a dispensation passed for his holding this rectory with Hayes.

/u A dispensation passed in 1775, for him to hold the rectory of Wingham, in Sussex, with this of Chidingstone.

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PENSHURST.

THE next parish eastward from Chidingstone is Penhurst, called in the Textus Roffensis, Penneshurst. It takes its name from the old British word Pen, the height or top of any thing, and hyrst, a wood./w It is called in some antient records, Pen-

/w Dugd. Warw. p. 134. Camd. 327. Kilb. Surv. p. 214.

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cestre, and more vulgarly, Penchester, from some fortified camp or fortress antiently situated here.

There is a district in this parish, called Hallborough, which is within the lowy of Tunbridge, the manerial rights of which belong to Thomas Streatfeild, esq. and there is another part of it, comprehending the estate of Chafford, which is within the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Lancaster.

THIS PARISH lies in the Weald, about four miles southward from the foot of the sand hills, and the same distance from Tunbridge town, and the high London road from Sevenoke. The face of the country is much the same as in those parishes last described, as is the soil, for the most part a stiff clay, being well adapted to the large growth of timber for which this parish is remarkable; one of these trees, as an instance of it, having been cut down here, about twenty years ago, in the park, called, from its spreading branches, Broad Oak, had twenty-one ton, or eight hundred and forty feet of timber in it. The parish is watered by the river Eden, which runs through the centre of it, and here taking a circular course, and having separated into two smaller streams, joins the river Medway, which flows by the southern part of the park towards Tunbridge. At a small distance northward stands the noble mansion of Penshurst-place, at the south west corner of the park, which, till within these few years, was of much larger extent, the further part of it, called North, alias Lyghe, and South parks, having been alienated from it, on the grounds of the latter of which the late Mr. Alnutt built his seat of that name, from whence the ground rises northward towards the parish of Lyghe. Close to the north west corner of Penshurst-park is the seat of Redleaf, and at the south west corner of it, very near to the Place, is the village of Penshurst, with the church and parsonage. At a small distance, on the other side the river, southward, is Ford-place, and here the country becomes more low,

and being watered by the several streams, becomes wet, the roads miry and bad, and the grounds much covered with coppice wood; whence, about a mile southward from the river, is New House, and the boroughs of Friendings and Kingsborough; half a mile southward from which is the river Medway; and on the further side of it the estate of Chafford, a little beyond which it joins the parish of Ashurst, at Stone cross. In a deep hole, in the Medway, near the lower end of Penshurst-park, called Tapner's-hole, there arises a spring, which produces a visible and strong ebullition on the surface of the river; and above Well-place, which is a farm house, near the south-east corner of the park, there is a fine spring, called Kidder's-well, which, having been chemically analyzed, is found to be a stronger chalybeate than those called Tunbridge-wells; there is a stone bason for the spring to rise in, and run to waste, which was placed here by one of the earls of Leicester many years ago. This parish, as well as the neighbouring ones, abounds with iron ore, and most of the springs in them are more or less chalybeate. In the lofty beeches, near the keeper's lodge, in Penshurst-park, is a noted heronry; which, since the destruction of that in lord Dacre's park, at Aveley, in Essex, is, I believe, the only one in this part of England. A fair is held here on July 1, for pedlary, &c.

The GREATEST PART of this parish is within the jurisdiction of the honour of Otford, a subordinate limb to which is the MANOR of PENSHURST HALI-MOTE, alias OTFORD WEALD, extending likewise over parts of the adjoining parishes of Chidingstone, Hever, and Cowden. As a limb of that of honour, it was formerly part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and was held for a long time in lease of the archbishops, by the successive owners of Penhurst manor, till the death of the duke of Buckingham, in the 13th year of king Henry VIII. in the 29th year of which reign, Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, exchanging Otford with the crown, this, as

an appendage, passed with it, and it remained in the hands of the crown till the death of king Charles I. 1648; after which the powers then in being, having seized on the royal estates, passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, to be sold, to supply the necessities of the state; when, on a survey made of this manor, in 1650, it appeared that the quit-rents due to the lord, from the freeholders in free socage tenure, were 16l. 18s. 3½d. and that they paid a heriot of the best living thing, or in want thereof, 3s. 4d. in money. That there were copyholders holding of it, within this parish, by rent and fine certain; that there was a common fine due from the township or borough of Halebury, and a like from the township of Penshurst, a like from the townships or boroughs of Chidingstone, Standford, and Cowden; and that there was a court baron and a court leet. The total rents, profits, &c. of all which amounted to 23l. and upwards. After this the manor was sold by the state to colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom it remained till the res=

toration of king Charles II. when the possession and inheritance of it returned to the crown, where it remains, as well as the honour of Otford, at this time, his grace the duke of Dorset being high steward of both; but the fee farm rents of it, with those of other manors belonging to the above mentioned honour, were alienated from the crown in king Charles II.'s reign, and afterwards became the property of Sir James Dashwood, bart. in whose family they still continue.

SOON AFTER the reign of William the Conqueror Penshurst was become the residence of a family, who took their name from it, and were possessed of the manor then called the manor of Peneshurste; and it appears by a deed in the Registrum Roffense, that Sir John Belemeyns, canon of St. Paul, London, was in possession of this manor, as uncle and trustee, in the latter part of king

/x Parl. Surveys, Aug. Off. Roll of Partic. ibid. Hen. VIII.

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Henry III.'s reign, to Stephen de Peneshurste or Penchester, who possessed it in the beginning of the reign of king Edward I. He had been knighted, and made constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports by Henry III. in which posts he continued after the accession of king Edward I./y He died without issue male, and was buried in the south chancel of this church, under an altar tomb, on which lay his figure in armour, reclining on a cushion. He left Margery, his second wife, surviving, who held this manor at her death, in the 2d year of king Edward II. and two daughters and coheirs; Joane, married to Henry de Cobham of Rundale, second son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his first wife, daughter of Warine Fitz Benedict;/z and Alice to John de Columbers, as appears by an inquisition, taken in the 3d year of king Edward II. His arms, being Sable, a bend or, a label of three points argent, still remain on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral. Alice, above mentioned, had this manor, with that of Lyghe adjoining, assigned to her for her proportion of their inheritance; soon after which these manors were conveyed to Sir John de Pulteney, son of Adam de Pulteney of Misterton, in Leicestershire, by Maud his wife. In the 15th year of that reign he had licence to embattle his mansion houses of Penshurst, Chenle in Cambridgeshire, and in London./a In the 11th year of king Edward III. Thomas, son of Sir John de Columbers of Somersetshire, released to him all his right to this manor and the advowson of the chapel of Penshurst;/b and the year following Stephen de Columbers, clerk, brother of Sir Philip, released to him likewise all his right in that manor and Yenesfeld,/c and that same year he obtained a grant for free warren within his demesne lands

/y Weever, p. 319. Philipott, p. 214.

/z Dug. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65. See more under Roundal in Shorne.

/a Coll. Peerage, vol. iii. p. 613. Rot. Pat. ejus an. part iii.

/b Situated in Lyghe parish.

/c Dugd. St. Paul's, p. 31. Strype's Stow's Surv. b. v. p. 110.

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within the former. He was a person greatly esteemed

by that king, in whose reign he was four times lord mayor of London, and is noticed by our historians for his piety, wisdom, large possessions, and magnificent housekeeping. In his life time he performed several acts of public charity and munificence; and among others he founded a college in the church of St. Laurence, since from him named Poultney, in London. He built the church of Little Allhallows, in Thames-street, and the Carmelites church, and the gate to their monastery, in Coventry; and a chapel or chantry in St. Paul's, London. Besides which, by his will, he left many charitable legacies, and directed to be buried in the church of St. Laurence above mentioned. He bore for his arms, Argent a fess dancette gules, in chief three leopards heads sable.

By the inquisition taken after his death, it appears, that he died in the 23d year of that reign, being then possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the chapel, Lyghe, South-park, and Orbiston woods, with lands in Lyghe and Tappenash, and others in this county. He left Margaret his wife surviving, who married, secondly, Sir Nicholas Lovaine; and he, in her right, became possessed of a life estate in this manor and the others above mentioned, in which they seem afterwards jointly to have had the fee; for Sir William Pulteney, her son, in his life time, vested his interest in these manors and estates in trustees, and died without issue in the 40th year of the same reign, when Robert de Pulteney was found to be his kinsman and next heir, who was ancestor to the late earl of Bath. The trustees afterwards, in the 48th year of it, conveyed them, together with all the other estates of which Sir John Pulteney died possessed, to Sir Nicholas Lovaine and Margaret his wife, and their heirs for ever. Sir Nicholas Lovaine above mentioned was a descendant of the noble family of Lovaine, a younger branch of the duke of Lorraine. Godfrey de Lovaine, having

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that surname from the place of his birth, possessed lands in England in right of his mother, grand daughter of king Stephen, of whose descendants this Nicholas was a younger branch. He bore for his arms, Gules, a fess argent between fourteen billets or; which arms were quartered by Bouchier earl of Bath, and Devereux earl of Essex. He died possessed of this manor, leaving one son, Nicholas, who having married Margaret, eldest daughter of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, widow of Henry lord Beaumont, died without issue, and a daughter Margaret, who at length became her brother's heir.

Margaret, the widow of Nicholas the son, on his death, possessed this manor for her life, and was afterwards re-married to Sir John Devereux, who in her right held it. He was descended from a family which had their surname from Eureux, a town of note in Normandy, and there were several generations of them in England before they were peers of this realm, the first of them summoned to parliament being this Sir John Devereux, who being bred a soldier, was much employed in the wars both of king Edward III. and king Richard II. and had many important trusts conferred on him. In the 11th year of the latter reign, being

then a knight banneret, he was made constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports. In the 16th year of that reign, he had licence to fortify and embattle his mansion house at Penshurst, the year after which he died, leaving Margaret his wife, surviving, who had an assignation of this manor as part of her dower. She died possessed of it, with Yensfield, and other lands, about the 10th year of king Henry IV. and was succeeded in them by Margaret, sister and heir of her husband, Nicholas Lovaine, who was twice married, first to Rich. Chamberlayn, esq. of Sherburn, in Oxfordshire; and secondly to Sir Philip St. Clere,

/d Coll. Peer. vol. iii. p. 620. Cooke's Bar. MSS.

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of Aldham, St. Clere, in Ightham./e Both of these, in right of their wife, seem to have possessed this manor, which descended to John St. Clere, son of the latter, who conveyed it by sale to John duke of Bedford, third son of king Henry IV. by Mary his wife, daughter and coheir of Humphry de Bohun, earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton.

The duke of Bedford was the great support and glory of this kingdom in the beginning of the reign of his infant nephew, king Henry VI. his courage was unequalled, and was followed by such rapid success in his wars in France, where he was regent, and commanded the English army in person, that he struck the greatest terror into his enemies. The victories he acquired so humbled the French, that he crowned king Henry VI. at Paris, in which city he died greatly lamented, in the 14th year of that reign,/f and was buried in the cathedral church of Roan. He was twice married, but left issue by neither of his wives. He died possessed of the manors of Penshurst, Havenden-court, and Yensfield, as was then found by inquisition; in which he was succeeded by his next brother, Humphry duke of Gloucester, fourth son of king Henry IV. by Mary his wife, daughter and coheir of Humphry de Bohun, earl of Hereford, &c. who in the 4th year of king Henry V. had had the offices of constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports, granted to him for the term of his life; and in the 1st year of king Henry VI. was, by parliament, made protector of England, during the king's minority; and the same year he was constituted chamberlain of England, at the coronation of that prince was appointed high steward of England.

The duke was, for his virtuous endowments, surnamed the Good, and for his justice was esteemed

/e Philipott, p. 270. Coll. Bar. vol. i. p. 503. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/f Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 200. Sands. Gen. Hist. p. 304.

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the father of his country, notwithstanding which, after he had, under king Henry VI. his nephew, governed this kingdom twenty-five years, with great applause, he was, by the means of Margaret of Aujou, his nephew's queen, who envied his power, arrested at the parliament held at St. Edmundsbury, by John lord Beaumont, then high constable of England, accompanied by the duke of Buckingham and others;

and the night following, being the last of February, anno 25 king Henry VI. he was found dead in his bed, it being the general opinion that he was strangled; though his body was shewn to the lords and commons, with an account of his having died of an apoplexy or imposthume; after which he was buried in the abbey of St. Alban, near the shrine of that proto-martyr, and a stately monument was erected to his memory.

This duke married two wives; first Jaqueline, daughter and heir of William duke of Bavaria, to whom belonged the earldoms of Holand, Zeland, and Henault, and many other rich seignories in the Netherlands; after which he used these titles, Humphrey, by the grace of God, son, brother, and uncle to kings; duke of Gloucester; earl of Henault, Holand, Zeland, and Pembroke; lord of Friesland; great chamberlain of the kingdom of England; and protector and defender of the kingdom and church of England. But she having already been married to John duke of Brabant, and a suit of divorce being still depending between them, and the Pope having pronounced her marriage with the duke of Brabant lawful, the duke of Gloucester resigned his right to her, and forthwith, after this, married Eleanor Cobham, daughter of Reginald, lord Cobham of Sterborough, who had formerly been his concubine. A few years before the duke's death she was accused of witchcraft, and of conspiring the king's death; for which she was condemned to solemn penance in

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London, for three several days, and afterwards committed to perpetual imprisonment in the isle of Man. He built the divinity schools at Oxford, and laid the foundation of that famous library over them, since increased by Sir Thomas Bodley, enriching it with a choice collection of manuscripts out of France and Italy. He bore for his arms, Quarterly, France and England, a bordure argent./g

By the inquisition, taken after his death, it appears, that he died possessed of the manors of Penshurst, Havenden-court, and Yensfield, in this county, and that dying without issue, king Henry VI. was his cousin and next heir.

The manor of Penshurst thus coming into the hands of the crown, was granted that year to Humphrey Stafford, who, in consideration of his near alliance in blood to king Henry VI. being the son of Edmund earl of Stafford, by Anne, eldest daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, sixth and youngest son of king Edward III. Mary, the other daughter and coheir, having married Henry of Bullingbroke, afterwards king Henry IV. and grandfather of king Henry VI. as well as for his eminent services to his country, had been, in the 23d year of that reign, created duke of Buckingham. He was afterwards slain in the battle of Northampton, sighting valiantly there on the king's part. By the inquisition, taken after his death, it appears that he died in the 38th year of that reign possessed of this manor of Penshurst, among others in this county and elsewhere; which afterwards descended down to his great grandson, Edward duke

of Buckingham, but in the 13th year of Henry VIII. this duke being accused of conspiring the king's death, he was brought to his trial, and being found guilty, was beheaded on Tower-hill that year. In the par=

/g Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 198, 199. Sandf. Gen. Hist. p. 304, 309. York's Honor, p. 155. /h Sandf. ibid. p. 227, 232, 258.

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liament begun April 15, next year, this duke, though there passed an act for his attainder, yet there was one likewise for the restitution in blood of Henry his eldest son, but not to his honors or lands, so that this manor, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, after which the king seems to have kept it in his own hands, for in his 36th year, he purchased different parcels of land to enlarge his park here, among which was Well-place, and one hundred and seventy acres of land, belonging to it, then the estate of John and William Fry, all which he inclosed within the pale of it, though the purchase of the latter was not completed till the 1st year of king Edward VI./i who seems to have granted the park of Penshurst to John, earl of Warwick, for that earl, in the 4th year of that reign, granted this park to that king again in exchange for other premises. In which year the king granted the manor of Penshurst, with its members and appurtenances, late parcel of the possessions of the duke of Buckingham, to Sir Ralph Fane, to hold in capite by knight's service, being the grandson of Henry Vane, alias Fane, of Hilsden Tun=bridge, esq. but in the 6th year of that reign, having zealously espoused the interests of the duke of Somerset, he was accused of being an accomplice with him, and being found guilty, was hanged on Tower-hill that year.

He died without issue and his estate became forfeited to the crown, where this manor staid but a short time, for the king, by his letters patent that year, granted to Sir William Sidney, and his heirs, his manor and park of Penshurst, with its appurtenances, le-Court lands in Penshurst and Chidingstone, the manor of Endsfield, called Endsfield farm, and his park in the parish of Lyghe, by estimation three hundred acres of land, to hold in capite by knight's service. This family of Sidney, which was antiently seated at Cranleigh, in Surry, and Kingesham, in Sussex, had their original

/i Augtn. off. Deeds of Purch. and Exch. Box. D. 66.

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from Sir William Sidney, chamberlain to Henry II. who came with him from Anjou, a direct descendant from whom was Sir William Sidney above-mentioned,/k who in the reign of king Henry VIII. had acquired great reputation in his profession, as a soldier, and in the 5th year of that reign commanded the right wing of the army under the earl of Surry, at the battle of Floddenfield, when he was made a knight banneret. He was chamberlain and afterwards steward to prince Edward before his accession to the crown, after which he was one of the gentlemen of king Edward's privy chamber. He died in the 7th year of Edward VI. and was buried at Penshurst, leaving by Anne his wife, daughter of Hugh Pagenham, Sir Henry Sidney, his son and heir, and four daughters. Sir Henry Sidney

had possession granted of the manors of Penshurst and Yensfield that year. He was highly esteemed by king Edward VI. with whom he had been bred from his infancy, and brought up in the court as a companion to him, at whose accession he was knighted, and made gentleman of his privy chamber, and in the 3d year of his reign sent ambassador into France, though not fully twenty-one years old. He was afterwards elected knight of the garter, was of the privy council, and four times made lord justice of Ireland, and thrice deputy for that realm, which is much indebted to him for the wise and prudent regulations he made, and the public works he effected during his government there. Having in his passage by water from Ludlow in Wales, of which principality he was then president, taken cold, he died after a few days sickness in the 28th year of queen Elizabeth, at the bishop's palace at Worcester; whence his body was, by the queen's order, conveyed with great solemnity, according to his degree, to Penshurst, where it was interred, but his heart was carried back to Ludlow, and buried there.

/k Coll. Peer. 2d edit. vol. ii, p. 145 et seq. and Dugd. Bar. vol. ii, p. 410 et seq. There are many pedigrees of this family among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

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By the lady Mary, eldest daughter of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, he had three sons, Sir Philip, Sir Robert, and Sir Thomas Sidney, and one surviving daughter, Mary, married to Henry, earl of Pembroke. Her name is highly celebrated by her brother, Sir Philip Sidney, in his *Arcadia*.

Sir Philip Sidney, the eldest son, was born as is supposed at Penshurst, Nov. 24, 1554, and had he not been cut off so soon, would most likely have proved one of the greatest worthies that England had ever seen, as well for his learning as his other extraordinary qualities. Being made governor of Flushing, in Zealand, he went over into Flanders with the forces sent to assist the states, and encountering the Spaniards near Zutphen, in Guilderland, on Sept. 22, in the same year in which his father died, was there mortally wounded in the thigh, and died on October 10 following, at Arnheim, æt. 34. Camden, in his eulogium on this excellent person, says, he was the great glory of his family, the great hopes of mankind, the most lively pattern of virtue, and the darling of the learned world. /l Not many months after, his corps was brought over to England, and interred with great honour above the choir in St. Paul's church, London, with no small lamentation, not only of the queen and court, but of the nation in general. He left by Frances his wife, daughter and heir of Sir Francis Walsingham, secretary of state, (who afterwards married Robert, earl of Essex, and after that the earl of Clanrickard) an only daughter named Elizabeth, who afterwards married Roger, earl of Rutland.

Sir Robert Sidney, his next brother and heir, succeeded to his estates, and in the 31st year of queen Elizabeth was appointed governor likewise of Flushing, and was afterwards sent ambassador into France. On king James's accession to the throne, he was by letters

patent in the 1st year of that reign, created a baron by the title of lord Sidney, of Penshurst, in this county, and there were created with him lord Cecil, lord Knolles, and lord Wotton, the two latter came in their ordinary apparel before the king, and had their robes laid over their shoulders, when their patents were delivered to them, that Sir Robert Cecil's crookedness might be the less observed.

In the 3d year of that reign he was created viscount Lisle,^m and in the 15th year of it installed knight of the garter, and in further consideration of his services he was next year created earl of Leicester, the ceremony of his creation being performed in the hall of the bishop's palace at Salisbury, and he was also of the council to the lord president of Wales, and of the privy council to king James, and dying at Penshurst in 1626, anno 2 king Charles I. was buried in this church.

He was twice married; first, to Barbara, daughter and heir to John Gamage, esq. of Coytie, in Glamorganshire, by whom he had three sons, Sir William, born at Flushing, and naturalized by act of parliament, who died unmarried. Henry, who died in his infancy, and Sir Robert, made knight of the Bath at the creation of Henry, prince of Wales, and eight daughters. Of whom, Barbara married Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, afterwards created viscount Strangford, afterwards married to Sir Thomas Colepeper. His second wife was Sarah, daughter of William Blunt, esq. and widow of Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton-at-Hone, to whom he was married but on the 25th of April before his death.

Sir Robert Sidney, viscount Lisle, was his only surviving son, and in the 2d year of king Charles I. succeeded him as earl of Leicester. He was by king James several times sent ambassador to the king of Denmark, the states of Germany, and the court of

^m The charter of creation is among the Harl. MSS. No. 6614.

France, and on the removal of the earl of Strafford, was nominated lord lieutenant of Ireland, though he never went over thither.

He died at Penshurst in 1677, having married Dorothy, eldest daughter of Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland. During whose residence here in 1649 the earl of Northumberland, her brother, being desirous of surrendering his trust of the custody of the duke of Gloucester and the princess Elizabeth, procured his sister, the countess of Leicester, the government of them; upon which they were removed to Penshurst-place, on June 11, and remained here about a year. The earl of Leicester had by his countess six sons and eight daughters, of those the eldest, lady Dorothy, whom Mr. Waller has celebrated under the name of Sacharissa, in his poems, was married to Henry, lord Spencer, afterwards created earl of Sunderland, and secondly, to Robert Smith, esq. of Bidborough, ancestor of the late lord chief baron Smythe; Lucy to Sir Thomas Pelham, bart. of Sussex; Anne to Joseph Cart, A. M. and Isabella to

Philip, viscount Strangford. Of the sons who survived to maturity, Philip was his successor; Algernon was that most zealous republican, who set up Marcus Brutus for his pattern, and was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1683, for being concerned in the Rye-house plot; and Robert, the third son, died at Penshurst in 1674. Henry, the youngest surviving son, was in 1689 created baron of Milton, and viscount Sidney of the isle of Shepey, and in 1694 was advanced to the title of earl of Romney in this county, and died unmarried in 1704.

The eldest son Philip succeeded to the titles and estate, and lived in great honor and esteem to a good old age, dying at London in 1698. He married Catherine, daughter of William Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who died in 1658, by whom he had Robert his successor, and two daughters.

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Robert, his son and heir, was called up by writ to the house of peers in his father's life-time, in 1689, and succeeded his father as earl of Leicester in 1698. He died in 1702, and was buried at Penshurst, having had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Egerton, earl of Bridgewater, four sons and two daughters, who survived him; of the former, Philip, the second son, was his successor; John, the fourth son, succeeded him as earl of Leicester; Thomas, the sixth son, was a colonel of dragoons, and left two daughters, his coheirs; Mary, who married Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. of Lowthorpe, in Leicestershire; and Elizabeth, who married William Perry, esq. of Turville-park, in Buckinghamshire, of whom hereafter; and Joceline, the seventh son, at length succeeded his brother John, as earl of Leicester.

Philip, the eldest surviving son, above-mentioned, succeeded his father as earl of Leicester, and married Anne, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Reeves, bart. of Suffolk. (Mary, the other daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Reeves, married colonel Thomas Sidney, the earl's younger brother) by whom he left no surviving issue. He died in 1705, and was buried in this church, on which the titles and estate devolved to his next brother, John earl of Leicester, who was appointed one of the lords of the king's bedchamber, and in 1717 warden of the cinque ports, and constable of Dover-castle, after which he was made a knight of the Bath, captain of the yeomen of the guards, and lord lieutenant of this county; in 1732 he was sworn of the privy council, and at the same time constable of the tower of London. He died unmarried in 1737, and was buried at Penshurst. On which (Thomas, the third and next surviving son of Robert, earl of Leicester, having died in 1729, without male issue, leaving by Mary his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Reeves, bart. as before-mentioned, only two daughters and coheirs) the

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titles and estate devolved to Joceline, the fourth surviving son of Robert, earl of Leicester, who married in 1717 Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Mr. Thomas, of Glamorganshire, but died without lawful issue in 1743, and lies buried in this church, being the last

heir male of this noble family, in whom the title of earl of Leicester expired. They bore for their arms, Or, a pheon's head azure; and for their crest, On a wreath, a bear, sustaining a ragged staff, argent, his muzzle sable, and his plain collar and chain or; and they sometimes gave, On a wreath, a porcupine azure, his quills, collar, and chain or./n

Joceline, earl of Leicester, had in 1738, suffered a common recovery of his estates, consisting of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham, alias Cophams, Hawden, alias Havenden-court, Hepsbroke, alias Ford-place, West Lyghe, East and West Eweherst, Ensfield, alias Yensfield, and Rendsley, in this county, the capital messuage of Penshurst-place, with its appurtenances, Penshurst-park, and the grounds adjoining to it, mostly within the pales called the Old and New Park, containing upwards of 1050 acres, together with the advowsons of Penshurst and Cowden, and the rectories or parsonages impropriate of Lyghe and Ensfield, and the several woods and coppices in Penshurst, Lyghe, Bidborough, Tunbridge, Chidingstone and Speldhurst, Ford-place-farm, Redleaf-house, and other estates therein-mentioned, situated in the parish of Penshurst, together with several lands and tenements in Lyghe, Bidborough and Tunbridge, in this county, to the use of him and his heirs and assigns for ever.

Upon which Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and dame Mary his wife, and William Perry, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, the daughters and coheirs of colonel Thomas Sidney as before-mentioned, laid claim to those ma=

/n MSS. pedigree of Sidney. Coll. Peer. edit. 2d. vol. ii. p. 154 et seq. and epitaphs in this church.

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nors and estates, insisting that earl Joceline, by suffering such recovery, being before only tenant for life, had forfeited such life-estate in them, and having no lawful issue, they as heirs of the body and heirs general of Robert, earl of Leicester, were entitled to the next estates in remainder created by a settlement made of them by him in 1700, expectant on the estate for life of Joceline, and therefore that they and their husbands were entitled to take advantage of such forfeiture, upon which in 1739, they commenced a suit in chancery for the recovery of them, during the litigation of which, Joceline, earl of Leicester, died in 1743, without issue, having by his will given all his estates to Anne Sidney, his natural daughter; being then an infant she, by her guardians a few months after the earl's death, exhibited a bill in chancery against Sir Brownlow Sherard and William Perry, esq. insisting that earl Joceline was tenant in tail by the former settlement, and by the said recovery was seised in fee simple, and claimed the estates under his will as above recited.

After great litigation, the suit being at issue, was tried at the bar of the court of king's bench, in 1745, when after a long hearing the jury found a special verdict, wherein the insanity of the earl, before insisted on, was not touched on, but remained still to be controverted, and as both parties found these suits at law very expensive, and that it would be many years before they would be decided, and the guardians of Anne

Sidney foreseeing if the will was set aside she would be destitute of maintenance, they agreed to compromise this dispute, and they agreed that Sir Brownlow Sherard and Mary his wife, and William Perry, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, should enjoy all the manors and estates whatsoever of the earl in the county of Kent, and that one moiety of them should be settled in trustees for the use of dame Mary Sherard, and the heirs of her body, with remainder to her and her heirs, and the other moiety in trustees for the use of Elizabeth

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Perry, in like manner as tenants in common, and not as joint tenants, and that each should be subject to a sum of money to be paid for the use of the said Anne Sidney, (afterwards married to Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Chidingstone,) who was likewise to enjoy the earl's estate in Glamorganshire, according to his will, subject to such estate as Elizabeth, countess of Leicester, had in it. All which was confirmed by an act of parliament passed for this purpose in the 20th year of the late king.

After which, Sir Brownlow Sherard and Mary his wife, and William Perry, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, remained possessed, as tenants in common, of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham, Hawsbrooke, Hepsbrooke, alias Ford-place, West Lyghe, East and West Eweherst, Rendsley, Penshurst-place, and the park, consisting of four hundred and nineteen acres within the pales, Well-place within the park, Ashore, part of it, and other lands belonging to it, and the rest of the estates mentioned in the act, part of them they divided into separate moieties; that moiety allotted to Sir B. Sherard and Mary his wife, consisted of the mansion of Ford-place-farm, Ensfield, Moody's-farm, Upper-Latterhams, now called Warrens, Lyghe-park, South-park, Priory and Crouch lands, Court lands, and other lands and woods, and the advowsons of the churches of Lyghe and Cowden; the other moiety allotted to Mr. Perry and Elizabeth his wife, consisted of the advowson of the church of Penshurst, Parsonage-farm at Lyghe, messuages and lands called Nashes, Doubletons, Redleaf, and other lands and woods belonging to the same.

Sir Brownlow Sherard was descended of a younger branch of the Sherards, earls of Harborough, and bore the same arms, viz. Argent, a chevron gules, between three torteaux, with a crescent for difference. He died in 1748 without issue, after which his widow possessed

/o See Bar. edit. 1741, vol. iv. p. 563 et seq.

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this moiety of these estates, and in 1752, had the king's sign manual that she and her issue should use the name of Sidney, and the coat armour of Robert, late earl of Leicester, deceased.

Lady Mary Sidney Sherard died without issue in 1758, and by her will in 1757, gave her interest in these estates to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. K. B. and daughter and coheir of Thomas, lord Howard, of Effingham, for her life, remainder to her son Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. They in the year 1770 joined in the sale of the undi-

vided moiety of the Sidney estate before-mentioned, to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, of Penshurst-place, and in the sale of the divided moiety as above-mentioned (except the advowsons of Lyghe and Cowden) to Richard Alnutt, esq. merchant of London, who on part of it called SOUTH PARK, in this parish, built a seat for his residence, which he called by that name, and dying in 1789, left by his will this seat of South-park, with the manerial rights of it, together with the rest of these estates in trustees, for the benefit of his infant grandchildren (his eldest son Richard having deceased in 1779) the eldest of whom, Richard Alnutt, esq. who in 1793 married Frances, daughter of William Woodgate, esq. of Summer-hill, is now possessed of it, and resides here.

William Perry, esq. who married Elizabeth, the other daughter and coheir of colonel Thomas Sidney, as above related, and bore for his arms, Azure, a fess embattled argent, between three pears or, resided at Penshurst-place, which he repaired and beautified, enriching it with a good collection of pictures, which he had purchased in his travels through Italy. In 1752 he procured the king's sign manual, that the issue of himself and Elizabeth his wife, grand daughter and heir of Robert, late earl of Leicester, deceased, might use and enjoy the name of Sidney only, and bear and use the coat armour of the said late earl.

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He died in 1757, having had one son Algernon Perry Sidney, who died unmarried in 1768, and five daughters, Mary, Jane and Anne, who died unmarried, Elizabeth, the second daughter, married Bishe Shelley, esq. and Frances, the fifth, married Mr. Poitiers, since deceased, by whom she has issue.

He left Elizabeth his wife surviving, who possessed the other divided moiety of these estates allotted to her in the division of them, and in 1770, purchased of lady Yonge, and Sir George Yonge, her son, the undivided moiety of the rest of them mentioned before, so that she became the entire possessor of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham, Hawsbrooke, Hepsbrooke, alias Ford-place, West Lyghe, East and West Eweherst and Rendsley, of Penshurst-place and the park, Well-place, Ashore, and other lands belonging to it.

But after Mrs. Perry had remained some years afterwards in the possession of these estates, another claim was set up to them by John Sidney, esq. who vouched, that he was the son and heir of Joceline, earl of Leicester, by his wife Elizabeth-Thomas, and accordingly he, by the title of John, earl of Leicester, instituted a suit against her to recover them, which came on in January, 1782, in the court of common pleas, to be tried on a writ of right, the proceedings of which are all antient and singular, by a grand assize, consisting of four knights of this county, with twelve gentlemen their companions, the tenor of whose oath is to say, whether the tenant who possesses the lands has more right to hold the lands than the demandant has to demand them. But Mrs. Perry, in support of her right, exhibiting the will of Joceline, earl of Leicester, to whom the demandant claimed to be son and heir, by which the estates in question were devised away from

him, and consequently he could not claim them by heirship to the earl, and as the issue to be tried, was solely, whether the demandant had a better title than the tenant, the old maxim of the law, *melior est conditio*

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possidentis was cited, to prove that Mrs. Perry's title, being in possession, was better than that of Mr. Sidney the demandant, who had no possession, and had lost all right by the above will, which gave them away to another, let the claim of the devise against Mrs. Perry be what it would, and the court was of this opinion, and the grand assize unanimously gave their verdict in her favour. Mrs. Perry after this continued in the uninterrupted possession of these estates till her death, which happened in London the year afterwards. By her will she devised these, among her other estates in Kent, to trustees, for the benefit of her grandson John Shelley, esq. (eldest son of Bishe Shelley, esq. by Elizabeth, her daughter) who, in pursuance of her will in 1783, procured the king's sign manual, to take and use the name and arms of Sidney, and he is now the possessor of Penshurst manor and place, with the other manors and estates above-mentioned.

PENSHURST-PLACE is a fine old mansion standing at the south-west corner of the park, which is still, though greatly diminished, of no small extent, for it contains at this time upwards of four hundred acres of land, diversified with hills, woods and lawns, and well planted with large oak, beech and chesnut trees. The south side of it is watered by the river Medway. The celebrated oak in this park, now called Bears-oak, said to be planted at Sir Philip Sidney's birth, measures upwards of twenty-two feet in circumference. It stands at a small distance above the fine piece of water called Lancup-well, and is thus celebrated by Mr. Waller, in a poem, dated from Penshurst.

Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark
Of noble Sidney's birth; when such benign,
Such more than mortal-making stars did shine;
That there they cannot but for ever prove
The monument and pledge of humble love.

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And thus, by BEN JOHNSON, in his FOREST:

That taller tree, which of a nut was set
At his great birth, where all the muses met.

SALMANS is an estate in this parish, which had anciently owners of that name, one of whom, William Salman, possessed it in the 9th year of king Henry VI. soon after which it became the inheritance of John Rowe, who was owner of it in the 12th year of that reign. In the 7th year of king Henry VII. Walter Derkinghall, alias Darkenol, possessed it, who by his will, in 1504, gave it to Robert Darkenol his son, and he passed it away by sale, in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. to Thomas Willoughby, one of the king's serjeants at law, afterwards knighted and made justice of the common pleas; one of whose descendants, Thomas Willoughby, alienated his interest in it by fine and

recovery in the 13th year of king Charles I. to John Seyliard, esq. of this parish,^p whose descendant, John Seyliard, esq. of Blechingley, in Surry, dying without issue, his neice and heir carried her interest in it in marriage to George Scullard, of London, who alienated it to Mrs. Streatfield, of Chidingstone, the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF HEPSBROOKE, the mansion of which is called FORD-PLACE, was the antient habitation of the Sidneys before they removed to Penshurst-place, in the reign of king Edward VI. and continued afterwards in the same family, earls of Leicester, till it passed in like manner as the rest of their estates in this parish to Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and William Perry, esq. who possessed the manor itself as tenants in common, and the farm or demesne lands of it called Ford-place-farm in separate moieties. Sir Brownlow Sherard died in 1748 without issue, after which his widow possessed his interest in this manor and estate, and

^p Philipott, p. 757, 207.

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dying in 1758 by her last will bequeathed it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. for her life, remainder to her son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. They in 1770 joined in the sale of their undivided moiety of this manor, to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, widow of William Perry, esq. of Penshurst-place, who being owner of the other moiety of it before, became then possessed of the whole of it, after which it continued in her possession, in like manner as Penshurst manor, and the rest of her estates here, till her death in 1783, since which, by virtue of her will, this manor is now at length come into the possession of her eldest grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq.

But the farm, or demesne lands, called FORDPLACE-FARM, was in 1770 alienated by lady Yonge, and Sir George, her son, to Richard Alnutt, esq. merchant, of London, who died possessed of it in 1789, and his grandson of the same name is now in the possession of it.

AT THE SOUTHERN extremity of this parish stood a mansion called CHAFFORD-PLACE, which was for many descents the property and residence of the family of Roe or Rowe, a branch of those of Rowe's place, in Aylesford, in this county, who bore for their arms, Argent, on a chevron azure three bezants, between three trefoils slipt parted per pale, gules and vert.^q But in the reign of king Henry VIII. it was come into the possession of the family of Rivers, descended from those of River-hill, in Hampshire, one of whom, Sir Bartholomew Rivers, lived in the reign of king Edward IV. to whom he was firmly attached. This family bore for their arms, quarterly, first and fourth, Azure, two bars dancette or, in chief three bezants, by the name of Rivers; second and third, Azure, a fess engrailed argent, surmounted by another not engrailed gules, charged with three roses argent, between as many swans proper,

^q MSS. pedigree of Rowe.

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which last was an augmentation of honor given to Sir

Bartholomew Rivers, by that king, for his good and faithful services to the house of York. This coat of arms, together with the crest of Rivers, viz. A bull at gaze, was carved on the gateway of Chafford-house, built by one of this family. Peacham says, the grant of this coat was in the hands of Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, and might be seen in Claus anno 5 king Edward IV. 4 M. 12 intus, in the tower of London./r

His son, William Rivers, had a command in the reigns of king Edward IV. and king Henry VII. and by his will in 1506, ordered his body to be buried in the cathedral church of Rochester. He left by Alice his wife Richard his son and heir, who was father of Richard Rivers, of Penshurst, steward of the lands of Edward, duke of Buckingham; his son, Sir John Rivers, was of Chafford, and served the office of lord-mayor in the 15th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth.

His grandson, John Rivers, esq. was created a baronet in the 19th year of king James I. and having married Dorothy, only daughter and heir of Thomas Potter, of Well street, in Westerham, procured an act of parliament in the 21st year of that reign, to alter the tenure and custom of his lands, those of Sir George Rivers, his father, as well as those of Thomas Potter, esq. deceased, above-mentioned, being then of the nature of gavelkind, and to make them descendible according to the course of common law, and to settle the inheritance of them upon him, by dame Dorothy above mentioned his wife./s

After which this estate descended down to Sir George Rivers, bart. who by Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Beversham, bart. of Holbrooke-hall, in Suffolk, had four sons, who all died without issue, and seven daughters./t At his death in 1734, without male issue,

/r Compleat Gent. p. 236.

/s Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 300.

/t Kimb. Bar. vol. i. p. 211.

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he by his will gave Chafford-place, with the park, then used as a warren, and the other grounds belonging to it, among his other real estates, to his five natural children, by Anne-Maria Thomas, with whom he cohabited by the name of Rivers, but his surviving legitimate children, and the heirs of those deceased, filed a bill in chancery to set aside this devise, and after several decrees and process at law, this estate was by the court ordered to be sold in 1743, which it accordingly was to Mr. William Saxby, of Horsted Cayns, in Sussex, gent. who bore for his arms, Vert a garb between three partridges, or, which coat was granted to him in 1752. He pulled down the antient mansion, and built a farm-house on the scite of it, and died possessed of this estate in 1783, in which year it was afterwards sold, in pursuance of his will, to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of it in 1794; since which his widow, Mrs. Sarah Burges, remarrying James Harbroc, esq. he is become the present possessor of it.

REDLEAFE-HOUSE is a seat in this parish, situated at the north-west corner of Penshurst-park, which remained for many years in the possession of the family of Spencer, who bore for their arms, Quarterly argent

and gules, in the 2d and 3d a fret or, over all, on a bend sable, three escallops of the first, and were descended from the family of this name at St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire.

Gilbert Spencer, esq. son of Gilbert, son of Hugh, son of William Spencer, owned this seat, and resided at it in the reigns of king Charles II. and William III. He died possessed of it in 1709, and was buried in this church, having married Elizabeth, the eldest sister and coheir of Oliver Combridge, of Newhouse, alias Harts, a seat situated in the southern part of this parish, who bore for his arms, Gules, a cross moline or, between four swans proper, with their wings expanded, and standing on mounts vert. Anne, the other sister and coheir, married Mr. John Thorpe, grandfather of

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John Thorpe, esq. late of Highstreet-house, in Bexley. He had by her several sons and daughters; of the former Gilbert, the eldest son, dying in his father's life time, Robert, the second son, succeeded to this estate, who was of Darking, in Surry, and dying without issue, in 1730, it came to his brother Abraham Spencer, esq. of Penshurst, who was sheriff in 1736, and dying unmarried in 1740, lies buried in this church, having by his will devised this seat, with the estate belonging to it, to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1779, and by his will devised it to his eldest son, now the Rev. Thomas Harvey, who possesses it and resides here.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS PELSETT gave by will in 1602, being the last year of queen Elizabeth's reign, for the benefit of the poor, land vested in Thomas Driver, of the annual produce of 1l.

JOHN SAXBY, senior, gave by will in 1783, for the like use, land vested in Mathias Young, of the annual produce of 1l. 10s.

PENSHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is a large handsome building, is dedicated to St. John Baptist. It consists of three isles, a cross isle, and three chancels, having a tower steeple at the west end.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: – In the middle isle, a grave-stone, with the figure of a man and his two wives, now torn off, but the inscription remains in black letter, for Watur Draynowtt, and Johanna and Anne his wives, obt. 1507; beneath are the figures of four boys and three girls, at top, arms, two lions passant, impaling or, on a chief, two lions heads erased; a memorial for Oliver Combridge, and Elizabeth his wife, obt. 1698. In the chancel, memorials on brass for Bulman and Paire; within the rails of the altar a grave-stone for William Egerton, LL. D. grandson of John, earl of Bridgwater, rector of Penshurst and Allhallows, Lombard-street, chancellor and prebendary of Hereford, and prebendary of Can-

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terbury, he left two daughters and one son, by Anne, daughter of Sir Francis Head, obt. Feb. 26, 1737; on the south side of the altar, a memorial in brass for John Bust, God's painful minister

in this place for twenty-one years; on the north side a mural monument for Gilbert Spencer, esq. of Redleafe-house, obt. 1709, arms, Spencer, an escutcheon of pretence for Combridge; underneath is another stone, with a brass plate, and inscription for William Darkenol, parson of this parish, obt. July 12, 1596; on grave-stones are these shields in brass, the figures and inscriptions on which are lost, parted per fess, in chief two lions passant guardant in base, two wolves heads erased; on another, the same arms, impaling a chevron between three padlocks; another, a lion rampant, charged on the shoulder with an annulet, and another, three lions passant impaling parted per chevron, the rest defaced. In the south chancel, on a stone, the figures of a man and woman in brass, and inscription in black letter, for Pawle Yden, gent. and Agnes his wife, son of Thomas Yden, esq. obt. 1564, beneath is the figure of a girl, arms, four shields at the corner of the stone, the first, Yden, a fess between three helmets; two others, with inscriptions on brass for infant children of the Sidney family; a small grave-stone, on which is a cross gradated in brass, and inscription in black letter, for Thomas Bullayen, son of Sir Thomas Bullayen; here was lately a monument for lady Mary eldest daughter of the famous John, duke of Northumberland, and sister to Ambrose, earl of Warwick, Robert, earl of Leicester, and Catharine, countess of Huntingdon, wife of the right hon. Sir Henry Sidney, knight of the garter, &c. at the west end of the chancel, a mural monument for Sir William Coventry, youngest son of Thomas, lord Coventry, he died at Tunbridge-wells, 1686; on the south side a fine old monument of stone, under which is an altar tomb, and on the wall above it a brass plate, with inscription in black letter, for Sir William Sidney, knight-banneret, chamberlain and steward to king Edward VI. and the first of the name, lord of the manor, of Penshurst, obt. 1553; on the front are these names, Sir William Dormer, and Mary Sidney, Sir William Fitzwilliam, Sir James Hanington, Anne Sidney, and Lucy Sidney; on the south side a handsome monument, with the arms and quarterings of the Sidney family, and inscription for lord Philip Sidney, fifth earl of Leicester, &c. obt. 1705, and was succeeded by John, his brother and heir; for John, sixth earl of Leicester, cosin and heir of Henry Sidney, earl of Romney, &c. obt. 1737, his heirs Mary and Elizabeth Sidney, daughters and heirs of his brother the hon. Thomas Sidney, third surviving son of Robert, earl of Leicester, became his joint heirs, for Josceline, seventh earl of Leicester, youngest brother and heir male of earl John, died s. p. in 1743, with whom the title of earl of Leicester expired; the aforesaid Mary and Elizabeth, his nieces, being his heirs, of whom the former married Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart.

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and Elizabeth, William Perry, esq. on the monument is an account of the several personages of this noble family, their descent, marriages and issue, too long by far to insert here; on the north side is a fine monument for several of the infant children of this family, and beneath is an urn and inscriptions for Frances Sidney, fourth daughter, obt. 1692, æt. 6; for Robert Sidney, earl of Leicester, &c. fourth earl of this family, who married lady Elizabeth Eger-ton, by whom he had fifteen children, of whom nine died young, whose figures, as cherubims, are placed above, obt. 1702; Robert, the eldest son, obt. 1680, æt. 6; Elizabeth, countess of Leicester, obt. 1709, and buried here in the same vault with her lord. In the same chancel is a very antient figure in stone of a knight in armour, being for Sir Stephen de Penchester, lord warden and constable of Dover-castle in the reign of king Edward I. It was formerly laid on an altar tomb in the chancel, but is now placed erect against the door on the south side, with these words painted

on the wall above it, SIR STEPHEN DE PENCHESTER. In the fourth window of the north isle, are these arms, very antient, within the garter argent a fess gules in chief, three roundels of the second, being those of Sir John Devereux, K. G. lord warden and constable, and steward of the king's house in king Richard II's reign; near the former was another coat, nothing of which now remains but the garter. In the same windows are the arms of Sidney; in the second window is this crest, a griffin rampant or. In the east window of the great chancel are the arms of England. In the east window of the south chancel are the arms of the Sidney family, with all the quarterings; there were also, though now destroyed, the arms of Sir Thomas Ratcliff, earl of Sussex, and lady Frances Sidney.

This church was of the antient patronage of the see of Canterbury, and continued so till the 3d year of queen Elizabeth, when Matthew, archbishop of Canterbury, granted it to that queen in exchange for the parsonage of Earde, alias Crayford; and though in the queen's letters patent dated that year, confirming this exchange, there is no value expressed, yet in a roll in the queen's office, it is there set down, the tenth deducted, at the clear yearly value of 32l. 1s. 9d./u

Soon after which the queen granted the church of Penshurst to Sir Henry Sidney, whose descendants, earls of Leicester, afterwards possessed it; from whom

/u Folio Christ Church, MSS.

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it passed, in like manner as Penshurst manor and place, to William Perry, esq. who died possessed of it in 1757, leaving Elizabeth his wife surviving, who continued proprietor of the advowson of this church at the time of her death in 1783; she by her last will devised it to trustees for the use of her eldest grandson, John Shelley, esq who has since taken the name of Sidney, and is the present owner of it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at thirty marcs. By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of ecclesiastical livings, taken in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned that the tithes belonging to the parsonage of Penshurst were one hundred and ten pounds per annum, and the parsonage house and glebe lands about fifty pounds per annum, the earl of Leicester being patron, and master Mawdell, minister, who received the profits for his salary./w

The annual value of it is now esteemed to be four hundred pounds and upwards. The rectory of Penshurst is valued in the king's books at 30l. 6s. 0¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 0s. 7¹/₂d./x

John Acton, rector of this parish, in 1429, granted a lease for ninety-nine years, of a parcel of his glebe land, lying in Berecroft, opposite the gate of the rectory, containing one acre one rood and twelve perches, to Thomas Berkley, clerk, Richard Hammond, and Richard Crundewell, of Penshurst, for the purpose of building on, at the yearly rent of two shillings, and upon deaths and alienations, one shilling to be paid for an heriot, which lease was confirmed by the archbishop and by the dean and chapter of Canterbury./y

An account of the chantry or free chapel of Penshurst will be given in the next parish of Lyghe, within

the bounds of which it was situated.

/w Par. Sur. Lamb. lib. v. xix.

/x Ect. Thes. p. 387.

/y In the archives of the dean and chapter.

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CHURCH OF PENSHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury Sir Walter, in the 23d king
Henry III./z

John Acton, in 1429.

John Armerer, A. M. presented
in 1554./a

Family of Sidney. William Darkenoll, obt. July 12,
1596./b

Henry Hammond, A. M. induct.
August 22, 1633, sequest.
1643./c

John Mawaell, ejected August
1662./d

..... Lee.

William Egerton, LL. D. 1720,
obt. Feb. 26, 1738./e

Samuel Lidsey, A. M. March
1738, obt. 1741./f

..... Stephens, June 1741./g

Hopton Williams, June 1743, ob.
March 11, 1770./h

Henry Beauclerk, A. M. 1770./i

Richard Rycroft, D. D. obt.
1786./k

Matthew Nicholas, S. T. P. ind.
1787. Present rector.

/z Reg. Roff. p. 610.

/a Presented by the queen. He was
also rector of Ivechurch.

/b He lies buried in the church.

/c A most learned and pious divine,
who suffered much for his loyalty. He
was afterwards D. D. canon of Christ
church, and archdeacon of Chichester,
from all which he was sequestred. He
died April 25, 1660, and was buried
at Hampton, in Worcestershire.

/d See Parl. Surveys, vol. xix. and
Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/e Before rector of Cowden; in 1732
he held the church of Allhallows,
London, with this of Penshurst, was
chancellor and prebendary of Hereford,
and prebendary of Canterbury. He
was grandson of John, earl of Bridge=
water, and lies buried in this church.

/f Rector of Shasbrook in Berkshire.

/g Rector also of the New Church in
the Strand.

/h He had been before vicar of Pres=
ton by Wingham.

/i Son of the late lord Henry Beau=
clerk, and prebendary of Hereford.

/k In 1773 a dispensation passed, for his holding this church with those of Terring and Patching consolidated, in Sussex. He was created a baronet in 1783.

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LYGHE.

The next parish eastward from Penshurst is LYGHE, called also in writings LEIGH and WEST LEIGH, and LA LYE, in the Textus Roffensis, LEAGA, which in Saxon signifies a feeding, or pasture.

THIS PARISH is about three miles and an half in length from north to south, and somewhat less than two and a half in breadth, it lies below the sand hills, in the district of the Weald. The northern part of it lies more above ground, and consequently more dry than the parishes last described; the soil is mostly a stiff loam; the lower parts, next the river, are much subject to be overflowed. The village is in the southern part of the parish, having the church on the north side of it, and a small distance from it the seat of Hall-place, situated within the large district called Hallenden, which stretches two miles and an half north-eastward, the extremity of which, though now separated from this part of it, by the parish of Tunbridge intervening, yet by the best accounts has ever been supposed to be within this of Lyghe. The river Medway runs along the southern part of this parish, at a small distance southward from which is Endsfield. Another stream, which rises at the foot of the sand-hills, bounds the eastern side of this parish, and meets the river at Tunbridge; between these is the estate and mill of Ramhurst, close to the boundary of it next to Tunbridge; about half a mile westward from the village is the ground, late the upper part of Penshurst-park, called Lyghe, alias North Park, now the property of Mr. Alnutt. Above it is Lyghe-green, between which and Hall-place there is much coppice wood, as there is in the northern part of this parish, called Westwood, near Halls and Fletchers green. A fair is held here on July 25, for pedlary ware, &c.

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THE MANOR OF LYGHE, alias WEST LEIGH, had always the same owners that the adjoining manor of Penshurst had. Sir Stephen de Peneshurste possessed it in the reign of king Edward I. after whose decease, Margery, his wife, held it in dower, and died possessed of it in the 2d year of king Edward II. whose daughter and coheir Alice carried it in marriage to John de Colubmers, as appears by an inquisition taken in the 3d year of king Edward II./

Soon after which this manor was conveyed to John de Pulteney, afterwards knighted, and four times lord mayor of London, who was likewise possessed of the manor of Yeanesfield, with lands called Tappenashe, and others in this parish. In the 12th year of king Edward III. Stephen de Colubmers, clerk, brother of Sir Philip de Colubmers, released to Sir John de Pulteney all his right to the manor of Yenesfeld above-

mentioned, and in the 18th year of the same reign, Roger de la Lye, son of Godfrey de Essex, released to him all his right and title in the lands and tenements, which the said Sir John had purchased of Emme, his mother, in this parish of Lye. In the 20th year of king Edward III. Sir John de Pulteney paid respective aid for the manor of Yenesfeld, as the third part of a knight's fee, which John de Columbers held at Yeane=feld of the earl of Gloucester, being parcel of that ho= nor; and also for the fourth part of a knight's fee, which Emma de Tapenese held at Tapenese, which lands were also called Tapenes-corner./m

By the inquisition taken after the death of Sir John de Pulteney, it appears, that he died in the 23d year of the above reign, being then possessed of the ma= nors of Leigh, alias Lyghe, Penshurst and Yenesfeld, South-park wood, Orbiston wood, Heversmede, Cor=

/l Coll. Peer. edit. 3d, vol. iii. p. 613 et seq.

/m From Mr. Petyt's Fœdary of Kent his Book.

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tons lands, and lands in Lyghe and Tappenashe, and that William de Pulteney was his son and heir.

After which these manors of West Leigh, alias Lyghe and Yeansfield, alias Ensfield, with the other lands in this parish, passed in the same manner as that of Pens=hurst above described, with the several successive owners, until king Edward VI. by his letters patent in his 4th year, granted them with lands, called Pauls and Priors, the park and the lodge in Ashore park, all which were within this parish, together with the manor of Pens=hurst, to Sir William Sidney, to hold in capite, by knight's service./n He died possessed of them in the 7th year of king Edward VI. after which they conti= nued with Penshurst in his descendants, earls of Lei=cester, till at length after the death of Josceline, the last earl, in 1743, without lawful issue, they came into the possession of Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and Mary his wife, and William Perry, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, the daughters and coheirs of colonel Thomas Sidney, the earl's elder brother, in consequence of a compromise made between them and the earl's natural daughter and devisee, and they afterwards made a divi= sion of a part of these estates, and possessed the rest in undivided moieties, not as joint tenants, but as tenants in common, which agreement and division was con= firmed by act of parliament.

Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. died in 1748 without issue, after which his widow possessed the undivided moiety of the manor of Lyghe, and other lands in this parish, and the divided moiety of Ensfield, and the lands belonging to it, till her death in 1758, when she by her will bequeathed the whole of her interest in both to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. and K. B. for her life, remainder to her son Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot; and they joined in the sale of the divided moiety of those estates in this parish, con=

/n Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 7.

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sisting of the capital messuage of Ensfield, with three hundred acres of land, and other premises, to Richard

Alnutt, esq. of London, merchant, whose grandson of the same name, is the present proprietor of them; and they joined in the sale of their undivided moiety of the manor of Lyghe, and the rest of the undivided part of those estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, of Penshurst-place, who being in possession of the other undivided moiety of them, after the death of her husband in 1757, became possessed of the whole fee of them, which continued in her possession with Penshurst, and the rest of the Sidney estates here, till her death in 1783, since which, by virtue of her will, they are now at length become the property of her eldest grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq./o

In the EASTERN PART of this parish, near the river Medway, stands an antient mansion called RAMHURST, once reputed a manor and held of the honor of Gloucester. In the reign of king Edward I. it was held by the family of Rouland, from whence it passed to the Culpepers, one of whom, Walter Culpeper, paid respective aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as the sixth part of a knight's see, which Thomas Rouland before held at Ramhurst of the earl of Gloucester. It continued in the name of Culpeper for several generations, till at length it was alienated to Worrall, and from thence again about the latter end of Henry VIII. to Lewknor, from whom, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was sold to Dixon, from which name it passed by sale into that of Saxby, in which it continued till Mr. William Saxby conveyed it by sale to Richard Children, esq. who resided here and died possessed of it in 1753. He was succeeded in it by his eldest son, John Children, esq. of Tunbridge, whose son, George Children, esq. of Tunbridge, is the present possessor of it.

/o See Penshurst.

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HOLLENDEN is a large district of land, which by the best account seems to be all of it within this parish, though that of Tunbridge intervenses, and entirely separates the greatest part of the parish of Lyghe from that in which Hollenden is situated.

It was in very early times part of the possessions of the antient family of Fremingham, for in the 55th year of king Henry III. Ralph de Fremingham obtained a charter of free-warren to several of his manors in this county, among which was this of Hollenden. But about the reign of king Henry IV. it was in the possession of Cheney, as appears by some antient court-rolls, and several parcels of land belonging to it, were long after called by the name of Cheney-fields./p But before the reign of king Henry VIII. it became parcelled out to several different owners, and thereby lost all right to the name of a manor, so that now there is neither court, rent or service belonging to it.

John Fane, esq. of Tudely, was possessed of lands and tenements called Holynden, in the reign of king Henry VII. and by his will in the 13th year of that reign, devised them to his youngest son John, ancestor of the lord viscount Vane and the earl of Darlington. A house and part of the demesnes of it were about the beginning of the reign of king Henry VII. conveyed

by sale to Stace, whose son, John Stace, died possessed of them in 1539, without issue, and lies buried in this church. Upon which this estate descended to his cousin and next heir, John Stace, of Cobham, who died possessed of it in 1591, and was likewise buried here. He had three sons and two daughters, and at his death devised this estate to George Stace, his sole heir, who sold it to Turner, as he again did to James Pelsett, since which it has been again separated in such a manner that no two or three persons can be said to be the possessors of it.

/p Philipott, p. 347.

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ANOTHER PART of Hollenden was conveyed, in the reign of king Henry VIII. to William Waller, from whom it descended to his son, Richard Waller, about which time this part acquired the name of HALL-PLACE, alias HOLLENDEN. Anne his widow survived him, and carried this estate to her second husband, Stephen Towse, gent. who died owner of it in 1611, and lies buried here, leaving his wife above mentioned surviving; not long after which it passed to Crittenden, in which name it continued to the reign of king Charles II. when it was alienated to Harrison, and Abraham Harrison, esq. died possessed of it in 1717, and lies buried in this church; after which it was alienated to Burges, and Robert Burges, esq. claimed the manerial rights of it, by the name of the manor of Lyghe Hallendon. He rebuilt this seat, of which he died possessed in 1794; since which his widow, Mrs. Sarah Burges, having remarried James Harbroc, esq. he is become the present owner of it.

LYGHE is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small mean building without a steeple. There are good remains of painted glass in the windows.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it are the following: In the chancel are three brass plates, which have been taken from grave stones, and are now nailed to the floor of a pew, on the north side, in black letter, one for Thomas Chann, esq. ob. 1407; the second for John Stace, of Moreden, eldest son of John Stace of Hollenden, ob. 1590; the third represents the figure of a woman in her shroud, lying in a tomb, and on the upper part she is represented as rising from it; the inscription is lost. A memorial for Anne and Philidelphia, who died infants, daughters of Mr. Joseph Carte, minister of this church, by the lady Anne his wife, daughter of Robert earl of Leicester; within the rails, a memorial for Mary, wife of Richard Antrobus, second son of Robert Antrobus, minister of this parish, who lies near it; she was eldest daughter of Thomas Seyliard, esq. of Salmons, obt. 1679; a grave stone, with two brass plates, the uppermost has an inscription in black letter, for John Stace, of Hollenden, ob. s. p.

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and that estate descended to John Stace of Cobham, as cousin and next heir, obt. 1539; the other has on it the figure of a man, and inscription for John Stace of Hollenden, last mentioned, who had three sons, John, George, Richard, and two daughters; John and Richard died before him, and he devised the above estate to

George, as his sole heir, ob. 1591. A memorial for lady Anne Carte, ob. 1693; another for Sidney Carte, ob. 1582, æt. 13; another for Dorothy, third daughter of Mr. Joseph Carte, and lady Anne his wife, obt. 1684. On the south side is a mural monument for her: on the north side, a mural monument, shewing that in a vault lies Abraham Harrison, esq. owner of the manor of Hall-place, alias Hollenden, obt. 1718, and Elizabeth, his second wife, obt. 1718. Under the former monument is a brass plate, with an inscription for Stephen Towse, gent. who married Anne, widow of Richard Waller, esq. and owner of the manor above mentioned, obt. 1611. In the east window of the chancel are these arms, very antient, Or, three chevrons gules, and in a small circular window, over the former, are the arms of the Sidneys earls of Leicester./q

The patronage of this church, in the reign of king John, belonged to Sir John Canewe,/r and it appears to have continued so in king Richard II.'s reign, in the 9th year of which, Sir John Chanewe de la Lye, otherwise called John Lye of Kent, attended, among others, John of Gaunt, king of Castile, in his voyage to Spain;/s after which it was given to the priory of Tunbridge, which had been erected by Richard de Clare, about the end of the reign of king Henry I. King Edward III. July 23, in his 22d year, at the request of Ralph lord Stafford, granted licence to the prior and convent of Tunbridge to appropriate the church of Lyghe, of which they then possessed the advowson, to hold it so appropriated to them and their successors for ever. After which the prior and convent applied to Hamo de Hethe, then bishop of Rochester, to confirm the appropriation of this church, the value of which, as it was then taxed, did not exceed twelve pounds of silver; at the same time

/q See the mon. and inscrip. more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 903.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 461. Tan Mon. p. 212.

/s Rym. Fœd. vol. vii. p. 500.

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they set forth the miserable state they were then in; their church and monastery, with all they had therein, having been burned to the ground, and they themselves reduced to great poverty. But the bishop dying before the appropriation was completed, they applied for the same purpose to his successor, bishop John de Shepey, who, by his instrument, in 1353, appropriated the same to the religious and their monastery, and annexed, united, and incorporated it, with all its rights and appurtenances, to their own proper uses, excepting the portion of the vicar, who should in future be placed in it, when it should become vacant, saving and reserving to the bishop, and his successors, canonical obedience from the prior and convent, on account of the church of Leghe, and the visitation and other rights of the church of Rochester and its bishop, and also the dues to the archdeacon of the place, as well of custom as right, and all other rights and customs whatsoever; and saving and reserving to himself and his successors, bishops of Rochester, by the express consent of the prior and convent, twenty shillings sterling, in the name of his procuration, for victuals and drink, for himself and his servants, as often as he and they should happen

to visit the church of Leghe in ordinary; and he ordained, made, and created a perpetual vicarage, in the church; to which vicarage, when the religious should have obtained possession of it, and afterwards, whenever it should become vacant, he willed and ordained, that they should present a fit person, in due form of law, to him and his successors, bishops of Rochester, to be by him and them instituted in it. And he ordained and decreed, that the portion of the vicar and vicarage of this church should for ever consist of and in a competent house for him and his family, to be found and built for the first time at the cost of the religious, which should consist of only an hall, two chambers, a kitchen, and stable, and of one

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curtilage, all competent for his use; and of and in the following profits and obventions of this church, to the value of eight marcs of silver, to be wholly taken and received yearly by the vicar of it, viz. in spiritual obventions, made according to custom in the church; obventions and legacies, which were made at the altar; and in the tithes of flax, hemp, milk, butter, cheese, calves, wool, lambs, geese, ducks, pigs, eggs, wax, honey, apples, pears, pigeons, fisheries, fowlings, huntings, and merchandising, of and in the whole parish of Leghe; also of and in the tithes of hay, herbage, and silva cedua, from the west and north part of the park of Penshurst, called Eshores-park, and from the said park, by the Medway, to the mill of Yensfield, and the way which leads from the said mill by the manse of John de Polle, and by the church yard of Leghe to the bridge, called Bittebregge, with the hay, herbage, and silva cedua of Holyndenne; so that the aforesaid vicar, for the time being, beyond the profits and obventions of the church, as aforesaid, which he willed him to take and receive entirely and wholly without deduction, for his portion, and for the entire and whole portion of his vicarage, which notoriously exceeded the sum of eight marcs, should claim nothing from the religious, or from the profits and obventions of this church, unless they, out of their especial bounty, should think fit to augment the same to him. And he ordained and decreed, that the above, valued at eight marcs, as aforesaid, should be the portion of the vicar and of the vicarage of this church in all future times; and that the vicar, for the time being, should wholly bear all burthens, ordinary and extraordinary whatsoever, incumbent on the church, as well those present and in future, as those which might newly arise from the time in which he should become vicar; and he reserved to himself and his successors, from the prior and convent of Tonebregge, as soon as they should have obtained

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full possession of this church, the annual pension of ten shillings sterling, to be paid by them at the feast of St. Michael yearly for ever, in the name of the cathedral church of Rochester, in recompence of any damage it might receive from the above appropriation; and he willed and ordained, that the vicar, for the time being, as a mark of his subjection, reverence,

and honour, should pay annually four pounds of wax, in the name of an annual pension, on the Nativity of Our Lord, to the religious, the prior and convent of Tunbridge; and he willed and decreed, that if at any time the prior and convent should be desirous of granting to the vicar or vicarage any things which, in the judgment of the bishop or his successors, should be more useful to the vicar or vicarage than those which were originally assigned to him or it, that then, the vicar for the time being should be obliged to admit the same, and to allow in lieu of them so much of such things as had been originally assigned to him and his vicarage, equal in value to such as should be newly allotted to him, according to the discretion of the bishop and his successors, &c. all which was confirmed by the prior and chapter of Rochester, in their chapter house, at the same time. After which, the church of Leghe becoming vacant, by the resignation of Sir John Magham, rector of it, the prior and convent took full possession of it, by their proctor, Nicholas de Chilham, canon and confreer of the priory, who in their name performed his canonical obedience for it, in the chamber of the bishop, at Trottescliffe. In consequence of the above, the prior and convent built for the vicar a competent house, which falling down, and the ground on which it was built having been by the statute of Mortmain forfeited and seised on, the religious, by their indenture, in 1393, granted and agreed that Sir William Godard, then vicar of Leghe, should have three acres of the glebe of the rectory of that church, and of long time amor-

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tised to it, which land bounded east and south to the rest of the glebe of the rectory, west to a common pasture green, over which there was a way which led from the church of Leghe to the above rectory, and north to the king's highway, and also a competent mansion lately built on it, at the expence of the religious, to be possessed by him and his successors in the same for ever, all which was confirmed by William, bishop of Rochester, by his indenture, dated at Halving that year.

The church of Lyghe, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained with the priory of Tunbridge till the suppression of it, in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when this being one of those smaller monasteries, which cardinal Wolsey had obtained of the king, by his letters patent that year, for the endowment of his colleges, it was surrendered into the cardinal's hands with all the possessions belonging to it. After which the king granted his licence, in his 18th year, to Thomas, cardinal archbishop of York, &c. to appropriate, consolidate, and annex this church, among others of the cardinal's patronage, to the dean and canons of the college founded by the cardinal in the university of Oxford. But here it staid only four years, when this great prelate being cast in a premunire, in 1529, all the estates of the college became forfeited to the king, and part of the royal revenue, where this rectory and the advowson staid till the 36th year of king Henry VIII. when the king, that year, in consideration of certain lands in

Penshurst, granted to him, and his successors granted to Edward Frye, the manor of the rectory of Leigh, late belonging to the monastery of Tunbridge, and late parcel of the possessions of Thomas Wolsey, cardinal, attainted, and the patronage and advowson of the vicarage of Leigh, and the lands called Priors

/t Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 173, 467. Rot. Esch. ejus an. ps. 26.

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and Bougers, late in the possession of William Coke, late rector, as part of the said rectory, in as full and ample a manner as the king himself, or the monastery ever enjoyed them, which premises were of the clear yearly value of 10l. 3s. 4d. to hold to him and his heirs for ever, by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee in capite, at the yearly rent of 3s. 4d. free of all other rents and outgoings whatsoever, except of a pension of ten shillings yearly, reserved to the bishop of Rochester and his successors, and of twenty shillings payable to the bishop and his successors at the time of his visitation every third year./u He died possessed of these premises next year, and Thomas Fry, his son, had possession granted of them, and in the 3d year of queen Elizabeth levied a fine of this rectory. In the 6th year of that reign he sold to Roger Cotton, gent. all those five acres of land in Tunbridge, and all those tithes in the ward of Holinden in Leygh, to the rectory of Leygh belonging, and all those tithes in a certain meadow, called Budlemead, and in another meadow, called Freresmead, in Tunbridge, belonging to the rectory, held of the king in capite. In the 17th of that reign he again levied a fine of this rectory, and soon afterwards alienated it, with the advowson of the vicarage, to Sir Henry Sidney, in whose successors, earls of Leicester, it continued down to earl Joceline, who died possessed of it, without lawful issue, in 1743; after which it came, in consequence of a compromise between Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and Mary his wife, and William Perry, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, the daughter and coheirs of colonel Thomas Sidney, the earl's elder brother, made in 1746, with Anne Sidney, the earl's natural daughter and devisee, under his will, (which compromise was confirmed by act of parliament) into the possession of the two former, in right

/u Aug. Off. Inrolments, and Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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of their wives, free from any further claim whatsoever from her.

Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. died in 1748, without issue, possessed of this advowson, as part of his divided moiety of the above estates, leaving his wife surviving, who by her will, in 1758, gave it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. and K. B. for life, remainder to her eldest son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot; and they, in 1770, joined in the sale of it to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1779, and by his last will devised it to his second son, William Thomas Harvey, the present owner of it; but the rectory impropriate of Lyghe, consisting of the parsonage house, great tithes, and fifty acres of

glebe, with their appurtenances, on the division of the Sidney estates, in 1747, was allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, as part of her separate moiety of them, and she continued in possession of it till her death, in 1783, when she gave it by her will to trustees, for the benefit of her eldest grandson, then an infant, John Shelley Sidney, esq. who is the present proprietor of it. In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Lega was valued at eighteen marcs.

By virtue of the commission of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, it was returned, that in Leigh there was a parsonage distinct from the vicarage, the parsonage being impropriate, belonged to the earl of Leicester; that the vicarage was presentative; that the parsonage, with the tithes thereto belonging, was worth seventy pounds per annum, and the vicarage house and one acre and an half of ground and the tithes thereto belonging, were worth fifty-four pounds per annum; that the earl of Leicester was proprietor of the parsonage, and master Rob. Antrobus then vicar. /w The vicarage of Lyghe is valued in the king's books at 9l. 18s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at

/w Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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19s. 10¹/₂d. /x it is now worth about 150l. per annum. The vicar claims all kind of tithes, excepting corn. /y

Sir John Canewe, patron of the church of Leghe, Richard Canewce, rector of it, and Aland de Ros, vicar of it, granted to Sir Thomas de Peneshurst and his heirs, with the consent of Benedict, bishop of Rochester, a free chapel for ever within his manor of Penshurst, yet within the bounds of this parish, to be served by its own proper chaplain, the said Thomas and his heirs, paying yearly two pounds of wax to the church of Leghe, as an acknowledgement of the rights of the mother church; and the said Thomas, for himself and his heirs, therein granted to the said church all the tenths of his fisheries belonging to the pool of his mill of Penshurst, or in any other fisheries, if any such should be erected by him or them in the said parish; and that the church of Leghe, as the mother church, should have all oblations yearly accruing from the mansion of Penshurst, on the four principal annual feasts, but that the rest of the oblations of the said mansion should remain to the said chapel, to be disposed of at the will of the lord, &c. all which was confirmed by Laurence, bishop, and the prior and chapter of Rochester. Afterwards Richard de Wendover, bishop of Rochester, in 1239, confirmed this chapel to Sir John Belemeyns, canon of St. Paul's, the patron of it, and his successors, saving the rights of the mother church of Leigh; and in 1249, he admitted and instituted Walter de Ferenche, chaplain in it, on the presentation of Sir John, and he decreed, that this chapel should be immediately subject to him, the bishop and his successors, and that the lord of the same manor, for the time being, whenever any vacancy should happen, should freely present another chaplain to it, to be admitted by the bishop

/x Ect. Thes. p. 383. Reg. Roff. p. 460, et seq.

/y Granum, in the endowment.

and his successors. In which year the bishop likewise granted an indulgence of forty days remission from penance to all such, who on the anniversary of the dedication of this chapel, which had been dedicated by him, in honour of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Thomas the Martyr, should offer up their prayers at the altars of those saints, by him consecrated there; and the like at the altar below, consecrated by him in honour of the blessed confessors, St. Edward and St. Nicholas, and the like indulgence on the feasts of those saints for ever.

Stephen de Peneshurst, in the 11th year of king Edward I. for the health of his soul, of those of Royce and Margerie, his wives, &c. confirmed to Sir Tho. de Whiteney, chaplain, and his successors, serving in this chapel, in pure and perpetual alms, sixty acres of arable land, and six acres of wood, in the parish of Leghe, of which twenty acres lay in the land called Kingsland, and ten acres in Bernette, and twenty-nine acres in two fields, called Hothfeldes, at Sinderhulle, and one acre called Le Marlere, lying near the messuage, once Henry de la Sindurle, and six acres of wood in the woods called Gromenerede and Blakegrove; and he granted to him, in like manner, one messuage and eight acres of land, and one acre of meadow in Peneshurst, and two acres and a half of meadow in Chidingstone, and fifty acres of land in Tunbridge, in two fields, called Hegheden and Martins land, which lands and tenements last mentioned, were formerly assigned to the chapel, by Sir John Belemeyns, his uncle, in the reign of king Henry; and he further granted to him, in like manner, one hundred and four acres of land, with their appurtenances, which he had purchased of Sir Hugh de Gerunde, in Eshurst, he and they performing the due and accustomed services to the said Hugh, and all oblations and obventions accruing in the chapel, excepting on the four principal feasts of the year, and such of the

obventions as had been reserved to the mother church at the institution of the chapel, as above mentioned.

And he granted to him and his successors in like manner, the free grinding of his and their corn in the mill of his manor of Peneshurst, without payment of toll, and free pasture for four cows and two sows and six hogs, in common with those of him and his heirs, in the pasture of the manor of Peneshurst for ever, and that the swine should be free from the payment of pannage between the feasts of St. Michael and St. Martin. For which grant the chaplain and his successors were to serve in the chapel, himself and another chaplain to be associated with him, at the choice of him and his successors, and one competent clerk, &c.

William, bishop of Rochester, in 1393, at the request of dame Margaret, relict of Sir John Devereux, lately then deceased, and on consideration of the distance of the parish church of Leghe, granted his licence to Sir Thomas, perpetual chaplain of the great chapel within the manor of Penshurst in the said parish, to celebrate divine service in it before the said lady, her

sons and daughters, and their whole family, and to hear the confessions of them, and all others, inhabitants within those manors, desirous of confessing to him, and to enjoin penance and give absolution, as the case required, excepting in those matters reserved to himself and his successors, and saving always the rights and custom of the mother church of Leigh.

This chapel was suppressed by the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI. and the revenues of it seised into the king's hands, at which time they were valued by the king's commissioners at 6l. 5s. per annum./z

In 1219 the parishioners of Leghe dwelling in the hamlet of Betburgh in this parish, being much incommoded by the length and badness of the way to Legh, and the inundation that frequently happened, petitioned

/z Willis's Parl. Abb. vol. ii. p. 104. Reg. Roff. p. 167.

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the patron and rector of Legh, to have, with the consent of the bishop, a chantry in the chapel in that hamlet, and a chaplain to celebrate there on Sundays and festivals, and such other days as they used to go to the church of Legh, which being granted, the bishop directed, that they should have a chaplain as rector to celebrate there as aforesaid, who should be presented by the lord, and with the consent of the rector of Legh, should take and receive all tithes, great and small, oblations, and subventions, arising in that hamlet, which were estimated at forty shillings, the tenants paying twelve pence annually to the church of Leghe, on the day of the dedication, and the chaplain making his canonical obedience to the bishop and archdeacon, and paying to the latter twelve pence for his visitation; and he likewise directed, that the parishioners should, from time to time, provide books, ornaments, and other incumbent necessaries for the chapel, whenever such should be wanting. At the same time the lord of Legh endowed this chapel with ten acres of land and eighteen pence annual rent; all which was confirmed by Thomas, bishop of Rochester, at his visitation of the deanry of Malling, on the hearing a dispute which had arisen between Roger de Stoneville, rector of this chapel, and his parishioners, on account of their detention of the tithes, oblations, &c. and the want of vestments, books, &c.

CHURCH OF LYGHE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Sir John Canewce. Richard Canewce, in the reign of
king John./a

Prior and Convent of Tunbridge John Magham, resigned 1353./b

VICARS.

William Godard, in 1393./c

Family of Sidney Zachariah Taylor, about 1630./d

/a Reg. Roff. p. 461.

/b Ibid. 467.

/c Reg. Roff. p. 468.

/d MSS. Twysden.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Family of Sidney Robert Antrobus, in 1650./e

Joseph Cart, A. M. ob. Decemb.

1706./f

John Cart, presented 1706.

James Marshbourn, A. M. obt.

Dec. 11, 1739./g

Philip Marshbourn, A. M. 1740./h

Dickson Lillington, 1758, D. D.

Present vicar.

/e Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth

library, vol. xix.

/f He succeeded Mr. Antrobus.

/g Also rector of Braming, where he

lies buried.

/h Son of the former.

- - -

SPELDHURST

IS the last parish remaining undescribed in this lath. It lies the next adjoining parish south eastward from Penshurst, and was sometimes written, in antient records, Speleherste, but in the Textus Roffensis, Speldhurst.

THE PARISH of Speldhurst is about three miles across each way; the north-west part, in which the church stands, and Hallborough, is within the hundred of Somerden, as is the hamlet of Groombridge, three miles from the church, at the southern boundary of it, where a branch of the river Medway separates this county from Sussex, throughout all which the soil remains a stiff clay; the remaining part of this parish is in the hundred of Watchlingstone, which stretches across a narrow district, by Mitchell's and Tophill farms, and towards the parish of Ashurst, which it includes, thus entirely separates that part of the hundred of Somerden in which the hamlet of Groombridge lies, and surrounds three sides of it, from the other in which the church stands. The soil in the eastern part of this parish changes to an uninterrupted scene of lofty hills, with deep vallies intersecting, the soils are a stiff loam and a barren sand, which covers

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a continued bed of rock stone, several of which appear above it, of large size and dimensions, greatly abounding with iron ore, which renders the springs of it more or less chalybeate; at the south east boundary of the parish is the noted resort of Tunbridge-wells, (of which a further account will be given hereafter) situated thirty-five miles from London, and five from Tunbridge town; here the high road branches off to the right, by Rust-hall, and the hamlets of Bishopsdown and Rust-hall common, on by Groombridge, across the branch of the Medway into Sussex.

The large and populous hamlet or village of TUNBRIDGE-WELLS is situated at the south-east boundary of this parish; part of it only is in Speldhurst, another part in the parish of Tunbridge, and the remainder in that of Fant, in the county of Sussex. It consists of four smaller districts, named from the hills on which

they stand, Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleasant, and Mount Sion; the other is called The Wells, from their being within it, which altogether form a considerable town; but the last is the centre of business and pleasure, for there, besides the Wells themselves, are the market, public parades, assembly rooms, taverns, shops, &c. Near the Wells is the chapel, which stands remarkably in the three parishes above mentioned – the pulpit in Speldhurst, the altar in Tunbridge, and the vestry in Fant, and the stream, which parted the two counties of Kent and Sussex, formerly ran underneath it, but is now turned to a further distance from it. The right of patronage is claimed by the rector of Speldhurst, though he has never yet possessed the chapel or presented to it; the value of it is about two hundred pounds per annum, which sum is raised by voluntary subscription; divine service is performed in it every day in summer, and three times a week in winter. Adjoining to it is a charity school, for upwards of fifty poor boys and

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girls, which is supported by a contribution, collected at the chapel doors, two or three times a year.

The trade of Tunbridge-wells is similar to that of Spa, in Germany, and consists chiefly in a variety of toys, made of wood, commonly called Tunbridge ware, which employs a great number of hands. The wood principally used for this purpose is beech and sycamore, with yew and holly inlaid, and beautifully polished. To the market of this place is brought, in great plenty, from the South downs, in Sussex, the little bird, called the wheatear, which, from its delicacy, is usually called the English ortolan. It is not bigger in size than a lark; it is almost a lump of fat, and of a very delicious taste; it is in season only in the midst of summer, when the heat of the weather, and the fatness of it, prevents its being sent to London, which otherwise would, in all likelihood, monopolize every one of them. On the other or Sussex side of the Medway, above a mile from the Wells, are the rocks, which consist of a great number of rude eminences, adjoining to each other, several of which are seventy feet in height; in several places there are cliffs and chasms which lead quite through the midst of them, by narrow gloomy passages, which strike the beholder with astonishment.

THESE MEDICINAL WATERS, commonly called TUNBRIDGE-WELLS, lie so near to the county of Sussex that part of them are within it, for which reason they were for some time called Fant-wells, as being within that parish.ⁱ Their efficacy is reported to have been accidentally found out by Dudley lord North, in the beginning of the reign of king James I. whilst he resided at Eridge-house for his health, lord Abergavenny's seat, in this neighbourhood, and that he was entirely cured of the lingering consumptive disorder he laboured under by the use of them.

ⁱ See Kilburne, p. 254. Hist. Tunbridge-wells, 8vo. 1766.

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The springs, which were then discovered, seem to

have been seven in number, two of the principal of which were some time afterwards, by lord Abergenny's care, inclosed, and were afterwards much resorted to by many of the middling and lower sort, whose ill health had real occasion for the use of them. In which state they continued till queen Henrietta Maria, wife of king Charles I. having been sent hither by her physicians, in the year 1630, for the re-establishment of her health, soon brought these waters into fashion, and occasioned a great resort to them from that time. In compliment to her doctor, Lewis Rowzee, in his treatise on them, calls these springs the Queen's-wells; but this name lasted but a small time, and they were soon afterwards universally known by that of Tunbridge-wells, which names they acquired from the company usually residing at Tunbridge town, when they came into these parts for the benefit of drinking the waters.

The town of Tunbridge being five miles distant from the wells, occasioned some few houses to be built in the hamlets of Southborough and Rusthall, for the accommodation of the company resorting hither, and this place now becoming fashionable, was visited by numbers for the sake of pleasure and dissipation, as well as for the cure of their infirmities; and soon after the Restoration every kind of building, for public amusements, was erected at the two hamlets above mentioned, lodgings and other buildings were built at and near the wells, the springs themselves were secured, and other conveniencies added to them. In 1664, the queen came here by the advice of her physicians, in hopes of reinstating her health, which was greatly impaired by a dangerous fever, and her success, in being perfectly cured by these waters, greatly raised the reputation of them, and the company increasing yearly, it induced the inhabitants to make every accommodation for them adjoining to

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the Wells, so that both Rusthall and Southborough became ruinous and deserted by all but their native inhabitants. The duke of York, with his duchess, and the two princesses their daughters, visited Tunbridge-wells in the year 1670, which brought much more company than usual to them, and raised their reputation still higher; and the annual increase continuing, it induced the lord of the manor to think of improving this humour of visiting the wells to his own profit as well as the better accommodation of the company. To effect which, he entered into an agreement with his tenants, and hired of them the herbage of the waste of the manor for the term of fifty years, at the yearly rent of ten shillings to each tenant, and then erected shops and houses on and near the walks and springs, in every convenient spot for that purpose; by which means Tunbridge wells became a populous and flourishing village, well inhabited, for whose convenience, and the company resorting thither, a chapel was likewise built, in 1684, by subscription, on some ground given by the lady viscountess Purbeck, which was, about twelve years afterwards, enlarged by an additional subscription, amounting together to near twenty-three hundred pounds.

About the year 1726, the building lease, which had been granted by the lord of the manor of Rust-hall, in which this hamlet is situated, expiring, the tenants of the manor claimed a share in the buildings, as a compensation for the loss of the herbage, which was covered by his houses. This occasioned a long and very expensive law suit between them, which was at last determined in favour of the tenants, who were adjudged to have a right to a third part of the buildings then erected on the estate, in lieu of their right to the herbage; upon which all the shops and houses, which had been built on the manor waste, were divided into three lots, of which the tenants were to draw one, and the other two were to remain

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to the lord of the manor; the lot which the tenants drew was the middle one, which included the assembly room on the public walk, which has since turned out much the most advantageous of the three. After which long articles of agreement, in 1739, were entered into between Maurice Conyers, esq. then lord of the manor of Rusthall, and the above mentioned tenants of it, in which, among many other matters, he agreed to permit the public walks and wells, and divers other premises there, to be made use of for the public benefit of the nobility and gentry resorting thereto, and several regulations were made in them concerning the walks, wells, and wastes of the manor, and for the restraining buildings on the waste, between the lord and his tenants, according to a plan therein specified; all which were confirmed and established by an act of parliament, passed in 1740. Since which several of the royal family have honoured these wells with their presence, and numbers of the nobility and persons of rank and fashion yearly resort to them, so that this place is now in a most flourishing state, having great numbers of good houses built for lodgings, and every other necessary accommodation for the company. Its customs are settled; the employment of the dippers regulated; its pleasures regulated; its markets well and plentifully supplied, at a reasonable rate, with sowl, fish, meat, every other kind of food, and every convenience added that can contribute to give health and pleasure.

The whole neighbourhood of Tunbridge-wells abounds with springs of mineral water, but as the properties of all are nearly the same, only those two, which at the first discovery of them were adjudged the best, are held in any particular estimation. These two wells are enclosed with a handsome triangular stone wall; over the springs are placed two convenient

/k See Wilson's Reports, vol. i. p. 414.

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basons of Portland stone, with perforations at the bottom; one of them being given by queen Anne, and the other by the lord of the manor; through which they receive the water, which at the spring is extremely clear and bright. Its taste is steely, but not disagreeable; it has hardly any smell, though sometimes, in a dense air, its ferruginous exhalations

are very distinguishable. In point of heat it is invariably temperate, the spring lying so deep in the earth, that neither the heat of summer, nor the cold of winter, affects it. When this water is first taken up in a large glass, its particles continue at rest till it is warmed to nearly the heat of the atmosphere, then a few airy globules begin to separate themselves, and adhere to the sides of the glass, and in a few hours a light copper coloured scum begins to float on the surface, after which an ochreous sediment settles at the bottom. Long continued rains sometimes give the water a milky appearance, but do not otherwise sensibly affect it. From the experiments of different physicians, it appears that the component parts of this water are, steely particles, marine salts, an oily matter, an ochreous substance, simple water, and a volatile vitriolic spirit, too subtile for any chemical analysis. In weight it is, in seven ounces and a quarter, four grains lighter than the German Spa (to which it is preferable on that account) and ten grains lighter than common water; with syrup of violets this water gives a deep green, as vitriols do.[/] It requires five drops of oleum sulphuris, or elixir of vitriol, to a quart of water, to preserve its virtues to a distance from the spring.

This water is said to be an impregnation of rain in some of the neighbouring eminences, which abound in iron mineral, where it is further enriched with the marine salts and all the valuable ingredients, which

[/] Allen's History of Chalybeate Waters, p. 26.

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constitute it a light and pure chalybeate, which instantly searches the most remote recesses of the human frame, warms and invigorates the relaxed constitution, restores the weakened fibres to their due tone and elasticity, removes those obstructions to which the minuter vessels of the body are liable, and is consequently adapted to most cold chronical disorders, lowness of spirits, weak digestions, and nervous complaints. Dr. Lodowick Rowzee, of Ashford, in this county, wrote a Treatise of the Nature and Virtues of these Waters, printed in 12mo. 1671; and Dr. Patrick Madan wrote a Philosophical and Medical Essay on them, in 1687, in quarto.

THE MANOR OF SPELDHURST, in the reign of king Edward III. was in the possession of Sir John de Pulteney, lord of the neighbouring manor of Penshurst, a man of great account at that time, as has been already noticed before, who, in the 19th year of that reign, on his perfecting the foundation he had begun of a college in the parish of St. Lawrence, Canon-street, London, afterwards called the College of St. Laurence Pulteney, settled the manor with the church of Speldhurst on it.

It remained part of the possessions of the college till its suppression in the reign of king Edward VI. when it was granted among other premises, by the description of the manor of Speldhurst and Harwarton (then demised to Sir William Waller, at the rent of 16s. 8d. per annum) of the clear yearly value of 13l. 14s. 1d. together with the patronage of the church appendant

to the manor, parcel of the late college of St. Laurence, Poultney, London, to Henry Polsted. How the manor of Speldhurst passed afterwards I have not found, only that after several intermediate owners, it came into the name of Goodhugh, and in the latter end of the reign of king George I. was possessed by

Augtn. off. Sale of Chantry lands temp. king Edward VI.

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Richard Goodhugh, esq. from which name it passed by a female heir, Sarah, in marriage to Mr. Rich. Round, whose son, Mr. Richard Round, of Stonepit, in Seale, died possessed of it, and the trustees of his infant children are now in the possession of it.

RUST-HALL is a manor of eminence in this parish, which had antiently possessors who took their surname from it. Elias de Rusthall was proprietor of it in the reign of king Edward I. and was a good benefactor to the chapel of Groombridge, in this parish. His descendants afterwards contracted their name to Rust, and continued in the possession of this manor till the reign of king Henry VI. about which time it was alienated to Richard Waller, esq. of Groombridge, whose descendant, Richard Waller, esq. in the 26th year of queen Elizabeth, sold it to Mr. George Stacy, who conveyed it by sale to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham, who died possessed of it in the 37th year of that reign; his descendants remained possessed of it for several generations, till at length one of them passed it away to Richard Constable, gent. of Groombridge, who sold it to Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. and he quickly after conveyed it to Maurice Conyers, esq. who possessed it in the beginning of the reign of king George II. he alienated it to Mr. O'Connor, whose son, John O'Connor, esq. sold it to George Kelly, esq. who resided here and served the office of high sheriff in 1762, in which year he was knighted. He died possessed of this manor in 1772, leaving his three sisters his coheirs, viz. Anne Shorey, widow, Hannah Tanner, widow, and Martha, wife of James Spagg, esq. Mrs. Tanner died in 1780, since whose death, and that of her two sisters, this manor is now, in pursuance of their different wills, become vested in Miss Elizabeth Shorey, daughter of the former, and Thomas Christopher Gardiner, a son of another daughter of Mrs. Shorey.

A court-leet and court-baron are held for this manor.

Philipott, p. 321.

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HOLAND'S, now called THE MANOR OF HOLLAND, was once the inheritance of a noble family of that surname, who were great benefactors to the church of Speldhurst, and were allied to the Holands, earls of Kent, who flourished in the reigns of king Edward III. and king Richard II. It continued in this name till about the reign of king Henry VI. when it was alienated to Richard Waller, esq. of Groombridge, in whose descendants it remained till Sir Thomas Waller, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset, and lord treasurer of England, who died possessed of it in 1608. He was succeeded in this manor by his eldest son, Robert,

earl of Dorset, who dying within twelve months afterwards, Richard, earl of Dorset, his eldest son, became possessed of it. He conveyed it to Lindsey, who in the reign of king Charles I. sold it to Caldicot, and he, in the next reign of king Charles II. alienated it to Mr. William Canfield, who afterwards sold it to the Rev. Mr. George Lewis, of Westerham, who devised it by his will to his son, Mr. Erasmus Lewis, gent. and he sold it to George Kelly, esq. afterwards Sir George Kelly, who died possessed of it in 1772, leaving his three sisters his coheirs, one of whom, Mrs. Hannah Tanner, widow, on the division of certain parts of his estate, became the owner of this manor. She died in 1780, and devised this estate in trust for her nephew, George Gardner, a son of her niece, one of the daughters of her sister Shorey, remainder to his brother Thomas Christopher Gardner, who since his death is become the present owner of this manor.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which is intitled to heriot, relief, &c. the quit-rents amount to 1l. 9s. 2d. per annum.

FERBIE'S, though now hardly known, was antiently a seat of no small consideration in this parish, and gave name to a family, who afterwards became of some note in different parts of this county, though this was their

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most antient residence. John de Fereby resided here in the reigns of king Edward II. and III. and sealed with his paternal coat of arms, a fess ermine between three goats heads erased, as appears by the labels affixed to his deeds. His descendants contracted their name to Ferby, one of whom having purchased lands at Paul's Cray, in this county, removed thither about the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. and upon that alienated his antient patrimony here to Richard Waller, esq. of Groombridge, in whose posterity it remained till the reign of king Charles I. when it was sold to Richard Chiverton, skinner and alderman of London, and lord mayor in the year 1658, son of Mr. Henry Chiverton, of Trehousie, in Cornwall, and bore for his arms, On a mount, a castle triple towered, from which name it was conveyed to Woodgate, who gave it in marriage with his daughter to Mr. Wm. Durrant, of Frantfield, in Sussex, whose son, Mr. Robert Durrant, is the present owner of this estate.

EAST and WEST EWEHURST are two manors, situated in the southern part of this parish, which were formerly owned by the family of Read, of Marden, in this county, originally descended from the county of Northumberland. They resided at Marden till Sir Robert Read, chief justice of the common pleas, in the reign of king Henry VII. having married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Alphenew, of Chidingstone, removed thither. He died possessed of these manors about the 10th year of the reign of king Henry VIII. leaving four daughters his coheirs; on the partition of whose inheritance these manors, among other estates, were allotted to the share of Bridget, who entitled her husband Willoughby to them. They remained in his descendants till Sir Percival Willoughby, having in the reign of James I. married Bridget, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir

Francis Willoughby, of Wollaton-hall, in Nottinghamshire, became possessed of that seat and other large

/o Philipott, p. 321. Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 195.

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possessions in that county, and being desirous of increasing his interest there, he conveyed the manors of East and West Ewehurst in the 8th year of king James I. to Nathaniel Studley, esq./p whose only son of the same name, during the civil wars, alienated them to Mr. Christopher Knight, of Cowdham, on whose death they came to his son, Mr. Michael Knight, of Westerham, who possessed them in the reign of Charles II. soon after which they were conveyed to Sidney, earl of Leicester, whose descendant, Robert, earl of Leicester, died seised of them on Nov. 11, 1702; his youngest and fourth son, Joceline, at length succeeding to his titles and estate, both Philip and John, his brothers, successively earls of Leicester, dying without issue, deceased likewise in 1743 without lawful issue, and by his will bequeathed his estates, to his natural daughter, Anne Sidney; but his two nieces, daughters and coheirs of colonel Thomas Sidney, his next elder brother, who died before the earls Philip and John, in 1729, Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. and Elizabeth, married to William Perry, esq. claimed his estates in this county, as his coheirs, by virtue of an intail created by the marriage settlement of Robert, earl of Leicester, father of earl Joceline, in 1700; after much litigation, a compromise was entered into in 1746, between them and Anne Sidney above-mentioned, which was confirmed by act of parliament, by virtue of which the Kentish estates were vested in Sir Brownlow Sherard and William Perry, esq. free from any further demand of the said Anne Sidney.

Part of these estates they afterwards divided into separate moieties, and the remainder, among which were these manors of East and West Ewehurst, they continued possessed of as tenants in common. Sir Brownlow Sherard died without issue in 1748, leaving his widow surviving, who died in 1758, and by her last will gave the whole of her interest in the Sidney estates,

/p See more of him under Penshurst.

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divided and undivided, to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. and K. B. for her life, remainder to her son Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire,/q They in the year 1770 joined in the sale of the undivided part of these estates, among which were these manors, to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, widow of William Perry, esq. above-mentioned, who died in 1757, the owner of the other undivided moiety. Mrs. Perry died in 1783, and by her will devised them to trustees for the benefit of her eldest grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq. who is the present possessor of them.

A court-baron is held for each of these manors.

NEALHAMPTON is a manor in this parish, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth was in the possession of Sir Richard Sackville, who in the 19th year of that reign alienated it, with the queen's licence, to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westerhanger, commonly called Cus-

tomers Smith, who devised it by his last will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton-at-Hone, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe, late chief baron of the exchequer. He died in 1778, as did his widow the lady Sarah Smythe, possessed of it in 1790, and by her will devised it to trustees, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which it afterwards was to the right honorable John, earl of Darnley, the present owner of it.

GROOMBRIDGE is a hamlet and manor in this parish, within the hundred of Somerden, and is separated from the county of Sussex by a stream of the river Medway.

It is called in antient writings Gromenebregge, no doubt from some Saxon, who was antiently owner of it, and was said to be situated in the manor of Redemeregge, which manor was held of the manor of Ashurst, and in the reign of king Edward III. was the property of William Russell and Hawis his wife.

/q See more of this family under Foot's Cray.

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In the reign of king Edward I. it was in the possession of a younger branch of the eminent family of Cobham, of Cobham, in this county. Henry de Cobham, the younger son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, by the daughter of Warine Fitzbenedict, was proprietor of it in that reign. He was of Roundal, in Shorne, and was commonly called le Uncle, to distinguish him from Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, son of his elder brother John. In the 14th year of that reign, he, with Joane his wife, obtained the king's charter for a market every week, upon the Thursday, at Groombridge, and a fair yearly there, on the eve, day and morrow after the feast of St. John Port Latine, which was on May 6.^r He died in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. leaving by Joane his wife, the eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Stephen de Pencestre, a son of Stephen de Cobham, of Roundal, and afterwards knighted, who having received summons to parliament, died in the 6th year of king Edward III.^s and one of his descendants alienated it to the family of Clinton.

Sir John de Clinton possessed it in the next reign of king Richard II. who having received summons to parliament, died possessed of it in the 20th year of king Richard II. He had by Idonea his wife, sister and coheir of William de Say, a son, Sir William de Clinton, who died in his life-time, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir William Deincourt, a son William, his grandfather's heir, who succeeded to this estate. In the 6th year of king Henry IV. this William de Clinton had possession granted of his wife's share of the inheritance of her brother, William de Say, and thereupon bore the title of lord Clinton and Say. He alienated Groombridge, at the latter end of

/r Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 33. Levinz, in his Reports, part iii. p. 224, says, a fair had been usually held here on Sept. 14.

/s Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 69. and Philipott, p. 319.

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that reign, to Thomas Waller, of Lamberhurst, whose

family was possessed of good estates in this county and Sussex, and bore for their arms, Sable, three walnut tree leaves, or, between two cotizes argent./t His son and heir, John Waller, esq. was of Groombridge, and had by his wife, daughter and heir of Lansdall of Lansdall, in Sussex, Richard Waller, his heir, who was a valiant soldier, and displayed remarkable courage and good behaviour at the battle of Agincourt in France, fought on October 25, in the 4th year of Henry V. which was the greatest victory that ever was, or perhaps ever will be, obtained by this nation. The king's army amounted only to 9000, and those sickly and greatly harrassed; whereas the French were 150,000 men, in health and unfatigued. The battle lasted from ten in the morning till five in the afternoon. There were slain on the side of the French, one archbishop, three dukes, six earls, ninety barons, 1500 knights, and 7000 esquires or gentlemen. The loss of the English was very inconsiderable, not more than four hundred, of every degree./u He had the duke of Orleans, then taken prisoner, who was found, under a heap of dead bodies, by Mr. Waller, with others of the archers, with some signs of life in him, committed to his custody, by command of the king, who ordered care to be taken of him; and in honor of his taking so noble a prisoner, had an additional crest granted to him and his heirs for ever, viz. the arms, Or, escutcheon of France hanging by a label on a walnut-tree, with this motto, Hæ fructus virtutis. The duke being brought by him into England, was confined at his seat at Groombridge, which was so beneficial to him, that during the time of his restraint here, he rebuilt the house upon the old foundation, and was besides a benefactor to the re=

/t Claus 11 Richard II. in dorso, memb. 35. Philipott, p. 320. Visit. co. Kent, 1619. /u Rapin, vol. i. p. 513 et seq.

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pairs of Speldhurst-church, where the duke's arms now remain in stone over the porch./w How long the duke remained with him I do not find, but he was certainly committed to other custody before the 8th year of king Henry VI. for it was enacted in parliament that year, that the duke of Orleance, the king's cousin, then in the keeping of Sir Thomas Chamberworth, should be delivered to Sir John Cornwall, by him safely to be kept.

Richard Waller, esq. was sheriff in the 16th year of king Henry VI. and left by his wife, daughter of Gulby, two sons; Richard, the eldest, who was ancestor of the Wallers, of Southampton, and John, who was of Groombridge, and a daughter Alice, married to Sir John Guldeford.

John Waller, esq. of Groombridge, the second son, married Anne, daughter of William Whetenhall, and dying in 1517, leaving by her two sons, William, his heir, and John, who was ancestor of the Wallers, of Beconsfield, in Buckinghamshire, of which branch was the celebrated poet Edmund Waller, esq. who courted, though in vain, with all the energy of his poetical talents, the lady Dorothy Sidney, the eldest daughter of the earl of Leicester, under the name of Sacharissa, whom he was a near neighbour to here, whilst on his

visits to his relations at Groombridge.

William, the eldest son of John Waller, was of Groombridge, esq. and was sheriff of this county in the 22d year of Henry VIII. whose lands among others were disgavelled by the act of the 31st of that reign, at which time, as well as in the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign, there appears to have been a park here./x He died in 1555. From him this estate at length descended to his grandson Walter, who resided at Groombridge, and was knighted, he left two sons, of whom George the eldest, by his second wife Mary, daughter of Richard

/w Philipott, p. 320. /x Lamb. Per. p. 57, edit. 1570.

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Hardres, esq. had one son and heir, Sir Hardres Waller, a major-general in the parliament army against king Charles I. and one of the regicides, for which he was, after the restoration, tried and condemned, but was, through the king's mercy, pardoned. He left issue several daughters./y

Thomas, the second son, succeeded his father at Groombridge, and was afterwards knighted, and lieutenant of Dover-castle in the reign of James I. He alienated this estate to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset, and lord treasurer of England, who died possessed of it in 1608.

He was succeeded in it by his eldest son Robert, earl of Dorset, who died within twelve months afterwards, on which, Richard, earl of Dorset, his eldest son, became possessed of it, and afterwards conveyed it to John Packer, esq. clerk of the privy seal to Charles I. who resided here, and was a good benefactor to the chapel, which he rebuilt, as will be mentioned below. He bore for his arms, Gules, a cross lozenge, or, between four roses argent. He was succeeded in it by his son, Philip Packer, esq. who died possessed of it in 1686, and was buried in Groombridge chapel. He had by his first wife Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Berkeley, of Spetchley, in Worcestershire, two sons and two daughters; of whom, John Packer, esq. the eldest son, succeeded to this estate and resided here. He died possessed of it in 1697, leaving by Barbara his wife, daughter of colonel Morgan, of Warminster, in Somersetshire, one son, Philip, and two daughters, Isabel and Anne. Philip Packer, esq. afterwards at length succeeded to this estate of Groombridge, but dying soon afterwards unmarried, his two sisters became his co-heirs; the eldest of whom, Anne, married Thomas Lyte, esq. of London, and Isabella, the youngest, married first, George Rivers, esq. and secondly, Mr. Cook,

/y Wood's Ath. vol. ii. Fasti, p. 75. Irish Peer. vol. ii. p. 80.

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and they intitled their respective husbands to it; after which it became vested in the court of chancery, where it remained till it was purchased by Mr. William Camfield, who resided at Groombridge-place.

He died in 1781, upon which it came by his will to his three sons, Thomas, John and Henry, by whom it afterwards passed by sale to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of Groombridge-place, with the manor of Redmerege, in 1794, and his widow,

Mrs. Sarah Burges, remarrying with James Harbroc, esq. entitled him to the possession of this estate, of which he still continues owner. A court-baron is held for this manor. A fair is held here on May 17, and Sept. 25, for cattle, pedlary, &c.

THE CHAPEL OF GROOMBRIDGE, belonging to this hamlet, was dedicated to St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, and was built before the end of the reign of king Henry III. in the 23d year of which William Russell and Hawis his wife, granted lands in different places to this chapel of St. John of Gromenebregge in their manor of Redmeregge, and Robert de Speldhurst and his successors, chaplains there, in pure and perpetual alms. It appears by a lease granted by the above-mentioned Robert, of part of the above premises in the 38th year of that reign, that this chapel was likewise called the chapel of Redmeregge, several other benefactors of small parcels of land are recorded in the Registrum Roffense, in some of which this chapel is mentioned to be situated in the manor of Redmeregge in the parish of Speldhurst./z John Packer, esq. who purchased this estate, rebuilt this chapel in the year 1625, and dedicated it to the service of God, in gratitude for the safe return of Charles, prince of Wales, from Spain; whence it was afterwards called St. Charles's chapel. Over the door of the chapel was the following inscription, now obliterated: D. O. M. 1625,

/z Reg. Roff. p. 610 to 614.

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ob felicissimi Caroli Principis Ex Hispania reducis Sa= cellum hoc D. D. I. P. over which is the devise of the prince of Wales. He endowed it at the same time with twenty pounds per annum, and ten pounds per annum, in consideration of a chaplain's board. The duty in it is still kept up, but there is now paid out of the estate to the chaplain, only 12l. 15s. per annum. The hamlet being large, there is a large congregation likewise. It is now esteemed as a donative in the king's gift.

In this chapel, in the chancel, is a monument for Philip Packer, esq. obt. 1686; another for John his son, obt. 1697; in the windows are the arms of Packer with their several quarterings. In the middle isle is a memorial for John Poeton, minister of this chapel 36 years; obt. 1691./a

CHARITIES.

SIR THOMAS SMITH, by his will in 1625, gave for cloathing and feeding six poor persons of this parish, among others, in bread and cloth, houses and lands in London, vested in the Skinner's Company, who now provide the same, to the annual amount to this parish of 11l. 10s./b

WILLIAM STRONG, esq. gave by will in 1713, two small farms, to cloath and put out apprentice one scholar every year alternately, from the school at Tunbridge-Wells, in this parish, and the free school of Tunbridge, the surplus of the rents, if any such, to remain to be lent upon good security to either of the scholars, for five years, without interest.

SPELDHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and deanry of Malling.

The church, which was dedicated to St. Mary, was

a neat building, having a spire steeple at the west end of it, in which hung four bells.

On Thursday, October 22, 1791, a dreadful storm of thunder and lightning happened in these parts, which set fire to this church, a ball of fire being observed to

/a See the monuments and inscriptions at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 810. /b See Strype's Stowe's Survey, book v. p. 51.

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enter the center of the shingled part of the spire, and instantly a thick smoke, followed by flames issued from it, and there being no help at hand, every thing contributed to its destruction. The high wind, the rain and hail having ceased, drove the flames from the steeple on the church, and in about four hours this beautiful structure was totally reduced to a heap of ruins. The bells were melted by the intense heat, the monuments in it, and every thing else which could become a prey to the fiery element were reduced to ashes; the stone walls only were left, but in so ruinous a condition as not to be fit for future use, and what is extraordinary, the font, though left entire, was turned upside down; the tombs and head stones near the church were considerably damaged. A brief was obtained towards the re-building of it, but the work, though the size of it has been greatly reduced, the new church, consisting but of one isle and a very small chancel, has gone on but slowly, and at this time is not near finished, and neither steeple nor bells are yet agreed upon, the brief not producing so much as was expected.

In the old church, before it was burnt down, there were the following monuments and inscriptions: – In the chancel, on the south wall, an antient and beautiful monument, with the arms of Waller, with the augmentation and several quarterings, for Sir Walter Waller; a brass plate for John Waller, esq. obt. 1517. In the nave, were several brass plates for the same family, one of them for William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, obt. 1555. The porch was very curious, over which was an antique shield, cut in stone, being the arms of France, with a file of three flambeaux, for Charles, duke of Orleans, mentioned before. He built this porch, and was a good benefactor to the repairs of the church itself./c

By a fine levied in the 39th year of king Henry III. before Gilbert de Preston, and others justices itinerant, Walter de la Dene, the possessor of this advowson,

/c See these monuments and inscriptions more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 808.

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granted it to the Walter Fitzwalter in tail general, to hold of him and his heirs for ever, at the yearly rent of one penny, and performing all other services due from thence to the capital lords of the fee.

Roger de Padlesworth was patron of the church of Speldhurst in the 48th year of the same reign, and he then released his right to certain rent and service due for lands granted to the chapel of Gromenebregge, situated within his manor of Speldhurst. In the reign of king Edward III. the manor and church of Speldhurst were part of the possessions of Sir John de Pulteney, who, in the 19th year of that reign, on his per-

fecting the foundation and endowment of his college in the parish of St. Lawrence, in Canon-street, London, afterwards called the College of St. Lawrence Poulteney, settled both manor and advowson on it. /d Three years after which, anno 1347, Hamo, bishop of Rochester, at the instance and petition of Sir John de Pulteney, by his instrument appropriated this church to that college for ever, reserving out of it nevertheless a fit portion to the perpetual vicar serving in it, to be presented to the bishop and his successors, by the master or guardian and the chaplains of the college, by which he might be supported decently, and be enabled to discharge the episcopal dues and other burthens incumbent on him; and he decreed, that they should take possession of this church immediately on the death or cession of Sir Thomas, then rector of it (whom he by no means intended to prejudice by this appropriation) without any further licence or authority obtained for that purpose, saving, nevertheless, and reserving to himself and his successors canonical obedience from the master or guardian and chaplains or their successors, on account of their holding this church as aforesaid, and the visitation of it, and other rights due to the church and the bishop of Rochester, and to the archdeacon of

/d Tan. Mon. p. 319.

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the place, either of custom or of right, and all other rights and customs in every thing whatsoever; and saving and reserving in the church a perpetual vicarage, which he then decreed should take effect at the death or resignation of the rector of it. And he willed, that a fit and competent portion should be assigned out of the fruits, rents and produce of it to such vicar to serve in it, who should first be presented by the master, &c. to be instituted and admitted by the bishop, or his successor, into it, before his admission, according as circumstances required, to the use of him and his successors for ever. And he willed and decreed, that the portion above-mentioned should for ever consist of the tithes of silva cedua, pannage, apples, and fruits of other trees, hay, herbage, flax, hemp, wool, milk, butter and cheese, lambs, calves, pigs, swans, pigeons, fowlings, huntings, mills, fisheries, merchandizing, and in all other small tithes and dues of the church, oblations and obventions whatsoever belonging to the altarage, together with competent buildings situate on the soil of the church, to be assigned for the habitation of the vicar, and in which the visitors of the ordinary might be commodiously received. And he willed and decreed, that the vicar for the time being, (after the books and vestments belonging by custom to the rector to provide, should have been sufficiently provided by the master, &c.) should cause the books to be bound, and the vestments to be washed, repaired and amended, as often as need should be; and should find and provide, at his own expence, bread, wine, and processional tapers, and other lights necessary in the chancel, and the accustomed attendants in the church; and should keep and maintain in a proper state, at his own costs, the buildings allotted to his vicarage, after they should have been once sufficiently repaired, and assigned as an

habitation for him and his successors, and should wholly pay all episcopal dues, and archidiaconal procurations, and should undergo and acknowledge all other extraor=

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dinary burthens, which should be incumbent or laid on him, according to the taxation of his portion, which, so far as related to them, he estimated and taxed at sixty shillings sterling; but that the master, &c. should undergo and acknowledge, at his and their own costs for ever, all other ordinaries and extraordinaries, according to the taxation of their portion, which he estimated at six marcs and an half. Lastly, that his cathedral church of Rochester might not be in any manner hurt, or prejudiced by this appropriation, he, in recompence of such loss, as it might happen to receive from it, either in the not receiving the profits of it whilst it should become vacant, or otherwise, reserved a certain annual pension of seven shillings sterling from this church to him and his successors, to be yearly paid at the feast of the Purification of the blessed Virgin Mary, by the master, &c. as soon as they should have obtained effectual and full possession of it, &c./e

On the 8th of June following Sir William de Chetwode, master of the college, appeared before the bishop, and obtained the bishop's letters, as proctor for himself and his college, for putting him in corporal possession of this church.

But the profits and income of this vicarage becoming in process of time scarce sufficient for the decent support of the minister officiating in it, and the support of the burthens incumbent on it, and being like to be much less so in future; John Thurston, the master, and the chaplains of the college, that the cure of souls might be the better observed, renounced and gave up all right, title, and possession which, by reason of the appropriation above-mentioned, they had, or might have in future, in this church, the right of patronage of it only excepted and reserved; and they granted, that every incumbent, or curate of it to be by them presented, and admitted and instituted by the ordinary of the place, should have in future all tithes, as

/e Reg. Roff. p. 615.

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well great as small, belonging of antient time to the church, or to them by reason of the appropriation, as also all rights, produce, and emoluments however accruing, or to accrue, late belonging to the vicarage of it; so that he, the incumbent for the time being, should for the future undergo, pay, support, and acknowledge all burthens ordinary and extraordinary, due and accustomed, belonging or incumbent on the church, or on them by reason of the same. The instrument for this purpose, under their common seal, was dated in 1448, and was ratified and confirmed by John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, saving nevertheless, the pension of seven shillings paid to the bishop and his successors, from it, which in future should continue to be paid by the rector of this church, for the time being, or whoever should be in possession of the great tithes of it, under whatever name he should be entitled to them.

In consequence of which, Richard Barker, then vicar, resigned this vicarage into the hands of the bishop of Rochester, who the same day admitted and instituted him, on the presentation of the master and chaplains of the college, to the church of Speldhurst, together with all its appurtenances, tithes and profits, as well great belonging formerly to the master, &c. as oblations and small tithes belonging to the vicar of it, the pension of seven shillings due and accustomed to be paid to the bishop, and his successors, yearly reserved, nevertheless, and excepted; and that he should have all emoluments whatsoever, which of antient time belonged, as well to the rectory as the vicarage, and should undergo and acknowledge the tenths due to the king, the above spiritual pension to the bishop of Rochester, the repARATION of the chancel, and all other burthens whatsoever belonging to, or incumbent on this church.

The patronage of the church of Speldhurst remained, with the manor, part of the possessions of the above-mentioned college, till the suppression of it in the reign of king Edward VI. when it was granted, among other

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premises, by the description of the manor of Speldhurst, together with the patronage of the church appendant to it, parcel of the college, to Henry Polsted.^f In the beginning of king James I's reign, Mr. Henry Weston owned the patronage of it.^g After which it became the property of a family of the name of Kearsley, and then of that of Scawen, of Carshalton, in which name it continued till the year 1759, when Tryphena, daughter of Thomas Scawen, esq. carried it in marriage to Henry, earl Bathurst, whose second wife she was, and they in 1779 joined in the sale of it to the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst, who, about the year 1792, alienated it to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of it in 1794, leaving his wife, Mrs. Sarah Burges, surviving, who re-marrying with James Harbroc, esq. entitled him to the property of it, and he still continues the patron of it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Speldhurst was valued at eleven marcs.

It is valued in the king's books at 15l. 5s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 0s. 6d.

It is now of the value of about 300l. The parishioners claim an exemption of all small tithes whatsoever, which are estimated at the value of two hundred pounds per annum.

CHURCH OF SPELDHURST.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Master and Chaplains of St. Lau-

rence Poultney College, London. Sir Thomas/h

VICARS.

Richard Barker, resig. March 9,

1448./i

RECTORS.

Richard Barker, instit. March

9, 1448./k

/f Augtn. off. Sale of Chantry lands
temp. king Edward VI.

/g MSS. Twysden.

/h Reg. Roff. p. 615.

/i On the master and chaplains of St.
Laurence Poultney resigning the ap=
propriation of this church, he resigned
this vicarage, and was presented by
them to the rectory of it. Reg. Roff.
p. 619.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Master and Chaplains of St. Lau=
rence Poultney College, London. John Denton, in 1558./k

Edward Weston, in 1627.

..... Draper, ejected 1662.

..... Winterley, in 1715.

..... Cornwell, in 1720.

James Kearsley, instit. Jan. 17,
1728.

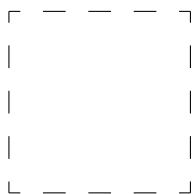
Richard Onely, A. M. 1768,
obt. 1777./l

Robert Gunsley Ayerst, A. M.
1777, the present rector.

/k Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/l Oct. 29, 1772, a dispensation passed
for his holding this rectory with that
of Ashurst.

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THE LATH OF AYLESFORD

IS SITUATED THE
NEXT EASTWARD FROM THAT OF SUTTON,
And is so called in the Record of Domesday:

IT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING HUNDREDS:

I. TOLTINGTROW.

II. SHAMEL.

III. HOO.

IV. CHATHAM AND

GILLINGHAM.

V. MAIDSTONE.

VI. LARKFIELD.

VII. WROTHAM.

VIII. TWYFORD.

IX. LITTLEFIELD.

X. WASHLINGSTONE.

XI. BRENCHLEY AND

HORSMONDEN.

XII. LITTLE BARNFIELD,

AND

XIII. EYHORNE.

ALSO THE

LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE, THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, AND THE KING'S TOWN OF MAIDSTONE; AND THE LIBERTIES BELONGING TO THEM.

- - -

THE HUNDRED OF TOLTINGTROW.

THIS hundred is called, in some antient writings, Toltetern and Tollentr, and in Domesday, Tollentru.

– In the return made of the several knights fees

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throughout England, by inquisition into the exchequer, in the 7th year of king Edward I. the archbishop of Canterbury appears to have been then lord of this hundred.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. on the levying forty shillings on every knight's fee, this hundred answered for four knights fees and an half.

IT HAS THESE PARISHES WITHIN ITS BOUNDS:

1. NORTHFLEET.
2. GRAVESEND.
3. MILTON.
4. IFIELD.
5. NUTSTED.
6. MEOPHAM,
AND
7. LUDDERSON.

- - -

NORTHFLEET

LIES the next adjoining parish eastward from that of Swanscombe, in the lath of Sutton, and as such the first to be described in this of Aylesford. It is called in Domesday, Norfluet, and in the Textus Roffense, Northfleota; the latter part of which name it acquired from its situation close to the fleet or arm of the Thames, which flows from hence southward towards Southfleet; and the former from its northernmost situation on this water, in respect to the above mentioned parish of Southfleet.

THE PARISH of Northfleet contains about three thousand acres, of which one hundred are wood; its situation, from its neighbourhood to the marshes, is accounted unhealthy, and was it not for the burning of such quantities of lime so close to it, it would be much more so. The soil is in general good tillage land; the northern part, which is bounded by the river Thames, is chalk; the rest of it a stiff loam, though some of it has a strong mixture of gravel with it. The north west part of the parish is a low marsh, frequently overflowed at high tides, which would overflow the high London road like-

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wise, which crosses it, was there not a high causeway raised to prevent it; at the end of which is the stream or fleet arising at Spring-head, in Southfleet, from which both these parishes take their names; there is a bridge over it here, with flood gates, to prevent the tides flowing beyond it, which would drown the marshes, of which there is a large tract above it, and

at the same time to lift up, to let the fresh water down again. This bridge was rebuilt at the charge of the county, in 1634; and again, much more commodious for travellers, in a strait line with the road, within these few years; hence the high road (which crosses the northern part of this parish the whole length of it) ascends the hill eastward to the uplands; at about three quarters of a mile distance is the village of Northfleet, below the entrance of which northward, on the bank of the Thames, is a hamlet called Northfleet Hythe, and between it and the road the seat called The Hive, now Mr. Wadman's. A little distance from hence the high road, leaves its ancient course (which continued formerly strait on nearer the Thames, through the town of Gravesend to Rochester, till by the incroachment of the chalk pits it became dangerous, and was afterwards entirely dug away) and now turning more to the right, passes through the village of Northfleet, built round a green, having the church and vicarage on the south side of it; hence towards the south east, the lands extend over gentle hill and dale, where, near the boundary of the parish, is the hamlet of Perry-street, Wombwell-hall, and the estate called Windfield-bank, next to the Roman road and parish of Southfleet, beyond which this parish extends south-eastward a long way over the hills, between the parishes of Ifield and Nutsted, taking within its bounds the small hamlet of Northfleet-green and Nash-street, and beyond them Ifield-court on one side, and two houses in the hamlet of Shinglewell on the other, where the soil is but poor, being

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mostly chalk and much covered with flints, and the roads narrow and bad, beyond which it bounds eastward to the parish of Shorne.

The chalk pits above mentioned, which have already been slightly noticed in the description of Swanscombe, extend here close to the northern side of the village, about a quarter of a mile in width, to the shore of the Thames; the digging, making, and exporting the chalk and lime from them is of the greatest advantage to this county, and employs a great number of labouring people, for from hence and this neighbourhood not only London and the adjacent country, but even Holland and Flanders, are supplied either with lime, or with chalk to make it; besides which, the rubbish of the chalk is bought, and fetched away by lighters and hoys, and carried to all the ports and creeks in the opposite county of Essex, and even to Suffolk and Norfolk, and sold there for the manure of the lands; thus this barren chalky soil contributes to make the strong clay lands of those counties rich and fertile, and this mixture of earth forms a composition, which out of two, otherwise barren extremes, make one prolific medium.

There was anciently a market kept here upon every Tuesday after Easter Tuesday till Whit-Tuesday, and three fairs yearly – one upon St. Botolph's day, being the 24th of March; another upon Easter Tuesday; and a third upon Whit-Tuesday. This parish, together with others in this neighbourhood, was anciently contributory to the repair of the ninth arch

or pier of Rochester bridge.

PHILIPOTT says, it was the report of the country in his time, that the valley, through which the stream or fleet above mentioned flows, which he calls Ebbsfleet, was once covered with water, and being locked in on each side with hills, made a secure road for shipping, which induced the Danes to make it a winter station for their navy.

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This tradition is far from being improbable, when we consider that their ships were not then of any extraordinary bulk or dimensions; that, even at this time, the marshes, as far as the high road, are frequently overflowed at spring tides to a considerable depth, and that the water would flow over that too, and the rest of the valley southward, was it not for a high bank or causey, thrown up and maintained at the charge of the country, to stop its further progress, which however it cannot do, at certain extraordinary high tides, one of which has happened in my memory, when the whole face of this valley was covered with water; and that the fleet ebbs and flows with the flux and reflux of the tide of the adjacent river, as far as the bridge, and would much higher, was it not stopped by gates, set down there purposely to prevent it; and lastly, what adds a further strength to this tradition is, the report that anchors have been dug up at the southern extremity of these marshes./m

Mr. Somner and some others have conjectured, that the station of the Romans, called VAGNIACÆ, was situated here at Northfleet, the objections to which have already been mentioned under Southfleet, and the greater probability of its having been, though at no great distance from hence, near the spring head in that parish, where a great number of Roman coins and the Roman mile stone was discovered, and near which the remains of the antient Roman road, towards Rochester, are still remaining; of which opinion, among others, was Dr. Thorpe of that city.

Our HERBALISTS have observed the following scarce plants in this parish –

Orchis caryophyllata spica longissima rubra, found in the chalky grounds and old pastures between Northfleet and the Thames.

/m Kilb. p. 204. Lamb. Peramb. p. 424. Philipott, p. 307.

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Orchis magna latis foliis galea fusca vel nigricante.

Orchis antropophora oreades, the man orchis, with a ferruginous and sometimes a green flower.

Orchis myodes galea et alis herbidis, the common fly orchis, found on the chalk cliffs, but rarely.

Orchis sive testiculus vulpinus major spegodes, the humble bee satyrion, with green wings./n

The MANOR of Northfleet was part of the antient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury; accordingly it is thus described in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

The archbishop himself holds Norfluet in demesne for

six sulings. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now for five. The arable land is 14 carucates. In demesne there are two, and 36 villeins having ten carucates. There is a church and seven ser-vants, and one mill of ten shillings, with one fishery and 20 acres of meadow; wood for the pannage of 20 hogs. In its whole value, in the time of king Edward, it was worth 10 pounds, when he received it 12 pounds, and now 27 pounds, and yet he pays 37 pounds and 10 shil- lings. What Richard de Tonebridge holds in his lowy of this manor is worth 30 shillings.

In the 2d year of king John the archbishop had the grant of a fair at Northfleet.

In an antient taxation of the archbishopric, in the Black Book of the archdeacon of Canterbury, this manor was valued at 107l. 11s. 5d./o It continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of Henry VIII. conveyed it, with the rectory, parsonage and glebe, and the advowson of the vicarage, to that king, in ex- change for other premises./p Queen Elizabeth, in her

/n Merrett's Pinax, p. 87. Raii Synop. p. 378, 379, 380; and Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 212.

/o Somner's Canterbury, by Battely, part ii. Append. p. 30.

/p Augmentation Office, Box A. E. 7.

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9th year, granted this manor and the scite of it to James Guildford for thirty years, after which it was granted to the lord Wotton; but it was again in the hands of the crown at the death of king Charles I. in 1648. After which, the powers then in being soon afterwards passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, that they might be surveyed and sold to supply the necessities of the state. And this manor, with its appurtenances, was accordingly sold to John Brown,/q with whom it remained till the restoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when it again returned to the crown, where it remained till the 22d year of that reign, when an act passed to enable the king to convey certain quit rents and fee farm rents, parcel of the revenues of the crown, to trustees, that they might be sold, and to enable bodies corporate to purchase them, notwithstanding the statute of Mort- main. In consequence of which the quit rents of this manor, amounting to upwards of fifty pounds per annum, were soon after purchased by the dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose revenues they continue at this time; but the manor itself, with the royalties appertaining to it, still remained in the crown, where it continued till about the year 1758, when it was granted to William earl of Besborough, at the yearly fee farm rent of 6s. 8d. He, in 1760, conveyed it, together with Ingress, in the adjoining parish of Swanscombe, to John Calcraft, esq. who died possessed of it in 1772, and devised it, among the rest of his estates in this county, to his son, John Calcraft, esq. the present possessor of it.

The principal part of the tenants of this manor hold in free socage, but there are a few copyholds.

WOMBWELL-HALL, commonly called Wimble- hall, is a seat in this parish, situated about a mile

and a quarter south-eastward from the church. It

/q Roll. of Particulars, H. 21. Augmentation Office.

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was built on part of the demesnes of an estate here, called Dundall's, and in old deeds and evidences, both Derndale and Derendale, the name of a family who antiently possessed it; but before the latter end of the reign of king Edward III. it was come into the possession of William Wangdeford, commonly called Wainford, whose son, William Wangdeford, was serjeant at law, and a good benefactor to Rochester bridge; for it is noted, in the muniments of Rochester bridge, that Wm. Wainford gave and mortgaged to the stone bridge of Rochester his place at London, in Cornhill, at the Shaftesbury, to the value of twelve marks, above all the reprises; whose wife lies buried in this church, dying in 1421. He succeeded his father in the inheritance of this estate, and in the 15th year of king Henry VI. passed it away by sale to John and William Flucke, from whom it was quickly after purchased by John Rouse, descended from William Rouse of Birling, in this county. He alienated his interest in it to Thomas Wombwell and John Clifton, esqrs. which latter dying without issue, in 1471, by his will gave his share in it to the former, who by that means became possessed of the entire fee of Derndale.

This family was originally of Wombwell in Yorkshire, when Thomas Wombwell above mentioned moved into Kent, in the reign of king Edward IV. and having obtained the whole of this estate of Derndale, erected a seat on it for his residence, which he called Wombwell-hall. This family bore for their arms, Gules, a bend ermine, between six unicorns heads erased argent; which coat was confirmed to his descendant, William Wombwell of Wombwell-hall, in Northfleet, gent. by Robert Cooke, clarencieux, in 1574. In his descendants this seat and estate continued down to Thomas Wombwell, who in the reign

/r Philipot, p. 255. /s Harleian MSS. No. 1507-15.

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of king Charles I. alienated one moiety of Wombwell-hall and Derndale to Edward Adye, esq. of Barham, counsellor at law, and the other moiety to Mrs. Leah de la Fortrye, daughter of Laurence des Bouveries of Canterbury, widow of Peter de la Fortrye, merchant of London, and of East Combe in this county, the youngest of the three sons of Nicholas de la Forterie, of the city of Canterbury, son of John de la Forterie, of Lisle in Flanders, who fled on account of his religion into England, in 1567. The other two sons were John and Samuel, both eminent merchants in London; from the former of them, by a female coheir, the earl of Radnor is descended; and from the latter, the Fortryes of Leicester; and by females the earl of Aylesford and earl Bathurst. The family of Fortrye bore for their arms, Argent, three boars heads erased sable, armed of the first, langued gules. She left by her husband, Peter de la Fortrye, one son, James; and two daughters, Leah, wife of Edward

Adye, esq. above mentioned; and Susan, of Peter Bulteel, esq. At her death, in 1659, she by her will gave her moiety of Wombwell-hall and Derndale, among other estates, to her son James Fortrye, esq. who removed from Combe, in Greenwich, where he then resided, to this seat, and having purchased the other moiety of it, as well as of Derndale, he new built the house, in 1663, as it now remains. He died possessed of them both in 1674, and left surviving Mary his wife (afterwards stiled in the court rolls of Northfleet manor, lady Pitfield, alias Mary Fortree, widow) and three daughters; of whom, Mary married Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of this parish; Hester married Matthew Lancaster, esq. of Norfolk; and Leah died unmarried; and one son, James Fortrye, esq. who succeeded him in his estate here, and resided at Wombwell-hall, and became a bencher of the

/t Visitation of the county of Kent, in 1619.

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Inner Temple. He died in 1727, leaving by his second wife, Rosamond, daughter and heir of George Elcock, esq. of Barham, one son and heir, James; and a daughter, Mary, married to George Eliot, esq. whose father was a younger son of Sir Gilbert Eliot, bart. of Minto, in Scotland, and by her had an only daughter, married to the Rev. Mr. Currey, of Dartford. James Fortrye, esq. the son, was of Wombwell-hall, and having married Ursula, daughter of Robert Chadwick, esq. of Northfleet, a captain in the royal navy, died in 1744, without issue, and by his will devised this seat, with Derndale, to his sister Mary above mentioned, in tail male, remainder to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of this parish. Mrs. Fortrye survived her husband, and afterwards possessed this estate till her death; after which, by her husband's will, it became the property of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of this parish, whose niece and heir at law, Mary Comyns, on his death, intitled her husband, Francis Wadman, esq. to the possession of it.

IFIELD COURT is a manor, situated at the southwest boundary of this parish, within the hamlets of Ifield, Wells, and Cosington, which was antiently part of the estate of a family of the name of Ifield; one of whom, Thomas de Ifield, died possessed of it in the 34th year of king Edward I. about which time William, son of Thomas de Yfeld, and all his brothers and coheirs, granted to the monks of St. Andrew, Rochester, all his tithe of Yfeld, in pure and perpetual alms, which was given to them by his ancestors, of all the land which his father Thomas, son of Turger de Yfeld, held; and they granted to them all the small tithes of the land, viz. in lambs, calves, pigs, fleeces, cheeses, and in all things in which tithes were used to be given; and the acre of land on which their Grange was built. Soon after which this estate became the property of the family of Hever, in which it continued in the 20th year of king Edward III. when the heirs of Thomas

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de Hever paid aid for it, as half a knight's fee, which Robert de Hever formerly held in Ifelde of the arch=

bishop of Canterbury. After this it came into the possession of the Sympsons of Sympson's-place, in Bromley, one of whom, Robert Sympson of Sympson's, died possessed of it in the 11th year of king Edward IV. His heir alienated it to Rikhill, from which name it passed in marriage with Rose, sole heir of John Rikhill, to John Lymsey, who, in the 1st year of king Richard III. conveyed it by sale to John Young, from whom it passed again to another John Lymsey, who held it of the king by knight's service, as of his manor of Northfleet, and died possessed of this manor of Ifield, in the 38th year of Henry VIII. and was succeeded in it by Edmund Lymsey, his son and heir, who had possession granted of it in the 2d year of king Edward VI. He alienated it to Sir John Rainsford, from whom it passed by sale to Garth, who conveyed it about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign to Child, several of whom lie buried in this church; whose descendant, in the reign of king Charles I. sold it to Benedict Garret, alias Garrard, esq. and his descendant, Edward Garrard, esq. possessed it in 1704, whose son dying a minor, his four daughters became entitled to it; the eldest of whom was married to Henry Browne, M. D. of Salisbury; the second to Dorington Egerton, esq. the third to Thomas Light, merchant, of London; and the fourth to George Hayter; and they, in 1766, joined in the sale of this manor and estate to Mr. John Tilden, of this place, whose son of the same name now possesses and resides in it.

Near the banks of the Thames, at a small distance northward from the high London road, is a seat called THE HIVE, but corruptly for The Hythe, which has been many years in the possession of the family of Chiffinch.

/u Rot. Esch. ejus an. /w Harris's Hist. of Kent. p. 223.

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Thomas Chiffinch, esq. was possessed of this seat in the beginning of the present century. He was grandson of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. keeper of the jewels to king Charles II. keeper of the king's closet, and comptroller of the excise, who died in 1666, and was buried in Westminster abbey, where there is a monument erected to his memory. He was born at Salisbury, in 1600, and was brought to the court of king Charles I. by Duppa, bishop of Salisbury, and afterwards of Winchester. After the king's death, he, with his wife, went abroad to king Charles II. and continued with him till the Restoration. He had a younger brother, William, who was keeper of the closet to king Charles II. and left by Barbara Nunn, his wife, an only daughter, Barbara, married to Edward, first earl of Jersey. Thomas Chiffinch, esq. the elder brother, married Dorothy, daughter of Mr. Thanet, of Merionethshire, by whom he had an only son, Thomas, who was, by king Charles II. appointed a principal searcher at the port of Gravesend, and dying in 1681, was buried at Milton near Gravesend. Tho. Chiffinch, esq. the son, was twice married; first, to Rachel, one of the daughters of Richard Chafin, esq. of Wiltshire; by whom he had an only

daughter, Rachel; and secondly to Amphyllis, daughter of Thomas Chaffin, esq. of Chettel, in Dorsetshire; by whom he had a son and heir, Thomas, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married George St. Loe, esq. a commissioner of the navy. The Chiffinch's bore for their arms, Or, on a chief embattled gules, three leopards heads of the field, langued azure; which coat was granted in 1664, by Sir Edward Walker, to Thomas Chiffinch, esq./x

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. the son, succeeded his father in his office of one of the principal searchers in the port of Gravesend, in king Charles II.'s reign, and possessed this seat, as above mentioned. He died in

/x Guillim, p. 258.

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1727, and lies buried in this church, with Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of James Fortrye, esq. of Wombwell-hall, who died in 1747. By her he left one son and heir, Thomas, and three daughters; Mary, who married John Taylor, A. M. vicar of Darent, and died without issue; Leah, who died unmarried; and Elizabeth, to Rich. Comyns, of Writtle, in Essex, sergent-at-law (brother to chief baron Comyns) and died at Canterbury in 1764, leaving one daughter, Mary. Tho. Chiffinch, esq. on his father's death, succeeded him in this seat and estate, and was a barrister at law. He married Dorothy, one of the daughters of Reginald Peckham, esq. of Yaldham in Wrotham, and relict of John Williams, gent. by whom he had no issue. He resided here near fifty years, till his death, in 1775, when by his will, he gave this, among his other estates, to his niece and heir at law above mentioned, Mary, the daughter of his sister, Elizabeth Comyns, who married in 1775, Francis Wadman, esq. gentleman usher to the late princess Amelia, and he in her right now possesses it, and resides here.

The CISTERTIAN ABBEY of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower, was in Richard II.'s reign, possessed of a manor here then called Leuches alias Muiches, which at the time of its dissolution in Henry VIII.'s reign, was surrendered into the king's hands, being then called Lynches, alias Mynches, alias Abbot's lands, and was afterwards granted successively for a term of years to Sir Christopher Morris, Thomas Asoteley, esq. and John Fowler,/y but where it is situated, and who has owned it since, is now unknown.

The PRIORY of St. Gregory, near Canterbury, possessed, perhaps, as early as its foundation, which was in 1084, eight acres of corn, cut down at the time of harvest, (*succicæ messis*) yearly, at Northfleet, that

/y See Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 944. Tan. Mon. p. 320. Inrol. Aug. Off.

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is, four of wheat and four of barley, from the demesnes of the archbishop, which were confirmed to that priory by archbishop Hubert, and in 1384, their portion of this parish was valued at 40s. yearly.

This portion remained part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it, about the 28th year of king Henry VIII. the year after which the arch=

bishop, conveying the manor of Northfleet to the king, this portion, by unity of possession, became part of the yearly profits of that manor, and as such it continues at this time.

The water mill, situated near the mouth of the fleet, close to the river Thames, was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and as part of them in Northfleet, were included in that great deed of exchange, made between archbishop Cranmer and king Henry VIII. in the 29th of that prince's reign, by which they were granted to the king, his heirs, and successors for ever. It is now used for the making of a composition of stucco for buildings.

CHARITIES.

There are no charitable donations to this parish, but adjoining to the church yard is a small tenement, worth about 25s. per annum, supposed to have been built at the expence of the parish, to put the sexton's tools in, &c. but since converted into a dwelling house, and now appropriated to the use of a poor woman, belonging to the parish.

NORTHFLEET is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, as such is in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Botolph, stands on the south side of the village, and is a handsome spacious building, having three large isles and a large chancel; it has a tower at the west end, which was built in 1717.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: In the chancel, a brass plate for Margaret Baron, and Nicholas her son; she died 1429; another with the figure of a priest for Peter de Lacy, rector of this church and prebendary

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of Swerdes, in Dublin, obt. Oct. 18, 1375; a stone with three brass plates, two with these arms, A chevron between three trefoils split, for William Hesilt, baron of the exchequer, obt. 1425; a brass plate and figure for William Lye, rector of Northfleet, obt. Jan. 9, 1391. A stone with two bars, in chief three fleurs de lis, for Sam. Goltz, clerk, eldest son of Rich. Goltz, rector of Denington, in Suffolk, obt. 1718. In the north isle, a monument for James Fortrye, esq. ob. 1674; a memorial for Elizabeth, wife of James Fortrye, ob. 1715, s. p. A monument for Susan Bulteel, ob. 1692; a brass plate for Richard Davy, esq. and a monument for his wife. He was keeper of the jewels to Henry VI. obt. 1491. On the north wall a monument for three of the daughters of Dr. Edward Browne, one of whom married Arthur Moore, esq. who lies buried near it. A monument, with argent, two bendlets sable, between as many pellets, for Edw. Browne, M. D. son of Sir Edward Browne, M. D. and president of the college of physicians, ob. 1708; and for Thomas Browne, M. D. his only son, ob. 1710. Several memorials for the Cripp's of Greenwich, of the Cripp's of this parish, and of the Child's. In the north isle, A memorial for Thomas Chiffinch and Mary his wife; he died 1727, she died 1747; another for Alice, wife of William Wangdeford, ob. 1421; one for William Rikhill, esq. eldest son of Sir William Rikhill, and Catherine his wife; she died 1433, and he died 1400; another for Tho. Bredon and Joan his wife, 1511; over the door, at the entrance into the belfry, an inscription, that this steeple was rebuilt in 1717, a new frame made for the

bells, which were new hung, and the church beautified, in 1718./z

The vicarage house is pleasantly situated on the south side of the London road, adjoining the north-west side of the church yard.

THE CHURCH of Northfleet was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and was given, with its appurtenances, in lands, tenths, oblations, and all other things, to the monks of St. Andrew's, Rochester, by archbishop Anselme, who came to the see in 1093. His successor, archbishop Ralph, confirmed this gift to them, and besides gave them an acre of his demesne land here, in his own occupation, in a field called Gudlesfeld, for the building of houses for themselves and their chaplain, and the tithes of all the villeins that held land in Dune, and also all others, the tithes of whom had been acquired in his or at any other time; all which were confirmed

/z See the mon. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 751.

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to the church of Rochester by several succeeding archbishops, and by king Henry II./a

In the 1st year of the reign of king John, Ralph, prior of Rochester, and the convent there, after the death of Letard, the incumbent of Northfleet, (clericus de Northfleet) had presented Adam, rector of the church of Dartford, to archbishop Hubert, for institution to it, but the archbishop having heard of Letard's death, had conferred it as of his own patronage, on Sir S. Ridel. However they at last, at the request of the archbishop, consented to the institution of his clerk above mentioned, saving to the monks sixty shillings yearly, as an annual pension from him, and also all kind of tithes which they had been used to receive in this parish, as the same were described in an instrument of archbishop Ralph, which he, the archbishop, had inspected; that is, the third sheaf of all tithes arising from his whole demesne in Northfleet, and all tithes, as well small as great, arising from the house, and the whole demesnes of Thomas de Yfelde, excepting two loads of corn, that is, one of wheat, and one of barley and oats, which loads the said S. Ridel should take each year in autumn, in the tenement of the said Thomas; and the archbishop and his clerk aforesaid, freely, and without any dispute, gave up to the use of the monks the tithes de la Dune, and the tithes of Wenifalle (now called Windfield-bank) and those from the tenements of Nigel, and all other tithes, which from the benevolence of faithful people they had of old been accustomed to take in different places in the parish of Northfleet, and that what the prior and monks had acquiesced in and consented to, might not prejudice them in future, the archbishop confirmed to them this church, as well as the several charters of his predecessors relating to it.

Notwithstanding these several confirmations of the gift of the church of Northfleet to the priory of Ro-

/a Text. Roff. p. 155, 156. Reg. Roff. p. 44, 46, 48, 410, 443.

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chester, it does not seem that they ever enjoyed it after-

wards, though they struggled hard to maintain their right to it, and for that purpose appealed to the court of Rome, whither, in the year 1240, the prior and convent sent one of their brethren, as their proctor, to manage this business there among other matters, against Edmund, then archbishop of Canterbury. This church afterwards continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury till the 29th year of king Henry VIII. when archbishop Cranmer, by his indenture, that year, conveyed to the king, in exchange, the manor and the rectory, parsonage and glebe of Northfleet, with the advowson of the vicarage of it; before which archbishop Warham, in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. had demised it for a term to John Thornton of Northfleet, with all the houses, lands, fruits, tithes, &c. belonging to it, at the rent of twenty-eight pounds, before the expiration of which king Edward VI. in his 7th year, granted to George Broke, esq. a subsequent term in it./b King James I. by his letters patent, in his 4th year, granted this rectory to Richard Roberts and George Tyle, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds, but in the year 1650 it belonged to Sir John Sedley./c

In ancient valuation of the churches in this diocese, taken anno 15 king Edward I./d the church of Northfleet is valued at one hundred marks./e

In the survey of ecclesiastical livings within this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned that Northfleet was a vicarage presentative, worth one hundred pounds per annum, Mr. H. Cunningham being then incumbent, that the parsonage was an impropriation, worth one hundred and sixty pounds per annum, Sir John Sidley being owner thereof.

/b Inrolments, Augmentation office.

/c Rolls of fee farm rents, temp. interregni.

/d Rymer's Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 686. /e Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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The advowson of the vicarage of this church remains in the possession of the crown. It is valued in the king's books at 21l. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 2s.

CHURCH OF NORTHFLEET.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishop of Canterbury. Letard, ob. 1199./f

Sir S. Ridel, anno 1199./g

Richard de Hechem, anno 1292./h

Richard de Clyve, in 1313./i

Gauselinus, 1320, resig. 1324./k

Peter Lacy, ob. Oct. 18, 1375./l

William Lye, ob. Jan. 9, 1391./m

Robert de Hallum, in 1401./n

VICARS.

The Crown Henry Cunningham, A. M. Jan. 20, 1631./o

William Scott, in 1667.

Robert Hayms, about 1700.

Robert Barry, presented Feb. 12, 1708./p

John Price, 1720./q

Marcus Gibbon, resig. 1721./r

William Ayerst, presented Jan.

1723, resig. 1726./s

Thomas Harris, Oct. 1726, ob.

Dec. 27, 1762./t

H. St. George Molesworth, pres.

in 1762, ob. Ap. 15, 1796.

Gilbert Buchanan, LL. B. presen=

ted 1796. Present vicar.

/f Reg. Roff. p. 506. /g Ibid.

/h He had the king's letters of pro=tection that year. Prynne's Records, p. 477.

/i Reg. Ec. Christi, Cant. Cart. 332.

/k He was a cardinal Presbyter of the church of Rome, and a great plu=ralist. See Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 618.

/l He had the prebend of Swordes, in the church of Dublin. He lies bu=ried in the chancel of this church.

/m He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

/n He was also prebendary of York and archdeacon of Canterbury. He was afterwards made bishop of Salis=bury and a cardinal presbyter of the church of Rome. Battely's Somner, part ii. p. 156.

/o Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 350.

/p Harl. MSS. No, 2263-147.

/q Son of Thomas Price, vicar of Dartford.

/r He exchanged this for Birch, in Essex.

/s And prebendary of Canterbury.

/t Also rector of Gravesend.

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GRAVESEND.

ADJOINING to Northfleet, north-eastward, lies the town and parish of GRAVESEND, having the river Thames for its northern boundary.

It is called in Domesday, GRAVESHAM, and in the Textus Roffensis, GRAVESÆNDE. Lambarde, as well as Leland, derive the name of this place from the Saxon word Gerefa, a ruler, or portreve. In German, Greve; hence Gravesend signifies the limit or bound of such a rule or office, in Latin, Limes Prætorius. Leland, in his Itinerary, calls it GREVA.

THE PARISH OF GRAVESEND lies on the north side of the London road, which runs along the southern side of it at the distance of about one mile from the town, which is situated twenty-two miles from London, and eight from Rochester, the soil towards the west is chalk, and towards the south-east much inclined to gravel; in which part of this parish, at a small distance from the London road southward is Mount Pleasant, the property and residence of Mr. Joynes, of Graves=end. Round the town, in great part owing to the manure from it, there are some rich and fertile grounds.

The town of Gravesend, having the church on the west side of it, lies on a descent towards the river Thames, to which it bounds northward, opposite to Tilbury-fort, in Essex; the western part of it lies in the parish of Gravesend, and the eastern in that of Milton. The east street, and the east side of the High-street of this town being in the parish of Milton, and the west street and the west side of the High-street in that of Gravesend. The town-hall, and market-yard, the free-school, and the ferry across the Thames to Tilbury, parcel of the manor of Paddock, alias Parrocks, in Milton, were purchased in 1695, with that manor, by the corporation of Gravesend, in which they continue now vested. It is

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large and populous, but the houses, about seven hundred in number, are most of them unsightly, and the streets narrow, and until within these few years, ill-paved and covered with filth; the inconveniences of which the inhabitants themselves were so sensible of, that anno 13 king George III. they procured an act for the better lighting, paving and otherwise improving this town, in consequence of which great improvements have already been made in it, and in all probability it will before long put on a far different appearance even from what it wears at present. Proper machines have lately been established here, with every requisite accommodation for sea bathing.

Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her 10th year, confirmed to the parishes of Gravesend and Milton, the antient privileges granted to them in the reign of king Henry IV. and further incorporated those parishes by the name of, The portreve, (which is now changed into that of mayor,) jurats, and inhabitants, of the parishes of Gravesend and Milton, having justices who have jurisdiction within the limits of the corporation. There are twelve jurats and twenty-four common-councilmen, a recorder, high-steward, chamberlain, town-clerk, and serjeant at mace. The mayor and deputy mayor are chosen from the jurats yearly, on the Monday after St. Michael, and the eldest jurat is usually elected a justice of the peace. The arms of the corporation are: A boat, or, with one mast, lying at anchor, on the hills beyond a porcupine, sable.

King Richard II. in 1377, directed his writs to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, commanding them to erect certain beacons on each side the river Thames, opposite to each other, which were to be kept prepared, and to be fired on the first approach of the enemies vessels, so that notice might thereby be given of any sudden attempt, in consequence of which one beacon was erected here at Gravesend, and the opposite one at Farnedon, in Essex; notwithstanding which precau-

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tion, this town was soon afterwards plundered and burnt by the French, who sailed up the Thames hither in their galleys, and carried away most of the inhabitants prisoners. To enable the town to recover this loss, king Richard II. granted to the abbot and convent of St. Mary Graces, that the inhabitants of Gravesend and Milton should have the sole privilege of carrying passengers by water from hence to London, on condition

that they should provide boats for that purpose, and carry all passengers either at two-pence per head with their bundle, or let the hire of the whole boat at four shillings. This charter was confirmed several times afterwards by succeeding kings, and under proper regulations by the legislature, they still enjoy this advantageous privilege. The fare now taken for this passage, which is called, The Long Ferry, is nine-pence each passenger, and the hire of the whole boat ten shillings and six-pence.

These boats are usually called The Tilt Boats, and are large and commodious for the purpose, being much improved within these few years. The signal for their departure is the ringing of a bell, which continues a quarter of an hour, during which they are obliged to depart. They go to London every flood, and return from Billingsgate, on the like signal, with every ebb.

The lords of the manor of Gravesend have a right to hold a court for the regulation of the boats and water carriage between Gravesend and London. This court is called in an old roll, anno 33 queen Elizabeth, (now in the possession of the earl of Darnley) Curia Cursus Aquæ, in which year it appears to have been held by William Lambarde, gent. steward to William lord Cobham, lord of this manor. This court has not been held for a great number of years; notwithstanding which, in the several acts passed for regulating the navigation of the river Thames, there is in general a re-

/u Lamb. Peramb. p. 533.

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servation of the rights of the heirs of the duke of Richmond and Lenox, which clause was added in respect to this water-court at Gravesend.

In the iter of J. de Berewick, and his associates, in the 21st year of king Edward I. a complaint was made, that the bridge, and chalk causeway leading to the water here, were much out of repair, and that the watermen took extraordinary fare-money on that account, to the great injury of passengers; and that one half of the causeway and bridge ought to be repaired by Henry de Cramaville, then lord of this manor, and the other half next the town by the men of Milton; and it was accordingly so repaired./x

The city of London at present assumes the regulation of this water passage, and it is almost incredible what numbers of people pass every tide, as well by night as by day, between this town and London.

King Henry VIII. built two bulwarks or platforms, one at this town and the other somewhat lower down on the river at Milton, and mounted them with cannon, as a defence to the mouth of the Thames, and so late as 1782 an act passed for the better securing the river Thames at Gravesend and Tilbury.

AMONG THE GOVERNORS of the fort of Gravesend, and that of West Tilbury, on the opposite side the Thames, I find the following:

1672. Sir Francis Leake, knight.

1702. Lieutenant-General George Cholmondeley, afterwards earl Cholmondeley, resig. 1725.

1725. Major-General Tatton, ob. 1736.

1736. Sir Multon Lambard, knight.

1737. Major-General James Tyrrell.
1737. General Williamson, ob. 1737.
1747. Lieutenant-General John, earl Delawar.
1752. Charles, lord Cadogan, ob. 1776.
1776. Brigadier-General William Fawcitt.
1796. Major-General Thomas Musgrave, the present
governor.

/x Placit. Coron, Itin. J. de Berewick, ejus an. Rot. 23 in dorso.

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The salary of the governor is 300l. per annum.

The honorable James de Courcy is lieutenant-go= verner, whose salary is 182l. 10s.

Queen Elizabeth, consulting the honour and gran= deur of the nation, and of the city of London in par= ticular, ordered the mayor, aldermen and companies of it, to receive all eminent strangers and ambassadors at this place, in their formalities, and so to attend them to London in their barges if they came by water, and if by land, then they were ordered to meet them on Blackheath.

The assizes for this county were held in that part of this town, within the parish of Milton, several times in the reigns of king James and king Charles I./y

The port of London ending just below this town, at the place called Gravesend bridge, at the boundary of this hundred, there are two principal searchers and an office of the customs established here, and all outward-bound ships are obliged to anchor in the road before the town, until they have been visited by the proper officers; but the homeward bound ships all pass by without notice, unless to receive tide-waiters on board, if they have not been supplied with them before.

Most of the outward-bound ships complete their cargoes and take in provisions here, so that the town is generally full of seamen, and here are several good inns, taverns, and other such houses for their accom= modation, and that of travellers.

Most of the Dutch turbot-vessels lie at this place, from whence they supply the London market as they think fit. There is likewise a well frequented ferry for passengers, horses, cattle, and carriages from hence across the Thames into Essex. All which cause much bustle and a continued hurry of business, and besides bring great profit to this town.

/y Kilb. Survey, p. 407, 408, 410.

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For many years past there have been great improve= ments made in the lands near the town, by converting them into gardens, of which there are about seventy acres, with the produce of which, not only the ship= ping, the town itself, and the neighbouring country is supplied for several miles round, but the London mar= kets too, their asparagus in particular, which is called by the name of Gravesend grass, is esteemed the finest in England, being mostly preferred to that of Batter= sea, and yet this place is said to have been formerly noted for want of garden stuff in it./z

The market is held weekly in the town of Gravesend on a Wednesday and Saturday, and there are two annual fairs here, on April 23 and Oct. 24, for horses, black

cattle, cloaths, toys, and other sorts of goods, which continue for a week, and were granted by patent anno 30 king Edward III. the profits of them belong to the lord of the manor.

On August 24, 1727, between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, a terrible fire happened at Gravesend, which burnt down and destroyed the church and one hundred and ten houses, being the greatest part of the town; soon after which the mayor and jurats sent circular letters to the several corporations, ministers of parishes and others, imploring their assistance in their dreadful scene of distress and calamity, and in May 1731 another fire happened here, which burnt down seven houses, as did another on Nov. 9, 1748, adjoining to a warehouse, which contained a great quantity of pitch, tar, rosin, &c. which, it may be said, happily was prevented spreading further by the explosion of a considerable quantity of gunpowder contained in them. The high road from London to Dover went formerly through the town of Gravesend, and continued so till the quantity of chalk dug from the adjoining pits, which are now become many, of great depth, and of large extent between this town and Northfleet,

/z See Biog. Brit. vol. ii. p. 1022.

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rendered it so dangerous to passengers, that it has at different times been twice altered to its present course, about a mile further eastward from the former road, now entering the town by queen Mary's green.

On October 7, 1552, three great fishes called whirlpools, were taken here and drawn up to Westminster-bridge, and August 30, 1718, a whale was taken just below this place, the length of which was forty feet.

The marsh land from Gravesend-bridge to the mouth of the river Medway, and up that river to Penhurst, is within the commission of sewers granted for those limits, the commissioners for which meet at Rochester to transact the business relating to it.

There was a family which took its name from this place, and were called De Gravesend, which had possessions here, as appears by the escheat rolls, as early as the reign of king Edward III. of this family, I imagine, were Richard de Gravesend, bishop of Lincoln in 1258, another of the same name, bishop of London in 1282, and Stephen de Gravesend, bishop of London in 1318./a

Our HERBALISTS have taken notice of the following scarce plants in this parish;

Cyperus rotundus littoreus; round salt marsh cyperus, growing in the marshes below the town.

Limonium; sea lavender, on the banks of the river below the town.

Tripolium vulgare majus & minus; great and small sea starwort, by the blockhouse.

Plantago marina; sea plantaine, near the blockhouse.

Chamæpitys mas, the male ground pine; *chamæpitys fœmina*, the female ground pine; *chemæpitys dodon*, the small ground pine; and *iva muscata monspeliaca*, French herb, ivy or ground pine, about the grounds of this parish.

Glaux, or milkwort, in and about the town.

/a Le Neve's Fasti, p. 139, 177, 178.

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Cannabis spuria; bastard hemp, of several sorts in and about this town.

Viorna; the travellers joy, in most hedges from hence to Canterbury.

Erica flore albo; heath with white flowers, upon the down near Gravesend./b

Asparagus pratensis; the marsh asparagus, said by Mr. J. Sherard to be found by the Thames near this town.

GRAVESEND, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, was part of the large possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, half brother to the conqueror, under the general title of whose lands it is accordingly thus entered in that record.

Herbert son of Ivo holds Gravesham of the bishop (of Baieux) it was taxed at 2 sulings and 1 yoke. The arable land is 4 carucates. In demesne there is one, and 4 villeins, with 8 servants, having 2 oxen. There is a church and 1 hythe. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth 10 pounds, when he received it as much, now 11 pounds. This manor was in 3 manors; in the time of king Edward, Leuric and Ulwin and Godwin held them, now it is in one.

On the disgrace of bishop Odo, in 1083, it most probably reverted to the crown. Soon after which it became parcel of the demesnes of the family of Cramaville, called sometimes for shortness Cremille, who had likewise very considerable possessions in the eastern part of this county. They held this place as one knight's fee, parcel of the fourteen and a quarter, which made up the barony of Peverel, being part of the lands assigned to John de Fienes and his assistants, for the defence of Dover-castle, to which the tenant of Gravesend was bound to perform his ward three times in each year./c Henry de Cramaville possessed the manor of

/b Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 31, 412, 414, 424.

/c There was a tower in Dover-castle, called Turris Cranvili, or Creville's tower. See before under Deptford, p. 2.

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Gravesend at his death, in the 54th year of king Henry III. holding it of the king in capite,/d and was succeeded in it by his son Henry de Cramaville, who died possessed of it in the 26th year of king Edward I. as did Joane his wife in the 8th year of Edward II.

After this, it by some means came to the crown, for king Edward III. in his 4th year, granted it in special tail to Robert de Ufford, in consideration of his services, and that he might the better support himself in the king's wars in Gascoigne. He was grandson of Robert de Ufford, a younger son of John de Peyton, of Suffolk, assuming his surname from the lordship of Ufford, in that county, where he had his residence. In the 11th year of that reign, he was in parliament solemnly advanced to the title and dignity of earl of Suffolk; after which he was continually employed by the king both in his wars, and the most important negotiations. In the 18th year of king Edward III. he was made admiral of the king's whole fleet, from the

Thames mouth northward. In the 30th year he was in the famous battle of Poitiers, where, by his valour and conduct, he gained great reputation. After which he was elected into the order of the garter, next in succession to those, who were called the founders of it. He died in the 43d year of the above reign, and was buried, according to his will, in the abbey of Cam= pesse, in Suffolk, having married Margaret, daughter of Sir Walter Norwich, of Suffolk, leaving William, his only surviving son, whose son afterwards conveyed it by sale to king Edward III. who by his charter, in his 50th year, granted this manor, among others, to feoffees, for the endowing his newly-founded Cistercian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the tower of London.

These feoffees, after king Edward's death, in compliance with his will, conveyed it to the abbot and monks there, for a term of years, to the intent that it

/d Rot. Esch. ejus an. No. 8.

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might be given by king Richard II. in mortmain, to them for ever. They afterwards granted their interest in it at a certain yearly rent, to Sir Simon de Burley, knight of the garter, and lord warden of the cinque ports, who having forfeited it, with his life, for high treason, in the 10th year of that reign, the king by his letters patent, in his 12th year, at the petition of the abbot and convent, granted to them the rents and profits of this manor, among others, as a sufficient endowment until he should otherwise provide for them. After which, by letters patent, in his 22d year, he granted it to them, to hold in pure and perpetual alms for ever, for the performance of the religious purposes therein mentioned, and he gave licence to the surviving feoffees of king Edward III. to release these manors and lands to them./e

The manor of Gravesend remained part of the possessions of the above monastery till the final dissolution of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. the next year after which it was, together with the lands and revenues of it, by the general words of the act then passed, given to the king for ever. King Henry VIII. in his 31st year, granted, among other premises, his manor of Gravesend, with its appurtenances, in as ample a manner as it was lately let to John Laurente, and his lands and tenements in Pykeaxelond, and others called the Ship in Gravesend and Mylton, all parcel of the possessions of that abbey, to Sir Christopher Morrice alias Morys, to hold for the term of his life, without any rent or account whatsoever. He died in the 38th year of that reign, soon after which the king granted them to his widow Elizabeth Morys, for life.

After her death, king Edward VI. in his 5th year, demised them in ferme, to his servant, Thomas Asteley, esq. for a term of years, and again, in his 7th year, to his servant, John Fowler, one of the grooms of his privy chamber, and Anne his wife, to hold during their

/e Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 944.

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lives, without any rent, or account whatsoever. They remained in possession of them in the 11th year of

queen Elizabeth; soon after which Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, younger son of John, duke of Northumberland, possessed the fee of this manor: /f he, in the 23d year of that reign, having obtained the queen's licence for that purpose, conveyed it by sale to Thomas Gawdye and James Morice. In the 25th year of that reign, the sole right to this manor was become vested in Sir Thomas Gawdie, who had then licence to alienate it to William Brooke, lord Cobham, whose eldest son and heir, Henry, lord Cobham, being found guilty in the 1st year of king James I. together with George his brother, and others, of conspiring to kill the king, and other acts of high treason, had judgment of death pronounced against them; upon which George, his brother, was beheaded, and both of them attainted; but the execution of the lord Cobham, and some of the others, was, through the king's clemency, superseded. /g

The manor of Gravesend coming thus to the crown by his attainder, an act passed in the third year of king James I. by which the lands of Henry, late lord Cobham, and of George Brooke, esq. attainted of high treason, were established in the crown. After which this manor was granted by king James, in his 10th year, to his kinsman, Lodowick, son of Esme Stuart, duke of Lenox in Scotland, created, in the 21st year of that reign, duke of Richmond. He died that year without issue, and was succeeded, as duke of Lenox, and in this manor by his brother, Esme Stuart, lord d'Aubigne and earl of March, and who surviving his brother not quite twelve months, was succeeded in titles and estates by his eldest son, James duke of Lenox, who was, in 1641, created duke of Richmond;

/f Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 221. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. v.

/g Ibid. p. 282, et seq. See more of this family under Cobham.

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on whose death, in 1655, Esme, his only son, succeeded him in honours and in this manor, but died an infant at Paris in 1660; on which his cousin-german, Charles, only son of George Stuart, lord d'Aubigne, deceased, younger brother of James duke of Richmond, father of the said Esme, became duke of Richmond, &c. and inherited this manor among the rest of his estates; and soon afterwards, anno 13 and 14 king Charles II. an act passed for the settling the estate of James, late duke of Richmond and Lenox, according to the agreement of Charles duke of Richmond and Lenox, Mary duchess dowager of Richmond and Lenox, and the lady Mary her daughter, and the trustees of the said lady duchess. /h He died in 1672, leaving Catherine his only sister his next heir, married first to Henry lord Obrien, and secondly to Sir Joseph Williamson. On her making claim to the title of baroness Clifton, as sole heir to her grandmother, Catherine, daughter and heir of Gervas lord Clifton, she had the same allowed to her in 1673; her only surviving daughter and heir Catherine, by her first husband, for she had none by her second, married Edward Hyde, lord Cornbury, eldest son of the earl of Clarendon, by whom she left one son, Edward lord Cornbury, and a daughter, Theodosia, who on her brother's death, s. p. be=

came his heir, and intitled to the barony of Clifton, which she carried in marriage to John Bligh, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland, afterwards created earl of Darnley, and grandfather of the present Right Hon. the earl of Darnley, as will be subsequently mentioned./i

But the manor of Gravesend, with Cobham-hall, and the rest of the estates of Charles duke of Richmond, in this county, were about 1695, after the death of lord Obrien, sold to pay debts, and for other purposes, at which time this manor was sold to Sir Joseph

/h A copy of it is among the Harleian MSS. No. 6805-4.

/i Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 427. Irish. Peer. vol. i. p. 262.

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Williamson, then the second husband of the lady Catharine, widow of lord Obrien above mentioned. He died without issue in 1701, possessed of this manor, as did his wife, lady Catharine, a few months after him, upon which two thirds of it descended to Edward lord Cornbury and Catherine his wife, daughter of lady Catharine, by Henry lord Obrien; and on his death, without issue, in 1713, to his only surviving sister, afterwards married to John Bligh, esq. as above mentioned, and the other third, by Sir Jos. Williamson's will, to one Mary Hornsby, who presently afterwards commenced a suit in chancery for a partition of this manor and the other estates, of which the third part had been devised to her, which the court, in 1718, decreed, and a contract was soon afterwards entered into by the earl of Darnley for the purchase of it. He died in 1728, leaving two sons, Edward and John, successively earls of Darnley, and three daughters. After the earl's death, Hornsby brought his bill against his executors, to have the purchase completed, which the court decreed, and the same was accordingly complied with by Edward earl of Darnley, his heir and successor, who then became possessed of the entire fee of this manor among the rest of these estates, and dying unmarried, in 1747, was succeeded by his surviving brother, John earl of Darnley, who died in 1781; and his eldest son, now the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, baron Clifton, &c. residing at Cobham-hall, in this neighbourhood, is the present possessor of the manor of Gravesend, and hereditary high steward of this town and corporation./k

CHARITIES.

EXCLUSIVE of eight or nine hundred poor persons relieved yearly in their passage to and from London by water, there are the following belonging to this parish.

WILLIAM LORD COBHAM by his will, in 1598, gave the nomination of one poor person belonging to this parish to dwell in

/k See a fuller account of the title to this manor, and of the earls of Darnley, under Cobham.

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his new college at Cobham, according to the rules and ordinances established for that purpose, with the pension of 6s. 8d. per month, charged on his lands, now vested in and under the directions of the wardens of Rochester bridge, of the annual produce of 4l. and if this parish should fail to nominate such person the parish of Chalk should have the privilege of such presentation.

RICHARD WHITE gave by will, in 1622, to be distributed to

the poor, on the market day before Christmas day, yearly, an annuity, charged on land, vested in the churchwardens, of the annual produce of 1l.

HENRY PINNOCK gave, in 1624, by will, 21 dwelling houses, for the better relief and maintenance of such poor decayed persons as should be in this parish and Milton, and a house for a master weaver to employ them; and he settled an estate for the repairs of them, as well as of the adjacent house, given for the same use by one Mr. Fry, vested in trustees, according to the directions of the will, and of the annual produce of 10l. 14s.

DAVID VARCHALL gave by his will, in 1703, houses and land, to pay 2l. per annum, to be distributed yearly, in the parish church of Gravesend, on the Sunday next before Christmas, as follows – to forty poor persons 6d. each in money, and a loaf of bread of 5d. to pay the clear sum of 20l. per annum to the master of the free school of Milton to teach twenty boys, ten of whom to be sent out of Gravesend and ten out of Milton, by the churchwardens and parishioners, in vestry assembled, and the residue to be laid out in cloathing the boys in October, and the further residue to such other poor persons of the two parishes as the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parishes shall think fit, vested in trustees, as appointed under the direction of a decree of the court of exchequer, made in 1739, and now of the annual produce of 67l. 8s.

ARCHDEACON PLUME gave by his will, in 1704, to be distributed among poor persons attending the lectures, money issuing out of houses and land, vested in the rector of this parish, and the rectors and vicars of other neighbouring parishes, of the annual produce of 10s.

JAMES FRY gave by his will, in 1710, to teach and instruct ten poor boys, that is, four out of Gravesend, four out of Milton, and two out of Chalk parishes, a yearly sum, charged on lands, vested in the corporation of Gravesend and Milton, of the annual produce of 14l. 10s.

ANNE CHAPMAN gave, by deed, in 1709, a yearly sum, to be laid out in bread on St. John's day, charged on lands, vested in the churchwardens, and of the annual produce of 2l.

GRAVESEND is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

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The church has been twice burned down, the first calamity happened to it about the year 1509, and being rebuilt, it was solemnly consecrated and dedicated to St. Mary, by John bishop of Rochester, April 3, 1510. This was a mean building without any steeple, which was again burned to the ground in that dreadful fire which happened here in 1727. In 1731, anno 4th George II. an act of parliament passed for the rebuilding this church, as one of the fifty new ones, by which act five thousand pounds was allotted to be paid for that purpose. In consequence of this the first stone of the new church was laid by Sir Roger Meredith, M. P. on the 3d of June; and when finished, it was consecrated by Joseph bishop of Rochester, and in compliment to the king's name, dedicated to St. George. This church is a very neat structure, built of brick, with stone quoins, cornices, and other ornaments; in the steeple hangs a musical peal of eight bells, purchased by subscription. In the year 1764 an organ and loft were erected in it, pursuant to the will of Mr. John Ison, of this parish, who left one hundred pounds for

that purpose.

THERE were certain tithes in Gravesend belonging to the monastery of St. Augustine, near Canterbury.

Pope Eugenius III. in 1146, confirmed these tithes to that abbey, as did pope Urban III. afterwards. Hugh de Tottesclive, abbot of St. Augustine's, in the reign of king Stephen, assigned them, with the consent of his convent, to the cloathing of the monks there. In the reign of king John there was a controversy between the monks of St. Augustine's and Adam, then rector of Plumsted, concerning the arrears of an annual pension of twenty-five shillings, which the monks alleged they used to receive from the rector of the

/l See the monuments and inscriptions in the old church, in Reg. Roff. p. 748.

/m Regist. Mon. St. Aug. Cart. 11, 37.

/n Dec. Script. Col. 1799. Stevens's Monast. vol. i. p. 456.

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church of Gravesend, and which he had forborne while rector of it. This claim was heard before the prior of St. Gregory's and others, when he acknowledged the right of the monks to it, and accordingly fully satisfied them in the arrears of it.

THE CHURCH of Gravesend, at the latter end of the reign of king Edward III. seems to have been an appendage to the manor of Gravesend, and was granted with it, by the description of the advowson of the church of the manor of Gravesend, by that king, in his 50th year, to the abbey of St. Mary Graces, as has been already mentioned; after which it passed, with the manor, in the same tract of ownership down to Henry lord Cobham, who forfeited it to the crown in the 1st year of king James I. as has been already more fully related before in the account of the manor of Gravesend. The advowson of this church thus coming to the crown, has continued there ever since, the king being the present patron of this rectory.

In an antient valuation of the churches in this diocese, taken anno 15 Edward I. this church was valued at fifteen marks. In the survey of ecclesiastical livings, taken in 1650, it was returned, that Gravesend was a parsonage, formerly in the king's presentation, worth sixty pounds per annum, Mr. Simon Dyer then incumbent. This rectory is valued in the king's books at 15l. and in the yearly tenths at 1l. 15s.

In the reign of king Henry VII. the parishoners of Gravesend, who dwelt at a distance from the church, having for their convenience built an oratory or chapel, for celebrating mass and other divine offices, in 1497, obtained a licence for it from the archbishop's official, and on April 2, 1510, John bishop of Rochester consecrated it, being dedicated to St. George, with a reservation, that it should not be prejudicial to the parish church, and that they should not bury or

/o Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/p Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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baptize, or perform any other sacred rite in it, excepting the consecration of the Lord's body.

The remains of this desecrated chapel are still in

being, on the eastern side of the town of Gravesend.

CHURCH OF GRAVESEND.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Adam, in the reign of king John./r

Nicholas Gunewaye, pres. Oct. 10,

1553./s

The Crown Frankwell, A. M. in the
reign of king James I./t

Simon Dyer, in 1650./u

..... Sharp, ejected 1662./w

William Lester, 1677.

Henry Hughes.

..... Suill.

William Savage, D. D. resigned

1720./x

Samuel Dunster, D. D.

William Ayerst, resig. 1726./y

Thomas Harris, A. M. presented

Oct. 26, obt. Dec. 27, 1762./z

William Crawley, 1763, ob. No=

vemb. 1780.

John Tucker, A. M. 1782. Pre=

sent rector./a

/q Reg. Roff. p. 377.

/r Afterwards rector of Plumsted. –

Reg. Roff. p. 526.

/s Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 348. Al=

so vicar of Leeds.

/t MSS. Twysden.

/u Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth
library, vol. xix.

/w Ejected by the Bartholomew act.

Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/x Rector of St. Anne's, Blackfriars,

London, and Stone, near Dartford;

and master of Emanuel college, Cam=

bridge.

/y Prebendary of Canterbury, &c.

/z And vicar of Northfleet.

/a Head master formerly of King's

school, in Canterbury. In 1784, a

dispensation passed for his holding this

rectory with that of Luddenham.

MILTON.

EASTWARD from Gravesend lies Milton, on
the southern shore of the river Thames. It is called
in Domesday, and other antient records, Meletune

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and Melestun, and takes its name from its middle
distance between the parishes of Gravesend and Chalk.
It is generally written Milton juxta, or near Graves=
end, to distinguish it from two other parishes of the
same name in this county, Milton near Sittingborne,
and Milton near Canterbury.

THE PARISH of Milton is but small, being not
more than three quarters of a mile, from east to west,

and a mile and half north to south. The high London road leads along the southern part of it, close to which stand the Court-lodge and Paddock-farm. It contains about eleven hundred acres of land, of which fifty are marsh. There is much fertile land in it of a loamy soil, which changes more and more southerly to an entire sand; the surface of it is a continued series of hill and dale. The eastern part of the town of Gravesend is within this parish, the liberty of which corporation extends over the whole of it, and is therefore incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and inhabitants of the parishes of Gravesend and Milton, as has already been related before, in the description of that parish. One of the bulwarks or platforms, built for the defence of the river, by king Henry VIII. as there mentioned, is in this parish, for the purpose of building which, William Burston, in the 35th year of that reign, conveyed to the king two pieces of land, called Chapel-field and Le Green./b This parish, with others in the neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the ninth pier of Rochester bridge./c A fair was granted to Milton, to be held yearly, on the day of the conversion of St. Paul, which holds for a week.

MILTON, at the time of taking the great survey of Domesday, was part of those extensive possessions belonging to Odo, the great bishop of Baieux and earl

/b Aug. Office, Deeds of Purchase, and Excheq. Box D. 39.

/c Lamb. Peramb. p. 535. Kilb. Surveys, p. 189.

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of Kent, the Conqueror's half brother, and it is accordingly thus entered under the general title of his lands in that record, as follows:

Ralph Fitz Turoid holds Meletune of the bishop. It was taxed at one suling and three yoke. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there is one, and 21 villeins, with two borderers, having two carucates. There is a church and one mill of 49 pence, and a hythe of 20 shillings, and three servants. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth four pounds, and afterwards three pounds, now six pounds. Richard holds in his lowy (what is worth) five shillings in one wood. Leuvin the earl held it.

And somewhat further, in the same record –

Helto holds Melestun of the bishop. It was taxed at half a suling, the arable land is one carucate, and there are also five villeins and one acre of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 10 shillings, now 30 shillings. Uluuard held it of king Edward.

The former of these descriptions seems intended for the manor of Milton, and the latter for that of Parrock in this parish.

On the disgrace of bishop Odo, in 1083, all his possessions were confiscated to the king's use, and these estates as part of them.

After which, the MANOR OF MILTON came into the family of Montchensie, called in Latin, De Monte Canisio./d William, son of William de Montchensie,

who died anno 6 king John, owned this manor at the time of his death, in the 15th year of that reign; he died without issue, upon which Warine de Montchensie, his kinsman, for a fine of two thousand marcs had livery of his whole inheritance. In the 37th year of king Henry III. he obtained a charter of free warren for his manor of Milton, and died next year, be=

/d See more of this family, under Hartley and Swanscombe.

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ing then reputed one of the most noble, prudent, and wealthy men in the kingdom.

After which this manor passed in like manner as that of Hartley, before described, by the heiress of this family, to Hugh de Vere, and afterwards to the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke; thence again to Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, for the payment of whose ransom, being taken prisoner in Wales by Owen Glendower, this manor, with others, were assigned over to Robert Braybrooke, bishop of London, and others, his feoffees, to sell them for that purpose, /e as may be seen more at large in the description of the manor of Hartley, before mentioned. /f

They sold this manor to Sir Reginald Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 7th year of Henry IV. leaving the possession of it to Isabel his wife, who carried her interest in it presently after in marriage to William Clifford, esq. who held it in her right in the 5th year of king Henry V. After her death it returned to the heirs of her former husband, for it appears that John de Cobham became entitled to it after her death; but in this name it continued but a short time, for Robert de Poynings died possessed of this manor in the 25th year of king Henry VI.

In the 5th year of the reign of king Edward IV. John Moresbye died possessed of it; soon after which it became the property of Robert Brent, whose son, John Brent, held this manor by knights service at his death, in the 8th year of king Henry VII. His son, William Brent, soon after this alienated it to Sir Henry Wyatt, from whom it descended to his son, Sir Thomas Wyatt; and he in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. granted this manor and the advowson

/e Philipott, p. 165. Pat. Rolls, 8 Edw. I. Prynn. Rec. p. 403.

/f See Hartley, vol. ii. p. 453; Swanscombe, p. 404.

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of the church, with their appurtenances, to that king, for ever, in exchange for other premises.

King Edward VI. in his 5th year, in consideration of a fine of twenty pounds, granted to Catherine Martin, widow, her messuage, called Milton-place, late Figges, in this parish, and other parcels of land there, and the herbage and pasture, called the afterleaze of the Town marsh in Milton, from the feast of St. Edward to the feast of the purification of the Blessed Virgin, all which were parcel of the possessions of Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds. Queen Elizabeth, in her 15th year, granted the manor of Milton, in fee, to George Tucker, at the yearly rent of 41l. 7s. 2d.

who was the eldest of the three sons of Wm. Tucker, esq. of Thornley, in Devonshire, and bore for his arms, Azure, a chevron or between three sea horses argent./g His grandson, George Tucker, esq. alienated it to Mr. Hamond, of Queenhith, in London, in whose descendants it continued till about thirty years ago, when Leonard Hamond, esq. of Horton Kirkby, passed away his interest in it to Mr. Peter Moulson of London, who rebuilt the court lodge,/h and greatly improved the grounds round it. He gave this manor, by will, to his only daughter and heir, married to Mr. George Vaughan of London, from whom it passed, by sale, to Michael Bedell, esq. who died in 1795, and his executor is now entitled to it, but it is occupied by Mr. Weston, who now resides in it.

PADDOCK, alias PARROCK'S, is a manor in this parish, which had once owners of the same name, as is evident by an antient record, which testifies that Robert de Parrock obtained a market weekly on the Saturday, and a fair at this manor yearly for three days, viz. on the Vigil, the day of St. Edmund, and

/g Visit. Kent. 1169. /h It has, with great impropriety, been called by many, of late years, by the name of Lower Paddock.

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the day after, in the 52d year of king Henry III. This family bore for their arms, Ermine, a chief quarterly or and gules; in the first quarter a chess rook sable./i In the next reign of king Edward I. this manor was in the possession of William de Clovil, who then held half a knight's fee in Paroke, of Warine de Montecanisio,/k after which it came into the possession of the family of De Gravesend, one of whom, Stephen de Gravesend, bishop of London, died possessed of it in the 12th year of king Edward III. His kinsman, Sir Thomas de Gravesend, held it in the 20th year of that reign, and died possessed of it in the 49th year of it; soon after which it was purchased by that king; who, by his charter, in his 50th year, granted this manor, among others, to feoffees, for the endowing his newly founded Cistercian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the tower of London. After which it was conveyed for the like term of years as the manor of Gravesend above mentioned, till king Richard II. in his 22d year, granted it to the abbot and convent, in pure and perpetual alms for ever; and it remained part of the possessions of the above monastery till the dissolution of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. after which it was, together with the lands and revenues belonging to it, given up to the king for ever, by the general words of the act, passed in the 31st year of that reign; after which king Henry VIII. in his 31st year, granted this manor of Parrocke, with all its rights and appurtenances, and all his lands and tenements, called Spryvers-hache or Spryvers-place, and lands called Le Arbor, parcel of this manor, and several other lands, in Milton, all parcel of the possessions of the above mentioned late abbey, to Sir Christopher Morys for life, and afterwards to his widow, dame Elizabeth, for her's likewise; Thomas Asteley,

/i Pat. ejus an. 3 memb. 10. Camd. Rem. p. 215.

/k Book of Knt. Fees. Rot. ejus an. Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 944.

had afterwards a term in them, granted by king Edward VI. who again, in the 7th year, granted them to his servant, John Fowler, one of the grooms of his privy-chamber, and Anne his wife, for their lives.

The fee of this manor afterwards remained in the crown till the 13th year of king James, when it was granted to Mr. William Salter, who not many years after passed it away by sale to Mr. James Crispe, from whom, partly by purchase and partly by exchange, it went to Mr. John Child, / whose descendant, Mr. Henry Child, in the 24th year of king Charles II. conveyed the house, and the greatest part of the demesne lands in this parish, since called by the name of Lower Parrock, alias the Paddock-farm, to Mr. John Coosens and his descendant, Richard Coosens, esq. of Westminster, who died in 1779, leaving one sole daughter and heir, who continues at this time the possessor of this estate.

But THE MANOR itself continued in the name of Child till William Child, gent. in 1691, passed it away by sale to Richard Etkins, gent. whose son, George Etkins, esq. one of the jurats of the corporation of Gravesend and Milton, in 1695, conveyed it to trustees for the use of that corporation, in which trust it remains at this time.

The town hall and market yard, the free school, the wharf or town key, in the town of Gravesend, and the ferry across the Thames, from thence to Tilbury, in Essex, are parcel of this manor, and as such are now in the above mentioned trust, for the use of the corporation; and there are about thirty-three houses, mostly in the East-street, and the east side of the High-street, of the town of Gravesend, which are held of this manor. The court baron for it is held in the town hall above mentioned.

/ Philipott, p. 166.

CHARITIES.

BESIDES eight or nine hundred poor persons, travelling by water, from Gravesend to London, constantly relieved by the corporation, this parish receives jointly with that parish, the charities of Richard White, Henry Pinnock, David Varchal, and James Fry, as has been already fully related among the charities of that parish; and further, the following given to the parish of Milton solely.

MARY LONGWORTH gave by will, in 1699, the sum of 20l. the yearly profits to be distributed among eight poor widows of this parish every Christmas eve, vested in trustees, and of the annual produce of 3l. 7s.

ANNE PEARCE gave by will, in 1776, the sum of 50l. the interest to be distributed at Christmas yearly, among such poor persons of this parish as do not receive alms, vested in trustees.

MILTON is in the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which stands at a small distance from the east end of the town of Gravesend, and on the east side of the road leading from thence to Chalk, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It is a fair handsome building, with a square tower at the west end of

it./m In 1792, it was repaired and beautified at the ex=
pence of six hundred and fifty pounds.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church –
In the chancel, on the south side of the altar is a mural monument
for Thomas Chiffinch, esq. one of king Charles II.'s searchers at
Gravesend, obt. 1681. Within the rails, a memorial for James
How, rector here, obt. Aug. 30, 1766./n

Round the walls of this church are painted the crests
of the several kings of England, from Edward III. to
king James I.

The church of Milton was appendant to the manor
till Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, lord of it,
anno 15 king Edward I. granted to brother Roger de

/m Over the porch of this church is a sun-dial, constructed by
Mr. Giles, master of the free school in this parish, which is well
worth the observation of the curious.

/n See mon. and inscrip. more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 1027.

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Stow, chaplain, master of the chantry and chapel of
Melton, and the brothers of it, the advowson of this
church, with its appurtenances, for ever, in pure and
perpetual alms, for the support of him and his bre=
thren, chaplains in this, for the health of his soul, and
those of his ancestors, for ever; which gift was con=
firmed by the king that year, by inspeximus./o

Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, by his instru=
ment, in 1322, reciting that the revenues of this chan=
try were mean and little for the support of the burthens
of it, appropriated to the master, brothers of the chan=
try of priests of the chapel of Melton, the parish church
of Melton, of their patronage, with all its rights and
appurtenances, saving a competent portion for the
maintenance of the vicars, to be by him and his suc=
cessors instituted in it, the unanimous consent of the
chapter of Rochester being first obtained, and the bi=
shop appropriated and granted it to them, to be pos=
sessed to their own proper use for ever, saving the epis=
copal and all other rights to him and his successors, as
well as to the church of Rochester, all which was con=
firmed by the prior and chapter of Rochester by their
letters of inspeximus that year; but the king's licence
for this appropriation appears not to have been ob=
tained until near three years afterwards. Whether
this appropriation of the church of Milton ever took
place I am not certain, for on the dissolution of the
chantry above mentioned, which happened by its es=
cheating to the crown, it came into the king's hands
as a rectory; soon after which, in 1524, it was granted
to Sir Henry Wyatt, who in the 31st year of king
Henry VIII. exchanged it, among other premises,
with the crown; after which the presentation to it was
confirmed, two turns contiguous to the crown, and the
third to the bishop of Rochester and his successors, in
which state it remains at this time.

/o Reg. Roff. p. 492. Rot. Pat. ps. 2. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church of
Melton was valued at sixteen marcs. In the survey of
ecclesiastical livings within this diocese, taken in 1650,

it was returned, that Milton was one parsonage, the presentation to which was two turns in the king and one in the bishop of Rochester; that it was worth ninety pounds per annum, the incumbent of it being Mr. Thomas Isaac, in the room of Mr. Lee, sequestered.^p In the reign of queen Anne the rectory of Milton was valued at one hundred pounds per annum. This church is valued in the king's books at 16l. 5s. 10d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 12s. 7d.

AYMER DE VALENCE, earl of Pembroke, founded a CHANTRY in this parish some time before the 15th year of king Edward II. in his charter for which, he gave and confirmed to brother Roger de Stowe, master of the chantry or chapel of Melton, and the brothers there, for ever, for the health of his soul, and those of his ancestors, the scite or mansion where the chapel was founded, with the lands, rents, and all other appurtenances belonging to it; and he granted to them, in free and perpetual alms, all the lands and tenements belonging to the chantry, in the hundreds of Berdestaple and Rocheforde,^q in Essex. And he directed, that there should be there one master, a priest, and two chaplains, bearing the habit prescribed by him; and he directed in what manner the master and chaplains should be chosen, from time to time, when any vacancy should happen, by death or otherwise; which charter was confirmed by king Edward II. by inspection, in the 15th year of his reign.

Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, by his instrument, in 1322, ordained, at the instance of Aymer, earl of Pembroke, patron of this chantry, and of the secular priests then in it, among others things, that the

^p Parl. Surveys, Lamb. lib. vol. xix. and Lambeth Queries.

^q See Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 252.

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priests in it should be for the future regulars, who should receive and keep the rule and institution of it, and who celebrating divine rites for the souls of the family of Montchensie, of the earl, his wife, &c. should especially commemorate him and the founder of it. And that the priests, who should be first placed in it, should be appointed by him, one of whom, adjudged most fit by him, should be appointed as provost or master, whom the rest should obey as their superior, according to the above rule, and on his death or removal the rest should choose another priest, who had professed the aforesaid rule of this chantry for one year, and present him to the earl, as patron, and afterwards to the bishop, to be admitted as provost or master; and he granted, that they should have an altar in the chapel of the chantry, and a competent burial place for themselves, but for no others whatsoever, and that no one but themselves should administer the sacraments of the church in it, and that with bells, in such decent manner as to be no prejudice to the mother church, saving all episcopal right to him and the church of Rochester,^r &c. all which was confirmed by Aymer, earl of Pembroke.

At the latter end of the reign of king Edward IV. Richard Martyn was master of this chantry, after whose death T. Hede, clerk, was presented as master.

John Dygon, master of this chantry, died in 1524, after which it by some means escheated to the crown, for king Henry VIII. soon afterwards granted it to Sir Henry Wyatt, who seems to have had the king's letters patent for his founding another chantry in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Melton. Whether this chantry was ever founded, or if it was, when it was suppressed I do not find, but the chapel of Melton, with its appurtenances, was, before the 31st year of king Henry VIII. become a lay fee, and was in the

/r Reg. Roff. p. 491. Harleian MSS. No. 2044-24.

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hands of Sir Thomas Wyatt, and it appears at that time to have consisted of the chapel, called Melton-chapel, together with the hall, pantry, kitchen, storehouse, chambers, &c. with their appurtenances, and the wharf, orchard, pond, two gardens, and two closes of land lying on the south and east sides of the chapel, and a field, called Millers-field, lying at the west side of the parish church, together with pasture for two horses in the common marsh of Melton, all which were of the yearly rent of six pounds eight shillings./s

King Edward II. in his 4th year, granted licence to Roger Orger, of Melton, to assign for ever, notwithstanding the statute of Mortmain, two messuages, two oxgangs and an half of land, three acres of arable, and two acres and a half of meadow, with their appurtenances in Melton, to a chaplain, to celebrate daily in the church of Melton./t

CHURCH OF MILTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Bishop of Rochester Edmund Jackson, obt. 1575./u

The Crown John Soan, obt. 1631./w

Francis Merlyn, D. D. Nov. 3,

1631, obt. 1639./x

George Hume, A. M. Oc. 1, 1639./y

William Wall, D. D. ob. Jan. 13,

1728./z

James How, A. M. inst. Feb. 8,

1728, obt. Aug. 30, 1766./a

Joseph Pote, A. M. 1766. Pre=

sent rector./b

/s Inrolments, Aug. Off.

/t Reg. Roff. p. 491.

/u Hobart's Rep. p. 165.

/w lb. The queen presented during the vacancy of the see of Rochester.

/x Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 356.

/y Ibid. vol. xx. p. 394.

/z He was also vicar of Shoreham, where he lies buried.

/a He lies buried in this church.

/b He was at the same time presented to St. Martin's, Lothbury, and had a dispensation to hold them both in 1766; the former of which he resigned in 1768, on being presented to St. George's, Southwark, which he had a

dispensation to hold with this church.
In 1769, he was presented to a pre=
bend in the church of Lichfield.

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IFIELD.

SOUTHWARD from Milton lies the small parish of Ifield, called in antient records, Yelesfelde, and in the Textus Roffensis, Iuelda.

THE PARISH of Ifield contains not quite three hundred acres of land; it is situated about a mile and a half southward from the high London road, and about two and a half from Gravesend. The surface is not hilly; the soil is part poor and chalky, and part fertile, being a sandy hazel mould or clay upon the chalk; the air is very healthy. The church stands alone, near the southern boundary of the parish. It is a parish but little known, and would be less so, was it not for the hamlet of Shinglewell-street, antiently written Shanecemcewell, situated at the western boundary of it, adjoining to Northfleet parish, in which two of the ten houses contained in it are situated. Through this street, the bye road leads to Rochester; Hever-court is on the north side of it, and not far distant. A good house, which was for some years owned by a family of the name of Parker, who bore for their arms, Ermine, a stag's head caboshed gules, and continued so till, at length, one of them marrying the widow of Broadnax Brandon, esq. he at his death bequeathed this seat and estate to her; she afterwards married Mr. Cox, but leaving no issue by her two last husbands, she gave it by her will to her son Philip, by her first husband, who was the son of Wm. Broadnax Brandon, by Anne, daughter of Sir Wm. Broadnax, of Godmersham. He left by his wife above mentioned one son, Philip, and a daughter, Grace, married first to the Rev. Pierce Dixon, of Rochester, and secondly to Mr. Richard Hull. Mr. Philip Brandon, who some years ago, conveyed it to Mr. Benjamin Hubble, who resides at Hever-court, and he is the pre=

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sent proprietor of it, but it is at present occupied by the Rev. Mr. Tucker, rector of Gravesend, who keeps a seminary for young gentlemen in it.

The antient Roman road appears very visible here, taking its course through this street, from Springhead in Southfleet, in a direct line towards Cobham-park and Rochester.

In the 21st year of king Edward I. some tenants of this village, to avoid their attendance on the sheriff's courts, &c. claimed to be within the lowy of Tunbridge, but on due examination, Richard earl of Gloucester disclaimed them./c

THE MANOR, now called HEVER-COURT, as appears by the inquisitions made in the 12th and 13th years of the reign of king John, of the knights and other services, held of the king in capite, and returned by the several sheriffs to the king's treasurer, was then held by Hugo de Tokington, as one knight's fee, of the archbishop of Canterbury. After which it came

into the possession of the family of Hever, and was their first residence in this county, though Hever-castle, near Tunbridge, became afterwards their capital mansion. Of this family was William de Hever, a person of note, who attended king Richard I. to the siege of Acon, in Palestine. In the 7th year of king John, Walter de Hever was one of the Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ, or justices of the great assise, an office of no small trust and eminence at that time. Richard de Hever is in the register of those who accompanied king Edward I. in the 19th year of his reign, to Newcastle, where he summoned the claimants to the crown of Scotland to appear, and give an account of their pretensions to it. Thomas de Hever, in the 4th year of king Edward III. obtained a market to be held at Shinglewell, in this parish; and two fairs,/d

/c Harris's History of Kent, p. 16.

/d Philipott, 256. Cart. 4 king Edw. III. No. 9.

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one at Michaelmas for five days, and the other on the feast of St. Laurence for three days. From the family of Hever this manor and seat obtained the name of Hever-court, by which it has been called ever since.

In the reign of king Edward III. this manor passed by two female coheirs, Joan and Margaret, in marriage to Reginald Cobham, (a younger son of the Cobhams of Cobham, in this county) and Sir Oliver Brocas, one of whose descendants alienated his share in it to Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterborough above mentioned, who then possessed the entire fee of it. His son, Reginald lord Cobham,/e alienated it, about the beginning of the reign of king Henry VI. to Rikkill; and there is a memorial, in Northfleet church, for William, eldest son of Sir William Rikhill, and for Catherine his wife; from which name it passed in marriage with Rose, sole heir of John Rikhill, to John Lymsey, whose descendant, Edmund Lymsey, had possession granted of it in the 2d year of Edward VI./f He alienated it to Sir John Rainsford, from whom it passed by sale, in the 7th year of that reign, to Garth, who, in the 40th year of queen Elizabeth, sold this manor to John Barrow and Nicholas Child, gent. the former of whom, about two years afterwards, gave up his interest in it to the latter, and he died possessed of it in 1638. His descendant, in 1644, conveyed it to dame Frances, widow of Sir Thomas Burton, bart. of Leicestershire, who sold it, in 1656, to Thomas Cripps, esq. and he, two months afterwards, conveyed it to Mrs. Leah de la Fortrye, widow of Peter de la Fortrye, merchant of London, and of Greenwich, in this county. She by her will gave it to her daughter, Susan, married to Mr. Peter Bulteel, merchant, of London; on whose death, in 1692, Leah, one of her daughters, became possessed of one

/e See Chidingstone. /f Philipott, p. 256. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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moiety of this manor, which she carried in marriage to Dr. Samuel Mills, of Crutched-friers, London, who bore for his arms, Sable, two pales argent, a fess

gules./g He left two daughters and coheirs, one of whom carried this moiety in marriage to John Toke, esq. of Goddington, in this county, whose son and heir, Nicholas Toke, esq. having purchased the other moiety of this manor from Mr. Sish, a descendant of another daughter of Mrs. Susan Bulteel, became possessed of the entire fee of Hever-court. He died in 1757, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Toke, esq. late of Goddington, the present owner of it./h

There are no parochial charities.

IFIELD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such in the deanry of Shoreham. The church, which is the smallest in the diocese, is dedicated to St. Margaret. It consists of an isle and chancel; it was rebuilt in the year 1596, and was again repaired and beautified in 1638.

In this church are the following inscriptions: In the isle, a memorial for Jane, wife of Edward Armstrong, gent. of this parish, obt. 1688. A brass plate for Richard Parker, who was a special assistant in re-edifying this church, in 1596, obt. 1607; and for Mrs. Elizabeth, widow of major Robert Parker, obt. 1702. In the chancel, a memorial for George Lauder, rector of Ifield and Nutted, obt. Ap. 26, 1720, and these not inelegant lines –

Scotia me genuit, docuit, sacraque cathedra,
Et chara ornavit conjugem, prolem, larem.
Anglia prostrato miserata, lavavit, et almo
Suscipiens gremio fovit, et ossa tenet.

Within the rails, a memorial for Mr. Nicholas Child, gent. lord of this manor, at whose cost and charge chiefly this church was repaired and beautified, obt. 1638. In the east window are the arms of Garrard, with quarterings, over all a crescent, gules, being those of Sir John Garrard, lord mayor in queen Elizabeth's reign, and they are likewise in the windows of Ifield-court, in Northfleet.

This is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 26l. 10s. the yearly

/g MSS. pedigree of Toke. /h Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 162.

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tenths-being 8s. 8d¹/₂. It is a rectory, lately in the patronage of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, who some years ago, alienated it to Mr. Henry Edmeads, gent. the present patron of it. This rectory has been augmented jointly with that of Northfleet.

CHURCH OF IFIELD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. George Kellie, 1687.

Nicholas Linzane, 1696.

John Gordon, 1704.

George Lauder, 1707, obt. Ap.

26, 1720./i

Humphrey Tayler, 1720, ob. Dec.

12, 1732./k

William Creswell, 1732.

John Landon, A. M. ob. 1778./l

Henry Edmeads, esq. Wm. Crakelt, A. M. 1778. Pre=

sent rector./m

/i Also rector of Nursted. He lies buried in this church.
/k lb. He lies buried in Darent ch.
/l And rector of Nutsted.
/m And vicar of Chalk.

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NUTSTED.

ADJOINING to the eastern boundary of Northfleet southward, lies Nutsted, written in Domesday, Notestede, and in the Textus Roffensis, Hnutstede, and at this time commonly called Nursted.

NUTSTED is a small parish, being not quite a mile in extent each way. It lies most of it on high ground, and has a great variety of soils, having in it arable, orchard, and hop ground, and some woodland towards the north boundary of it, next to Northfleet parish; it joins to Meopham southward. There are but five houses in it, viz. Nursted-court, Nursted-hill farm, at the west end of the parish, belonging to Mr. John Colyer of Southfleet; Copthall, at the east end; and two cottages. It is a place not much frequented, and is therefore but little known.

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At the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, Nutsted was part of the vast possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, and half brother to the Conqueror, and it is accordingly described in it, under the general title of that prelate's lands, as follows:

Wardard holds Notestede of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed for two sulings. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, and there are four borderers, and a church, and four servants, and wood for the pannage of three hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth four pounds, when he received it three pounds, now five pounds. Ulstan held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of bishop Odo, in the year 1083, this place most probably escheated to the crown.

In the 13th year of king John, Nutstede was held, as one knight's fee, of the barony of Arsic, being part of those lands assigned for the defence of Dover castle, which lands were again held of the king by barony, as of his castle of Dover, to which the tenant of Nutsted was bound to perform ward. After this, Nutsted came into the possession of the family of De Gravesend, one of whom, Sir Stephen De Gravesend, was owner of it in the 7th year of king Edward I. and in the 26th year of that reign accompanied the king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, and was present at the taking of that strong fortress. Before which year, Richard de Gravesend, who was made bishop of London, in 1280, appears to have possessed this manor, for he obtained a charter of free warren to it in the 27th year of the above reign; he died at Fulham, in 1303, and was buried in his own cathedral. He was succeeded by his nephew and heir, Stephen de Gravesend, who was also, in 1318, made bishop of London; he died possessed of it in

/n Lib. Rubr. Scacc. f. 197. Philipot, p. 257.

the 12th of king Edward III. and was buried in his own cathedral likewise. His kinsman, Sir Thomas de Gravesend became his heir in this manor, and paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as one knights fee, which the bishop of London before held in Nutsted. He died in the 49th year of the above reign, but it seems he was not then possessed of the whole of this estate, for Sir John de Beaumont, or De bello Monte, as this family was called in Latin, had some share in it. After both these names were extinct here, this manor came into the possession of the Frowicks, in which it continued till Thomas Frowick, by a fine, levied in the 38th year of king Henry VI. conveyed it to Hugh Brent, in whose descendants it continued until the reign of Henry VII. and then it was alienated to John Marten, whose descendant, William, dying without issue male, his two daughters and coheirs, Alice and Margaret, the former of whom married John Middleton, and the latter John Rogers, entitled their respective husbands to this manor. John Middleton alienated his moiety to William Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, sheriff of this county in the 1st year of king Edward VI. whose grandson, William Sedley, of the Friars, in Aylesford, was afterwards created a baronet in 1611. He purchased the other moiety of this manor in the 20th year of king James I. of George Rogers, M. D. (a descendant of John Rogers before mentioned) and Elizabeth Weston his wife, and so became possessed of the whole fee of it. His son, Sir John Sedley, bart. in 1631, conveyed this manor to the trustees of John Adye, esq. of Doddington, who died in 1660. His grandson, James, son of Edward Adye, esq. of Barham, in this county, afterwards became entitled to the inheritance of it, but dying unmarried, he left his

/p See more of this family, under Southfleet and Aylesford.

/q This account is mostly taken from the title deeds.

four sisters his coheirs, Susannah married to Ruish Wentworth, esq. Elizabeth married to William Hugessen, esq. of Provender in Norton; Dorothy; and Rosamond married to George Elcock, esq. of Barham; and on the partition of his estates among them, Elizabeth entitled her husband, William Hugessen, to this manor. He had by her three sons, William, who was of Provender; John, who was afterwards of Stodmarsh; and Edward.

William Hugessen, esq. by settlement, gave one moiety of this manor, with Nutsted-court and the advowson, to his wife Elizabeth, who settled it on their youngest son, Edward, in fee, and he dying without issue and intestate, his moiety became vested in his two brothers, William and John, who were before entitled, as heirs in gavelkind, to the other moiety of these premises on their father's death; the former of whom, about 1731, conveyed his interest in them to his brother John, who became thereby possessed of the entire fee of this manor, estate, and ad-

vowson.

John Hugessen, esq. of Stodmarsh-court, by his second wife, Amy, daughter of William Courthope, esq. of Stodmarsh, had two sons, William, now of Stodmarsh, esquire; and John, since deceased; and two daughters, Amy and Elizabeth; he, together with Amy his wife, William and John, his sons, and Amy and Elizabeth, his two daughters, as parties to the deed, settled this estate, in 1759, on his second son John, who on his father's death possessed it, and in 1767, conveyed the whole fee of it to Mr. Henry Edmeads, the present possessor of them, who now resides here.

Adjoining to the Court-lodge, at the west end, are the ruins of an old chapel.

/r See more of the Hugessens, under Provender, in Norton, and Stodmarsh.

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There are no parochial charities.

NUTSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which stands about a quarter of a mile southward from Nutsted-court, is a small building, with a square tower at the west end of it. It is dedicated to St. Mildred.

Among other monuments and memorials in it are the following: In the chancel, in the north wall, a monument with the arms of Wentworth, a mullet for difference, impaling Adye, for Susan, wife of Ruish Wentworth, esq. sister of James Adye, of Barham, obt. 1681. An inscription for Richard Wentworth, esq. above mentioned, obt. 1686, leaving an only daughter and heir. A mural monument for John Adye, esq. of Dodington, who had by Elizabeth his first wife, daughter of Thomas Waller, esq. of Beaconsfield, three sons and four daughters; and by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Solomon Cole, esq. (who lies buried at Dodington) two sons and two daughters, obt. 1660. An inscription for Nicholas Cragg, rector of this church.

In an antient valuation of the churches in this diocese, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. this church of Nutsted was valued at one hundred shillings. In the survey of ecclesiastical livings within this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned, that there was in this parish a parsonage presentative, worth thirty-five pounds per annum, Mr. Adye, patron, and Mr. Jones incumbent, placed there by the committee of plundered ministers. This rectory is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 30l. the yearly tenths being 9s. 6d. This rectory was augmented, about twenty years ago, jointly with Ifield, with 200l. from queen Anne's bounty, and the like sum from the Boteler family, which money was laid out in the purchase of lands, &c. at Nash-street, adjoining to this parish, though within that of Northfleet. The advowson of this rectory has always been appendant to the manor of Nutsted, and continues so at this time.

/s See the monuments and inscriptions in this church at large, in Regist. Roff. p. 778. /t Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xix.

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CHURCH OF NUTSTED.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

John Alchin, in 1589./u

Nicholas Cragg, in 1597./w

Andrew Bridges, A. B. instituted
1602./x

Geo. Lauder, ob. Ap. 26, 1720./y

Humphrey Tayler, obt. Dec. 12,
1732./z

John Landon, A. M. 1744, obt.
1778./a

Henry Edmeads, esq. William Crakelt, 1778. Present
rector./b

/u And vicar of Horton. Cust. Roff.

p. 38.

/w Reg. Roff. p. 779.

/x He lies buried in Darent church.

/y Also rector of Ifield, where he
lies buried.

/z And rector of Ifield. He lies bu=
ried in Darent church.

/a Likewise rector of Ifield.

/b Vicar of Chalk and rector of
Ifield.

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MEOPHAM.

THE next parish southward from Nutsted is Meo=
pham, vulgarly called Mephram, and antiently written,
Meapaham./c

MEOPHAM is situated about twenty-four miles
from London, and nine from Dartford. It is rather
a bye out of the way place, lying among the hills,
and no well frequented thoroughfare through it. It
is a large parish, extending near five miles from north
to south, and near three miles from east to west;
lies for the most part on high ground, though with
continued hill and dale; the soils in it are various,
much of it is poor and chalky, but in the vallies it is
heavy tillage land; the roads are stony, narrow, and
bad, but the air, like the neighbouring hilly parishes,
is very healthy. The village, having the church and

/c Lamb. Peramb. p. 539. Dec. Script. col. 2220.

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Court-lodge in it, stands in the centre of the parish;
in the southern part there are several coppice woods,
mostly of beech and birch, intermixed with scrubby
oak trees, which in these parts hardly ever grow to any
size; there are several small hamlets in different parts
of it, as Mellaker, Hook-green, and Camer, in the
northern parts; Pitfield-green, Priest-wood, and Cul=
verstone-green, in the southern parts. In the former
part of the parish, at Camer, there is a good modern
house, which was built by Mr. George Master, whose
son, George Master, esq. likewise resided here; he died
unmarried, and without issue, leaving his sister, Ca=
therine, his heir, married to Mr. Smith, of Croydon,
in Surry, who in her right became possessed of it; af=

ter his death she removed to East Malling; her eldest son, George Smith, esq. married Rebecca, daughter of the Rev. Nicholas Brett, of Spring-grove, in Wye. He now possesses this house, and resides here.

This parish, among others in this neighbourhood, was antiently contributory to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

ATHELSTANE, king of England, gave the perpetual inheritance of Meopham to duke Eadulf, who, in 940, with the king's consent, gave it to Christ church, in Canterbury, in the presence of archbishop Wlfelm, free from all secular service and royal tribute, excepting the trinoda necessitas of repelling invasions, and the repairs of castles and highways. Queen Ediva, mother of king Edmund and king Edred, in 961, gave Meopham to Christ church for the health of her soul, with the like privileges; by which it may be observed, that in the accounts of the donations of the Saxon kings, the same manors and places are frequently mentioned, as having been given by several different kings, which was occasioned by their continual dissensions, and contending with each other with various success; one king taking away the possessions of the church, and another regranteeing the

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same. Besides, it has been frequently found, that when one of these kings gave a small parcel of land in a parish or manor, in the Saxon codocils, he has been recorded as having given the whole of it. Soon after this the church's possessions were further increased here; for whilst Ælfstane was bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 945, and died in 984, one Birtrick, a rich and powerful man, who then resided here, devised, with the consent of Elfswithe his wife, his land at Meopham, by his last testament, a most curious record of the customs of those times, to Christ church, Canterbury, together with sixty marcs of gold, thirty to the bishop and thirty to the convent; and one necklace of twenty marcs and two cups of silver. The original is in the Saxon language, and is inserted, with a Latin interpretation of it, both in Lambarde and in the Registrum Roffense, and by Dr. Hickee, in his *Dissertatio Epistolaris*, at the end of his *Thesaurus*, with his notes and remarks on it; by it the antient form and phrases of a testament may be known, and it may be observed by it – that the husband and wife joined in making their testaments; that lands were devisable by testament in old time; and by what words estates of inheritance were wont to be created; that the lord's consent was thought requisite to the testament of the tenant, and that it was procured by the gift of a heriot, which, as Bracton says, was done at first, *Magis de gratia quam de jure*: and lastly, what weapons, jewels, and ornaments, were then worn and in use.

MEOPHAM remained among the possessions of Christ church, at the consecration of archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th year of William the Conqueror's reign; who, when he separated the manors and lands belonging to his church, allotted this manor to the monks for their subsistence, cloathing, and other ne-

cessary uses; and it is accordingly thus entered in the record of Domesday, under the general title of land of the monks of the archbishop.

The archbishop himself holds Mepeham. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor for ten sulins, now for seven. The arable land is 30 carucates. In demesne there are four, and 25 villeins, with seventy one borderers, having 25 carucates. There is a church, and 17 servants, and 16 acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of 10 hogs. In the whole value, in the time of king Edward, it was worth 15 pounds and 10 shillings, now 26 pounds. Richard de Tonebridge has in his lowy what is worth 18 shillings and sixpence. Wood for the pannage of 20 hogs.

This manor was De cibo monachorum, that is, to the use of their refectory.^{/e} In the year 1306, anno 35 king Edward I. Henry Prior and the chapter of Christ church, Canterbury, released to their homagers and tenants of Mephram certain customs and services for an annual rent, to be paid yearly to them within the manor of Mephram.

King Edward II. by his letters patent, in his 10th year, granted to the prior and convent free warren for themselves and their successors, in all their demesne lands in Meopham. King Henry VI. in his 25th year, granted to them a market at Meopham weekly, on a Saturday; and one yearly fair, on the feast of the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul.^{/f}

The manor of Meopham continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church till the dissolution of it in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, to whom it was, together with all the lands and possessions belonging to it, given by the general words of the act,

^{/e} Somner's Canterbury, by Battely, Append. p. 50.

^{/f} Regist. Eccl. Christi, Cant. Cart. 134. Rot. Cart. 10 king Edward II. No. 60. Ibid. anno 25 and 26 Henry VI. No. 30.

passed that year for this purpose, but it did not remain long in the crown, for king Henry settled it, among other lands, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it now remains. On the abolishing of deans and chapters, in 1649, after the death of king Charles I. their manors and lands were ordered, by the powers then in being, to be surveyed, as a security for certain sums of money to be borrowed on them, to supply the necessities of the state; and in 1650, another ordinance passed for the sale of them, to discharge those sums and other purposes therein mentioned. In consequence of the former, the manor and rectory of Meopham, belonging to the dean and chapter of Canterbury, were surveyed in March 1649, when it was returned, that the tithes of corn and blade, within the manor of Meopham, estimated, coibs annis, at 120l. were, with their appurtenances, let by the late dean and chapter, in 1630, to

Francis Courthop and Nicholas Barham, and also the scite, court-lodge, and demesnes of their manor of Meopham, and all houses, barns, lands, &c. and other emoluments, parcel of the demesnes, and parsonage, and one acre of land near the parish church of Meopham, and the woods and underwoods of the manor, containing fifty-five acres, excepting all rents of assize, courts, and law days, and other royalties of the manor, to hold during the lives of Anne Courthope and Barham Haslin, at the yearly rent of 36l. and for entertainment money to the receiver, 2l. yearly, and the further sum of 100l. every seventh year; which premises were worth besides, the improved value of 222l. 16s. 6d. and that the lessee was bound to repair the buildings and the chancel of the parish church./g

At the restoration of king Charles II. and the re-establishment both of church and state, the deans and

/g Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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chapters resumed their former possessions, from which time the scite, court-lodge, demesnes, wood, &c. above mentioned, have continued from time to time in lease from the dean and chapter of Canterbury.

But the manor of Meopham itself, with the rents of assize, courts, law days, and other royalties belonging to it, still continues in their own possession. There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor.

John Hastlelin or Hasling, as the name was afterwards spelt, was tenant of the Court-lodge, with the demesnes, consisting of six hundred and fifty acres, and the parsonage, consisting of the tithes of eleven hundred acres and upwards of land, at the dissolution of the priory of Christ church, at the yearly rent of 30l. 6s. 8d. and resided at the court lodge; his descendants, who bore for their arms, Gules, a fess embattled ermine, between three talbots or, continued lessees of it under the dean and chapter for several years; but at length, soon after the restoration of king Charles II. it was in the name of Johnson, after which it came into that of Christmas, and then of Spratt; but in 1724, it was in the possession of Mr. John Market, whose son of the same name rebuilt the Court lodge; he married Anne, one of the daughters of John Hooker, esq. of Tunbridge, by whom he has several children. He is the present lessee, and now resides here.

The MANOR of DODMORE lies in this parish, and was, in very early times, in the possession of the noble and knightly family of Huntingfield. Sir Peter de Huntingfield was sheriff of this county several times in the reign of king Edward I. and was knighted by that prince at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland. He died in the 7th year of king Edward II. and was succeeded in this manor by his son and heir, Sir Walter de Huntingfield, who by deed, without any date

/h Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619. Pedigree, Hasling.

/i See more of this family, under West Wickham, vol. ii. p. 31. Philipott, p. 235.

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affixed to it, passed it away by sale to John Smith, and he, in the 47th year of king Edward III. aliena=

ted his interest in it to Richard Idleigh of Idleigh, in Ash near Wrotham, from whom those of this name at Easture in Chilham, and Rolling in Goodnestone, were descended; they bore for their arms, An eagle displayed with two necks, as appears by the deed of J. de Idleigh, of Ash, with his seal appendant to it, anno 43 king Edward III. in the Surrenden library.

Who were the owners of Dodmore from this time to the reign of king Henry VIII. I do not find, but it was then in the possession of Thomas Cavendish, esq. of the king's exchequer, who by Alice, his first wife, daughter and coheir of John Smith, esq. of Podbrook-hall, in Suffolk, had three sons and one daughter; of the sons, William (the second) was ancestor to the present duke of Devonshire. He died possessed of this manor in the 15th year of king Henry VIII. and by his will, devised all his lands and tenements in the county of Kent to his wife Agnes, who survived him, to sell for certain purposes therein mentioned. This manor was accordingly sold to Henry Taylor, from whom it descended to John Taylor, who married Judith, daughter of Robert Quintin, alias Oliver, of Leyborne, in this county./k He alienated it about the middle of queen Elizabeth's reign to John Giffard, who quickly after conveyed it to Walter Powree, of Brenchley, from whom it was conveyed to Henry Collins, and he, in 1603, alienated his interest in it to Walter Kipping, gent. of Kipping's-cross, in Tudeley. He left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Dorothy, the eldest, was married to Edward Darell, esq. second son of Sir Robert Darell, of Cale-hill; and Anne to Mr. James Darrell, fourth son of Sir Robert Darrell above mentioned; and after his death, to Thomas Henshaw, esq. of Kensington. On the division of their inheri-

/k Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619. Pedigree of Oliver.

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tance, Dodmore was included in that share allotted to Edward Darrell. It afterwards came into the possession of Mr. George Lattenden, of Frindsbury, who at his death devised it by will to Mr. Thomas Elliot, and he is the present possessor of it.

There is a court baron now held for this manor.

DEAN-COURT is an estate here, which was formerly part of the possessions of the great and opulent family of Twitham./l Alan de Twitham was among those Kentish gentlemen who were with king Richard I. at the siege of Acon, in Palestine. His descendant, Bertram de Twitham, held this estate at his death, in the 3d year of king Edward III. Alanus de Twitham died possessed of it in the 25th year of that reign, as did his son Theobald, in the 4th year of king Richard II. He died without male issue, leaving Maud, his only daughter, heir to his large possessions in this county, all which she carried in marriage to Simon Septvans, of Chequer in Ash, by Sandwich, a younger branch of those of Milton Septvans, near Canterbury, called in antient Latin deeds, De septem Vannis. He had by her Sir William Septvans, whose son, John Septvans, esq. by Constance, his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas Ellys, of Sandwich, left three sons; John, to whom he gave Hells, Twitham, Chilton, and Mollands, in Ash,

with other lands in this county; Thomas, who had this estate of Dean court, with other lands; and Gilbert, who had this manor of Chequer in Ash, above mentioned; from the possession of which this family was some time called At-Chequer, as it was afterwards Harfleet, from some eminent service performed by Gilbert Septvans, alias At-Chequer, at the town of that name in Normandy, under king Henry V. which name of Harfleet became afterwards hereditary to all the descendants of this family, as well in a direct line from him, as collateral. At first they were stiled Har-

/l See Ash near Sandwich.

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fleet, alias Septvans, but in process of time their first and more antient name of Septvans was dropped, and they were called by that of Harfleet only.

Dean-court continued in the descendants of Thomas Septvans, alias Harfleet above mentioned, till the reign of king Charles I. when Thomas Harfleet conveyed it by sale, together with another estate, called Ham, in this parish, to Francis Twysden, fifth son of Sir William Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, in this county. He died possessed of these estates unmarried, in 1675, and by his will gave them to his nephew, Sir Wm. Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, who died possessed of them in 1697, and was succeeded by his second, but eldest surviving son and heir, Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. who alienated Dean-court and Ham to Samuel Atwood, clerk, who gave them by his will, in 1735, to Elizabeth Hodsoll, and she again gave them by her will to her niece, married to Richard Gee, esq. of Orpington, who died in 1791, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard Gee, esq. who has since taken the name of Carew, and is the present owner of these estates./m

CHARITIES.

MRS. MARKLAND gave by will, in 1666, to twenty poor persons of this parish, not taking alms, 2s. each, and 20s. to the minister, to preach a sermon on New Year's day, chargeable on land in Meopham, vested in Mrs. Catherine Smith, of East Malting, widow, and of the annual produce of 3l.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave towards the relief of the poor 10s. yearly, charged on a messuage in Wouldham, vested in John Taylor, of Barham, and of that annual produce.

MEOPHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is within the deanry of Shoreham. The church, which is a large handsome building, with a square tower at the west end, is dedicated to St. John Baptist.

/m See Orpington, vol. ii. p. 117.

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Among other monuments and inscriptions in it are the following: In the chancel, a memorial for Henry Haslin, esq. of Meopham, who married Mary, daughter of Sir George Courthope, of Wileigh, in Sussex, and Elizabeth his wife, and had two sons and one daughter, obt. 1658; a brass plate for John Follham, vicar here, obt. June 13, 1455. In the north side of the chancel

is an antient stone, with Saxon letters cut round the edge, but without any reference to shew the person buried under it. In the nave, a stone for Christopher Copland, vicar here thirty-seven years, ob. 12 Cal. June, 1707.

Within the memory of several antient people of this parish, some of the bells of this church being to be new cast, and there being wanting a sufficient quantity of metal to do it, some persons tore off the brass inscriptions from the stones in this church, except that of Follham above mentioned, and threw them into the heating metal, to add to its quantity.

Simon Meopham, elected archbishop of Canterbury in 1327, was born here. He rebuilt this church, which was repaired by archbishop Courtney about seventy years afterwards, who annexed to it four new alms houses for the use of the poor./n

This church was always esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Meopham, in which state it continued till the dissolution of the priory of Christ church, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the rest of the possessions of the priory, surrendered into the king's hands; who, by his donation charter, in his 33d year, settled this manor, the rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage of this church, among other premises, on his new founded dean and chapter of Christ church, Canterbury, with whom the inheritance of the rectory or parsonage still remains, the present lessee of it being John Market, esq. of this parish. But the advowson of the vicarage was soon afterwards conveyed to the archbishop of Canterbury, and His Grace the archbishop still continues at this time patron of it.

Archbishop Richard, Becket's immediate successor, in the reign of king Henry II. is said to have appro=

/n Weever, p. 331. Somner's Canterbury, by Battely, p. 112.

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riated this church to the use of the almonry of the priory of Christ church, but this appropriation does not seem to have taken place, for in the 8th year of king Richard II. the portion paid from this church to the almonry was the yearly gross sum of 6l. 13s. 4d. at which time it was not appropriated, as appears by the certificate given in to the abbot of St. Augustine's, appointed by the king's letters patent collector of the half tenth, then granted to the king by the clergy, when this church was taxed at 26l. 8d.

King Richard II. was a great benefactor to the priory of Christ church; and among other marks of his favour, in the 9th year of his reign, he gave licence to the monks to appropriate the churches of Meopham and Godmersham to their own use. Accordingly William Courtney, archbishop of Canterbury, appropriated this church to them, and most probably to that of their almonry, in compliance with the intention of his predecessor.

In an antient valuation of the churches in this diocese, made in the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Meopham is valued at forty marcs./p On the sequestration of the possessions of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. the manor and rectory of Meopham were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state, an account of which has already been given

above; and in 1650, there was another survey taken, in which it was returned, that Meopham was a vicarage presentative, worth 50l. per annum, Mr. Gibbon then incumbent, in the room of the late Mr. Pigget, then sequestered; that there was a pension of 5l. 6s. 8d. per annum, paid by the late dean and chapter of Canterbury, who had the impropriation, worth 120l. per annum, let on lease to Mr. Henry Haslin. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 16l. 3s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 2s. 4d./q

/o Somner's Canterbury, by Battely, part ii. Preface, p. 6.
/p Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. /q Ect. Thes. p. 387.

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The vicar of Meopham receives all manner of tithes, except corn, and enjoys an augmentation of thirty pounds per annum, paid by the lessee of the parsonage, and the annual pension of 5l. 6s. 8d. from the dean and chapter.

CHURCH OF MEOPHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

The Prior and Convent of Christ

church John Follham, ob. June 13, 1455./r

Hugo Saunders, D. D. about 1501./s

..... Pigget, in 1649./t

Archbishop of Canterbury Christopher Copland, 1670, obt.

May 21, 1707./u

..... Sandys, 1763, resig. 1770.

John Tatham, 1770, resig. 1785./w

..... Phillips, 1785.

John Smedley, 1787. Present vicar.

/r He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

/s He was called Hugo Saunders, alias Shakespear, and was principal of St. Alban's-hall, in Oxford, being a man, styled in the university registers, Vir literis et virtute percelebris. Wood's Ath. vol. i. Fasti, p. 3. See his other preferments, Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 118. He died in 1537. Ibid.

/t He was then sequestered by the committee for plundered ministers.

/u He lies buried in the body of this church.

/w He resigned this for the rectory of Lexden, in Essex.

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LUDESDON.

ADJOINING to Meopham, eastward, lies Luddesdon, commonly called Luddesdown. In the Textus Roffensis it is written Hludesdune,/x and in Domesday, Ledesdune. This place takes its name from the two Saxon words, leod populous, and dune collis, i. e. the peopled hill, alluding to its situation in this hilly country.

LUDESDON is a small parish, lying upon high ground, among the hills; it is about two miles in length, from

north to south, and not one in breadth; the soil is but poor and very stony. There are two villages, one

/x Text. Roff. p. 229. Philipott, p. 398.

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called Luddesdon-street, near the northern bounds of the parish, near which is the estate, called Little Buckland, and the hamlet of Sall-street; the other, called likewise Luddesdon, near the southern bounds, in which is the church, and not far distant the manor of South Buckland. It is but an obscure place, but little frequented or known, and would have been less so, had it not been for the reputable school kept in it some years ago by the Rev. Mr. Thornton, rector of this parish, which occasioned it to be resorted to by most of the gentry of this part of the county, whose sons were educated in it.

LUDDESDON was part of those extensive possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, the great bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday, taken in the year 1080, being the 15th of the Conqueror's reign.

The same Ralph (Fitz Turoid) holds Ledesdune of the bishop. It was taxed for two sulings and a half, and half a yoke. The arable land is six carucates. In demesne there are two, and 17 villeins, with four borderers, having five carucates. There is a church and one servant, and three acres and a half of meadow, wood for the pannage of 20 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth six pounds, and afterwards 100 shillings, now eight pounds. What Richard holds in his lony (is worth) 20 pence. The bishop holds in his own hand four houses in the city of Rochester, belonging to this manor, from which he has nine shillings and ten pence. Leuvin the earl held it.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, in the year 1083, his estates were all confiscated to the crown, among which was this estate of Luddesdon. In the reign of king Henry II. Richard Giffard appears to have held the manor of Luddesdon, then valued at twenty-five pounds, and from which no service was due (of the new feoffment in the reign of king Stephen)

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of Walter de Meduana, who held it again of the king in capite, which premises were held in capite of king Henry I. by Jeffry Talbot. The fees, which were said to be of the old feoffment, were such whereof feoffment had been made before the death of Henry I. as those which were said to be of the new, were such whereof feoffment had been made afterwards./y In the reign of king John this place was come into the possession of the family of Montchensie./z

William, son of William de Montchensie, who died in the 6th year of king John, owned this manor at the time of his death; in the 15th year of that reign he died without issue, upon which Warine de Montchensie, for a fine of two thousand marks, had livery of his whole inheritance; after which, in the 37th year of king Henry III.'s reign, he obtained a charter of

free warren to his manor of Luddesdon, among others, and died the next year, at which time he was reputed one of the most valiant, prudent, and wealthy men in the kingdom. He died in the 17th year of that reign, leaving one daughter and sole heir, Dionisia, who was shortly afterwards married to Hugh de Vere, the third son of Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, who, in the 25th year of the above reign, in consideration of his services in the wars in France, had possession granted of this manor, among others of his wife's inheritance.

His son, William de Montechensie, in the 8th year of king Edward I. had a grant in fee of view of frank pledge, and the courts belonging to it, in all his lands./a He died in the 17th year of that reign, leaving one daughter and sole heir, Dionisia, who marrying Hugh de Vere, third son of Robert earl of Oxford, intitled him to this manor, among others of her inheritance./b After which it passed in like manner as the manors of

/y Madox's Exchequer, p. 402. Lib. Rub. Scacc. f. 84.

/z See more of this family, under Swanscombe.

/a Pat. ejus an. Dugdale's Baronetage, p. 562.

/b Book of Knights Fees. Collins's Historical Collect. p. 225.

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Hartley and others, before described,/c into the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke; and then to Reginald, lord Grey of Ruthin, who was found to be cousin and next heir of the whole blood to John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, who died without issue in the 13th year of king Richard II. but he being afterwards taken prisoner in Wales by Owen Glendower, was obliged to make over this manor, among others, to raise money to pay for his ransom; for which purpose it was accordingly assigned over to Robert Braybrooke, bishop of London, and others, his feoffees, who conveyed the manor of Luddesdon to Thomas Montacute, earl of Salisbury, who by his many noble acts and great achievements, was become the darling of his country. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest heroes and generals of his age, whether we consider his extraordinary diligence in whatever he undertook, his unwearied consequence in pursuing, or quickness in executing his designs. After a continued series of bravery and success, he was at last slain in besieging the city of Orleans, in France, in the 7th year of king Henry VI. to the great grief of every one. He left by Eleanor, his first wife, fourth daughter of Thomas earl of Kent, one sole daughter and heir, Alice, then the wife of Richard Nevill, son to Ralph Nevill, earl of Westmoreland, by Joane his second wife. By his will he directed his body to be buried at Bisham abbey, with his ancestors,/d and bequeathed this manor of Luddesdon to John (or, according to others, James) Montacute, his illegitimate son, who alienated it in the 30th of Henry VI. to John Davy, gent. who bore for his arms, Sable, a chevron engrailed argent, between three annulets; and he not many years after conveyed it by sale to Edward Nevill, lord Abergavenny, fourth surviving son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland, by Joane

/c See Hartley, vol. ii. p. 453; Swanscombe, p. 404.

/d Dugdale's Baron. vol. i. p. 652. Philipott, p. 226.

his second wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

Edward lord Abergavenny had been summoned by writ to the parliament held in the 29th of Henry VI. by reason of his marriage with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Richard Beauchamp, lord Bergavenny, in whose right he possessed the castle and manor of Bergavenny. He died in the 16th year of king Edward IV. possessed of this manor, which continued in the possession of his descendants, lord Abergavenny, till about sixty years, when it was alienated by George lord Abergavenny, to William Brasier, whose descendant, Mr. Petit Brasier, gent. at his death in 1770, left it to his widow, who remarried Mr. Walter, and entitled him to the possession of it; not long after which the right to it was transferred to Mr. John Hilliam, gent. whose widow is at this time the owner of it.

This manor, as a member of the manor of Swanscombe, parcel of the antient barony of Montchensie, is held by the service of castle guard to Rochester castle, which is now compounded for by a certain annual rent paid to the lord of the manor of Swanscombe. A court baron is held for this manor.

SOUTH BUCKLAND is a manor in this parish, which was antiently called Bocland, no doubt from the tenure of it in the time of the Saxons; for there were only two sorts of lands among the Saxons, bocland and folkland; the former of which was hereditary, and passed by deed, and was possessed by the thanes, or nobler sort; the latter was terra vulgi, who had no estate therein, but held the same by the agreement, or at the will of the lord, or thane. It is now generally called Great or South Buckland, to distinguish it from an estate called Little Buckland, in this parish. The manor of Buckland, in the reign of king John, was held by Reginald de Luddesdon, who, in the 5th year of that reign, was amerced three hundred marcs for a misdemeanor relating to an impression of the king's seal.

In the reign of king Edward I. it was held by William de Lodesden, of the heirs of Warine de Montchensie, as three parts of a knights fee. He gave the whole tithes of the corn of his estate of Bocland to the nunnery of Malling, in this county, in perpetual alms, at the time his daughter Joice was made a nun there, and he gave them besides one acre of his land, to build a barn on, to lay their corn in; which was afterwards confirmed by Richard and Hamo, bishops of Rochester; and by Simon, Theobald, and Hubert, archbishops of Canterbury. In the above confirmation, Buckland is said to be, De feodo Thalebot, this place being part of those fees which Galfridus Talebot held in capite at the death of king Henry I. which fee was afterwards, in the reign of king Henry II. held in like manner of the king, by Walter de Meduana, and again of him by William de Lodesdon.

After this family was extinct here, this manor came into the possession of owners who took their name from it; one of whom, William de la Bocklande confirmed the above gift of tithes to Malling abbey. His descen-

dant, Reginald de Bokelande died possessed of it in the beginning of the reign of king Edward III. and his heirs paid aid for it in the 20th year of that reign, as half a knight's fee, which he held formerly in Lud= desdon of the heirs of Warine de Montecanisio. Sir Thomas de Buckland was possessed of this manor at the latter end of the above reign, from whom it descended to Thomas Buckland, who, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry VI. left an only daughter and heir, Alice, who carried this estate, with Preston, in Shoreham, in marriage to John Polley, alias Pol= hill,/g of Polhill-street, in Detling, in this county, in which name it continued many descents, until one of

/e Book of Knights Fees, temp. king Edward I. in the Excheq.

/f Reg. Roff. p. 480, 481, 486. Libr. Rubr. Scacc.

/g See a further account of this family before, p. 4.

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them alienated it to Walsingham, whose descendant, Mr. John Walsingham, conveyed it by sale, about fifty years ago, to Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Trottesclive, sheriff of this county in 1743; and he, at his death, devised it to his second son, Mr. John Whitaker, of Barming, in this county; whose nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Watringbury, is the present possessor of it. A court baron is held for this manor.

There are no parochial charities.

LUDESODON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS= DITION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, which is a small building, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.

Among other monuments and memorials in it – In the chancel is a mural monument, arms, Argent on a bend gules, three escar= bunes of eight rays or, impaling argent three boars heads, erected and erased sable, langued gules, for Stephen Thornton, rector of this church sixty-three years, ob. Aug. 27, 1744. In the chancel, south of the rectors, in the north-east corner, over an altar monument, are two brass plates; on one, the effigy of a man in armour; on the other a shield, being two coats quarterly, 1st and 4th, three lozenges in fess; 2d and 3d, an eagle displayed, over all a batton dexter; there has been another plate of arms, which as well as the inscription, is lost. This monument was no doubt erected for James (falsely called John) Montacute, natural son of Thomas Montacute, earl of Salisbury, who was killed at the siege of Orleans, and left the manor of Luddesdon to James, his son, above mentioned./h

It was antiently an appendage to the manor of Lud= desdon, and continued so till one of the lords Aberga= venny alienated it. It is now a rectory; the patronage of it, in 1742, was in Mr. Hall,/i as it was, in 1763, in Mr. John Tysoe, gent. It afterwards belonged to the Rev. Mr. Charles Harland, rector of this church; and since his death, to Edward Barrett, esq. the present patron of it.

In an antient valuation of the livings in this diocese, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. the church

/h See the mon. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 769.

/i Willis's Cath. vol. iii. p. 19. Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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of Luddesdon was valued at fifteen marks./k In the

survey of ecclesiastical benefices, taken in 1650, by order of the state, it was returned, that here was one rectory, worth sixty-five pounds per annum, Mr. Wm. Dunbane then incumbent; and that there was a chapel, called Dowdes, adjoining to this parish, which was fit to be added to it; that the chapel was fallen down, and was worth twenty pounds per annum. The ruins of the walls of this chapel are still visible, in a field belonging to Buckland farm, in this parish, about a quarter of a mile from the house. /l This church is valued in the king's books at 11l. 11s. 3d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 3s. 1 1/2d. /m

In Mr. Meard's time the parsonage house was, by some accident, burned down, and the present one rebuilt.

CHURCH OF LUDDESDON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Richard Fasby, in 1501. /n

Thomas Ditchfield, about 1631. /o

William Dunbane, in 1650. /p

Stephen Thornton, A. M. 1681, ob.

Aug. 27, 1744. /q

Richard Tysoe, A. M. 1744, ob.

June 6, 1746. /r

..... Meard, 1746, ob. 1765.

Charles Harland, 1765, ob. Oct. 1784.

Thomas Manning, A. M. ob. Decemb. 1786. /s

William Thompson, S. T. P. Present rector.

/k Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/l There is an engraving of these ruins in Cust. Roff. p. 122.

/m Ect. Thes. p. 385.

/n Reg. Roff. p. 416.

/o No graduate.

/p Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/q He lies buried in the chancel of this church. He taught school, with singular reputation, in this parish for many years.

/r Also rector of Kennarton.

/s He was morning preacher at St. Giles's in the Fields, London, and at Hammersmith chapel; rector of Wisbech, in Suffolk, which he held with this dispensation, and teacher of a private seminary for education at Kensington Gore.

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THE HUNDRED OF SHAMEL.

THE next hundred eastward is that of Shamel, written in Domesday, Essamele; and in other records, Scamele.

This hundred, in the 6th year of king Henry III. belonged to the Knights Templars; /t but in the 7th year of king Edward I. it was, with the court leet, and the profits of the same, in the possession of Henry de Cobham, jun. eldest son of Sir John de Cobham, lord Cobham, by Joane his first wife, daughter of Sir Robert de Septvans. His descendant, John lord Cobham, died possessed of this hundred in the 9th year of king Henry IV. After which it continued in his descendants down to Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, who being accused, in the 1st year of king James I. of having conspired, with others, to kill the king, and subvert the government, was tried for it, and being found guilty, had judgment of death, though his execution was, by the king's clemency, superseded. /u On his attainder, this hundred, among his other estates, became vested in the crown, and was confirmed to it by an act passed in the third year of that reign. /w Soon after which king James granted the hundred of Shamel, with the manor of Shorne within it, to Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, who passed it away by sale to Sir John Leveson, alias Lewson, and his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, of Staffordshire, in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it to Mr. George Woodyer; since which it has remained in the posses-

/t Reg. Roff. p. 386. MSS. E. H. Rot. Esch ejus an.

/u Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 282, et seq.

/w See more of the Cobhams and Brookes, under Cobham.

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sion of the same owners as the manor of Shorne, Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon, widow of William Gordon, esq. being the present owner of this hundred, with the manor of Shorne appendant to it.

THE HUNDRED OF SHAMEL CONTAINS, WITHIN ITS BOUNDS, THE PARISHES OF,

1. HALLING.
2. COOKSTONE.
3. COBHAM, in part.
4. SHORNE.
5. CHALK.
6. DENTON.
7. MERSTON.
8. HIGHAM.
9. CLIFF.
10. COWLING.
11. FRINDBURY, and
12. STROUD.

And the churches of those parishes:

And also part of the parish of Stoke, the church of which is in another hundred.

- - -

HALLING.

THE next parish eastward from Luddesdon is Halling, written in Domesday, and other records, Halinges; and in Saxon, Haling, that is, the low meadow or pasture.

THE PARISH of Halling is bounded, on its eastern side, by the river Medway, at a small distance from the

banks of which, close to the marshes, is the village called Lower Halling, in which are the ruins of the bishop of Rochester's palace, and the church; thro' this village the road leads from Stroud, and from hence thro' Snodland towards the London high road to Maidstone, which it meets at Larkfield. About half a mile westward from Lower Halling, on higher ground, is another village, called Upper Halling, situated nearly at the foot of the great ridge of chalk hills, beyond the summit of which this parish extends over the large wood, called Halling wood, at the western boundary of it, next to Luddesdon. The soil is for the most part chalk, and but poor land;

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the quantity of marshes, both salt and fresh, between the uplands and the river, render this place far from being either a pleasant or healthy situation. This parish, with others in this neighbourhood, was antiently contributory to the third pier of Rochester bridge./x

EGBERTH, king of Kent, with the consent of his nobles and princes, gave ten ploughlands in Halling, with all their appurtenances, together with the fields, woods, meadows, marshes, fishings, huntings, and fowlings belonging to them, to bishop Doran and the church of Rochester; to which he added these denberies in the Weald, Bixle, Speldhirst, Meredæn, Thærbe, Eastan, and Rustewellee and Teppenhyse. Among the witnesses who confirmed this gift were king Heaberth and archbishop Jaenberth. This appears by the Text. Roffensis; but the names of these two kings, in this deed of gift, are quite irreconcilable to the histories of those times: Janibert was archbishop of Canterbury from 764 to 793, at which time it does not appear there were any such kings of Kent as either Egberth or Heaberth; for Aldric was king of Kent from 760 to 794; and Ecbert, king of the West Saxons, had no rule in Kent till the year 823, nor was he king of the West Saxons till anno 800. Dioran succeeded to the bishopric of Rochester, and died during the reign of king Alderic. Alford, in his Annals, mentions a letter, written in 764, from Eardulf, then made bishop of Rochester, to Eardulf, king of Kent, who was no doubt some petty prince or regulus in it, as most likely these kings, Egberth and Heaberth, were.

Halling does not seem to have remained long in the possession of the church of Rochester, being wrested from it during the confusion of the Danish wars in this kingdom; and William the Conqueror

/x Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 420.

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gave it to his half brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux, but archbishop Lanfranc recovered this manor, among others, in that solemn assembly of the whole county, held on this occasion, by the king's command, at Pinden health, in 1076; after which he restored it to bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew, which gift was afterwards confirmed by several archbishops of Canterbury./y

In the general survey of Domesday, taken about four years afterwards, it is thus described under the general title of the lands of the bishop of Rochester.

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Hallinges. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor at six sulings, and now for two and an half. The arable land is seven carucates. In demesne there are three carucates and 15 villeins, with nine borderers having six carucates. There is a church and two servants, and 30 acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 7 pounds, now 16 pounds. What Richard (de Tonebrigge) holds in his lowy is worth 7 shillings.

By the above description it appears, that the whole of what was first given by king Egberth to the church of Rochester was not recovered by archbishop Lanfranc; indeed, out of the ten plough lands there only remained six to this manor in the time of king Edward the Confessor; and within twenty years afterwards, when Domesday was taken, they were diminished, to two and a half. It had likewise been stripped of the denberries in the Weald, annexed to it at the first donation of it, for the reader will observe, there is in the above survey only the pannage for five hogs belonging to it, and yet, what is worth notice, the six plough lands, in the time of king Edward, were worth only seven pounds, whereas, in the reign of the Conqueror, the two and an half were worth

/y Reg. Roff. p. 442. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 2.

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more than double that sum. Most probably archbishop Lanfranc recovered all of it that came into the bishop of Baieux's possession, and that the rest had been separated from it by its several possessors at different times before.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was elected to that see in the reign of the Conqueror, anno 1077, separated, after the example of Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, his maintenance as bishop from that of the monks of his church, in which division this manor was allotted to the bishop, and by him appropriated to the support of his table, or *ad victum episcopi*, as it was then styled. Soon after which the pleasantness of Halling, for such it was then esteemed, and its commodious situation, induced the bishop of Rochester to build an episcopal palace here for himself and his successors, which was grown so ruinous, when bishop Gilbert de Glanvill came to the see, in 1185, that he rebuilt it in a much more commodious manner. The year before which, anno 1184, Richard archbishop of Canterbury, taking his way by Halling and Rochester, in his journey from Wrotham to Canterbury, was obliged to stop at this palace, through a violent fit of illness, of which he died the next day here, and was carried from hence to Canterbury, to be buried.

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in 1255, it appears, that the whole yearly valuation of the manor of Halling, with his appendages of Holeberge and Cukelstane, of which the rents amount

ted to 25l. was in all 43l. 18s. the necessary and use=ful repair and maintenance of the buildings there to 100s. per annum; and that the manor of Halling had then within it two hundred and sixty-two acres of arable, valued at 4d. at the most each, by reason

/z Dugdale's Mon. vol. iii. p. i. Reg. Roff. p. 11.

/a Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 559. Weever, p. 218.

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there was no marle there; and thirty-eight acres of salt meadow, each valued at sixpence; and that the vineyard was valued at 13s. 4d. per annum. At the latter end of the above reign, on a valuation of the bishop's manors, it appeared that he had only six, of which Halling was the principal; in which, with its appurtenances, Holberge and Cukelstane, there were reputed to be four ploughs,^{/b} and yet there were not in reality four plough lands;^{/c} each of which, according to the custom of the country, ought to contain one hundred and eighty acres of arable land, which there were not within the manor; but that the plough lands, with the whole pasture allotted for the keeping of cattle working on them, were worth seventeen pounds per annum; and that the annual rents of this manor, as well in money as in hens, eggs, plough shares, and oblations, were, with Holberge and Cukelstane, 138l. 6s. 4¹/₂d. and that there were three mills within it, worth 100s. per annum; and that the meadow of the manor was worth two marcs; the whole 61l. 12s. 0³/₄d. and in a subsequent valuation, the manor of Halling, without Kokilstan, was estimated at one hundred marcs.

There is an account in a manuscript, in the Cotton library, of the stock which ought to remain on the several manors of the bishopric, after the decease of each bishop, and among others of this of Halling; but during the vacancy of the see, which sometimes continued a long while, the several articles were frequently lost or destroyed, and the new bishop was obliged to replace them, with others, at his own cost.

It appears, by the pleas taken in the 21st year of king Edward I. that the bishop of Rochester had his prison within his manor here.^{/d} Lambarde, in his Perambulation, says, that Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, and confessor to king Edward II. had a

/b Carucæ. /c Carucatæ. /d Reg. Roff. p. 89, 132, 111.

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vineyard here, probably the old one mentioned above, in king Henry III.'s reign, (in his time a plain meadow) and that the bishop sent a present of both wine and grapes from it to that prince, in the 19th year of his reign, who then rested at Bokingford in this county, where he had withdrawn, on the charge of his intention of visiting France, for the performance of his homage, due for the duchy of Aquitane. Bishop Hamo, in the year 1322, being the 16th of the above reign, resided the whole summer at Halling, during which he repaired the ruined buildings of his palace, and raised from the ground the hall and high front of it,^{/e} and two years afterwards he finished the inclosure of the walls, and the repair of the new cha=

pel and chamber. In 1327, the bishop began to in=close the court of Halling, towards the church yard, with high walls, and new built the chamber of the clerks, the larder and the kitchen, and afterwards re=mained here all the ensuing summer and winter; and in 1337, he again repaired and augmented the build=ings here./f The palace stood at a small distance from the church, near the banks of the Medway; in 1715, there was great part of the ruins of it remaining, as the chapel, the hall, and a gate, with the arms of the see of Rochester in stone; in which state it nearly re=mained till within memory, but within these twenty years most of it has been destroyed for the sake of the materials. There is a view of the ruins of it, as they remained not many years since, in Grose's Antiqui=ties, vol. ii. There was in a nitche, over the outside of the chief door, in 1720, the figure of Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, dressed in his episcopal habit, in stone, about two feet high, and elegantly finished. It was soon afterwards blown down in a great storm of wind, but escaped damage by falling on some grass. It was afterwards presented to Dr. Atter=

/e Lamb. Peramb. p. 444.

/f Wharton's Ang. Sac. vol. i. p. 365, 368, 374.

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bury, bishop of Rochester. The manor of Halling, with the scite of the palace, still remains part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester. In the reign of king Edward VI. John Scory, bishop of Roches=ter, let a lease of this manor and palace for ninety-nine years, to Robert Dean, esq. of Rochester, who soon afterwards removed hither. He left by his wife, daughter of Richard Woodward,/g a sole daughter and heir, Silvester, who, in 1573, married William Da=lyson, esq. and he, on her father's death, became entitled to his interest in this lease, and resided here till his death; after which she re-married with Wil=liam Lambarde, esq. the learned perambulator, who likewise resided here during her life; and after her death, in 1587, returned to his former residence at Greenwich; after which her interest in this place came to her son, by her first husband, Sir Maximilian Da=lyson, who was of Halling, but his grandson of the same name, marrying Frances, the daughter of Tho. Stanley, esq. of West Peckham, removed thither, where this family have resided ever since./h His descendant, William Dalyson, esq. of Hamptons, in West Peck=ham, is the present lessee of this manor, the scite of the palace, and other appurtenances belonging to it.

LANGRIDGE is a manor here, which was antiently possessed by a family of the name of Bavent, whence it was called for some time Langridge, alias Bavent's. And there is a field here, yet called by the last of these names, where the ruins of buildings were visible, some years ago, and were most probably those of the antient mansion of this family. Adam de Bavent, in the 13th year of king Edward I. obtained a grant of free warren for his lands at Halling, in which he was succeeded by Roger Bavent, who, together with John de Langareche, who was witness to several deeds of

/g Visitation of the County of Kent, in 1619.

/h See more of the Dalysons, under West Peckham.

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land given to the bishop of Rochester at this place, in the reign of king Edward I./i held three quarters of a knight's fee in Halling of the bishop of Rochester. Roger Bavent and John de Melford possessed them in the 20th year of king Edward III. the former possessed his interest in this place at his death, in the 31st year of king Edward III. after which the whole of it seems to have been vested in the name of Melford, from which it was no long time afterwards sold to Raynwell, one of whose descendants, as appears by the Book of Aid, in the exchequer, alienated it, in the 17th year of king Henry VII. to Robert Watson, who immediately passed away his interest in it to Sir William Whorne, who had been lord mayor of London, in 1487, from which family it was alienated to Vane, and thence again to Barnewell, who about the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it by sale to Nicholas Leveson, alias Lewson, esq. of Staffordshire, who was sheriff of London in 1534, and afterwards resided much at Whorne's place, in the adjoining parish of Cookstone. His descendant, Richard Leveson, was made a knight of the Bath at the coronation of king Charles I. and succeeded to all his ancestors estates at Halling, Cookstone, and elsewhere in this county, and was of Trentham, in Staffordshire./k He alienated all his lands in this county to different persons, and among them this estate at Halling, to Barber, in which name it continued after the restoration of king Charles II. one of whose descendants alienated it to Golding, from whence, by a female heir, it was carried in marriage to Robin Wood, and on his death again, by a second marriage, to Mr. William Baker, who now possesses Langridge, and resides in it.

CHARITIES.

THIS PARISH has the right of nomination to one place in the new college of Cobham, founded by Sir William Brooke, lord

/i Reg. Roff. p. 394, 395, 398. Philipott, p. 127, 176.

/k See more of this family, under Cookstone.

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Cobham, now under the direction of the wardens of Rochester-bridge, for one poor person, to be chosen and presented so and by such as the ordinances of the college have power to present and elect for this parish; and if the parish of Cookstone should make default in electing a poor person in their turn, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

REGINALD GREGORY, alias CHEVNING, gave by will, in 1776, the yearly sum of 10s. to be laid out in bread, and distributed to the poor on the Sunday next preceding Christmas day, yearly, charged on an estate in Halling, Snodland, and Padlesworth, and now of that annual produce.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave, for the benefit of the poor, the annual sum of 10s.

HALLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, which is dedicated to St. John Baptist, is a small building with a low spire at the west end.

Among others in it, are the following monuments and memorials: In the chancel, a brass plate for John Collard, one of the clerks of the king's exchequer, and Margery his wife; on one are four shields of arms, the first, Girony of ten nebulee, two on a fess between three mullets, pierced as many cross croslets; 2d, Semi of cross croslets, botony fitched, three mens heads couped, banded about the temples, within a bordure impaling quarterly and vaire, over all a bend; 3d, Semi of cross croslets, &c. as before; 4th is lost; and 5th, on two arms erased in saltier, an heart vulnerated gutte de sang. In the nave, against the west pillar, a brass plate and figures for Silvester, daughter of Robert Dene, married to William Dalyson, esq. and afterwards William Lambarde, gent. ob. 1587, leaving by the first, Maximilian and Silvester, and by the second, Multon and Margaret, and Gore and Fane, sons and twins./

Gilbert de Glanvill, bishop of Rochester, having, about the year 1193, built an hospital at Stroud, in this neighbourhood, for the reception of poor travellers, and the relief of other indigent persons, gave to it, with the consent of the prior and convent of Rochester, as well as of his archdeacon, among other premises, this church of Halling, with all its appurtenances, and the portion arising from the tithes of his knight's fees in Halling and Holeberge, and Ku=

/ See the mon. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 772.

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kelstan, to hold in free pure, and perpetual alms; and he ordained, that the master of the hospital should provide a fit priest to minister in this church, whom he should present to the bishop, and that neither he nor his church should be burthened with any pecuniary exaction, either by the bishop, archdeacon, or dean, or any other, excepting synodals due of old time, which gift was confirmed by Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, and by king Edward III. in his 6th year, by his letters patent of inspeximus./m In the reign of king Henry VIII. there arose great disputes between Henry Johnson, then vicar of this church, and John Wildbore, master of the hospital of Stroud, then possessed of the appropriation of the church of Halling (in the instrument for which there was a saving clause for a fit portion for the vicar for the time being in it) concerning the augmentation of his vicarage, which, by the interposition of their mutual friends, they agreed to leave to the bishop of Rochester, either to assign the portion of it, or to re-endow it if there should be occasion, and both engaged to submit to his decree. In consequence of which, John Hilsey, then bishop of Rochester, by his instrument, dated in 1538, endowed the vicarage of Halling as follows: First, that the vicar for the time being should receive, as his portion of the vicarage, of the master and his brethren, and their successors, 5l. 10s. yearly, at four equal payments, and that he should further have the mansion of the vicarage, with the garden adjoining, and so many acres of land as the vicar there used of old to have, and then had and possessed; and also all oblations whatsoever within the bounds and limits of the parish; and all the tithes of hay, lambs, wool, mills, calves, chicken, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, bees, honey, wax, cheese, milk, milkmeats, flax, hemp,

pears, apples, garden herbs, pidgeon houses, merchan=

/m Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 434. Reg. Roff. p. 258, 392, 631.

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disings, fisheries, pastures, onions, garlic, and saffron; and also the tithes of sheaves increasing in gardens, either cultivated with the plough or dug with the foot, within the parish; and also the tithes of wood for fuel, coppice wood, thorns, rushes, and of silva cedua, as of all billets, faggots, and fardels whatsoever, arising within the bounds and limits of the parish, all which the vicar and his successors should receive and have. And he further decreed, that the burthens of repairing, amending, and new building the said mansion, with all its appurtenances, whenever need should be, and of the celebration and ministrations of the sacraments and of the sacramentals to the parishoners, of the finding of bread and wine, and lights to the church of Halling, either of right or custom due, should belong to and be borne by the vicar and his successors, as well as all episcopal burthens of the church, according to the taxation of his portion. But the burthen of repairing and amending the chancel of the church, as well within as without, and the finding and repairing of books, vestments, and other ornaments, for the celebration of those divine rights, which of old, either by right or custom belonged to the rectors of this church, should be borne by the master and his brethern, and their successors, at their own proper charge and expence. And that all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, of the vicarage, and belonging to the vicar, by reason of the vicarage, except as before excepted, should belong to him and his successors, to be borne and supported at his and their own proper cost and expence, saving to the bishop and his successors, a right of augmenting this vicarage, and correcting and amending and explaining the above endowment, whenever he or they should think it expedient so to do; and also saving to him

/n Regist. J. Hilsey, f. 196, pr. in Reg. Roff. p. 400. This is the latest endowment of any vicarage that I have as yet met with.

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and his successors, bishops of Rochester, and to the cathedral church of Rochester, all episcopal rights and customs, &c.

In this situation the church and vicarage of Halling remained till the year 1539, anno 31 Henry VIII. when the hospital of Stroud, alias Newark, was, together with all its possessions, surrendered, with the king's licence, to the priory and convent of Rochester, where they staid but a few months, for next year, that priory was dissolved, and the rents and revenues of it were surrendered into the king's hands, where the church and advowson of the vicarage of Halling remained but a small time, for the king, by his donation charter, in his 33d year, setted them on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, subject to the annual pension of 5l. 10s. to be paid by them to the vicar of Halling for the time being, in which state they continue at this time, Mr. John May, of Snodland, being the present lessee, under the dean

and chapter, for the parsonage of Halling.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Halling was valued at one hundred shillings. On the abolishing of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. a survey was taken in Sept. 1649, of this parsonage, by which it appeared, that the parsonage of Halling consisted of a barn, house, &c. and was of the improved rent of 45l. 4s. per annum, and was let by lease, from the late dean and chapter of Rochester, for twenty-one years, to Geo. Woodyear, at the yearly rent of 9l. 10s. out of which lease the advowson of the vicarage was exempted. In 1650, the vicarage of Halling was surveyed, and returned to be in the whole of the yearly value of 40l. 19s. including the pension of 5l. 10s. paid yearly to the vicar by the tenant of the parsonage./o This vicarage is

/o Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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valued in the king's books at 7l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 15s. 4d. In 1729, it was worth 72l. per annum.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, at the foundation of the abbey of Malling, granted to it, as part of its endowment, the tithes of the vineyards in this parish, which gift was confirmed by the several succeeding bishops of Rochester, to the time of bishop Gualeran, inclusive, who lived in the reign of king Henry II. and by several of the archbishops of Canterbury afterwards./p

There was a FREE CHAPEL or CHANTRY in this parish, dedicated to St. Laurence, which was suppressed by the act passed in the 1st year of king Edward VI. and the lands and revenues of it given to the king. Queen Mary, in her first year, let to ferme to Dionisia Leveson, widow, all that the scite of the free chapel of St. Laurence in Halling, with several pieces of land lately belonging to it in Halland and Snodland, containing fifteen acres of land, or thereabouts, at the yearly rent of twelve shillings and sixteen pence.

CHURCH OF HALLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Master and Brethren of Stroud

Hospital Henry Johnson, B. D. in 1535./q

Dean and Chapter of Rochester William Leeds, in 1630./r

..... Bailey.

Robert Berisford.

William White, 1723.

Ralph Bishop, resig. 1729./s

John Price, A. M. inst. Dec. 20,
1729./t

/p Regist. Roffen. p. 480, 481, 486.

There is an engraving of the ruins of this chapel in Custum. Roff. p. 118.

/q Reg. Roff. p. 400.

/r MSS. E. H.

/s He resigned this vicarage for that of Hoo. He was a minor canon of

Rochester.

/t Also vicar of Chalk by dispensation.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Robert Fountain, A. M. ins. 1770,
resig. 1777./u

John Leach, A. M. June 1777,
obt. June 16, 1791./w

William Dyer, A. M. 1791. Pre=
sent vicar.

/u Minor canon of Rochester. He
resigned this vicarage for that of West
Farleigh.

/w He held this vicarage, with the
rectory of Wouldham, by dispensation.

- - -

COOKSTONE.

NOW usually called and written Cuxton, lies the
next parish northward from Halling. It is written
in Domesday, Coclestane, and in the Textus Roffensis,
Cucolanstan and Cuclestena.

THE PARISH of Cookstone, or Cuxton, is about
four miles square; the river Medway is its northern
boundary, close to which is the mansion of Whorne's-
place, and not far distant from it the church, close
by which the road leads from Stroud to Halling, &c.
southward across this parish; hence the ground rises
over much hill and dale, among the woods; among
which is Ranscombe farm, and Upper and Lower
Bush; about half a mile north west from which, be=
yond the summit of the high hill, is Cobham-park,
a small part of which is within the bounds of this
parish, as is Knight's-farm, adjoining the pale of it;
which, as well as Ranscombe, is the property of the
earl of Darnley. The soil of it is chalky in the lower
parts of it, but more westward it is a loamy earth, and
much of it very fertile land. It is rather more healthy
than Halling, being freeer from the marshes, the
ground or upland rising almost immediately from the
river.

Our BOTANISTS have observed the following scarce
plants here: –

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Buglossum latifolium semper virens, the larger never
dying buglosse, found near Whorne's-place, by Mr. J.
Sherad./x

Solanum lethale, dwale or deadly night shade, said, by
Mr. Miller, to over-run most of the yards and such like
places in this parish.

Orobanche flore minore, lesser flowered broom rape, found
by Mr. Rand in a field northward of Whorne's-place.

This parish, with others in this neighbourhood,
was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of
of the first pier of Rochester-bridge./y

THIS PLACE, with the church of it, dedicated to
St. Michael, was given to the church of St. Andrew,
in Rochester, and Swithwlf, bishop of that see, by

Ethelwolf, king of the Saxons, and son of king Ecbert, free from all service, together with all its appurtenances, with the seizure of thieves, and with all other matters which belong to the church of St. Andrew, together with the fields, woods, meadows, feedings, marshes, in small and in great, in known and unknown. Here, as well as at Halling, and other places described in this History, there is no small difficulty in settling the date of the gift; the charter of it, in the Textus Roffensis, mentions its being given in 880, the 13th year of king Ethelwolf's reign, and Æthelred, archbishop of Canterbury, is one of the witnesses to it, who came to that see in 871, and died in 888; but king Ethelwolf died in 857, which is fourteen years before that archbishop's time. The 13th year of king Ethelwolf's reign was 853, a time indeed when he was only king of the Saxons, his son Athelstane reigning in Kent. Philipott and the Register Roffensis mention its being given in 838, viz. the first year of king Ethelwolf. The reader therefore will form his own judgment of this matter as he likes best. The church of Rochester did not possess it long,

/x Raii Synopsis, p. 226, 227, 288. /y Lamb. Peram. p. 420.

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for it was soon afterwards wrested from it in the Danish wars, which then disturbed this kingdom. William the Conqueror gave this place, among other vast possessions, to his half brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux, but archbishop Lanfranc recovered it, among others, which had been taken from the churches of Canterbury and Rochester, in that solemn assembly of the whole county, held at Pinenden-heath, in 1076. After which he restored it to bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew, and the gift of it was afterwards confirmed by several archbishops of Canterbury.

In the general survey of Domesday, taken about four years afterwards, this place is thus described under the general title of the lands of the bishop of Rochester.

In Essamele hundred the same bishop (of Rochester) holds Coclestane. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor at two sulings and an half, and now for two only. The arable land is six carucates. In demesne there are two, and 15 villeins, with nine borderers, having five carucates. There is a church and two serants, and one mill of 30 pence, and 20 acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward and afterwards it was worth four pounds and 10 shillings, and now 10 pounds and 10 shillings.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king William Rufus, following the example of archbishop Lanfranc, separated his maintenance from that of the monks of his church, in which division this manor was allotted to the bishop and his successors.

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in the year 1255, it appears that Cukelstane, then esteemed as a member of the manor of Halling, had within it two hundred and fifty-eight acres of arable, each worth fourpence at the most, by reason there was no marle there; that there were twenty acres of salt

meadow, each worth sixpence, and the mill at Cukelstane was valued at one marc. In the valuation of the bishop's manors, at the latter end of the above reign, this of Cukelstane, as an appendage to the manor of Halling, has been already fully mentioned under the description of that manor, but in a subsequent valuation, in which the manors of Halling and Cookstone are valued separately, the latter is valued at forty marcs. There is an account in a manuscript, in the Cotton library, of the stock which should remain on this manor of the bishopric after the decease of each bishop; but it is there remarked, that the several articles, during the vacancy of the see were frequently lost or purloined, and the succeeding bishops were forced to replace them with others./a

In the time of the great rebellion, after the death of king Charles I. this manor, together with that of Middleton Cheney, was sold by order of the state to Robert Fenwick, esq. for 627l. 12s. with whom it staid till the restoration of king Charles II. in 1660,/b when on the re-establishment of episcopacy, the manor of Cookstone again returned to its right owner, the bishop of Rochester, as part of the antient possessions of that see, where the inheritance of it remains at this time, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney being the present lessee of it.

WHORNE'S-PLACE, usually called Horne's-place, is a seat in this parish, situated close to the western bank of the river Medway. It was erected by Sir William Whorne, who had been lord mayor of London in the year 1487; from whose successor it passed by sale to Harper, in the next reign of king Henry VIII. in the 32d year of which, an act passed for the assuring to George Harper and Lucy his wife this manor of Horne-place. From this name it was, not long after=

/a Reg. Roff. p. 61, 63, 64, 133. See Halling.

/b History of Rochester Cathedral, printed in 1723, p. 120.

wards, sold to Vane, who again alienated it to Barnewell; and he, about the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it by sale to Nicholas Leveson, alias Lewson, esq. of Staffordshire. This family was originally of Willenhall, in Warwickshire, where Richard Leveson resided in the reign of king Henry III. His descendant, Richard Leveson, left two sons, one of whom was of Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, and changed the paternal coat of his family from – Azure, three laurel leaves erect or – to Quarterly, azure and gules, three sinister hands couped at the wrist, argent; which coat was continued to his descendants. John, the other son of Richard Leveson, kept the coat armour of his ancestors, and was ancestor of Nicholas Leveson or Lewson, above mentioned,/c whose descendant, Sir John Leveson, of Whorne's-place, in great measure rebuilt this seat, and died without issue male. He was succeeded in this estate by his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, K. B. who was of Trentham, in Staffordshire; he, in the reign of Charles I.

alienated all his lands in this county to different persons, and among them this of Whorne's-place to John Marsham, esq. descended from a family of this name in Norfolk; he was one of the six clerks in chancery in the above reign, which office he was afterwards divested of, and his estate plundered, for his loyalty to the king. At the Restoration he was reinstated in his place, and had the honour of knighthood conferred on him, being at that time of Whorne's-place; three years after which, on Aug. 12, 1663, he was created a baronet. He was esteemed as an accomplished gentleman, an excellent historian, and acknowledged to be one of the greatest antiquaries of his time; he died at Bushey-hall, in Hertfordshire, in 1685, and lies buried with Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir William Hammond

/c MSS. pedigree of Leveson, by Thynne, Lancaster herald.

/d Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 783. Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3051.

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of this county, in this church of Cookstone, which afterwards continued the burial place of the family; by her he left two sons, John and Robert. Sir John Marsham, the eldest son, and heir to his father, was likewise a studious and learned gentleman. He married first Anne, daughter of Mr. Danvers, by whom he had no issue; and secondly Hester, daughter and heir of Sir George Sayer, by whom he left only one son, John. Having purchased the seat of the Mote, in Maidstone, he removed thither, where he died in 1692, in which year he was sheriff of this county, and was buried in this church, being succeeded by his only son, Sir John Marsham, bart. who survived his father but a few years, for he died unmarried in 1696, at the age of sixteen. On his decease, without issue, the title of baronet, and this seat of Whorne's-place, together with the rest of his estates in this county, came to his uncle, Sir Robert Marsham, of Bushey-hall, in Hertfordshire, who afterwards resided at the Mote. His only son, Sir Robert Marsham, bart. was in 1716, created lord Romney, baron Romney of this county, whose grandson, the present Rt. Hon. Charles lord Romney is now owner of Whorne's-place, and the estate in Cookstone and Halling belonging to it./e

WICHAM is a manor, which lies partly in this parish and partly in Stroud. Offa, king of the Mercians, to whom Kent was in some measure subject, and Sigurd, king of Kent, or at least some part of it, for that kingdom was in so low a state as to have several petty kings or tyrants ruling in different parts of it, in the year 764, gave Æslingham, with its appendages, of Freondesbury and Wicham, containing twenty plough lands, to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester, and commended the same to the care of bishop Eardulph; but this place, with others in this neighbourhood, was

/e See more of this family, under the Mote, in Maidstone.

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wrested from the church of Rochester during the confusion of the Danish wars in this kingdom.

William the Conqueror gave Wicham to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; but archbishop Lanfranc recovered it, in that solemn assembly of the whole

county, held by the king's command at Pinenden-heath in 1076. After which, the archbishop restored Wicham to bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew, which donation was afterwards confirmed by archbishops Anselm and Boniface,^f notwithstanding which the bishop soon afterwards gave Wicham, though part of the possessions of the church, to Goisfrid Talbot, reserving all tithes whatsoever out of it, which he gave to the monks of Rochester for ever. In the reign of king John this place was come into the possession of the family of Montchensie. William, son of William de Montchensie, who died in the 6th year of king John, held this manor at the time of his death, in the 15th year of that reign, upon which Warine de Montchensie had livery of his whole inheritance. In the 37th year of king Henry III.'s reign, he obtained a charter of free warren for his several manors,^g and died the next year, being succeeded by his son, William de Montchensie, who, in the 8th year of king Edward I. had a grant in fee of view of frank pledge, and the courts belonging to it, in all his lands; in the 17th year of which reign he died, leaving a daughter and sole heir, Dionisia, who marrying Hugh de Vere, third son of Robert earl of Oxford, entitled him to this manor, among others, of her inheritance; after which it passed in like manner as the manor of Hartley and others above described,^h into the families of Valence and Hastings, successively earls of Pembroke, and then to Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, who was found to be his

^f Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 2. Text. Roff. p. 169.

^g Philipott, p. 226. Pat. ejus ann. Book of Knights Fees. Col-
lin's Hist. Coll. p. 225.

^h See Hartley, vol. ii. p. 453; Swanscombe, 404.

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cousin and next heir of the whole blood to John de Hastings, the last earl of Pembroke, who died, s. p. in the 13th of king Richard II. but he being afterwards taken prisoner in Wales by Owen Glendower, was obliged to make over this manor, among others, to raise money to pay his ransom, for which purpose it was accordingly assigned over to Robert Braybrooke, bishop of London, and others, then feoffees of divers of his lordships, to sell this manor, among others, towards raising that sum. This manor is not mentioned in Dugdale, but it appears from several manuscripts that it was sold at that time by these feoffees. To whom it was sold I do not find; but in the reign of king Henry VII. it was in the possession of the name of Sprever, and at the latter end of the next reign of king Henry VIII. John Sprever was owner of it.ⁱ It next came into the possession of the Marshams, in which family it continues at this time, being the estate of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney.

There was a manor in this parish, called BERESSE, alias BERESH,^k which in the reign of king John was owned by a family of that name, Simon de Beresse then possessing it; after which it passed into that of Wadestone; in the 49th year of king Henry III. John, son of Robert de Wadestone, gave it, with all its appurtenances (excepting a certain piece of land, which he had given to the chaunter of the church of Rochester) to the

abbey of Lesnes, in free and perpetual alms. That year John, son of John de Cobham, of whom this manor was held, confirmed this gift to the abbot and convent, to hold in pure and perpetual alms, free from all services, customs, and suits of court, to the manor belonging, excepting to the bridge at Rochester, and the yearly rent due to him and his heirs; but this being transacted whilst Laurence de St. Martin, bishop

/i Pettitt's Fœdary Book of Kent.

/k It lies about a mile northwestward from Whorne's-place, and adjoining to Cobham.

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of Rochester, was abroad, the abbot and convent, fearing to be dispossessed of this manor, as being of the bishop's fee, at his return signed an instrument, by which, in the year 1267, in consideration of the sum of one hundred and ten marcs sterling they released to him all their right and title to this manor, and gave up all the charters, deeds, and writings relating to it; at which time it appears, that there was a chapel at this place. On the death of bishop Laurence, in 1274, his heirs entered on this manor, as part of their inheritance; but Walter de Merton, the next successor in the see of Rochester, laid claim to it, by the description of one carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Beresh, alledging, that bishop Laurence did not purchase it to him and his heirs, but as bishop of Rochester, to him and his successors in that see, and that this land being an appurtenance to the manor of Cookstone, one of the capital manors belonging to the see of Rochester, the abbot did not enfeoff the bishop in it, but only surrendered it up, with its appurtenances, to him again, as to the capital lord of the fee, which he was not, but as being at that time bishop of Rochester; and the bishop had judgment accordingly, and recovered this manor, and Thomas de St. Martin, by his deed, released to him and his successors, all his right and title to it, as did his descendant, Robert de St. Martin, in the 6th year of king Edward III. who had brought his plea before the justices of the King's-bench, against Hamo, bishop of Rochester, for it, but not succeeding, he by his deed released all his claim and title to it to the bishop and his successors for ever; since which it has been blended with the manor of Cookstone, a part of which it is esteemed at this time.

CHARITIES.

THE PARISH of Cookstone has the right of nomination to one place in the new college of Cobham, founded by Sir Wm. Brooke, Lord Cobham, and now under the direction of the wardens of Rochester-bridge, for one poor person; inhabitant of this parish, to be chosen and presented so, and by such as by the

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ordinances of the college have power to present and elect for this parish, and if the parish of Gravesend should make default in electing such poor person in their turn, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

COOKSTONE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. Michael.

Among other monuments and memorials in it are the following: In the chancel, within the rails on the south wall, a beautiful monument, arms, Or, a bend cotized sable, impaling barry of 4, parted per pale, argent and gules counterchanged, for Anne, daughter of Charles Barret, esq. of Belhouse, in Essex, married to Sir Robert Harley, K. B. obt. 1603, by whom she had Thomas, buried here likewise. It was repaired by Edward Lord Harley in 1723. A memorial for Sir John Marsham, knt. and bart. obt. 1685; another for Lady Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir William Hammond, of St. Alban's, in East Kent, obt. 1689; an inscription for Ferdinando Marsham, Esq. of the body to Charles I. and second brother of Sir John Marsham, bart. obt. 1681; another for Sir John Marsham, bart. son of John, obt. 1692; one for Anne, wife of John, eldest son of Sir John Marsham, bart. of the family of Danvers, obt. 1672. A memorial for Sir John Marsham, bart. son of Sir John Marsham, bart. grandson of Sir John Marsham, bart. obt. 1696, æt. 16, and Hester his sister; another for Sir Robert Marsham, bart. youngest son of Sir John Marsham, bart. and only brother of Sir John Marsham, bart. uncle and heir of John Marsham the grandson; he married Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas Bosville, Esq. by whom he left Robert, Elizabeth married to Thomas Palmer, esq. Margaret, and Mary, obt. 1703. On the south wall are the arms of Marsham cut in stone, a lion passant between two cotizes, and underneath 1630. Under an arch, between this and the rector's chancel, is a large altar, monument and inscription, in brass, for Master John Bultyll, parson of this church, and chaplain to Prince Edward, obt. 1568. In the church yard, almost opposite the church porch, is an altar monument for John Bennet, gent. ob. 1662./l

This church was always an appendage to the manor of Cookstone, and as such, is now in the patronage of the Right Rev. the lord bishop of Rochester. In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at twelve marcs./m

/l See the mon and inscrip. in this church, in Reg. Roff. p. 769.
/m Text. Roff. p. 229. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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GUNDULPH, bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in the reign of the Conqueror, gave to the prior and convent of Rochester the tithes of Wiham, and of Hugh de Stoches, and Gaufrid de Sunderesce in Cuclestan, which gift was confirmed by several of his successors. Gilbert de Glanvill, bishop of Rochester, having, about the year 1193, built an hospital at Stroud, gave to it, with the consent of the prior and convent of Rochester, as well as of his archdeacon, among other premises, the portion arising from the tithes of his knights fees in Halling and Holebergh, and Kukulstan, to hold in free and perpetual alms, and he likewise allowed the master and brethren to take of the gift of Galfrid de Sunderesh two seams of corn, of the mill of Kukulstan. The bishop gave likewise to that hospital ten shillings yearly, to be received from this church, towards finding lights in the hospital, which was confirmed to it by Thomas, parson of this church, and in 1295, by William de Handlo, rector of it. Soon after which great disputes arising between the bishop and the prior and convent of Rochester, concerning bishop Gundulph's gifts, some of which, in this parish bishop Gundulph had given to his new

erected hospital above mentioned. At length, the latter though very unwillingly, submitted themselves entirely to the bishop, and the monks having disputed the right of the hospital to the small tithes of the manor of Wickham, the bishop decreed, that they should belong to the hospital, whose right to them they should maintain, which tithes were afterwards confirmed to it by archbishop Hubert in 1193, and by Richard, cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury, in 1258.

In the year 1267, Edmond, master of Stroud hospital, and Walter, rector of Cockelestane, appeared before Laurence, bishop of Rochester, in the chapel of Bererce, and agreed to submit the differences between them to his final decree, who then finally decreed that the rector and his successors should have in

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the name of his church, the entire tythes of the lands called Le Bempe and Le Lud, and Stonired, and of Stokesfelde, which were not free tenement, but gavelkende; but that the master of the hospital, and his successors, should receive of the free tenements, that is, those held by military service, two sheaves, and the rector the third; that of the lands newly broke up, the rector should receive nothing, but that the master of the hospital should receive the entire tythes of them.

Hameline de Columbiere had given to the chantery of the church of Rochester, all the small tythes of his lordship in like manner, as that office was known to possess his tythes in corn, so that it might possess them in lambs, pigs, fleeces, and all other small things, which his tenants holding of his fee witnessed, when the dispute happened between Ralph the clerk of Frindsbury, and Peter, at that time chaunter of Rochester, whether the chantery had always possessed the small tythes, together with the corn. John Erpyngham, rector of Cokelestan, by his indenture in 1392, granted that the prior and convent of Rochester should take all the tythes arising from forty-six acres three rood, and three deywerks of land therein, mentioned; and likewise a moiety of all the tythes of eighty acres and a half of land, belonging to the bishop of Rochester's table, lying in five fields, as therein mentioned; (which were let to ferm to the rector, for such time as he should continue rector of this church) at the yearly rent of 10s. And he further acknowledged that all the tithes whatsoever above mentioned, were the right and property of the church of Rochester, and had belonged to the table of the prior and convent there time out of mind; all which was, at the request of the rector, ratified and confirmed under the seals of the bishop, his official, and John Hoke, clerk, pub-

/n Reg. Roff. p. 53, 69, 105, 257, 259, 260.

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lic notary; John Shepey, prior of Rochester, and others present at the time. In the year 1539, anno 31 king Henry VIII. the hospital of Stroud was, together with all its possessions, surrendered, with the king's licence, to the prior and convent of Rochester, where it staid but a few months, for next year that priory

also was dissolved, and as well as the rents and revenues belonging to it, were surrendered into the king's hands, all which were confirmed to him by the general words of the act passed that year.

These tithes and possessions of the priory and hospital in this parish remained but a small time in the hands of the crown, for king Henry VIII. by his donation charter, in his 33d year, settled them on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance they continue at this time. The lessee, under the dean and chapter, of this portion of tithes, called the chaunter's portion, being at present the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney.

On the dissolution of bishops, deans, and chapters, &c. after the death of king Charles I. a survey was taken in 1649, by order of the state, as well of the rectory of Cookstone as of the portion of tithes in this parish, commonly called Chaunter's portion, late belonging to the dean and chapter of Rochester, by which it appeared, there was here a parsonage, presentative formerly by the bishop of Rochester, worth sixty-six pounds per annum, if that part taken into the duke of Richmond's park, amounting to three hundred and fifty acres, the tithe of which was valued at twenty-six pounds per annum, duly paid the tithes to Mr. John Robinson, as incumbent. /o That there was a portion of tithes issuing out of chantery lands in Cookstone, belonging to the late dean and chapter of Rochester, containing forty-five acres, three roods, twenty perches; also five other fields, eighty acres, two roods; also a

/o Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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certain portion of tithes of land there, late the bishop of Rochester's warren, when the same should be sown, of which the dean and chapter had two sheaves, and the parson of Cookstone one, which land was estimated to contain sixty-seven acres: total of the whole, one hundred and ninety-three acres, one rood, twenty perches; all which were let to ferme, anno 10 king Charles I. by the dean and chapter for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of one quarter of good wheat, (the eight bushels bearing their heap) but that they were worth above that sum, 8l. 4s. Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was consecrated in 1077, gave the tithes of those lands, which he added to the manor of Cookstone, to the Benedictine nunnery founded by him at Malling, in this county; which gift was confirmed to that abbey by Gualeran, bishop of Rochester, Thomas archbishop of Canterbury, and others. These tithes continued part of the possessions of this abbey till the dissolution of it, anno 30 king Henry VIII. when it was, together with its revenues, surrendered into that king's hands, to the use of him, his heirs and successors for ever. This portion of tithes is now the estate of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney.

The rector of Cookstone at this time receives no tithes of forty-six acres, of the half of seventy-eight acres, and of one third of seventy-six acres of land, as above mentioned, the remainder being in the possession of the lessee of the dean and chapter of Rochester. He likewise receives no tithe of the seventy-seven

acres, which formerly belonged to the abbey of Mal-
ling. I have been credibly informed that archbishop
Laud, who had been once rector of this parish, pur-
chased this portion of tithes late belonging to Malling-
abbey, and likewise the lease of the chaunter's portion,
held from the dean and chapter, and gave them both
to this rectory, but through the troubles of the times
which followed, both were alienated from it, and the
rector being sequestered, and not living till the Resto=
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ration, there was no attempt made to recover them.
In a suit brought by the Rev. Caleb Parfect, late rector
of this parish, against the earl of Darnley, owner of
Cobham-hall, with the parks, &c. belonging to it,
about eighty acres of land inclosed in the inner park,
were acknowledged to be within this parish.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 14l.
15s. 5d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 9s. 6½d.

CHURCH OF COOKSTONE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented.

RECTORS.

Bishops of Rochester Thomas, about 1200./p

Walter, 1267./q

William de Handlo, 1295./r

William de Twidale./s

William Cranewelle, 1386./t

John Erpyngham, 1392./u

John Botyll, ob. June 30, 1568./w

William Laud, D. D. instit. May

25, 1610, resig. Nov. 1610./x

Richard Tillesley, B. D. ob. Nov.

1621./y

Elizeus Burgeis, in 1630./z

John Robinson, in 1649./a

John Cooke, A. M. in 1765, obt.

1690./b

..... Hore.

..... Baily.

Tobias Swinden, A. M./c

Cable Parfect, A. M. pres. 1719,

obt. Sep. 21, 1770./d

Charles Moore, A. M. 1770. Pre=
sent rector./e

/p Reg. Roff. p. 161. /q Ibid. 259.

/r Ibid. 260. /s Spel. Gloss.

/t Reg. Roff. p. 263. /u Ibid. 261.

/w Ibid. p. 772. He had been chap=
lain to king Edward VI. and lies bu=
ried in the S. chancel of this church.

/x He resigned this rectory for Nor=
ton, and was afterwards archbishop of
Canterbury.

/y He was also rector of Stone, near
Dartford, and prebendary and arch=
deacon of Rochester. He lies buried in
Rochester cathedral.

/z And archdeacon of Rochester.

/a Conformed after the Restoration.

/b Also rector of Mersham. See
Wood's Ath. Fasti, vol. ii. p. 175.

/c Also vicar of Shorne.

/d In Oct. 1733, a dispensation passed for his holding the vicarage of Shorne with this rectory.

/e In Aug. 1772, a dispensation passed for holding the vicarage of Selindge with this rectory, which he has since resigned, and now holds the vicarage of Boughton Blean with Cookstone, and is also a six preacher of Canterbury cathedral.

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COBHAM.

NORTHWARD from Cookstone lies Cobham, a very small part of which is within the hundred of Hoo.

THE PARISH of Cobham is rather an unfrequented place, not having any road of traffic through it. It is a healthy and rather a pleasant situation, tho' the woods and foliage in Cobham-park give it in general a gloomy appearance; it extends about two miles and a half from east to west, and a mile and a half from north to south; it contains about two thousand nine hundred and fifty acres of land, seventy houses, exclusive of the college, about seven hundred and sixty inhabitants. Cobham park, having the mansion of Cobham-hall situated in a vale within it, contains the greatest part of the parish; on an eminence in the park, about a mile from the house, is a costly mausoleum, built pursuant to the will of the late earl, as a burial place for himself and family, which being finished, his body, which was deposited in the church, was brought hither, and laid in it. The building is a conspicuous object to a considerable distance round it. It stands on Williams's-hill, on a spot of ground where it is said there was once a chapel. This elegant structure is octangular, built of Portland stone, the columns at each angle supporting a sarcophagus, the top terminating with a quadrangular pyramid over the vault, which has sixteen recesses or burial places in it, besides those for the late earl and his countess; there is a chapel elegantly fitted up, the windows of which are of stained glass, and ornamented with Brocotello marble. The soil is various; strong good mould, chalk, and some gravel, and is in general accounted a good wheat land. The village is situated on high ground, in the south west part of the parish, having the church within it, from which there is a most extensive view southwestward over the country; adjoining to the church yard is Cobham college, and at

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the west end of the street the parsonage, the property and residence of Mr. Pemble. At a small distance further is the estate of Outlets, and at the western boundary of the parish the manor of Henhurst; Cobham mount is situated about a quarter of a mile's distance from the Shinglewell road, which runs along the northern side of this parish, by the pales of the park. The north-east parts adjoining Cobham-park, formerly called the out park grounds, are covered with coppice woods.

The antient Roman road, or Watling-street-way,

shews itself very plainly from Shinglewell hither, in its way to Rochester, with the hedges standing on it, sometimes on the right and sometimes on the left of the present road, and at other times falling in with it. It goes on to Cobham-park, where the pales seem to stand on it for some little space, soon after which it leaves them, as may be seen in the passage out of the north gate of the park, where the way crosses it, from thence it runs into a thick wood, where it is not to be followed. At the north west boundary of this parish, adjoining the above road, is a water, called St. Thomas's-well, probably from the use made of it by St. Thomas Becket in his journeyings through these parts.

Our HERBALISTS have taken notice of the following scarce plants, growing in this parish, viz.

Pneumonanthe, Calathian violet.

Trachelium majus, blue and also white Canterbury bells, found under Cobham park pales, in the road from Shinglewell to Rochester.

Chamæpitys, ground pine of several sorts.

Tragoriganum, goats marjoram, or organy, near Cobham house.

Lamium luteum etiam rubrum, the yellow archangel, as also the red, found in Cobham woods.

Lautana sive viburnum, the wayfaring tree./f

/f Johnson's Gerarde's Herb. p. 438, 448, 667, 702, 1490.

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Narcissus sylvestris pallidus calyce luteo, the wild English daffodil, observed by Mr. Thorpe of Bexley, in a moist place or two in Cobham park.

ON OCTOBER 19, 1714, anno 1st king George I. Sir Richard Temple, bart. was, by letters patent, created baron Cobham of Cobham, in the county of Kent. He was grandson of Sir Peter Temple, bart. who married to his second wife, by whom only he had male issue, Christian, the eldest daughter and coheir of Sir John Leveson, of Whorne's place, by Frances his wife, daughter and sole heir of Sir Tho. Sondes, of Throwley, and Margaret his wife, eldest daughter of Sir William Brooke lord Cobham, &c. and sister of George Brooke lord Cobham, attainted, anno 1 king James I. by reason of which descent from Brooke lord Cobham, Sir Richard Temple obtained the titles of baron and viscount Cobham; and on April 7, 1718, he was created baron and viscount of the same place, with a limitation of both titles to his heirs, and in default to Hester, his second sister, the wife of Richard Grenville, esq. of Wotton, and to the heirs male of her body. Richard viscount Cobham, died in 1749, without issue, on which his titles and estates descended to his sister, Hester Grenville above mentioned, who was created, in 1749, countess Temple, with the dignity of earl Temple to her heirs male; she died in 1752, and was succeeded by her eldest son and heir, Richard Grenville Temple, earl Temple, and viscount and baron of Cobham, who died, s. p. in 1779, without issue; on which his titles descended to his nephew, George Nugent Grenville Temple (the eldest son of this next brother George) since created marquis of Buckingham,

who is the present viscount and baron of Cobham.

THIS PLACE afforded both seat and surname to that noble and eminent family of Cobham, possessors of this

/g Willis's Buckinghamsh. p. 276. Coll. Peerage, vol. vi. p. 51. Philipott, p. 120. MSS. pedigree of Cobham. Dugdale's Bar. vol. ii. p. 65.

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manor, and the mansion on it, called Cobham-hall, who, from the earliest accounts of time, filled the highest posts of trust and honour with the greatest lustre, both to themselves and their country.

Henry de Cobham, owner of this place, was one of the Recognitores magnæ assisæ, or justices of the great assize, in the 1st year of king John, and bore for his arms, Gules, on a chevron or, three fleurs de lis azure. He left three sons, John, Reginald, and William; of these, Reginald (the second) was a justice itinerant in the reign of king Henry III. and was sheriff of Kent, and constable of Dover Castle and warden of the cinque ports. He died in the 42d year of that reign; and William the third son was likewise a justice itinerant in the same reign. John de Cobham, the eldest son, succeeded his father in the manor of Cobham, and was twice married; first to the daughter of Warine Fitzbenedict, by whom he had two sons; John, who was of Cobham; and Henry, commonly called Le Uncle, who was of Roundal, in Shorne, where a further account will be given of him and his posterity: secondly to Joane, daughter of Hugh de Neville, by whom he had one son, Reginald, who was ancestor to the Cobhams of Sterborough castle, in Surry, and the lords Borough, as may be seen more at large under Chidingstone.

John, the eldest son above mentioned, by the first wife, was knighted, and from his being constable of Rochester castle early in life, was commonly called the young constable. He bore for his arms, Gules, on a chevron or, three lions rampant sable; which coat was continued by his posterity. He was a man well versed in the laws of the realm, and among other high employments, in king Henry III.'s reign, he was constituted sheriff of Kent, and continued in that office for several years; he was likewise a justice itinerant at several times in the same reign, and afterwards a justice of the common-pleas; in the reign of king Edward I.

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one of the justices of the court of King's bench, and a justice itinerant; in the 3d of that reign he was one of the king's sergeants at law, and the next year one of the justices of the common pleas, as also one of the barons of the exchequer./h In the 4th year of that reign he had a grant of the king's special favour for the change of the descent of all his gavelkind lands, and that the same should in future descend as lands held by sergeantry or knights service./i He died in the 28th year of it, possessed of this manor and others in this county, leaving by Joane his first wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Septvans, a son, Henry de Cobham, who had possession granted of the lands of his inheritance, excepting the dowry of Methania, his

father's last wife, who lies buried in this church, with an epitaph in French, without any date. He, as well as fifty-four other Kentish gentlemen, who were the flower of the gentry of this country, attended king Edward I. in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and were all knighted for their assistance at the siege of Carlaverok, "-ok"

in that kingdom, where there were no less than four of this family present, who received that honour – Sir Henry and Sir Reginald de Cobham, of Cobham; Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, of Roundal, and Sir Stephen de Cobham, his son./k

Sir Henry de Cobham, who possessed this manor, and had the addition of junior, to distinguish him from Henry his uncle, then living, in the 8th year of king Edward II. was made constable of Dover-castle and warden of the cinque ports; after which he was in the wars of Scotland, and in the 15th year of it was governor of Tunbridge-castle, and had summons to parliament in the 6th of that reign, and was one of the

/h Madox's Exchequer, p. 748, et seq.

/i Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 62. Rot. Cart. ejus ann. No. 17.

/k Philipott, p. 121, gives a list of them, from a roll of Robert Glover, esq. A list of the nobles who attended king Edward in this expedition, may be seen among the Harl. MSS. No. 78-18.

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conservators of the peace in this county, a place of no small consequence, which he held at the time of his death./l He left by Maud de Columbiers, his wife, three sons; John, who succeeded him at Cobham; Thomas, who was of Beluncle, in Hoo; and Reginald, rector of Cowling. Sir John de Cobham, the eldest son, in the 9th year of king Edward III. had been made admiral of the king's fleet, from the mouth of the Thames westward, and was afterwards a justice of oyer and terminer in Kent,/m and constable of the city and castle of Rochester. In the 17th year of that reign he obtained a charter for free warren within all his de=mesne lands within his lordships of Cobham, and other manors belonging to him in this county, and in the 25th year of that reign, he received summons to par=liament,/n and was afterwards made a banneret, and served in the wars in France. He died in the 33d year of that reign, being then possessed of this manor of Cobham. He left by Joane his wife, daughter of John lord Beauchamp of Stocke, one son, John de Cobham, of Cobham, who the year after his father's death, began the foundation of a chantry or college in the church of Cobham, and endowed it with ample re=venues, as will be further mentioned. In the 40th and 41st years of king Edward III. he served in the king's wars in France, and in the latter of them he was sent ambassador to Rome, and that year obtained the grant of a market every week upon the Monday, at his manor of Cobham, and a fair yearly. In the 1st year of king Richard II. he was appointed one of that king's council, and served again in the French wars, with three knights, one hundred and five esquires, one hundred and ten men at arms, and one hundred and ten archers, and was made a banneret. In the 4th year he

/l Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65, et seq. MSS. pedigrees of Cobham,

Brooke, and Borough.

/m Rot. Claus. anno 10 king Edward III. m. 20.

/n Cott. Rec. p. 72. Rot. Esch. ejus ann. Weever, p. 327.

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obtained licence to make a castle of his house at Coulyng, which he then rebuilt, and that year, with the assistance of Sir Robert Knollys, built the new bridge of stone across the Medway, at Rochester, at their joint and great expence, for the good of the country in general. In the 10th of that reign he was appointed one of those thirteen lords, constituted governors of the realm, and to enquire into the former miscarriages in the government of it. On this account he was impeached of treason by the lords appellant, and had judgment of death, and to forfeit all such lands as he had in fee in the 10th year of it, with his goods and all his fee tailed lands for his life, remainder to the right heirs in tail; notwithstanding which the king, of his mere grace, on condition no further means of pardon were made to him, granted him his life, during which he was to remain in prison in the isle of Jersey. At the accession of king Henry IV. he was received into favour by the king, and having been constantly summoned to parliament to the time of his death, he died in the 9th year of that reign, being then possessed of this manor, and others in this county, and was buried in the church of Cobham, having on his grave stone his effigy, holding a church in his hands, insculped in brass, as the founder of the college in it. He married Margaret, one of the daughters of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, by whom he had an only daughter Joane, who likewise died in his life time, leaving by her husband, Sir John de la Poole, an only daughter Joane, who on the death of her grandfather, John lord Cobham above mentioned, became his heir. She is said to have had five husbands, of whom Sir Reginald, second son of Sir Gerard Braybrooke, was the second, who died at Midleborough, in Flanders, in 1405, and lies buried in this church, as do Reginald and Robert, two of their sons, who died infants. His arms, Seven mascles gules, three, three, and one, are still remaining carved on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury. By

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him she left an only daughter Joane, who afterwards became heir to her estates, as well as to the barony of Cobham. At the time of her grandfather's decease, she was the wife of Sir Nicholas Hawberk, who died at Cowling-castle, in 1407, and lies buried here, by whom she left no issue; after which she married Sir John Oldcastle, who in her right assumed the title of lord Cobham, and possessed this manor with the rest of her estates. He bore for his arms, Argent, a castle of three towers embattled sable; which arms, impaled with those of Cobham, are carved on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury, as are those of the several branches of Cobham.

Sir John Oldcastle received summons to parliament by the title of John de Oldcastle, chlr. in the 11th year of king Henry IV. but in the 1st year of Henry V. attaching himself to the Lollards, he became one of the chief of their sect, for which he was cited to appear

before the archbishop of Canterbury, upon which, retiring to his castle of Cowling, he was shortly after apprehended there, and being brought from thence before the archbishop and others, in the cathedral of St. Paul, had sentence passed on him as an heretic; after which, being convicted on record in the court of king's bench, for conspiring together with others, to the number of twenty men, called Lollards, at St. Giles's in the Fields, to subvert the state of the clergy, and to kill the king, his brother, and other nobles, he fled into Wales, where being taken within the territory of the lord Powis, he was brought back to London, being in the mean time outlawed upon treason in the above court, and excommunicated before the bishop. In consequence of which, in the 5th year of that reign, he was adjudged, upon that record and process, to be carried to the tower of London, and from thence to be drawn through London to the new gallows in St. Giles's, and there to be hanged and burned hanging. After his execution, Joane his wife surviving, again

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became possessed of Cobham manor, and the rest of the estates of her inheritance, of which she died possessed in the 12th year of king Henry VI. and was buried in this church. She was then the wife of John Harpenden, who, if he was then living, did not possess this or any of her estates after her death, for her only daughter and heir Joane, by her second husband, Sir Gerard Braybrooke above mentioned, then entitled her husband, Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, to them, who, though he was in his wife's right baron of Cobham, yet he never had summons to parliament. He died in the 17th year of king Henry VI. having had by her ten sons and four daughters. The family of Brooke was seated at the manor De la Brooke, near Ilchester, in that county, in the reign of king Edward I. and bore for their arms, Gules, on a chevron argent, a lion rampant sable, langued and unguled gules, crowned or. Of the surviving sons of Sir Thomas Brooke, Edward was the eldest; Reginald, esq. was of Aspal, in Suffolk; and Hugh was ancestor of the Brookes of Glastonbury abbey and Barrow-grove, in Somersetshire. Sir Edward succeeded his father in title and in his estates at Cobham and elsewhere; he received summons to parliament by the title of Edward Brooke de Cobham, chl. and was a firm friend to the house of York; he died possessed of this manor in the 4th year of king Edward IV.

His direct descendant, Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, procured his lands to be disgavelled by the act of the 31st of king Henry VIII. He was a person of great eminence in his time, especially in the reign of

/o See much of the prosecution of Sir John Oldcastle, taken from the public records among the Harleian MSS. No. 420, 421. Cott. Rec. p. 328, 553. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 67. Weever, 328.

/p Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/q The following account of the family is taken from several MSS. pedigrees of it, well attested. There are many pedigrees of this family among the Harleian MSS.

/r Cott. Rec. p. 628 to 679. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 281.

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king Edward VI. being then a privy counsellor, knight of the Garter, and lord deputy of Calais; and among the Harleian manuscripts, No. 283 and 284, is a large collection of letters on state affairs, to and from this lord Cobham, lord deputy, during the reigns of king Henry VIII. king Edward, and queen Mary; but in the 1st year of the latter reign he was committed prisoner to the tower of London, on suspicion of being concerned with Sir Thomas Wyatt in his insurrection, though he was shortly after released from thence. He resided both at Cowling-castle and Cobham-hall, at the former of which he died in the 5th and 6th years of king Philip and queen Mary, and was buried among his ancestors in this church. By Anne his wife, sister and coheir of John lord Bray, he had ten sons and four daughters, as appears by his monument in this church. Of the sons, William was the eldest; George, the second, married Christian, daughter and heir of Richard Duke, of Otterton, in Devonshire, by whom he had Duke Brooke and others; Thomas, the third, left two daughters and coheirs; John, the fourth son, called also Cobham, lies buried in Newington church, near Sittingborne, where there is a neat monument over him; Sir Henry Brooke, the 5th son, called also Cobham, had several sons and daughters, of whom the second son, Sir John Brooke, of Hekington, in Lincolnshire, was, anno 20 king Charles I. in consideration of his sufferings for his loyalty, advanced to the title of lord Cobham, to enjoy the same as amply as any of his ancestors had done.

Sir William succeeded his father in his estates, and as lord Cobham, and on July 17 following, entertained queen Elizabeth at Cobham-hall, in the 1st year of her reign, with a noble welcome, as she took her progress through Kent. He was a person much in favour with

/s See a list of grants made to the lord Cobham in the castrations to Hollinshed's Chronicle.

/t Cooke's MSS. Baronetage. Strype's Annals, vol. i. p. 194.

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that queen, and was continually employed by her in different negotiations abroad; he was lord warden of the cinque ports, constable of Dover castle, lord lieutenant of the county of Kent, one of her privy council, lord chamberlain, and knight of the order of the Garter. He died in the 39th of that reign, and was buried at Cobham; he bore for his arms fifteen coats; Brooke, Cobham, Delapole, Peverel, Braybrooke, St. Amand, Bray, Haliwell, Norbury, Butler, Sudley, Montfort, Croser, and Dabernon; having been twice married; first to Dorothy, daughter of George lord Abergavenny, by whom he had an only daughter, wife of Thomas Coppinger, esq. of Stoke, in this county, and afterwards of Edmond Beecher, esq. secondly to Frances, daughter of Sir John Newton, by whom he had three sons and three daughters; of the former, the eldest succeeded him in title and estate; Sir William Brooke, the second son, was twice married, but died without male issue; George, the youngest, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Borough, by whom he had issue; of the daughters, Margaret, the eldest; was married to Sir Thomas

Sondes of Throwley, from whose sole daughter and heir, Frances, descended the present marquis of Buckingham, viscount and baron of Cobham, as has been before mentioned.

Henry lord Cobham, the eldest son, was likewise lord warden of the cinque ports, constable of Dovercastle, lord lieutenant of this county, and knight of the Garter; but in the 1st year of king James I. being accused of having, with his brother George, the lord Grey of Wilton, Sir Walter Raleigh, and others, conspired to kill the king, and by an insurrection to alter the religion and subvert the government, they were brought to trial, and being found guilty, had judgment of death pronounced against them; George, his brother, was beheaded, and both of them attainted; but the execution of the lord Cobham and some of the others was,

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through the king's clemency, superseded, and his estates, which are said to be seven thousand pounds per annum in land, and thirty thousand in goods and chattels, being forfeited to the crown, he lived many years afterwards in great misery and poverty, and died in 1619. He married Frances, daughter of Charles earl of Nottingham, and widow of the earl of Kildare, by whom he had no issue, so that William, son of his brother George, became his heir, and was restored (with his sisters) in blood in the 7th year of that reign, but not to enjoy the title of lord Cobham without the king's especial grace, which was never granted him./u

This manor coming thus to the crown by his attainer, was confirmed to it by an act, passed in the 3d year of king James I. as were likewise all grants made by the king of the lord Cobham's estates and possessions. After which this manor, with the seat of Cobham-hall, and the rest of the lord Cobham's lands, in this parish, was granted by the king, in his 10th year, to his kinsman, Lodowick Stuart, duke of Lenox, who with his brother, the lord Obigney (so spelt in the act) and their children, had been naturalized by parliament in the 1st year of that reign.

Lodowick, duke of Lenox, was the son of Esme Stuart, created duke of Lenox, in Scotland, by king James I. and grandson of John lord Aubigny, younger brother to Matthew earl of Lenox, who was grandfather to that king. In the life time of his father he bore the titles of lord Darnley, Tarbolton, and Methven, and on his death succeeded to the dukedom, and likewise to the hereditary offices of lord great chamberlain and admiral of Scotland. After king James's accession to the throne of England, he was made a privy counsellor and knight of the Garter; and in the 11th year, he was created lord Settrington of Settrington, in Yorkshire, earl of Richmond, and in

/u Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 283, 426. Orig. 223, 305, 309.

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the 21st year of it, earl of Newcastle upon Tyne and duke of Richmond; he died suddenly at Whitehall, in the month of February following, and was honourably buried in king Henry VII.'s chapel in Westminster abbey, where a stately tomb is erected to his

memory. The duke's arms, within the garter, is painted in one of the windows of the Middle Temple hall, viz. four coats quarterly; 1st and 4th, Azure, three fleurs de lis or, within a bordure gules, charged with eight round buckles or; 2d and 3d, Argent, a fess chequy argent and gules, within a bordure engrailed of the field; over all an escutcheon of pretence, argent, a saltier engrailed, between four roses gules; the motto, Avant Darnley. And the same arms, without the garter, as well as that of his brother Esme, are in the east window of Gray's-inn hall. Although he was thrice married, he left no issue by either of his wives, so that he was succeeded, as duke of Lenox, and in this estate, by his only brother, Esme Stuart, lord Aubigney, who had been created lord Leighton of Leighton Bromswold, in Huntingdonshire, and earl of March, in the 17th year of the same reign; he married Catherine, the sole daughter and heir of Gervas, lord Clifton, of Leighton Bromswold, who had received summons as such to parliament, by writ, July 9, in the 6th year of that reign, by whom he had seven sons and four daughters. Of the former, James earl of March, the eldest, will be mentioned hereafter; George, stiled lord Aubigney, was slain in the royal cause at the battle of Edge-hill, in 1642, leaving by Catherine his wife, daughter of Theophilus earl of Suffolk, one son, Charles, and a daughter, Catherine, both of whom will be mentioned hereafter; John died of the wounds he received in the fight of Bramdene, in 1644; and Bernard was captain of the king's horse guards, in which post he performed eminent services, in consideration of which he was designed to be created baron of Newbury and earl of Litchfield, and

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accordingly took on himself those titles, but before the necessary forms could be completed, he was slain in a fight with the parliament forces, near Chester, in 1645, and was buried near his brothers, George and John, in the choir of Christ church, in Oxford.

Esme, duke of Lenox, survived his brother, but a short time, for he died the next year, and was succeeded by his eldest son James, duke of Lenox, who, in 1641, was created duke of Richmond; he was also hereditary lord great chamberlain and admiral of Scotland, lord steward of the king's household, warden of the cinque ports, gentleman of the bedchamber, and knight of the Garter, and having married the lady Mary, the only daughter of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, widow of Charles lord Herbert, he died in 1655, and was buried beside his uncle, Lodowick, duke of Richmond, in the south side of king Henry VII.'s chapel, leaving an only son, Esme, and a daughter Mary.

Esme, duke of Richmond and Lenox, the son, died in France, in 1660, being at that time about ten years of age; upon which his titles and this manor of Cobham, among other estates belonging to him, devolved to his cousin german and next heir male, Charles Stuart, earl of Litchfield, son of his uncle, George lord Aubigney above mentioned, the next surviving brother of his father James duke of Richmond, who, although he was thrice married, left no

issue by either of his wives. He died near Elsinour, in Denmark, being then a knight of the Garter, and ambassador extraordinary to that court, in 1672; and his body being brought over into England, was buried in king Henry VII.'s chapel, in Westminster-abbey./w Upon which Catherine, his only sister and heir, became entitled to this manor, among the rest of his estates in this county; she married Henry lord

/w Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 427. Harl. MSS. No. 1514 to 1523.

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O'Brien, eldest son and heir of Henry earl of Thomond, by whom she had two sons and two daughters, viz. Donatus O'Brien, who married the lady Sophia, youngest daughter of Tho. Osborne, duke of Leeds, and was drowned in 1682, leaving no issue; George, the second son, died young. Of the daughters, Mary married John earl of Kildare, by whom she had one son only, who died young; and Catherine married Edward lord Cornbury, son and heir of Henry earl of Clarendon, and will be further mentioned. Catherine lady O'Brien, upon the decease of her mother, sister and sole heir of Charles duke of Richmond and Lenox, became entitled to the barony of Clifton, and in 1673, made her petition to the house of lords, to be allowed it, and the judges, to whom the petition had been referred, by order of the house, having reported their unanimous opinion in her favour, the lords, by their resolution, concurred in it.

Henry lord O'Brien, husband of the lady Catherine, died in 1678, whose issue by her has been already mentioned; and she married in December following, Sir Joseph Williamson, of Milbeck-hall, in Cumberland, then one of the principal secretaries of state and a privy counsellor, and entitled him to her interest in this manor, as well as the rest of her estates; but the duke of Richmond dying greatly in debt, the manor of Cobham, with Cobham-hall, and the rest of his estates in this parish, and elsewhere in this county, valued at three thousand pounds per annum, were sold to pay debts and for other purposes. Those in this parish, among others, were purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson above mentioned; they consisted in this parish of the manor of Cobham, the Great house, with its appurtenances, the inward park, commonly called the Deer-park, with the paddocks, containing eight hundred and thirty acres, the woods in the out park, containing four hundred acres, with several farms in it, containing in the whole two thousand three hun-

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dred and forty-five acres. He afterwards resided at Cobham-hall, and died possessed of them in 1701, and was buried in Westminster abbey. Sir Joseph Williamson was a minister's son, of Cumberland; he had been plenipotentiary once to Holland, and another time at Cologne; in 1697, he went in the same station to France. He was president of the Royal Society, and by his will left several charitable legacies, particularly to Thetford, which place he had formerly represented in parliament, and to which he had been a good benefactor in his life time; as he had been to

the Clothworkers company, of which he was master. He left six thousand pounds to Queen's college, in Oxford, where he had been educated; and founded a mathematical school at Rochester, for the sons of freemen, which city he had represented. His paternal arms were, Argent, on a chevron engrailed azure, three crescents or, between as many trefoils sable;/x which coat was altered by Sir Edw. Walker, garter, Feb. 1672, by patent, for Or, a chevron engrailed, between three trefoils slipt sable. By his last will he bequeathed two thirds of his estates here and elsewhere in this county, to the lady Catherine his wife, and one third to Mr. Jos. Hornsby, who was likewise one of his executors.

Lady Catherine Obrien died in November following; upon which two thirds of this manor and seat, with the rest of the estates of the late duke of Richmond, purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, descended to Edward lord Clifton and Cornbury (son of Edward lord Cornbury, afterwards earl of Clarendon, and Catherine his wife, the only daughter and heir of the said lady Catherine, by her first husband, Henry lord Obrien) and on his death without issue, in 1713, to his only surviving sister and heir, the lady Theodosia Hyde, who in August following, carried her in-

/x Guillim, p. 133. See the docquet for it, in the Harl. MSS. No. 1172-139.

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terest in them in marriage to John Bligh, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland; the other third of these estates, on Joseph Hornsby's decease, became vested in his widow, Mary Hornsby, between whom and Mr. Bligh, and the lady Theodosia his wife, there were long and vexatious litigations in the court of chancery, concerning their several interests in them. In 1718, there was a decree for a partition of them, which, through the disagreement of the parties, came to nothing; after which they agreed, that the whole should be put up to public sale, and the produce arising from them divided into specie, according to their respective interests in them. Subsequent to this, Mr. Bligh above mentioned, who had been, in 1721, created lord Clifton of Rathmore, in Ireland, was next year advanced to that of viscount Darnley, of Athboy; and lastly, in 1725, to that of earl of Darnley, in that kingdom; entered into a contract before a master in chancery, for the purchase of the manor of Cobham, as well as the rest of the late Sir Joseph Williamson's estates in this county, then in litigation as above mentioned, for the sum of fifty-one thousand pounds, the third part of which Mrs. Hornsby became entitled to for her share in them.

John earl of Darnley was grandson of John Bligh, esq. of London, the son of William Bligh, esq. of Plymouth, in Devonshire, who, in the reign of king Charles I. was seated at Rathmore, in the county of Meath, and died in 1666, leaving by Catherine, his wife, sister to William Fuller, bishop of Lincoln, an only son, Thomas, and six daughters.

Thomas Bligh, esq. of Rathmore, the only son, was knight of the shire for the county of Meath, and a privy councillor of that kingdom. He died at Bath,

in 1710, and was buried at Rathmore, in Ireland; he married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Col. James Napier, of the county of Meath, and by her had four sons and six daughters. Of the sons, John, the eldest,

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was created earl of Darnley, and married, in 1713, the lady Theodosia Hyde, baroness Clifton, as has been already mentioned. Thomas, the second son, was of Brittas, in the county of Meath, and taking to a military life, arrived at the rank of lieutenant general; after a service of near fifty years he retired to his seat above mentioned, where he died in 1775, aged eighty, without issue, and was buried at Rathmore. Robert, the third son, was dean of Elphin, in Ireland, and on his brother's death, without issue, became heir to a very considerable estate; and Anthony, the fourth son, was a lieutenant of dragoons, and died unmarried in 1737.

The earl of Darnley died at Epsom, in 1728, and was buried in Westminster abbey, having survived his lady, who died in 1722, in the twenty-sixth year of her age, and was buried near her brother, the lord Cornbury, in that abbey. By her he left two sons, Edward and John, successively earls of Darnley, and three daughters; of whom Mary was married to William Tighe, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland, by whom she had issue; Anne first to Robert Hawkins Magill, esq. of the county of Downe, by whom she had issue; and secondly to Bernard Ward, esq. member for that county, afterwards created baron and viscount Bangor, of the kingdom of Ireland; and Theodosia married to William Crosbie, esq. of that kingdom, afterwards created a peer of that kingdom, by the title of earl of Glandore.

After the earl's death, Hornsby brought his bill in chancery, in 1731, against his executors, to have the purchase of Cobham and the rest of the estates completed, which the court decreed, and it was accordingly complied with by Edward earl of Darnley, his heir and successor, who then became possessed of the entire fee of these estates. Edward earl of Darnley, had succeeded to the English barony of Clifton, in right of his mother on her death; he was fellow of

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the Royal Society, lord of the bedchamber to Frederick prince of Wales, and hereditary high steward of the corporation of Gravesend and Milton. He died unmarried in 1747, and was buried near his mother, in Westminster abbey; on which John, his only brother, succeeded to his titles and estates, and in 1766, married the daughter and heir of John Stoyte, esq. of the county of Westmeath, in Ireland, by whom he had three sons, John lord Clifton, Edward and William; and four daughters. Mary married to Mr. Palk; Theodosia to Thomas Bligh, esq. nephew of general Bligh; Sarah and Catherine. The earl died in 1781, and was succeeded by the present Rt. Hon. John earl of Darnley, lord Clifton, &c. who is the present proprietor of the manor of Cobham, the hall, parks, and other estates belonging to it, and resides at Cobham-hall; he married, in 1791, Elizabeth, daugh-

ter of the Right Hon. William Brownlow, of the kingdom of Ireland, by whom he has issue one son, born in 1792. He bears for his arms, Azure, a griffin segreiant or, armed and langued gules, between three crescents or, for Bligh, quartering quarterly, Hyde, O'Brien, Stuart, and Clifton, in one coat; and in another, Stoyte; for his crest, on a wreath a griffin's head erased, or; and for his supporters, two griffins with wings expanded, or, each having a ducal collar and chained, azure.

COBHAM-HALL is a noble and stately mansion, which cost upwards of sixty thousand pounds building; it consists of a centre and two wings, the former is the work of Inigo Jones; the latter were made uniform, new cased with brick work, and sashed by the late earl. It stands in the midst of an extensive park, formerly much more so, which is finely interspersed with woods and stately timber trees, many of the latter being of great age and size; some of the oaks are twenty feet and upwards, in circumference; the noted chesnut tree, called the four sisters, from

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its dividing into four very large arms, stands in the grove, about a mile from the hall, near the path leading to Knights-place farm, and is thirty-two feet in circumference. The herbage of this park is so excellent, that the venison produced from it is highly esteemed, as being of a finer flavour than most others in this county.

COBHAMBURY is a manor here, which in the reign of king Henry III. belonged to Robert de Burnevile, who for his service, and two hundred marcs sterling, sold it, with its appurtenances, to Henry de Gaunt, to hold of him and his heirs, in fee and perpetual inheritance, at the yearly rent of one penny, in lieu of all services, customs, and secular demands, and by performing the services due to the capital lord of the fee. In the beginning of the next reign of king Edward I. Henry de Gaunt, in consideration of three hundred and sixty marcs of silver in hand paid, granted to Walton de Merton, bishop of Rochester, his manor in the parish of Cobham, called Cobhamberi, with all the appurtenances belonging to it, and the mill, which he had bought of Peter de Cobham, to hold to the bishop and his successors, bishops of Rochester.

At the time of this manor's coming to the see of Rochester, it was valued at eleven marcs, and in the 15th year of king Edward I. at only 4l. 5d./y at which sum it was likewise taxed in the 33d year of king Edward III. There is an account in a manuscript, in the Cotton library, of the stock which was to be left on the several manors of this bishopric, after the decease of each bishop, which says, that at Cobhamberi there should remain four stallions, and four oxen, but no implements either from these or any other lands, which had been purchased and happening by escheat.

/y Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 455. Reg. Roff. p. 89, 133, 233.

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In the 7th year of king Edward I. when the bishop

of Rochester claimed certain liberties, by the grant of king Henry, in all his lands and fees, they were allowed him by the jury in all of them, except in this manor of Cobhamberi; and these liberties were confirmed, with the like exceptions, to Thomas de Woldham, bishop of Rochester, in the 21st year of king Edward I.

In the year 1519, this manor, then usually stiled the farm or prebend of Cobhambury, was held under the bishop of Rochester, by one Mr. Horsey, who again let it to Mr. George Cromer, master of Cobham college, at the yearly rent of 26l. 8s./z Soon after the Reformation, in the reign of Henry VIII. the bishop of Rochester's interest in this estate, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to it, was surrendered into the king's hands, who seems to have granted it in fee to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, whose grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being attainted for treason, in the 1st year of king James I. forfeited it to the crown, together with the rest of his estates, and in the 3d year of that reign an act passed for the establishing them in the crown, with a confirmation of all grants made by the king.

King James granted this manor, prebend, or farm of Cobhambury, to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury (son of the famous William lord Burleigh, by his second wife, and he died possessed of it, in 1612, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, sister of the above unfortunate George lord Cobham, a son, William earl of Salisbury, who, in the beginning of the reign of king Charles I. alienated this estate to Mr. Zachary King, whose descendant, Francis King, sold it in 1670, to Gilbert Spencer, esq. of Redleafe-house, in Penshurst, who died possessed of it in 1709, and was buried at Penshurst.

/z See Harleian MSS. No. 99-43, 44, 46. Philipott, p. 121.

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His second, but eldest surviving son, Rob. Spencer, esq. possessed this estate on his father's decease, and was of Darking, in Surry, and dying without issue, in 1730, it came to his brother Abraham Spencer, esq. of Penhurst, sheriff of this county in 1736./a He died unmarried, in 1740, and was buried at Penshurst, having by his will devised the manor of Cobhambury to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died possessed of it in 1779, and by his will gave it to his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Harvey, for her life, remainder to his second son, William Thomas, who both, in 1793, joined in the conveyance of it to the Rt. Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present possessor of it.

This prebend or farm of Cobhambury, is valued in the king's books of ecclesiastical benefices, at 128l. 2s. 1d. the yearly tenths of which being 12l. 16s. 2½d. are still paid by the owner of this estate to the crown. A court baron is held for this manor.

HENHURST, usually called HENNIS, is a manor in this parish, which in the time of William the Conqueror was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, and earl of Kent, of whom it was held by Ansgotus de Rochester, and it is accordingly thus entered under the general title of that prelate's lands,

in the record of Domesday, as follows:

Ansgotus de Rochester holds Hanehest. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate. In demesne there is one carucate, and two villeins, with four servants. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth 20 shillings, when he received it 30 shillings, now 40 shillings. Goduin held it of earl Goduin.

This manor afterwards came into the possession of one Gotcelin de Hænherste, who became a monk in St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester. His descendant, William de Lanvalai died possessed of it in the reign of king Henry III. leaving his son and heir an infant,

/a See more of the Spencers under Penshurst.

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by reason of which it came into the possession of Hubert de Burgh, chief justiciary of this realm, as having the custody of him during his infancy./b

In the 15th year of the next reign of king Edward I. Edmond, son of William de Pakenham, died possessed of this manor; after which it was given to the priory of Leeds in this county, where it continued till the final dissolution of that house, in the reign of king Henry VIII. when this manor, among the rest of the possessions belonging to it, became vested in the crown, from whence it was quickly afterwards granted to Sir George Brooke lord Cobham, who immediately after conveyed it to Sir George Harpur, c of Sutton Valence, sheriff of this county in the 2d year of king Edward VI. who bore for his arms, Within a bordure, ingrailed a lion rampant, whose lands were dis=gavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d year of that reign.

On queen Mary's coming to the crown, he engaged in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, and was committed to the Tower, from whence he was, with several others, released by the queen's especial grace, the next year, and pardoned. He left by Mildred, his wife, only daughter of Nicholas Clifford, esq. one son, Sir Edward Harpur, who, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated this manor to Mr. Thomas Wright, whose son, George Wright, esq. dying without issue, devised it by his will to his kinsman, Sir George Wright, whole arms were, Per pale or, and sable a bend counterchanged; and his son, in the reign of king Charles I. conveyed it by sale to Dr. Obert, physician to the queen, who after some years alienated it to Henry Gifford, esq. of Burstall, in Leicestershire; who was, after the Restoration, on Nov. 21, 1660, created a baronet; his grandson, Sir John

/b Testa de Nevill. Rot. Esch. ejus an. Tan. Mon. p. 211.

/c Philipot, p. 121. Robinson's Gavelkind, p. 300.

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Gifford, bart. dying in 1736, without issue, it devolved to his only sister and heir at law, Anne Gifford, who in 1750, alienated this manor to John Staples, esq. of the Temple, London; who devised it by his last will to Percival Hart Dyke, esq. second son of Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, and he is the present owner of it.

GOTCELIN DE HÆNHERSTE, who owned this manor, and became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew of Rochester, as above mentioned, gave to those monks the half of the tithes of his lands of Hænherste, in pure and perpetual alms, to be distributed by the hands of their almoner to the use of the poor; and they were confirmed to the priory by William de Lanvelai, and by the several succeeding bishops of Rochester and others.

This portion of the tithes remained part of the possessions of the priory till the final dissolution of in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the rest of the possessions of that monastery, surrendered into the king's hands, where it remained but a small time; for the king, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it continues at this time, the present lessee of it being the devisee of the late Mr. Richard Hayes, deceased, of this parish.

THE MANOR of Haydon, or Hathdune, in Saxon, Ædune, now called THE MOUNT, lies within the bounds of this parish. It was part of the great estate of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday:

The same Ernulf (de Hesding) holds of the bishop Hadone. It was taxed at three yokes. The arable is one carucate, and there is in demesne and six vil-

/d Text. Roff. p. 169. Reg. Roff. p. 87, 58, 138, 239, 520.

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leins, with one borderer, having one carucate. There are six acres of meadow. In the time of Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 50 shillings, now 60 shillings. Osuard held it of king Edward. – Odo holds of the bishop in the same Hadone one yoke. The arable land is half a carucate. In demesne there is nothing. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, and now it was and is worth 20 shillings.

Who were the possessors after this, until the beginning of the present century, I cannot learn, but it then came into the possession of Hubbard, and Mr. James Hubbard, in 1734, alienated it to Richard Hornsby, esq. of Horton Kirkby, on whose death it became the property of his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Hornsby, who sold it to William Salton Stall, esq. whose widow is now entitled to it.

This manor and Henhurst above mentioned, among others in this neighbourhood, were antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

OWLIE is an estate, situated a small distance westward of Cobham-street, which has been for some centuries the property and residence of the family of Hayes, in which it continued down to Mr. Richard Hayes, who by his will devised it to trustees, and they sold it, subject to the life estate of his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes, to Mr. Henry Edmeads, son of Mr. Henry Edmeads, of Nutsted, and he is the present possessor, and resides in it.

THE KING'S MANOR of Dartford claimed over lands in this parish, as appears by the Escheat-rolls, and other records, from the earliest times; in all which the parish of Cobham is mentioned among those into which that manor extended its jurisdiction. The lands over which it claims in this parish are said, in the rolls of that manor, to lie in Havonfee, near Round-street, and near the highway leading from Stone-street to Cobham-street; the rents of them are yearly paid at the court held for the manor of

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Dartford priory, in Dartford, where the several tenants perform their customary suit and service to Sir Charles Morgan, bart. the present possessor of that manor./e

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM LORD COBHAM gave by will, anno 39 Elizabeth, for the relief of three poor parlishioners of this parish, a dwelling house and garden in it to each, and 6s. 8d. per month, charged on lands, vested in the presidents of the college of Cobham, and now of the annual produce of 12l.

WILLIAM HAYES gave by will, in 1678, 20s. for bread, to be paid by his executors, to the churchwardens and overseers of this parish, every Christmas eve for ever, and payable out of lands of the late Mr. Richard Hayes, and of that annual product.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave two small tenements, at the entrance of the church yard, now belonging to and repaired by the parish, and now occupied by poor parishoners.

COBHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a handsome spacious building, consisting of three isles and a large chancel, and has a good tower at the west end of it, with a ring of bells.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in it, in the middle of the chancel is a most noble monument of white marble, on which lie the effigies of Sir George Brooke lord Cobham, governor of Calais, K. G. and his wife, in full proportion; the figures and names, of their children, ten sons and four daughters, were likewise cut in marble round it; he died in 1558. This fine piece of sculpture seems once to have had a canopy of marble over it, which, with the pillars that supported it, and many pieces of the figures, now lie broken and scattered upon the tomb. It was erected by his son, Sir Wm. Brooke, in 1561, arms, Brooke quartering Cobham, and seven other coats within the garter. Almost the whole of the pavement of this chancel is covered with the gravestones of the family of Cobham and Brooke, with several of the brasses remaining on them, though so very loose, that in all probability they will soon be purloined, as numbers of the same sort were by some workmen a few years ago. Those which remain are as follows: a brass plate and figure, and inscription in French, in very antient capitals, cut round the edge of the stone, for dame Joan de Cobham; a brass plate and figure in armour,

/e See Dartford, vol. ii. p. 296.

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with a like inscription, south of the former, for Thomas de Cobham, and for Maud, the wife of Sir Thomas Cobeham, who died in 13.... 3 Richard II. another of the like sort, south of the last,

with the figure of a man in armour, holding a church in his hands, for John de Cobham, founder of this place. On another, south of the former, on brass, on a chevron three lions rampant, and the same impaling three roundles, a file of three points in chief, and the figure of a woman, and round the verge of the stone, a French inscription in brass, for Margaret de Cobham, daughter of the earl of Devonshire, wife of the lord of Cobham, builder of this place, obt. 1395. In like manner with the last, are the figures of two women, for dame Maud de Cobham, 13.... the rest lost; south of the last a brass plate, with the figure of a man in armour, and arms of Cobham as above, and inscription round the verge of the stone, in French, for John de Cobham, ob. 1390; westward of this, on brass plates, are the figures of a man and woman, eight sons and ten daughters, and round the verge of the stone an inscription in brass, for Sir John Brooke, baron of Cobham, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward Nevile, lord of Burgavenny; he died in 1506, she died in 1500; arms, Cobham as above, impaling Nevile with quarterings; north of the former, brass and figure of a man in armour, and round the verge in brass, an inscription for Sir Nicholas Hawberk, husband of Joan lady Cobham, heir of John lord Cobham, founder of this college; he died at the castle of Cowling, in 1407; underneath the figure of a child, and inscription, for John their son; another, north of the last, and brass, with the figure of a woman, six sons, and four daughters, for Joan lady Cobham, wife of Sir Reginald Braybrooke, ob. 1433; arms, Cobham as above, with impalements and quarterings. Northward of the last, on brass, the figure of a man in armour, and round the verge an inscription in brass for Sir Reginald Braybrook, husband of Joan lady Cobham; he died at Middleburgh in Flanders, in 1405; on the same stone the figure of a child, and inscriptions for Reginald and Robert, their sons; northward of the former, the figures of a man in armour, his wife, five sons, and six daughters, and round the verge, in brass, an inscription for Sir Thomas Brooke, lord Cobham, and kinsman and heir of Sir Richard Beauchamp; he married first Dorothy, daughter of Sir Henry Haydon, by whom he had seven sons and six daughters; and secondly Dorothy Fowthewel, widow; and thirdly Elizabeth Hart; by neither of whom he had issue, ob. 1529, arms quarterly, 1st, on a chevron, a lion rampant, crowned; 2d, Cobham as above; 3d, seven mascles, three, three, and one; 4th, on a fess between three leopards heads an annulet. A brass plate for John Sproltle, master of this college, ob. 1498; on brass the figure of a man, and these arms, on a chevron three cross croslets bottone, in the dexter chief a star, for Ranf. de Cobham, esq. of Kent, who died in 1402; a brass plate and figure for William master of this college, obt.

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14.... another like for Wm. Tanner, first master of it, ob. 1418. A stone and inscription for Tho. Webb, esq. secretary to James Stuart duke of Richmond, ob. 1649. In the nave a brass figure for master John Gladwyn, master of this college. In the north isle, a brass for John Gery, fellow of this college, obt. 1447; a brass, on a chevron between three trefoils as many annulets, and inscription for several of the Claverings; in the nave, now almost worn out, an inscription for Alice, daughter of Nicholas Harpur, esq. first wife of William and late to Edmond There is a vault in this church, which belonged to the family of Hayes, of this parish, and being full, another was granted to them in the church yard, by the good will of the parishioners. Against the wall of the church on the outside, on the east side of the porch, is a small figure cut in stone, about two feet high, of a man to his waist, and under it an inscription, to the memory of one Robert

Hoth, but the date is obliterated, and the whole of it in so pe= rishing a condition, that a few years will entirely destroy it.

The church of Shorne, with that of Cobham ap= pendant to it, was given by king Henry I. in the 33d year of his reign, to the monastery of St. Saviour, of Bermondsey, together with the tithes in corn and lambs, and other customs, in like manner, as Tur= stin, his chaplain, possessed the same. Walter, bishop of Rochester, who came to that see in the 12th year of king Stephen, confirmed these churches to the monks, in pure and pepetual alms, to possess them freely and peaceably to their own use, together with the lands, and all tithes and other things belonging to them; and as he had granted to the monks a par= sonage in the above churches, he gave leave that the vicars, serving yearly in them, who should answer to the bishop and his officials, for the cure of souls should, with their consent, perform their fealty and due obe= dience to the monks, who engaged solemnly to keep the anniversary of his death. This appropriation was confirmed to them by Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury.

By an antient valuation, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Cobham was valued at thirty marcs, and the vicarage at seven marcs. In the 20th year of king Edward III, this church, then

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appropriated to the priory of Bermondsey, was taxed at thirty marcs; and in the 26th year of that reign, the prior and convent demised this church in ferme to the monks of Rochester./f

The priory of Bermondsey paid a pension of four pounds yearly to the bishop of Rochester for the four churches of Cobham, Shorne, Byrling, and Kemsing, with Seale, which they held in his diocese, as appears by the bishop's registers; in which priory the appro= priation of this church seems to have continued vested till the final dissolution of it in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the other lands and possessions of it, surrendered into that king's hands. After the lord Cobham had founded the col= lege or chantry in this church, as will be mentioned hereafter, the presentation to the cure of it seems to have been wholly in him and his successors, and to have continued so after the suppression of the college, when it came to be esteemed no longer as a vicarage, but merely a donative. On the attainder of Henry lord Cobham, in the 1st year of king James I. what interest he had in it came to the crown; and in 1608, Francis Rogers and Charles Brooke claimed a right to it; who succeeded I do not find, but on the disso= lution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. a survey was taken of the living of Cob= ham in 1650, by order of the state, in which it was returned, that there was then in this parish neither parsonage nor vicarage presentative, but a composition made by the duke of Richmond with the minister for land inclosed in his park, and also sixteen pounds per annum, in all worth twenty eight pounds per annum; that the parsonage was an impropration; that the providing for the living was formerly in the lord Cob=

ham, but then in Mr. Alcock, owner of the impropriation; which was afterwards, with the presenta-

/f Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. Reg. Roff. p. 127. Tan. Mon. p. 536.

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tion to this church, alienated to Pemble, in which they continued till about the year 1794, when William Pemble, esq. sold the presentation to this church, now esteemed as a donative, to John earl of Darnley, the present owner of it, but he continues possessor of the impropriation, which consists of four-fifths of the tithes of this parish. In Ecton's Thesaurus, it is said to be a living not charged in the king's books, but it seems rather, as appears by a preceding page, to be valued at two pounds, and the yearly tenths at four shillings.

In the 36th year of king Edward III. John de Cobham, lord Cobham, founded a PERPETUAL CHANTRY or COLLEGE in the church of Cobham, for five priests or chaplains, making a college there, for the performing of divine services in it for ever, of whom one, on the resignation or death of the perpetual vicar of the church, the presentation of which belonged to the prior and convent of St. Saviour. Bermondsey, who possessed the appropriation of it, should be master of the chantry, and should preside over the college, and undertake the cure of the church, and support the burdens incumbent on the vicarage, and at the same time he amply endowed it with possessions and annual rents for ever, consisting of his manor of West Chalk and lands in this parish, and St. Werburgh Hoo, and several rents of corn from his tenants in Chalk; to which endowment was afterwards added the churches appropriate of Chalk, Horton Kirkby, and Rolvenden, in this county (which latter will be further mentioned) and the church of East Tilbury, and lands there, and in West Thurrock in Essex, and other lands in Luddesdowne, Halstow, and Cobham, in this county; and he gave them proper ordinances and statutes to be kept by them. At which time he sumptuously repaired the church, and gave to it several goods, books, vestments, and other ecclesiastical ornaments, which the above

/g Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 66. Reg. Roff. p. 239.

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prior and convent were bound to provide; all which was confirmed by William, then bishop of Rochester, with the consent of the archdeacon, by the prior and convent of Rochester, and the prior and convent of St. Saviour above mentioned, and by pope Urban V. by his bull for that purpose. Afterwards the lord Cobham being desirous of increasing the number of these chaplains with two more, and as the revenues of the college were not sufficient for it, he gave the church of Rolvenden to it, the revenues of which were at that time valued at sixty marcs, as those of the college were at two hundred marcs sterling, all which pope Urban VI. ratified, and he confirmed likewise the appropriation of that church to the use of the college, as did the bishop of Rochester, in 1387, at the lord Cobham's petition, and with the consent of the chaplains, added these two more in the college, who were to be temporal and amoveable, at the will of the master

and more discreet members of the college, and be supported out of the revenues of Rolvenden church; that they should not be incorporated in the college, nor enter the chapter, nor have a voice there, that they should receive one marc less than the other chaplains, and should not partake of any other part of the revenues of the college but what was specially assigned to them; and he decreed, that there should be two aquibajuli, who should serve in the church as sacrists, who should learn in the schools with the other scholars; and lastly, that the overplus of the yearly profits accruing from the church of Rolvenden, beyond the burthens above mentioned, should be laid up in the treasury, to answer such emergencies and accidents as might happen to the college; and William, archbishop of Canterbury, the prior and convent of Canterbury, and William de Pakyntone, archdeacon, confirmed and ratified the whole by their several instruments two years afterwards. In this situation the college or chantry re=

/h Reg. Roff. p. 234, et seq.

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mained till the reign of king Henry VIII. in the 27th year of which John Bayley, master, Thomas Webster, William Wharfe, and Sir John Norman, fellow, and Stephen Tennard, brother of this college, signed to the king's supremacy under their common seal; but about the 30th year of it, the master and brethren, foreseeing their approaching dissolution, with the king's consent, sold the scite of it, and all the lands and possessions belonging to it, to George lord Cobham. The college, at its dissolution, was valued at 142l. 1s. 2½d. in its whole value, and 128l. 1s. 9½d. clear per annum.

The house or college, in which the chaplains and members of this foundation inhabited, was a large quadrangular building, erected of stone, by the lord Cobham, and was situated almost adjoining the south-east part of the church yard; part of the east wall, overgrown with ivy, and large chimney pieces of the refectory or kitchen, as well as part of the north cloister, yet remain in ruins. The door way from it into the church is still visible, through which the master and brethren entered daily to their stalls, yet remaining on each side of the great chancel, to celebrate mass for the soul of the founder and his noble family.

WILLIAM TANNER was the first master of this college. He died June 22, 1418; and lies buried in this church.

JOHN GLADWIN lies buried in this church without date.

WILLIAM buried likewise here, his name obliterated.

JOHN SPROTTLE, obt. Oct. 25, 1498, and lies buried in this church.

JOHN ALANE, in 1501.

GEORGE CROMER, in 1519.

JOHN SPROTTE.

JOHN BAYLY, master at the dissolution of this college.

By a clause in the act of the 31st of king Henry VIII. by which all monasteries, colleges, and other religious and ecclesiastical houses, which had been surrendered since the 27th year of his reign, were vested in the

/i Rymer's Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 554. Tan. Mon. p. 226.

king, as well as by the act of 1st Edward VI. it was enacted, that nothing therein should be prejudicial to the lord Cobham, or to his heirs or assigns, but they might hold and enjoy the scite of this college or chantry, then utterly dissolved, and all its possessions, as well temporal as ecclesiastical, within the realm of England.

His son, Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, died possessed of this college and the possessions late belonging to it, in the 39th year of queen Elizabeth, and by his will, dated that year, devised to trustees, and to their heirs for ever, all the edifices and ruined buildings, soil, and ground, with their appurtenances in Cobham, late the scite of the above college, and lying on the south and south east part of the church there, with a close of pasture ground, containing three acres, adjoining on the south and south east of the buildings, to the end that they should re-edify and make there one college for poor people to inhabit, to be relieved and maintained there for ever, which he willed to be called, THE NEW COLLEGE OF COBHAM.

The poor in it to be in such number, so elected, weekly relieved, and by such rules and ordinances to be governed, and by such persons to be visited, corrected, and expelled, as he should in his life time prescribe in writing, or in default of such, then by those which by the discretion of his trustees, or the survivor of them, should be in writing set down and appointed, and if they should not be prescribed by him, that his trustees should perform and finish the same within three years after his decease, but if by them, then within four years after such his decease, and to that end he gave to them one hundred thousand of such burning bricks as should be within his park, and forty tons of timber, to be taken in any of his lands within the county of Kent, his park at Cobham and Cooleing excepted./k

/k Will proved May 23, 1597. Reg. Roff. p. 243.

Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, did not live to establish this foundation, so that his trustees and executors, Sir John Leveson, Tho. Fane, esq. and Wm. Lambarde, esq. proceeded after his death to the performance of his will in this matter, and having a considerable sum of money, viz. 2000l. left in their hands by the lord Cobham, to be employed by them in the re-edifying the buildings of this college, to contain twenty several lodgings, and in the purchasing of lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in fee simple, for the continual maintenance of poor persons to inhabit the same, according to the ordinances and rules as above mentioned; and they having already laid out 500l. on the re-edifying this college, and intending to purchase lands, as above mentioned, and to employ the profits for the use of the poor, according to the trust reposed in them, procured an act of parliament, in the 39th year of queen Elizabeth, for the perpetual continuance of this charitable trust for the good of the poor, by which it was enacted, that the wardens of the lands, contributory to Rochester bridge, and their successors, being with the commonalty of the same, a body politic

lawfully incorporate, having perpetual succession (which wardens were continually chosen of such persons as were of great estimation and credit in the county, who no doubt would be faithful and careful for the due execution and performance of so honourable and charitable a work) should from thenceforth be for ever called by the name, and be indeed, The Presidents of the New College of Cobham, and be a body corporate, and have perpetual succession by that name for ever; and that the said presidents and their successors should have a common seal for the use of the college, and should take and purchase, as well the said edifices, ruined buildings, ground and close, with the appurtenances, though the same were holden of the queen in chief, as any lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to them and their successors for ever, not exceeding 200l.

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per annum in the whole, not being holden of the queen in chief, and that the poor in the said college should be, from time to time, elected, relieved, maintained, governed, visited, and corrected and expelled, by such rules and ordinances as the trustees, or the survivors of them should, in their life time, set down and appoint; and in default of such, then in such manner as the presidents and their successors should from time to time, under their common seal, set down and appoint; all the buildings, lands, tenements, &c. to remain to the presidents and their successors, for the perpetual relief and maintenance of the poor in the college, and to none other use, end, or purpose whatsoever. After which, Sir John Leveson and William Lambarde, gent. two of the above trustees, being then wardens of the bridge, and withal presidents of this college, drew up certain rules and ordinances for the election, maintenance, &c. of the poor there, among which they ordained, that the number of poor persons to be perpetually sustained and lodged with in the college, should be twenty in all, married or unmarried, each taking 6s. 8d. in each month in the year. Of this number one, being a man, should be from time to time chosen, from any place whatsoever, without any restraint, and presented by the baron Cobham, for the time being, to be admitted and placed for a warden of this college; another, being a man also, should be from time to time chosen from any place whatsoever, without any restraint, by the presidents of the college, and their successors, and placed sub-warden of this college. The eighteen residue, being men or women, married or unmarried, should be chosen and drawn as follows, according to the above ordinances and rules:

From the parish of Cobham three poor inhabitants, upon the election of each of which, two persons should be chosen, one of whom should be selected by the baron of Cobham for the time being; and if the parish of Cobham should make default in such choice within

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the limited time, that then the parish of Chalk should have the benefit of such turn.

From the parish of Shorne two poor inhabitants, upon the election of each of which, two persons should be chosen, one of whom should be selected by the ba-

ron of Cobham; and in default, then the parish of Cooling should have the benefit.

From the parish of Cooling one poor inhabitant, upon the election of each of which two persons should be chosen, one whom to be selected by the baron of Cobham for the time being; and in default, the parish of Strood should have the benefit.

From the parish of Strood two poor inhabitants, and in default then they of Hoo should have the benefit.

From the parish of Werburg, alias Hoo, three poor inhabitants, and in default then they of Cliffe should have the benefit.

From the parish of Cliffe one poor inhabitant, and in default of such choice then they of Chalk should have the benefit.

From the parish of Chalk one poor person, and in default, then they of Gravesend should have the benefit.

From the parish of Gravesend one poor person, and in default then they of Cuckstone should have the benefit.

From the parish of Higham one poor person, and in default then they of St. Mary's Hoo should have the benefit.

From the parish of St. Mary's, within the hundred of Hoo, one poor person, and in default, then they of Cobham should have the benefit.

From the parish of Cuckstone one poor person, and in default then they of Halling should have the benefit.

From the parish of Halling one poor person, and in default of such choice then they of Higham should have the benefit of it.

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That the nominators and electors of the poor persons should be in each parish, the parson, vicar, or other daily incumbent, and residentiary within that parish, for celebrating divine service, &c. the churchwardens, sidemen, the collectors and overseers, for the time being, and the constables, petty constable, and borsholders, then inhabiting within such parish. The place of election to be with in such parish church or vestry, after evening service on a Sunday, of which notice should be given, as there in mentioned. That the then baron Cobham, and other heirs male after him, as should be barons Cobham, should be principal visitors of this college, and in default of heirs male the bishop of Rochester, and during the vacancy of that see the dean and chapter of Rochester to be the visitors. Besides which, other rules and ordinances were then made and set forth for the well ordering the demeanor and behaviour of the poor conversing in this college. In which state it now continues under the management of the wardens of Rochester bridge, for the time being, presidents of it, the clerk of the revenues of the bridge being the manager, clerk, and paymaster of the revenues of this college and the poor placed in it.

The present revenues of the college of Cobham consist of lands in Shorne, of the yearly rent of 63l. 10s. and of lands in Essex, of the yearly value of 48l. in all 111l. 10s.

Cobham college is a neat quadrangular stone build=

ing, built partly out of the former college and partly new, at the time of its new foundation. It contains twenty lodging rooms, with a large hall, having a screen at the entrance, and a raised floor at the upper end, as in other antient halls; at the corners of the large chimney piece are two shields, one a saltier in base, an escallop shell; the other, a Saracen's head, being one of the crests of Brooke. In the windows are the arms of the founder; over the south gate of the col=

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lege, next the gardens, are his arms, with twelve quarterings within the garter, and under it an inscription of the foundation./l

Dr. Thorpe, of Rochester, being elected one of the wardens of Rochester bridge, of course one of the presidents of this college, took indefatigable pains to restore it to the flourishing state in which he left it. He had the seals of the office of presidents re-engraved, with the arms of the founder properly blazoned on them, an engraving of which may be seen, in the next volume, among those belonging to Rochester bridge. In this parish there are some water works, originally erected by one of the Brookes, lords Cobham, for supplying the college, as well as the neighbouring inhabitants with water; these works being unendowed, through length of time and neglect, fell entirely to ruin, and continued so till 1778, and were then put into good and substantial repair by the care and assiduity of Mr. Richard Hayes of this parish, who met with no very grateful return from the several persons most interested in the benefit arising from them.

WLFWARDUS DE HOU, surnamed Henry, took upon himself the habit of a monk, in St. Andrew's priory in Rochester, for which he gave to the monks there his TITHES IN COBHAM; which gift was confirmed by Gilbert, bishop of Rochester, in the time of king Henry, and by several of his successors afterwards.

Ordiva, the grand daughter of Wlfward Henry, gave the tithe of her land in Cobham, called Bethene court, to the same priory./m These tithes continued in the possession of the priory of Rochester till the surrendry of it, together with its lands and possessions, into the hands of king Henry VIII. in the 32d year of his reign, who next year settled them, by his do=

/l See Regist. Roff. p. 244. Bibl. Top. Brit. No. 6, pt. i.
/m Text. Roff. p. 162. Reg. Roff. p. 47, 58, 87, 122, 528.

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tation charter, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance they continue at this time. The Brookes, lords Cobham, were for some years lessees of these tithes, under the dean and chapter. Afterwards, in the reign of king Charles I. Stephen Alcock, esq. of Rochester, held them in like manner. The present lessee of them, with other adjoining tithes in Shorne, belonging to the dean and chapter, is the Rt. Hon. Thomas lord Le Despencer.

CHURCH OF COBHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS OR MINISTERS.

Thomas Mudd, A. M./n

Matthew Rutten, A. M. Sept. 21,
1637./o

..... Priest, in 1700./p

..... Spencer, resigned 1713./q

William Pemble, 1723.

..... Painter, March 1730.

Richard Chapman, in 1733, obt.
1762./r

William Porter, A. M. July 1766,
ob. 1793./s

Thomas Pemble, esq. James Jones, Dec. 1793. Pre=
sent incumbent.

/n Twysden, MSS.

/o In the crown by lapse. Rymer's
Fœd. vol. xx. p. 209. He was master
of the King's school in Rochester, and
vicar of Boughton Monch. ob. 1685.

Boy's Sand. pt. i. App. p. 273.

/p Also rector of Hartley.

/q He was obliged to resign by arch=
bishop Atterbury.

/r He thought fit, in 1733, to get a
dispensation, to hold this as a vicarage
with his vicarage of Frindsbury.

/s I am informed he was instituted
as vicar.

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SHORNE.

NORTHWARD from Cobham lies Shorne, called
in the Textus Roffensis, Scorene, and in other antient
records, Sores and Schornes.

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THE PARISH of Shorne is about three miles in ex=
tent each way. The high road from London to Ro=
chester runs thro it, westward of which are the hamlets
of Lower Shorne and Shorne-green, where the ground
is low and flat; southward of the road it rises up to
the village of Shorne, through orchards and small in=
closures of elm trees; the church stands in the midst
of it, and at a quarter of a miles' distance northward,
a good house, which was for some generations the pro=
perty and residence of the family of Maplesden, se=
veral of whom lie buried in this church; they bore
for their arms, Sable, a cross fermee, fitchee, as appears
by the visitation of this county, in 1619, in which
there is a pedigree of this family, settled at different
times here and at Rochester, Maidstone, and Horse=
monden. The last of them, Jarvis Maplesden, esq.
died here about fourteen years ago, leaving his widow
surviving, and four daughters, one of whom married
Mr. Thomas Pemble, of Cobham; and the other,
Mr. Thomas Hartridge, of Leeds. Mrs. Mapleden
afterwards possessed this estate, and resided in it; there
is too in the village another house, lately built by
Mrs. Jane Ayerst, widow of Dr. William Ayerst, pre=
bendary of Canterbury, who died in 1777, and by
her will gave it, with her other estates in this parish,

to her only surviving son, the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst, the present owner of it. Westward of the village, are the hamlets of Shorne Isield and Thong, between which there is much rough ground or heath; and a little distance southward, the manor of Randall. About half a mile eastward from the church is the hamlet of Shorne Ridgway, north-eastward from which there is much hilly ground and coppice wood, which reaches to both sides of the London road, and there are still larger ones of the southern side of this parish, quite to the bounds of it, adjoining the old Roman road, leading from Shinglewell, by Cobham-park pales, to Rochester. The soil of this parish is

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in general a loam, rather fertile, which is still more so as it extends northward nearer to the marshes, where it is mostly a smooth plain surface; the air of this parish is not reckoned the most healthy, owing to its exposure and nearness to the large tract of marshes adjoining to the Thames. In 1796, a battery, mounting four twenty-four pounders, was erected in this parish, adjoining to the sea wall, for the better protection of his river.

IN THE 14th year of king Henry II. part of this parish was the king's demesne, for which, on the aid then collected, the sheriff paid into the exchequer the sum of 36s. 8d. and in the 33d year of that reign, four pounds was assessed on it in gross for tallage. At the latter end of that reign, Jordanus de Nevile held one knight's fee in Sornes, of Walter Fitzhelt, who held the same again of the king in capite. John de Nevile succeeded him in the possession of this place, and by his deed, now remaining in the Surrenden library, released and granted to Henry Cobeham, for homage and service, eighteen shillings rent, in the meadow of Boleham, which he held of him and his ancestors, as belonging to his manor of Sornes, to which deed there is the seal of John Neville appendant, being a shield with a chief indented. He passed away Shorne manor by deed of gift to Roger de Northwood, who was possessed of it in the 30th year of king Henry III. as appears by the Pipe roll of that year; he died possessed of it in the 13th year of king Edward I. holding it of the king in capite by the service of one knight's fee. His son, Sir John de Northwood, in the 21st year of that reign, claimed, and was allowed, free warren, and the usual privileges of a manor here; at which time the king brought a writ of right, and claimed this manor, but the jury gave it against him. After this, he claimed of Sir John,

/t Lib. Rub. Scacc. See more of the Nevills, under Birling.

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four marcs, and four pence annual rent, but the jury gave that likewise against him, finding that the rent belonged to the manor.

This Sir John de Northwood changed the tenure of his lands from gavelkind to knight's service, and afterwards, together with his son and grandson, accompanied that king in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and was sheriff of this county several times, and having

been summoned to parliament among the barons of this realm, /u he died shortly after possessed of this manor.

He was succeeded by his grandson, Roger de Northwood, who having been summoned to parliament in the 34th year of king Edward III. but no more, died next year, being then possessed of this manor, held of the king in capite by the service of carrying, together with others the king's tenants, a certain white standard towards Scotland, in the king's wars for forty days at his own expence.

This tenure was customary not only in England but elsewhere; for Selden, in his Titles of Honor, observes, out of Prelucius' Discourses upon the State of Poland, that in 1530, Albert, marquis of Brandenburg, received his investiture by the delivery of a banner, from the hands of Sigismund, king of Poland; and his brother George, at his being instated in that signory, by this ceremony, in his own and his brother's name to place his hands upon the banner; and when the above-mentioned banner was delivered to an heir, whose title was not free from controversy, he was only admitted, to touch the extreme parts of it. /x

He left by his wife Julian, daughter and coheir of Sir Geoffry de Saye, Sir John Northwood, his son and heir, but he never came into the possession of this manor, for Julian his mother, held it in dowry, and sur=

/u Harris's History of Kent, p. 283. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 70.

/x Philipott, p. 324. See Selden, p. 692.

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vived him. On her death Roger de Northwood succeeded to this manor, of which he died possessed, leaving Agnes, his wife, surviving, who had it assigned to her as part of her dowry. She afterwards married Christopher Shuckbrooke, and died possessed of it in the 6th year of king Henry IV. /y

After her death, the property of it came by sale to Sir Arnold Savage, of Bobbing, who had been sheriff of this county in the 5th and 9th years of king Richard II. and speaker of the house of commons in the 5th year of king Henry IV. and a privy counsellor. He died in the 12th year of the latter reign, possessed of this manor, which he held by the like service of carrying a standard, as above-mentioned. His son, Arnold Savage, died without issue, leaving Eleanor, his sister, his sole heir, who had been first married to Sir Reginald Cobham, by whom she had no issue, then the wife of William Clifford, esq. who in her right became entitled to the possession of this manor.

He was son of Sir Lewis Clifford, K. G. descended from the Cliffords, of Clifford's-castle, in Herefordshire, and served the office of sheriff of this county in the 13th of king Henry VI. His great grandson, Lewis Clifford, esq. passed it away by sale to Sir George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, /z who alienated it to George Brooke, lord Cobham, in the reign of Henry VIII. and his grandson, Henry, lord Cobham, being found guilty of treason in the 1st year of king James I. had judgment of death, but his execution was, through the king's clemency, superseded, though his estates became forfeited to the crown.

This manor of Shorne thus coming to the crown by the above attainder, was confirmed to it by an act passed in the 3d year of king James I. with a confirmation of all grants made by the king.

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 71. Rot. Esch. ejus an. See more of the Northwoods under Norwood in Milton.

/z Mr. Pettit's Fœdary Book of Kent.

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King James granted this manor to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, (son of that eminent statesman, William, lord Burleigh, by his second wife Mildred, daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke) who alienated it to Sir John Leveson, of Whorne's-place, whose eldest son dying without issue male, was succeeded in this and his other estates by his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, K. B. of Trentham, in Staffordshire, and he, in the reign of king Charles I. sold the manor of Shorne, as he did all the rest of his possessions in this county to different persons, to Mr. alderman George Woodyer, of Satis, in Rochester, who bore for his arms, Sable, three leopards heads in fess between nine fleurs de lis argent; whose descendant, William Woodyer, esq. of Shorne, died possessed of it in 1732, and by his will devised it to Mr. John Taylor, his sister's son, who bore the same arms as those of Maidstone and Shadoxhurst, and he conveyed it by sale in 1752 to Thomas Gordon, esq. of Rochester, whose sole daughter and heir carried it in marriage to her first cousin, William Gordon, esq. of Bully-hill, late member of parliament for that city, and sheriff of this county in 1763. He died possessed of this manor in 1776, leaving an only daughter and heir, and his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon, surviving, who is the present possessor of it.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor, the style of which is, the manor of Shorne with the hundred of Shamel appendant to it,

RANDALL, formerly called Roundall and Rundale, is a manor in this parish, which, though at present of little repute, was anciently of some note as being one of the seats of the noble family of Cobham, where they are said by some to have resided before they removed to Cobham-hall.

John de Cobham, lord of Cobham, possessed this manor in the reign of king Henry III. He left by his first wife two sons, John, who was ancestor of the Cobhams, of Cobham, and of Beluncle, and Henry, to

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whom he gave this manor of Rundale, who was commonly called le Uncle, to distinguish him from Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, son of his elder brother John.

He was several times sheriff of this county, and in the reign of king Edward I. was, with three others of his family, attendant on that king in his victorious expedition into Scotland. He died in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. and lies buried in this church, where his figure still remains on his tomb, armed in mail and cross-legged. He married Joane, the eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Stephen de Pencestre, by whom he had a son, Stephen de Cobham, who was of Rundale, and in the 34th year of

king Edward I. when prince Edward was knighted, with bathing and other sacred ceremonies, received, with many others, the like honor.

Upon the death of Joane his mother, in the 18th year of king Edward II. performing his fealty, he shared in the lands of her inheritance; and having been summoned to parliament among the barons of this realm, he died in the 6th year of king Edward III. possessed of this manor, with another, called Okington, in this parish, leaving John his son, and Avice his wife surviving, who held them for her life, and died in the 14th year of that reign, upon which John, their son, before-mentioned, became possessed of the manor of Roundale, with that of Okington, and dying in the 36th year of the same reign, was succeeded in them by Thomas de Cobham, his son, in whose descendants they remained till they were alienated to Wyatt, in which name they continued till Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Alyngton, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. sold, by way of exchange, to that king, among other premises, the manors of Randall and Okington, with their rights, members, and appurtenances./b

/a Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65. MSS. pedigree of Cobham.

/b Inrolments Augtn. off. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 8.

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King Henry VIII. in his 37th year, in consideration of other premises, granted the manor of Randall, to George lord Cobham, who had purchased of Sir Anthony St. Leger, in the 7th year of king Edward VI. the manor of Okington, to whom it had been granted by that king in his 4th year, to hold in capite by knights service. His grandson, Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, being found guilty of high treason in the 1st year of king James I. these, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, and were confirmed to it by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign, as has been already mentioned before.

After which, the manor of Randall, with many other estates of the lord Cobham in this neighbourhood, was granted by king James, in his 10th year, to his kinsman, Lodowick Stuart, duke of Lenox, afterwards created duke of Richmond. After which this manor descended in like manner as that of Cobham already more fully described before, to James, duke of Richmond, who died at Elsinour, in Denmark, in 1672, without issue, leaving Katherine his only sister his next heir, married first to Henry, lord Obrien, and secondly, to Sir Joseph Williamson. Soon after which last marriage, in 1695, all the estates of Charles, late duke of Richmond, in this county, were sold to pay debts, and for other purposes. At the time of the above sale, Captain Robert Porten purchased this manor, and died possessed of it in 1711, and lies buried in the Randall chancel in this church. He left the manor of Randall by will to Sarah Tanner, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Thomas Judd, and he alienated it to Dunn, who sold it to Stevenson, from whom it passed in like manner to Smith, who resided at Randall, and after some few years died there in 1752, intestate; upon which several claimants appeared, of which Mr. Henry Bennett, of West Smithfield, London, was the prin=

cipal, who, since the deaths of the others, became the

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sole owner. He left Elizabeth his wife surviving, after whose death it became the property of Walter Mitchell, esq. who about the year 1793 sold this manor to the right honourable John, earl of Darnley, the present possessor of it.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

TWO PLACES in the New College of Cobham are appropriated to two persons, inhabitants of this parish, at the election of each of which, according to the ordinances of the College, two persons are nominated by the parish, out of which two, the baron of Cobham for the time being is to select the one to be admitted and placed there. And if the parish of Cobham make default in electing to the college according to its privilege, then the benefit of it devolves on this parish.

MR. HENRY ADAMS, in 1738, by his will gave this parish, eleven pounds, to be paid yearly by the vicar, churchwardens, and common-councilmen of St. Dunstan in the west, London, to the churchwardens and overseers of this parish to be distributed by them for ever on St. Peter's-day, 10s. to the person, who comes for it for his pains, 10s. for a sermon on the day of his decease, yearly, and the remaining 10l. to be then bestowed at the direction of the churchwardens and overseers of Shorne, among the eldest and poorest of this parish, now of the annual produce of 7l. 15s. 6d.

RICHARD CHEYNE, esq. who died at Hackney, in 1625, gave by his will, to the parson and churchwardens of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, and their successors for ever, his marsh land at Westham, in Essex, then let at 13l. per annum, out of which they were directed by the will, among other legacies of the same kind, to other parishes, to pay 40s. per annum, by quarterly payments, to four poor men or women of this parish, now of the annual produce of 1l. 11s. 6d.

LADY ELEANOR PAGE, who died at Rochester in 1645, by her will directed her executor to bestow 50l. upon land, and cause the same to be conveyed to himself, or four or more substantial freeholders of this parish, and their heirs in trust, that they employed the yearly profits thereof towards the putting out such poor children of this parish, as the churchwardens and overseers of it, or the major part of them for the time being should appoint; and she further directed, that as often as only two of her feoffees should be remaining, that they should then convey the land to six, or more of the most substantial freeholders of this parish, and their heirs in like manner, as the said land was estated

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to them and others, so that neither he intention might be frustrated, nor the poor defrauded, now of the annual produce of 6l.

The Dean and Chapter of Rochester, in their lease of the great tythes, bound the lessee to distribute 10s. annually to the poor of this parish, vested in the minister, churchwardens, and overseers. These charities are entered in the register book of this parish, of which the above is an abstract.

SHORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The font is very curious and antient, of Bethersden

marble, it is octangular, the eight compartments round the bason being filled with sculptures of scriptural history. It is very similar to that in Southfleet church, and therefore probably of the same age./c

Among other monuments and memorials in it are the following: – In the chancel, a brass plate for Thomas Ellys, vicar of Shorne, obt. March 18, 1569; another, with the figure of a priest, for Wm. Pepyr, vicar of this church, obt. Jan. 31, 1468; a stone, with brass plates, arms on a bend three birds, a crescent for difference, impaling a fess dancette ermine, for George Page, gent. obt. 1639, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Somers, of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and had four sons and three daughters; on the north wall a large monument, with the arms argent, on a bend sable, three birds of the field membred gules, and seven other quarterings, for George Page, attorney at law, and Isabella, his wife, the parents of Sir William Page, he died in 1613, she died many years before him, and for Sir William Page, obt. 1625, his wife, Eleanor, daughter of Robert Edoph, esq. survived him, by whom he had no issue, she was a charitable benefactor to this parish as has been mentioned before, their four figures are placed on the monument. In the nave, a brass plate and figure of a man, for John Smyth, obt. 1437; another for Edmund Page, gent. late of Shorne, obt. 1550, leaving by Eleanor his wife, five sons and two daughters; northward of it is the figure of a woman in brass, and inscription for Elynor Allen, only daughter and heir of John Hearnden, gent. of Shorne, married first to Edmund Page, and afterwards to John Allen, gent. she had by her first husband eight sons and five daughters, obt. 1583; another for George Haysden, gent. of Shorne, obt. 1670, leaving two sons and a daughter; a like for Thomas Sharpe, attorney at law, obt. 1493. – In the

/c There are plates and descriptions of both in the Custumale Roffense.

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chancel south of the rectory, formerly belonging to the manor of Roundal, (which, on the attainder of Henry, lord Cobham, devolved to the parish, and has been repaired by them at no small expence ever since) in the north-east corner, on an altar monument, raised about a foot from the ground, is the portraiture of Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, armed in mail and cross legged, and on the margin of the stone an inscription in French, in very antient capital letters for Sir Henry de Cobham, lord of Rondale; a brass plate for John Herenden, gent, obt. 1527, whose daughter and heir married Edmund another for Thomas, son of Edmund Page, obt. 1558; eastward of this a stone, with these arms, a tower with three turrets, and on each a fane, impaling on a fess a lion passant guardant, between three cross-crosets fitchy, for Eizad, wife of Captain Robert Porten, of the manor of Randall, obt. 1704, and for Captain Robert Porten, of this parish, mariner, obt. 1711. – In the chancel north of the rectory, a brass plate and figure of a man and woman, for John Smith, and Marian his wife, he died in 1457; a grave-stone, arms, a cross fitchy, for Captain Jarvis Maplesden, obt. 1681; another, the like arms, for Mr. Jarvis Maplesden, obt. 1707; another, like, for Mr. Jarvis Maplesden, obt. 1717. In the church-yard, on the north side of the church, is a large tomb-stone, which covers a vault, in which lie buried the family of Baynard./d

On the west side of the road, opposite Mrs. Maplesden's house, are the ruins of an antient structure, supposed to have been those of a chapel or oratory, from a stone coffin and many human bones having been dug up in making the foundation for the contiguous build-

ing, but there is no evidence remaining relating to it, either of what it has been, or by whom founded.

The church of Shorne, with that of Cobham appendant to it, was given by king Henry I. in the 33d year of his reign, to the monastery of St. Saviour of Bermondsey, which gift was confirmed by Walter, bishop of Rochester, as he had granted to the monks a parsonage in these churches, he granted licence, that the vicars serving yearly in them, who should answer to the bishop and his officials, for the cure of souls in them. Which appropriation was confirmed to them

/d See the monuments and inscriptions in this church at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 759. /e Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 640.

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by Laurence bishop Becket, and the priory and convent of Rochester, in 1246 and 1270; in which last year the prior and convent of Bermondsey acknowledged themselves to be bound to pay to the bishop and his successors, yearly for ever, from their churches of Cobham and Schorne four marcs. Afterwards the priory of Bermondsey paid a pension of four pounds yearly to the bishop and his successors, for the above churches, with that of Birling and of Kemsing cum Seale added to them, as appears by the bishop's registers.

By an antient valuation, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Shorne was valued at thirty-six marcs, and the vicarage at ten marcs, and in the 20th year of Edward III. at the like sum./f

This church remained with the priory till the dissolution of it, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the lands and possessions belonging to it, surrendered into that king's hands; which was confirmed by the general words of the act of the 31st of that reign.

The church of Shorne remained in the hands of the crown till the 36th year of king Henry VIII. when that king by his instrument, under his privy seal, granted this rectory appropriate, and advowson of the vicarage, to the dean and chapter of Rochester, in exchange for the manor of Southfleet, in this county; on which account the original tenth payable by the dean and chapter, on their foundation, which was 115l. was altered, and as Shorne parsonage was esteemed 9l. 6s. per annum more in value than Southfleet manor, that sum was added, and they now pay 125l. 6s.

On the sequestration of the lands and possessions of all deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I. this parsonage was, in 1649, surveyed by order of the state, when it was returned, that the parsonage, with

/f Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. Tan. Mon. p. 203.

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the barn, yard, &c. containing two roods, and all the tithes, were worth of improved rent 110l. per annum, all which premises were let by the late dean and chapter, anno 16 king Charles II. to Edmond Page, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds, and five quarters of wheat, and the lessee was bound to pay to the vicar two quarters of wheat and three quarters of barley, valued at 6l. 12s. and to discharge the

pension of twenty shillings due to the bishop of Rochester, and his successors, and to discharge the dean and chapter and their successors of ten shillings yearly, to be distributed among the several poor inhabitants of Shorne, and for the finding of green rushes for the church every Easter, so that the rectory was worth, over and above all reprises, the yearly sum of 72l. 18s. out of which lease the vicarage, worth 50l. per annum, was excepted./g

By another survey, taken in 1650, of the vicarage of Shorne, it was returned, that it was presentative by the late dean and chapter, worth sixty pounds per annum, Mr. George Blutworth then incumbent, under the sequestration of colonel James Temple, Mr. Blutworth receiving the profits of it.

On the restoration of king Charles II. and the re-establishment of the dean and chapter, they again took possession of this parsonage and advowson, the inheritance of which continues vested in them. The Pages were formerly lessees of this parsonage, afterwards the Baynards, of Rochester. The present lessee is Mrs. Jane Baynard, of that city.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 13l. 1s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 6s. 2d.

The two quarters of wheat, and three quarters of barley, before-mentioned, are paid yearly to the vicar by the tenant of the parsonage, by a covenant in his lease from the dean and chapter.

/g Parl. Surv. Lamb. lib. vol. xiv. Ect. Thes. p. 383.

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William Pepyr, vicar of this church, who died in 1468, left by his will to his successors the house in which he dwelt, on condition that they should not sue his executors for the reparation of the vicarage, and Thomas Page, of this parish, by his will in 1495, invested in the vicar and his trustees, his tenement, called Normans, in Upper Shorne, for a dwelling-house for the vicar and his successors./h

GILBERT DE GLANVIL, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Henry II. confirmed to the church of Rochester, the tithes of Rundale and Thuange, (now Thong) which had been given to them by Smalman, of Shorne.

Henry, of Tuange, likewise confirmed this gift of his grandfather to them, as did several of the succeeding bishops of Rochester, which portion of tithes lying in Shorne, Cobham, and Chalk, in the 15th year of king Edward I. was taxed at seven marcs. It remained in the possession of the priory of Rochester till the dissolution of it, when it was, together with all its lands and possessions, surrendered into the hands of king Henry VIII. in the 32d year of his reign, who presently afterwards, in his 33d year, settled this portion of tithes, by his dotation charter, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. there was a survey taken of this portion of tithes in 1649, by order of the state, when it was returned, that it consisted of a barn and barn-yard, called Mounken barn, lying at Thong, in this parish, with all portion of tithes of corn and

grain, arising in the parishes of Shorne and Chalk, as had been antiently used and accustomed; and also all manner of tithes due out of the manor of Beeching-court, and of a croft called Idley lands, and certain lands in Cobham, worth twelve pounds per annum, all

/h Lib. 4. f. 50. Archiv. Roff. Ibid. lib. 5. f. 273.

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which premises were let anno 11 king Charles I. by the dean and chapter, to Sir George Fane, for the term of twenty-one years at the rent of four pounds and two good capons, or five shillings yearly.

On the restoration of king Charles II. in the year 1660, the dean and chapter of Rochester repossessed themselves of this portion of tithes, the inheritance of which continues vested in them. The present lessee of it being the right honorable Thomas, lord Le Despencer.

CHURCH OF SHORNE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Priory of Rochester Sir Thomas, in the reign of king Henry III./i

William Pepyr, obt. Jan. 31, 1468.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Thomas Ellys, obt. March 18, 1569./k

William Franlyn, A. M. in 1630./l

Tobias Swinden, A. M. 1724./m

Caleb Parfect, A. M. presented in 1733, ob. Sept. 21, 1770./n

John Law, A. M. presented in 1770, resigned 1776./o

Peter Pinnell, A. M. Nov. 1776, obt. Aug. 16, 1783./p

Henry Jones, A. M. Nov. 1783, the present vicar./q

/i Reg. Roff. p. 664.

/k He lies buried, as does his predecessor, in the chancel of this church.

/l MSS. Twysden.

/m Also rector of Cookstone.

/n He published several religious tracts and sermons. In 1733 a dispensation passed for his holding this vicarage with the rectory of Cookstone.

/o Archdeacon of Rochester, and rector of West Mill, in Herefordshire.

/p Prebendary of Rochester, and vicar of Eltham. He resigned the rectory of Bermondsey, in Southwark, on being presented to Shorne.

/q A minor canon of Rochester.

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CHALK.

THE next parish northward from Shorne is Chalk, written in Domesday, Celca, and in the Textus Roffensis, Celca and Cealces. This place takes its name from its chalky and flinty soil, cealc, in Saxon, signifying a chalk stone.

THE PARISH of Chalk is situated twenty-four miles from London; its extent, from north to south, is about two miles, and from east to west, a mile and an half. The southern part of it is very hilly, the northern, a level flat surface; the inclosures are in general large; the soil is fertile, being mostly a loam, with some chalk, though not much of it. It contains about seventeen hundred acres, forty houses, and two hundred and thirty inhabitants. The southern part is arable, the northern, marsh land, containing about two-thirds of the parish, bounded northward by the river Thames, and is called Chalk and Denton level, being under the direction of the commission of sewers, held for the purpose at Rochester. The high London road passes through it, on which, at the western boundary, is the village of West Chalk, usually called Chalk-street, where the road divides; that to the northward, by the edge of the marshes, through the hamlet of East Chalk, towards Higham, Cliff, and the hundred of Hoo; the other strait on to Rochester. About a mile eastward, near the road, is the church, standing alone on the brow of the hill; below which, about a mile northward in the low country, is the hamlet of East Chalk, standing close to the marshes, which extend from thence to the Thames; its contiguity to so large an extent of marshes, to which its situation is wholly exposed, makes it accounted very unhealthy, and much subject to agues, particularly in autumn. A fair is held here on Whit Monday.

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In Chalk-street are several flint-knappers, who manufacture the best gun flints in England, or perhaps in Europe, great quantities of them being-exported to foreign parts.

Chalk was part of those vast possessions with which king William the Conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, and it is accordingly thus entered in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

Adam holds Chalk of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is seven carucates. In demesne there are two, and 14 villeins, with six borderers, having five carucates. There is a church and four servants, and one mill of five shillings, and 16 acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth seven pounds, and afterwards 100 shillings, now 10 pounds, and yet he who holds it pays 14 pounds. Of this manor, there is as much in the king's hands as is worth seven shillings, of a new grant of the bishop. The bishop retained in his hand, in the city of Rochester, three houses, which are worth 50 pence. In exesse there is one hide, which of right belongs to this manor. Goduin, son of Dudeman, held it; now Rannulf Peurel holds it.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, his estates were all confiscated

to the crown, and among them this of Chalk. After which, the manor of Chalk became divided into moieties, one of which was called East, and the other West Chalk.

In the reign of Henry III. the MANOR OF EAST CHALK was in the possession of John de Burgo, son and heir of Hubert de Burgo, chief justicier of England and earl of Kent, who held it in right of his wife, daughter of William de Lanvaley, and he gave it, in the 55th year of that reign, to the monks of the priory of Bermondsey, in Southwark./r

/r Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 641. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 700.

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In the 21st year of king Edward I. the king, by his writ of right, claimed this manor, but the jury gave it for the prior, in which year also a Quo warranto was brought against the prior for claiming to hold pleas of the crown, to have free warren, a market, fair, gallows, and waif, in East Chalk, &c. and the prior disclaimed his having any right to the same, therefore they remained to the king. In Lib. Assis. 29 Edward III. No. 70, may be seen the pleas between the prior of Norwich and the prior of Bermondsey, concerning this manor of East Chalk, which afterwards continued part of the possessions of the above monastery, till the final surrendry of it, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. two years before the general dissolution of monasteries, by which this manor, together with the rest of its lands and possessions, came into the king's hands, and was confirmed to him and his heirs, by the general words of the act, of the 31st year of his reign. That year, the king granted this manor to George Brook, lord Cobham, to hold in capite by knights service./s His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being convicted of high treason in the 1st year of king James I. this, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, and was confirmed to it by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign; after which it was granted to Sir John Brooke, of Heckington, in Lincolnshire, second son of Sir Henry Brooke, alias Cobham, fifth son of George lord Cobham above mentioned, who likewise became possessed of the other moiety, called the MANOR OF WEST CHALK, alias WEST COURT, which was in the reign of Henry III. in the possession of the family of Neville. In the 22d of which reign, John, son of Hugh de Neville, let to ferme to John de Cobham his manor of

/s Tan. Mon. p. 339. Pat. 32 king Edw. III. p. 3. m. 11. pro maner de East Chalk. Rapin, vol. i. p. 817. Augm. Off. Inrolments, A. 24. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. i.

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West Chalk for six years, at the yearly rent of 20l. sterling, and the said John paid then the first three years rent in hand, and covenanted, that at the end of the term he would give the same up, both ploughed and sowed, in the same manner as he received it, and stocked, with six oxen of the price of nine shillings each, and one hundred and forty-seven sheep of nine-pence each, and fourteen geese, &c./t After which John de Neville granted and confirmed the same, with its ap=

purtenances, to John de Cobham and his heirs for ever. In the 21st year of king Edward I. the king, by his writ of right, claimed this manor against John de Cobham, grandson of the above mentioned John, but he producing Hugh, son of the above John de Neville, as his vouchee, then under age, the same was respited till he should attain such age. His grandson, Sir John de Cobham, lord of Cobham, in the 17th year of king Edward III. obtained a charter for free warren within all his demesne lands within his lordship of Chalke, among others. He died about, or soon after the 34th year of that reign, being then possessed of this manor, leaving one son, John de Cobham, who the year after his father's death, founded the chantry or college of Cobham, and gave this manor to it, and also the rent of twenty-one quarters and three bushels of barley, payable by several of his tenants in Chalk, as part of his revenues with which he endowed it.

This manor remained part of the possessions of this college till the reign of king Henry VIII. about the 30th year of which, the master and brethren of it foreseeing their approaching dissolution, sold it, with all the lands and possessions belonging to it, with the king's consent, to George lord Cobham, who was

^t The original lease in the Surrenden library.

^u Pat. 42 Edw. III. p. i. m. 28, pro ten in Est Chalk, ptin colleg de Cobham. See pat. 4 Rich. II. p. l. m. 21.

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confirmed in the possession of it by a clause in the act of the 31st of that reign. Soon after which it seems that this manor was granted, by lord Cobham, to king Henry VIII. and it continued in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted it to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, &c. who, within a few weeks afterwards, re-granted it to the king, in exchange for lands in other counties.

This manor came afterwards into the possession of Sir John Brooke, possessor also of that of East Chalk, as above mentioned, who was created by Charles I. in his 20th year, baron of Cobham, in consideration of his loyalty and sufferings. He alienated both these manors to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, who died possessed of them in 1655, leaving one son, Esme, who died an infant at Paris, in 1660: and a daughter, Mary. On which these manors, with the rest of the duke's estates in this county, as well as his titles, came to Charles Stuart, son of George Stuart, lord Aubigny, the duke's younger brother; after whose death, without issue, in 1672, all his estates in this county were, in 1695, sold, to pay debts and for other purposes. The manors of East and West Chalk, with the duke's other estates in this parish, consisting of upwards of seven hundred acres of land, were purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, who had married Catherine, only sister and next heir of the last duke, and widow of Henry lord Obrien. He resided at Cobham-hall, and died possessed of them in 1701, and by his will bequeathed two thirds of them, among the rest of his estates in this county, to the lady Catherine his wife, and the other third to Mr. Joseph

Hornsby, on lady Catherine O'Brien's death, next year, two thirds of these manors, with the rest of the lands so purchased by Sir Joseph, in this parish, de=

/w See a further account of the Stuarts, and of the subsequent title of these estates, under Cobham.

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scended to Edward lord Clifton and Cornbury (son of Edward lord Cornbury, afterwards earls of Clarendon, and Catherine his wife, the only daughter and heir of the lady Catherine Stuart above mentioned, by her first husband, Henry lord O'Brien) and on his death, without issue, in 1713, to his only surviving sister and heir, the lady Theodosia Hyde, who soon afterwards carried her interest in them, in marriage, to John Bligh, esq. who was afterwards created earl of Darnley, &c.

The other third part of these manors and estates, on the decease of Mr. Joseph Hornsby, became vested in his widow; and after several vexatious litigations, they were put up to sale before a master of chancery, when the earl entered into a contract for the whole of them. He died in 1728, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Edward earl of Darnley, who, in compliance with a decree of the court, completed the above purchase, left unfinished by his father. He died possessed of the entire fee of these manors and estates in 1747, unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother, John earl of Darnley, who died in 1781, and his son, the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, is the present owner of the manors of East and West Chalk, and other estates in this parish, as above mentioned.

There was formerly a manor in this parish, called BEKELE, and afterwards BECCLES, which was part of the vast possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, and half brother to the Conqueror, under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in the survey of Domesday:

The same Adam holds Bichelei of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is half a carucate. In demesne there is half a carucate, and one villein, with half a carucate and two borderers. There is a mill of five shillings. Ulbuin held it of earl Leuvin. In the time of king Edward the confessor it was worth 10 shillings, now 15 shillings.

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On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, this manor, with the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown. After which the manor of Bekele came into the illustrious family of Cobham, of Cobham, in this county. John, the eldest son of John de Cobham, by his first wife, daughter of Warine Fitz Benedict, died possessed of it in the 28th year of king Edward I. His grandson, John, son of Henry de Cobham, in the 17th year of king Edward III. obtained a charter for free warren within all his demesne land within this manor, among others; and died possessed of it in the 36th year of that reign; as did his son, John de Cobham, lord Cobham, in the 9th year of king Henry IV. without male issue; after which it descended down, in like

manner as Cobham and the rest of the estates of this great family, by a female heir, in marriage, to Sir Tho. Brooke, of Somersetshire, who was in her right lord Cobham, though he never received summons to parliament. His descendant, Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, being attainted of high treason in the 1st year of king James I. forfeited this manor, and the rest of his estates, to the crown, to which they were confirmed by an act passed for that purpose two years afterwards. From which time I find no further mention of this manor, nor has the name of it been known in this parish for many years, so that in all probability coming to the crown, with the manors of East and West Chalk, it became blended with them, and was included in the grant made of them to Lodowick, duke of Lenox, in the 10th year of that reign, and has descended in the same tract of ownership to the present possessor of them, the Rt. Hon. John earl of Darnley.

RAYNEHURST and TYMBERWOOD are two manors in this parish, which, with two estates in it, called Fel-

/x Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65. Rot. Esch. ejus ann.

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borow/y and Clam-lane, were part of the revenue of the eminent family of Cobham. Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, held them, as appears by Kirkby's Inquest, in the 9th year of king Edward I. as did John de Cobham, in the 36th year of king Edward III. and in this family and its descendants they continued till the reign of king Henry VI. and then they are mentioned by an old survey of Chalk, to be in the possession of Brent, in which they remained till the 8th year of Henry VII. when John Brent, esq. conveyed them, as appears by a fine levied in that year, to Sir Henry Wyatt, whose son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII./z granted the manors of Raynhurst and Tymberwood, with all other his lands and possessions in this parish, among others elsewhere, to the king, in exchange for other premises. After which, the fee simple of these manors and estates, for there had been several terms/a of them granted to different persons, remained in the crown; and Sir Peter Manwood, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, became possessed of the then subsisting term of the manor of Tymberwood, with the estates of Clam-lane and Felborough, and passed away his interest in them to Mendfield, who alienated it to Mr. James Crispe, but the fee simple of them, together with that of the manor of Raynhurst, still remained in the crown, till Charles I. in the year 1630, passed it away to the city of London, whence it was conveyed by sale that year to Mr. James Crispe above mentioned, who devised these manors and estates by his will to his two sons, Thomas and James Crispe./b

/y This farm lies somewhat more than half a mile distant northward from Chalk church.

/z Inrolled in Augmentation Off. on the 20th of July following.

/a Patric. of Grants, temp. queen Eliz. in Augm. Off. Roll 3, No. 37, 62. Roll 7, No. 5. Roll 2, No. 33, 34, 36, 37. Roll 3, No. 55, Roll 4, No. 6. Roll 7, No. 15, 16. Roll 8, No. 44. Roll 2, No. 39; and Roll 5, No. 20.

/b Fee farm rolls, temp. interreg. in Aug. Off. Philipott, p. 97.

The manors of Raynehurst and Tymberwood, with Clam-lane and Felborough, passed afterwards into the possession of Francis Cottington, esq. of Fonthill-abey, in Wiltshire, the son of Francis, and grandson of Maurice Cottington, brother of Francis lord Cottington, sons of Philip Cottington, of Godmanston, in Somerseshire. Lord Cottington dying without issue, his nephew Francis became his heir; they bore for their arms, Azure, a fess between three roses or. He died possessed of them in the year 1728; as did his son, Francis Cottington, esq. in 1760; after whose death they were alienated to Mr. John Jenkinson, who sold the estates of Clam-lane and Felborough to Robert Maxwell, earl of Farnham, who died possessed of them in 1779, without male issue, leaving an only daughter, lady Harriet Maxwell, who, next year, carried these estates in marriage to Dennis Daly, esq. of the kingdom of Ireland; but the manor of Rainhurst was sold to Brown, whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Brown is the present owner of it; and the manor of Timberwood was alienated to Day; whose descendant, Mr. David Day is the present possessor of it.

CHARITIES.

THE PARISH of Chalk has a right of nomination in the New college of Cobham, for one poor person, inhabitant of this parish, to be chosen and presented as the ordinances of the college direct, and if the parish of Cliffe makes default in their turn, then the benefit devolves to this parish.

HENRY WHITE, of this parish, who lies buried in the church yard of St. Mary's, Hoo, gave, in 1622, to be given yearly to the poor of this parish, on the Saturday before Christmas day, by the church wardens, an annuity of 1l. payable out of Eastwick marsh, in Egypt level, vested in the churchwardens, and of that annual produce.

JAMES FRY gave by will, in 1710, for the education of ten poor boys in Gravesend, Milton, and Chalk, of which two should be sent by the churchwardens from this parish, a yearly annuity out of lands, vested in the mayor, &c. of Gravesend, the amount in money being 14l. 10s.

CHALK is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The

church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, seems to be of great antiquity. It consists of two isles and two chancels, having a square tower at the west end, in which are three bells. The porch of this church is remarkable for its strange and whimsical ornaments, a taste which often recurs in Gothic architecture, as may be seen in many of the Gothic buildings of churches in various parts of the kingdom. These chimerical sculptures convey little, if any, meaning or design, and appear to have been merely the effects of rude caprice and the fantastical humour of the architects; but here the artist has indulged his sportive fancy in a manner much too loose and absurd for a sacred building. On the crown of the arch, at the entrance, is the figure of a man, in the character of a jolly, tipling fellow, holding a jug with both hands, and looking up with a most expressive laughing countenance to a grotesque figure,

in the attitude of a posture master or tumbler, above the centre of the moulding, as if pleased with his tricks and performances, and about to drink to him. Between these figures in a niche, or recess, ornamented with a neat painted Gothic arch and roses, in which formerly stood the image of the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated. The impropriety, if not indecency, of its being placed between two such ludicrous figures one would think could not escape the observation, and of course excite the disgust of the congregation, who as good Catholics usually made their reverence when they approached it./c

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church, in the chancel is a memorial for Henry Roy, vicar of Chalk, obt. Feb. 1, 1646; another for Edward Dering, and Elizabeth his wife, he died 1698. In the nave, a brass plate for Wm. Martyn, obt. 1416, and Isabella his wife. He was a good benefactor to this church, as appeared in Weever's time, as well in the glass of the windows as in other parts of the fabric./d

/c Mr. Thorpe published a drawing of it in his Kentish Antiquities, inserted in Bibl. Top. Brit. No. VI. pt. i.

/d See monuments and inscriptions more at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 747.

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The church of Chalk antiently belonged to the benedictine priory of Norwich,/e and in the 15th year of king Edward I. was valued at thirty marcs.

It was appropriated to the above priory by Hamo, bishop of Rochester, with the consent of his convent, in 1327, reserving nevertheless a perpetual vicarage in it, on the death or cession of the rector, and a competent portion for the same to be decreed by him, or his successor, bishop of Rochester, for the time being. To which vicarage the prior and his successors, patrons of this church should, as well the first time as afterwards, whenever it should become vacant, present to the bishop and his successors for ever, and saving to him and them canonical obedience, on account of this church, as well in visitation as other episcopal rights and customs in it, and also to the prior and chapter of Rochester, and their successors, the portion of tithes which they and their predecessors had, and then did take, from ancient time, within this parish, the names of which, and the manner of taking the same, the bishop thought fit to insert as they appeared to him, not only by a solemn inquisition then taken, but by other lawful documents, all which the reader may see printed at large, in the Registrum Roffense. At the same time, the bishop, by another instrument, endowed this vicarage, and decreed, that the house of the rectory of the church, and all tithes of sheaves whatsoever, as well those arising from land dug with the foot, as those cultivated with the plough, and of all kind of corn, and also of hay, together with ten acres of arable land, and four acres of land in the marsh, and the tithes of rushes belonging to the church, should belong for the future to the religious, to whom this church was appropriated, and that they should receive and have the houses, and tithes of sheaves, with the land aforesaid, in all future times for their portion, which the bishop, as far as re=

/e Plac. apud Westm. 20 Edw. I. Rot. 59 and 77. Tan. Mon.

lated to the said tithes, and other burthens to be sustained, taxed at twenty marcs sterling; with which portion the religious being content, should assign a competent scite for the buildings of the vicarage, to be built by the vicar, for which they should pay him one hundred shillings within one year; and that the burthens of finding books and new vestments, not belonging to the parishioners (except in surplices and rochets) they should undergo, and take upon them, and the upholding and repairing of the chancel of the church, and the houses belonging to the vicarage. And he decreed, that all tithes of rushes and of lambs, wool, calves, the produce of the dairy, pigs, geese, flax, hemp, mills, pidgeons, silva cedua, eggs, fruits, trees, curtilages, bees, and fisheries, gardens, pannage, herbage, fowlings, merchandizings, and all personal tithes and oblations of whatsoever things, and howsoever to be made in the said church, and all other small tithes howsoever belonging, and accruing to it, and not above assigned to the religious, should fully belong to the vicar, and his successors in the vicarage, and remain as his portion, which the bishop, as to the payment of tenths, and the undergoing of other burthens incumbent on him, taxed at ten marcs sterling; but that the vicar for the time being should pay the dues to the bishop, and the procuration of the archdeacon, and should find and provide at his own costs, bread and wine for the altar, wax, and processions, and other necessary lights in the chancel of the church, and the usual ministers in the same, and also rochets and surplices, and should sustain and keep up at his own cost the buildings of the vicarage, and should cause the books to be bound, and the vestments to be washed, mended, repaired, and renewed decently, as often as need should require; but all their ordinary burthens, not specified above (and if they were extraordinary, the vicar should wholly bear them, according to the value of his portion) as well the religious as the vicar,

should take upon them, and undergo, according to the above taxation, /f &c.

In the year 1379, the prior and convent of Norwich exchanged this church with the master of the college of Cobham, for the church of Martham, in Norfolk. The above endowment, at the petition of the master and confreres of that college, patrons of this church, and of John Long, perpetual vicar of it, was confirmed and ratified by William, bishop of Rochester, in 1391, as it was by the prior and convent and by the archdeacon of Rochester.

It appears by the bishop of Rochester's registers, that the annual pension paid to the bishop, from the master, &c. of Cobham college, for the churches of Chalk and Horton, appropriated to that college, was thirteen shillings and four-pence.

This church remained part of the possessions of the college of Cobham till the reign of king Henry VIII. about the 30th year of which, the master and brethren of it, foreseeing their approaching dissolution, sold their

college, and all the lands and possessions belonging to it, with the king's consent, to George lord Cobham, and by a clause in the act of the 31st of that reign, the possession of it was confirmed to him. Lord Cobham, in the 32d year of it, conveyed to the king the parsonage of Chalk (subject to the yearly payment of 9s. 6d. to the bishop, and 6s. 8d. to the archdeacon) the church, and advowson of it, in exchange for other premises.

Queen Elizabeth, in her first year, granted this rectory to Robert Edmonds, to hold in capite by knight's service, in the 11th year of which reign it was purchased by John Mabb, who next year sold it to John Sleright and Jane his wife; and they, in the 25th year of it, passed it away by sale to Sir Roger Man-

Reg Roff. p. 204, 205. Tan. Mon. p. 339.

In Easter term, anno 17 queen Elizabeth, he levied a fine of this rectory.

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wood, whose son, Sir Peter Manwood appears, in the next reign of king James I. to have been possessed of the advowson, though it could be but for a term, for at the latter end of the reign of king Charles I. it was again in the crown. After his death, on the dissolution of all deans and chapters, &c. there was a survey taken, by order of the state, in 1650, of the parsonage and vicarage of Chalk, by which it was returned, that the vicarage was formerly in the gift of the king, worth forty pounds per annum, Mr. Matthew Darby, minister; that the parsonage and impropriation was in the hands of Mr. Thomas Wellards, who paid therefrom yearly, to the lady Vane, ninety pounds.

The king still continues patron of this vicarage, which is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of forty pounds, the yearly tenths of which are, 12s. 4½d.

KING HENRY I. gave to the church of St. Andrew, and the monks there, a portion of tithes in this parish, which was confirmed by king Henry II. by several of the succeeding bishops of Rochester, and others. The several lands from whence these tithes arose are printed in the Registrum Roffense, as mentioned above, in the appropriation of this church to the priory of Norwich, by bishop Hamo, in 1327.

This portion of tithes in Shorne, Chalk, and Cobham, was in the reign of king Edward I. taxed at 14l. 13s. 4d. These tithes remained in the possession of the priory of Rochester till the dissolution of it, when the same was surrendered into the hands of king Henry VIII. in the 32d year of his reign; who, in his 33d year, by his dotation charter, settled this portion on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it continues at this time, the present lessee of it being the Right Hon. Thomas lord Le Despencer.

See an account of the survey taken of this portion of tithes, under Shorne.

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CHURCH OF CHALK.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and Convent of Norwich Hugh de Cressingham, anno 22d
king Edward I./i

John de Kokermuthe, in 1316./k
Sir Peter de Vernoun, in 1327./l

VICARS.

Master of the college of Cobham John Long, in 1391./m
The Queen. John Smith, clerk, February 25,
1556./n

Richard Brotherton, 1575./o

Laurence Daykin, in 1592.

Thomas Bell, in 1604.

Henry Roy, A. M. in 1606, obt.

Feb. 1. 1646./p

John Walpole, in 1647.

Matthew Darby, in 1650.

John Buck, in 1664.

George Wren, 1669.

John Hughes, in 1680.

Thomas Shewell, in 1702.

Robert Sandilands, in 1705.

Arthur Robinson, in 1711.

John Colson, A. M. inst. Sept. 10,

1733./q

John Price, A. M. 1740./r

John Doleman, A. M. obt. 1774.

William Crackelt, Octob. 1774.

Present vicar./s

/i He was likewise parson of Dod=
dington. Prynne, p. 597.

/k Reg. Roff. p. 113.

/l Ibid. p. 203.

/m Ibid. p. 205.

/n Rym. Fæd. vol. xv. p. 439.

/o Ibid. vol. xvi. p. 743.

/p He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

/q He was F. R. S. and mathemati=
cal professor at Cambridge.

/r Also vicar of Halling, by dispen=
sation, in 1740.

/s And rector of Ifield and Nutsted.

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DENTON NEAR GRAVESEND.

NORTHWARD from Chalk lies Denton, called
in the Textus Roffensis, Denitune, and in Domesday,
Danitone, which name it is supposed to take from its
having been the habitation of the Danes, i.e. Dane

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town. It is now usually called Lower Denton, from
its low situation near the marshes, and also Denton near
Gravesend, to distinguish it from Denton near Eleham,
in this county.

THIS PARISH lies on the east side of the road, lead=
ing from Chalk-street to Gravesend, from which it
is distant about a mile. It is but small, being in ex=
tent, from north to south, less than two miles, and in

breadth only half a mile. It contains about four hundred and thirty acres of land, of which one hundred are marsh land; its contiguity to the marshes makes the air very unhealthy. The surface is exceedingly flat, the soil a good fertile mould towards the north, and light and chalky towards the south; there are but two houses in it, one of which is the Court-lodge; the other the parsonage, lately built by Mr. Nicholas Gilbee (lessee under Mrs. Bevan) is a very handsome house, in which he resides.

It was given, whilst Ælfstan was bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 945, and died in 984, to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, as two plough lands, by one Birtrick of Meopham, with the consent of Elfswithe his wife, by his last testament; and being wrested from that church in the troublesome times, which soon afterwards followed, by reason of the Danish wars, was afterwards seized on by king Harold, and on the accession of William the Conqueror, was by him given, among other possessions of that church, to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother; but archbishop Lanfranc recovered it again, in the solemn assembly, held on this occasion, at Pinenden-heath, in 1076, and afterwards restored it to bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew, which gift was afterwards confirmed by archbishop Anselm, and several of his successors.

/t Stevens's Monast. vol. ii. p. 336, et seq.

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In the survey of Domesday, Denton is thus described under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Danitone. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor at two sulings, and now for half a suling. The arable land is two carucates. In demesne there is one, and six villeins, having there one carucate. There is a church and four servants, and four acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 15 hogs. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, it was worth 100 shillings, and now seven pounds and fifteen shillings.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was elected to that see in the time of the Conqueror, having, after the example of archbishop Lanfranc, divided the revenues of his church between himself and his convent, allotted the manor of Denton, with the church of it, to the share of the monks, to the use of their refectory, which was confirmed by several of the succeeding kings and archbishops of Canterbury./v

On bishop Gilbert de Glanvill's coming to the see of Rochester, in 1185, he claimed this manor with its appendages, as belonging to the maintenance of his table, and the monks were forced to submit themselves entirely to his clemency and award. In consequence of which, though he wrested the church of Denton from them, yet they continued in the possession of the manor, and its other appendages, till the dissolution of their priory in the reign of king Henry VIII.

In the 7th year of Edward I. the bishop claimed certain liberties by the grant of king Henry I. in all his

lands and fees, and others by antient custom, in the lands of the priory of Denton, and in all other lands belonging to his church; and he claimed gallows, as= size of bread and ale, tumbrel, pillory, chattels of fu=

/v Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 29. vol. iii. p. 1, 4. Reg. Roff. p. 5, 38, 44, 46.

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gitives, and condemned persons, with year and waste of those lands, and all amerciements of the tenants of his church of Rochester, all which were allowed him by the jury, and they were confirmed by letters of in= speximus by king Edward III. in his 30th year.

In the 21st year of the same reign, upon a Quo war= ranto, the prior of Rochester claimed, that he and his predecessors had in the parish of Denton, among others, view of frank pledge, and all matters belong= ing to it, from the time whereof the memory of man said not, and that these liberties had been used with= out interruption, all which were allowed him by the jury, &c. that as to pleas of the crown, a market, fair, gallows, amerciements of his own and his tenants, wrecks at sea, chattels of condemned and fugitive per= sons in the above parishes, he had not, nor did he claim them; but as to free warren, he claimed it by grant of king Henry I. but the jury found that neither he nor his predecessors had used the said warren in any of them, therefore it was adjudged that these parishes should remain without that liberty. In the 15th year of king Edward I. the manor of Denton was taxed at 6l. 13s. yearly value./u

On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the 32d year of the reign of king Henry VIII. this manor was, together with the other possessions of it, surren= dered into the king's hands, who presently after, in his 33d year, settled it, with its appurtenances, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it continues at this time, the present lessee of it being Tho. Barrett, esq. of Lee, in Ickham. There has not been any court held for this manor for many years.

Gilbert de Tunbridge, son of Richard, about the year 1100, restored to the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, their lands, which were within his lowy of

/u Reg. Roff. p. 62, 108, 111, 113, 590, 663.

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Tunbridge, viz. Unpringeberi near Burne, which be= longed to Frendesbury and Dudichinesdene, which lay at Denton, both manors belonging to them, to hold the same freely and quietly for ever.

This parish, among others in this neighbourhood, was antiently contributory to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

DENTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDIC= TION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which was dedicated to St. Mary, was but a small building of one isle, with a chancel and bell tower. It stood on a bank, close to the road side; the whole has been some time in ruins, though it was not so in the Kilburns time, in the middle of the last cen= tury; soon after which, service being discontinued in

it, the materials were taken down and sold, or otherwise disposed of. The outside walls, for the most part, yet remain, having the buildings of the adjoining farm yard built up against the north side of it. On the south east human bones have at times been dug up where the cemetery was, now part of the farm-yard.

Although the church of Denton was given with the manor, by bishop Gundulph, to the monks of St. Andrew, yet bishop Gilbert de Glanvill resumed the possession of it, and reunited it to the see of Rochester, as has been already mentioned. It antiently paid ninepence chrisn rent to the mother church of the diocese, as one of the churches within it, though in the time of king Edward II. it seems to have been esteemed only as a chapel, for bishop Thomas de Woldham, by his will, in 1316, being the 10th year of that reign, bequeathed eight marcs to the poor of the chapel of Denton; and there is no mention of it in the king's books, perhaps as being at that time only esteemed as a curacy.

By an antient valuation, among the registers of the bishop of Rochester, of the churches, &c. belonging to that see, this of Dentone was valued at six marcs.

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On the abolishing of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. a survey was taken, in 1650, of this parsonage, by order of the state, when it was returned, that Denton was a small parish, having but two houses in it, and but one farm near it; that it was a parsonage impropriate, belonging to the late bishop of Rochester, worth twenty-six pounds per annum. /w In which state it remains at this time, the parsonage continuing part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester. Mrs. Bevan is the present lessee of it. It pays all church dues and duties to that of Chalk.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in 1091, granted, with the assent of archbishop Anselm, to the monks of St. Andrew's, that they should have and retain the tithes arising, as well from the food of their cattle as from their agriculture, within their manors situated within his diocese, viz. in Denton and in others, to the use of their refectory, which gift was confirmed by archbishop Theobald, the prior and convent of Canterbury, and by several succeeding bishops of Rochester; Henry bishop of Rochester, likewise confirmed the same, and further granted and confirmed to them the small tithes, together with the other tithes arising from their manors and demesnes within his diocese, and in their other manors, according to former custom, used before his time. All which was confirmed by Richard, bishop of Rochester in 1280, who at the same time, at the instance of the prior and convent of Rochester, made a solemn inquisition, by which it appeared, upon the oaths of those then sworn, among other matters, that in the manor of Denton the parish church did take, and took of antient time, in the name of tithe, the 30th sheaf only of every kind of corn, but of other small tithes, as well as of the mills and hay in this and their other manors therein mentioned, the parish church did not, nor ever used to take any thing; and he de=

/w Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

creed, that this parish church should be content with the said 30th sheaf of every kind of corn only, and that the monks should have and retain for ever all other tithes, both great and small, by whatever names they were called, in all their manors and places within his diocese, the tithes of sheaves, &c. in each of them, as particularly mentioned in his instrument only excepted. All which was confirmed to them (as well as the former grants of bishops Walter, Gilbert, and Henry) by John archbishop of Canterbury, by his letters of inspeximus, in 1281.

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MERSTON.

EASTWARD from Denton lies Merston, written in the Textus Roffensis, Merestune. This place takes its name from its situation, being flat and low, where the soil is naturally marshy. It is now grown so obscure as hardly to be known to any one to have been a parish.

THE PARISH of Merston is now esteemed as part of the parish of Shorne, as to its civil jurisdiction, though as to its ecclesiastical state it still continues a separate parish. It has been assessed as part of Shorne, to the maintenance of the poor there, from the time of queen Elizabeth, as appears by the parish books. It lies at a small distance northward from the high London road at Gadshill, in the flat vale below it, and contains only one hundred and fifty acres of land, the soil of which is very fertile. As early as king Henry VI.'s reign this little parish seems to have been entirely destitute of inhabitants. The state of it, at the latter end of the last century, and even at this time, for it continues much the same, may be seen from the following description of it, taken mostly from the registers of the bishops of Rochester.

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The parish of Merston contains about one hundred and fifty acres, and bounds to the parish of Shorne on three sides, and to that of Higham on the fourth. The place where the church once stood is now a wood, containing four or five acres, called Chapel wood, belonging to Green farm, situated almost in a direct line between the churches of Shorne and Higham, and not far westward from Shorne-green. Within this wood is a deep ditch or intrenchment, which seems to have been antiently a fortification; it is a square, containing about three acres, the sides of which lie according to the cardinal points of the compass; within it are many risings and inequalities, which might perhaps have been the foundations of buildings. In the eastern part of it, about fifteen paces from the ditch, seems to have been the scite of the church, some ruins of which are still remaining, by which it appears to have been fifteen paces long and seven broad; about ten rods southward from the west end of this scite is a very deep draw well. There is now no way or path remaining leading to this place but over the ploughed or pasture grounds.

MERSTON, alias GREEN MANOR, in the reign of king Henry III. was the property of John de Banstede, /x

but in the next reign of king Edward I. it was come into the possession of Robert de Sancto Claro, or St. Clere, who held it as one knight's fee of Warine de Montchensie./y

In the reign of Edward III. the manor of Mereston was the estate of Sir Hugh Fitzsymond, who, in the 20th year of that reign, paid respective aid for it, as one knight's fee, which Robert de St. Clere held here of Warine de Montchensie. After this family was extinct here, this manor came into the name of Smith, in which it remained till the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was alienated to John Jor=

/x Book of Knights Fees, temp. Henry III. and Edward I.

/y Ibid. temp. Edw. I. in the Remembrancer's office, Excheq.

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den./z who conveyed it by sale to Anthony Tuitisham, esq. and he sold it in that reign to George Brooke, lord Cobham, whose grandson, Sir John Brooke, (second son of Sir Henry Brooke, alias Cobham, fifth son of the above George lord Cobham) afterwards became possessed of it, and was, by king Charles I. in his 20th year, created baron of Cobham, in consideration of his loyalty and sufferings. He alienated this manor by the name of the manor of Green, alias Merston, to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, who died possessed of it in 1655, in whose family it continued down to Charles duke of Richmond, who died possessed of it in 1672, without issue, leaving Catherine, his only sister, his next heir, who married first Henry lord O'Brien; and secondly Sir Joseph Williamson. Soon after which, in 1695, this among the rest of the late duke of Richmond's estates, was sold to pay his debts, and for other purposes; at which time this estate, which had lost even the reputation of being a manor, and was commonly known by the name of Green-farm, was purchased by Sir Joseph Williamson, since which it has passed, in the same succession of owners, in like manner as Cobham-hall, to the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS DANYE, of Shorne, by will in 1493, gave ten acres of land, lying together in the parish of Merston, to trustees, for the distribution of herrings, white and red, for ever in Lent.

MERSTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop, is as such in the deanry of Shoreham.

The church, which was dedicated to St. Giles, was formerly esteemed but as a chapel to the church of Shorne, as appears by the Textus Roffensis.

/z Mr. Petyt Fœdary of Kent his book. Philipott, p. 190.

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It has been long in ruins, probably soon after the reign of king Henry VI. The scite of it is still visible, and has been already described before. In the year 1455 there were no inhabitants remaining here, and as it was probable the church would in future continue without parishioners, and the income of this benefice

being worth no more than thirty shillings coibs. annis, which was not a sufficient maintenance for any chaplain, and there having been no parsonage house, or manor house of the patron, or any other for a number of years before, therefore John, then bishop of Rochester, granted his licence to John Hedon, chaplain, rector of this church, that he for the furture should not be obliged to reside or exercise the cure of souls here, till parishioners should resort hither to dwell, who would most likely be willing and able to provide a sufficient maintenance for him; and further, that he might freely and lawfully receive, posses, and retain for his maintenance any ecclesiastical stipend, service, or salary, either for a certain time, or perpetual, with cure or without. But as the church was then standing, the bishop enjoined, that he, or some one for him, should celebrate mass and other divine offices yearly in it, on the feast of St. Giles, confessor and abbot, in whose honor it was dedicated, and in the mean time, that he should cause it to be decently repaired.

This church, as a chapel, antiently paid nine-pence chrim-rent to the mother church of the diocese. In 1650, the rectory of it was valued at fourteen pounds per annum./a

It is valued in the king's books at 2l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 5s. 4d.

The patronage of this rectory has been many years in the crown.

/a Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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CHURCH OF MERSTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

John Hedon, in 1455./b

Haut Wyatt, Aug. 28, 1630, ob.

July 31, 1638./c

Thomas Wall, A. B. 1638./d

Thomas Plume, S. T. P.

Ralph Brookes, Feb. 1729.

John Brett, 1767, the present rector.

/b Reg. Roff. p. 498.

/c He was also vicar of Boxley, where he lies buried. He was presented by the lord keeper (Regi pleno jure spect) on the death of the last incumbent. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 263.

/d Ibid. vol. xix. p. 113.

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HIGHAM.

THE next parish northward from Merston is HIGHAM, which in antient records is variously written Hecham, Hegham, and Heahham.

It was from the reign of king Stephen till about the reign of king Edward III. frequently called Lillechurch, alias Higham; the former of which names it took from a manor or ville in this parish, where a priory was built, but in later times it seems to have been called by

its former name of Higham only, that of Lillechurch being entirely omitted.

THIS PARISH is situated on the north side of the London high road, nearly opposite to Shorne. It lies low adjoining to the marshes, the river Thames being its northern boundary, of course the air is very unhealthy, and much subject to intermittents, a fatality which attends in general all those parishes, which lie on the north side of the high London road as far as Canterbury, and thence again to the uplands of the Isle of Thanet. Higham is about four miles in extent from north-west to south-east, and but little more

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than a mile in breadth. The surface is flat, and the soil in general very fertile, excepting towards the eastern part of it, where it is high ground and light land. The village and church stand close to, and entirely exposed to the marshes, which comprehend nearly one half of the parish. The nunnery, now called the Abbey, was situated not far from the east end of the church, where the farm-house, of which the sides and back part are built of stone, with windows of a gothic form, discovers marks of some antiquity, and seems to have been a part of the abbey, but it is supposed to have been only a part of some of the offices, there being in the field on the south side many appearances of foundations, and contiguous to the farm-yard there remains some part of the thick stone wall covered with ivy, being the inclosure of the abbey, and was carried quite round the yard. About a mile from the church, near the road to Cliff, is Lillechurch-house, where the priory or abbey of Higham, as it is now called, is supposed to have been first erected; behind the garden of which, in a field called Church-place, many human bones have been found. At the east end of the parish, in the road from Frindsbury to Cliff, is the estate of Mockbeggar, and on the summit of the hill southward, The mansion of Hermitage, below which, in the flat country, at an equal distance from the church, is the manor and hamlet of Higham-ridgeway, a name plainly derived from the antient causeway through it, leading towards the river. Plautius, the Roman general, under the emperor Claudius, in the year of Christ, 43, is said to have passed the river Thames from Essex into Kent, near the mouth of it, with his army, in pursuit of the flying Britons, who being acquainted with the firm and fordable places of the river, passed it easily. This passage is considered to have been

^{/e} There are two views of these remains engraved in the *Cusumale Roffense*, p. 122. ^{/f} *Dion. Cassius*, lib. 9.

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from East Tilbury, in Essex, across the river to Higham. Between these places there was a ferry on the river for many ages after, the method of intercourse between the two counties of Kent and Essex for all these parts, and it continued so till the dissolution of the abbey here; before which time, Higham was likewise the place for shipping and unshipping corn and goods in great quantities from this part of the county to and from London and elsewhere. The probability of this having been a

frequented ford or passage in the time of the Romans, is strengthened by the visible remains of the raised causeway, or road, near thirty feet wide, leading from the Thames side through the marshes by Higham, southward to this ridgeway before-mentioned, and thence across the London high road on Gads-hill to Shorne ridgeway, about half a mile beyond which it joins the Roman Watling-street-road, near the entrance into Cobham park.

In the pleas of the crown in the 21st year of king Edward I. the prioress of the nunnery of Higham was found liable to maintain a bridge and causeway that led from Higham down to the river Thames, in order to give the better and easier passage to such as would ferry from hence over into Essex.

This parish, among others in this neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge, as the manor of Okely was to the fourth pier of it./h

In queen Elizabeth's reign there was a fort or bulwark at Higham for the defence of the river Thames, under the direction of a captain, soldiers, &c./i

HIGHAM was part of the possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands, it is thus entered in the book of Domesday, taken in the year 1080.

/g By Dr. Thorpe, Dr. Plott, and others.

/h Lamb. Per. 424, 421. /i Peck's desid. Cur. B. II. p. 13.

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The same Adam holds Hecham of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at 5 sulings. The arable land is 12 carucates. In demesne there are 3 carucates, and 24 villeins, with 12 borderers having 6 carucates and an half. There are 20 servants, and 30 acres of meadow. There is a church, and 1 mill of 10 shillings, and a fishery of 3 shillings, and in Exesse pasture for 200 sheep. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth 12 pounds, and afterwards 6 pounds, now 15 pounds.

In the time of king Edward, Goduin, the son of Carli and Toli, held this land for two manors.

These were the two manors of Higham and Lillechurch, which on the disgrace of bishop Odo, about four years afterwards, were with the rest of his estates, confiscated to the crown, where they remained till king Stephen, together with Matilda his queen, in the 14th year of his reign, gave them by the name of the manor of Lillechurch, with its appurtenances, under which name both manors seem then to have been comprehended, being part of her inheritance, with other premises, to William de Ipre, in exchange for the manor of Fauresham.

KING STEPHEN afterwards founded a NUNNERY, of the Benedictine order, at Lillechurch in Higham,/k to which his daughter, the princess Mary, as is mentioned in a deed, retired cum monialibus suis quas tanquam in proprietate sua recepit./l She afterwards became abbess of Rumsey.

After the death of king Stephen, William de Ipre above mentioned, earl of Kent, was, with the rest of the Flemish, of whom he was principal, forced to

abandon this kingdom, and their estates were all seized, by which this manor came again to the crown; but in the 6th year of king John, the nuns gave the king one hundred pounds for his grant of the manor of Lille=

/k Tanner says, in the year 1151. Monast. p. 214.

/l Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. Additions, p. 13.

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cherche; after which, king Henry III. in his 11th year, granted and confirmed to the abbey of St. Mary of Sulpice, in Bourges, and to the prioress and nuns of Lillecherche, that manor, in pure and perpetual alms, with all its appurtenances, and all liberties and free customs belonging to it, by which it should seem that this house had then some dependence on that abbey; and he further granted to the prioress and nuns, to have one fair at Lillecherche for three days yearly, on the day of St. Michael, and two days afterwards; and that they should possess them, and in like manner as the grant, which they had of his father, king John, plainly testified./m

King Henry, in his 50th year, granted to the prioress and nuns of Lillechurch an exemption from the suit they were yearly used to make at his court of the honor of Boloigne, at St. Martin the Great in London, for their demesne lands in the manor of Lillecherche.

King Edward I. in his 16th year, confirmed the above fair to the prioress and nuns there.

This monastery was subject to the visitation of the bishops of Rochester; and accordingly Hamo de Heth, bishop of Rochester, in 1320, visited it, and professed eight nuns here; as he did again in 1328, when he buried Joane de Hadloe, prioress of this house, and he afterwards confirmed Maud de Colcestre prioress in her place, at Greenwich. At what time this priory was removed from Lillechurch, where it was certainly first built, to where the ruins are still visible, near the pre= sent church of Higham, is no where mentioned, nor is there any clue leading to discover it. That it was so those ruins, as well as the change of the name of it, are convincing proofs; nor is there any thing further worth mentioning relating to it till king Henry VII.'s reign, at which time the manors of Higham and Lil= lecherche, with their lands and appurtenances, conti=

/m Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 528. Rot. Cart. ejus ann. No. 8.

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nued in the possession of the prioress; in the 17th year of which reign, this house was become almost deserted, for it appeared then, on the election of a prioress, that there were only a sub-prioress and two nuns belonging to it, though there had been in former times sixteen belonging to it. Soon after which, in 1548, Marga= ret, countess of Richmond and Derby, having begun the foundation of St. John's college, in Cambridge, died, and left her executors to carry on the design; one of these was John Fisher, bishop of Rochester, who being himself a learned man, and greatly anxious for the increase of learning, obtained licence of king Henry VIII. to dissolve this monastery with that of Bromhall, in Berkshire, that the lands and revenues of them might be annexed towards the better support and

maintenance of the above college./n Accordingly, about the year 1521, these nunneries were dissolved,/o and, with their revenues, were surrendered into the hands of the crown; three years after which, the master and fellows of that college obtained, at the instance of bishop Fisher, of the king and pope Clement VII. these priories, with their appurtenances, to be transferred and confirmed for ever to their college,/p where the inheritance of the scite of this priory, or abbey as it is now called, the manor and church of Higham, with the manor of Lillichurch, and the rest of the lands and revenues belonging to it here and elsewhere, continue at this time. The lease of these manors, with the scite of the abbey, and the lands in this parish belonging to it, were some years ago purchased by Mr. Rich. Hornsby, of Horton Kirkby in this county, of Mr. Tho. Peake.

/n Fide's Life of Wolsey, p. 312. Tan. Mon. p. 215. Patent 20 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 29, vol. 30, pro ten. in Higham. Patent 50 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 19, pro ten. in Shorne. Patent 16 Richard II. p. 1. m. 32, pro terris in Heyham.

/o According to Willis, this house was dissolved Oct. 1, 1522. Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. Additions, p. 14.

/p The instrument bears date May 19, 1523. Reg. Roff. p. 418.

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Mr. Hornsby died possessed of it within these few years, since which his interest in this estate has been sold to Mr. Thomas Williams and Mr. Thomas Smith, gent. of Dartford, the former of whom sold it to Mr. John Prebble, who is the present lessee of them.

PRIORESSES OF HIGHAM.

MARY, daughter of king Stephen, first prioress./q

ALICIA, Named in several charters.

JOANE,

ACELINA, anno 50 king Henry III./r

AMPHELICIA, anno 16 king Edward I.

MATILDA, succeeded anno 17 king Edward I.

JOANE DE HADLOE, obt. anno 3 king Edward III./s

MAUD DE COLCESTRE, chosen in her room./t

ELIZABETH, or ISABEL, anno 18 and 31 king Edward III

CECILIA, anno 38 and 52 of the same reign.

JOANE DE COBEHAM, anno 15 and 18 of king Richard II

JOANE SOANE, succeeded anno 19 of the same reign.

ALICE PECKHAM, anno 7 king Henry V.

ISABEL, anno 25 king Henry VI.

ELIZABETA BRADFORTH, resig. anno 17 king Henry VII./u

AGNES SWAINE, succeeded./w

MARGARET HILDERDEN, anno 4 king Henry VIII.

ANCHORET UNGOTHORPE, alias OWGLETHORPE, anno 6

king Henry VIII. She died Jan. 31, anno 12 of the same reign, after which there was not another prioress elected.

GREAT and LITTLE OKELY are two reputed manors in this parish, which derive their name from ac, or ake, an oak, and ley, a field, in Saxon, Aclea, a place in which there is plenty of oaks. In the reign of king John, John le Brun held half a knight's fee in Acle, of William de Clovile, as he did of Warine de Montchensie./x

/q This list is mostly taken from Willis's Mit. Abb. Add. p. 14.

/r Dugdale's Mon. vol i. p. 529.

/s Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 369. /t Ibid.
/u Reg. Roff. p. 414. At which time Agnes Water was sub-
prioress.
/w The conven<t> at this time consisted of two nuns, of whom
this Agnes was one, and a sub-prioress.
/x Book of Knights Fees, in the Exchequer.

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In the 7th year of Edward I. both these estates were in the possession of William de St. Clere, /y the former being held, as half a knight's fee, of Warine de Montchensie, as of his manor of Swanecombe; and the latter, as half a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester. Soon after which these estates were possessed by two different branches of this family: Great Okeley descended to Nicholas de St. Clere, from whom it passed to Walter Neile, who, as well as his descendants, were lessess to the abbey of Higham, for great part of their possessions in this parish. One of his descendants, in the reign of king Henry VII. alienated it to John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, in this county, one of the auditors of the exchequer to that prince, whose descendant, Sir Charles Sedley, /z bart. in the reign of king Charles II. passed away this manor by sale to Mr. Shales, of Portsmouth, who not long afterwards sold it to Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, in this county, whose descendant the Right Hon. Peter lord Gwydir is the present possessor of it.

LITTLE OKELEY manor descended from William de St. Clere, who possessed it, as has been before-mentioned, in the 7th year of king Edward I. to Nicholas de Clere, and from him to John de St. Clere, who paid respective aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. at making the Black Prince a knight, as half a knight's fee, held of the bishop of Rochester. From this family it passed, after some intermission, to that of Cholmeley; one of whom, Sir Roger Cholmeley of London, died possessed of this manor, and left it to one of his daughters and coheirs, among other premises. She married Mr. Beckwith, by whom she had one son, Roger, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Frances, She afterwards married Christopher Kenne, esq. of Kenne, in Somersetshire, who was possessed of it in her right, anno 22

/y Rot. de Inquis. de Fœd. Milt. anno 7 Edward I.
/z See more of this family, under Aylesford and Southfleet.

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queen Elizabeth; and then, having levied a fine of it, sold it to Thompson; and he, in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it to Best, who passed it away by sale to Sir Charles Sedley, bart. from whom it went the same way to Farnham Aldersey, one of whose descendants sold it to Mr. Wm. Gates, gent. of Rochester, on whose death, in 1768, it came to his son of the same name, and his eldest son, Mr. George Gates, attorney at law and town clerk of Rochester, died possessed of it s. p. in 1792, and his sisters are now entitled to it.

There are no courts held for either Great or Little Okeley manors.

THE HERMITAGE is a pleasant seat in this parish, situated at almost the south-east extremity of it, about

a mile northward from the London road to Dover. It stands on a hill, and commands a most extensive prospect both of the Medway and Thames, the Channel below the Nore, and a vast tract of country both in Kent and Essex.

This seat was new built by Sir Francis Head, bart. who inclosed a park round it (since disparted) and greatly improved the adjoining grounds. He resided here, and died possessed of it, with the manor of Higham Ridgway, and other estates in this parish, in 1768, and was buried in a vault in Higham church. He was descended from Richard Head, of Rochester, who by Anne, daughter of William Hartridge, of Cranbrooke, in this county, had issue four sons; of whom Richard, the second, was advanced to the dignity of a baronet, on June 19, 1676. He had three wives, first, Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Francis Merrick, alderman of Rochester, by whom he had three sons; Francis, of whom hereafter; Henry, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Summers, esq. and Merrick, D. D. who married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dixon, D. D. prebendary of Rochester, by whom he left a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Theophilus Delangle; Dr. Head was rector of Leyborne and Ulcombe, in this county, and died in 1686,

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and lies buried in Leyborne church – And also one daughter, Elizabeth, married to Sir Robert Faunce, of Maidstone, in this county. Secondly, Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Mr. Willey, of Wrotham, by whom he had one son, Henry, who married the daughter and coheir of John Dawes, merchant, of London, by whom he had Dawes Head, ancestor of the present baronet, now in Virginia; and also two daughters, Jane, first married to Herbert Price, esq. and afterwards to John Boys, esq. of Hode; and Frances, first married to Thomas Poley, esq. and afterwards to Adam Lawry, of Rochester. Thirdly, Anne, daughter of William Kingsley, D. D. archdeacon of Canterbury, and relict of John Boys, esq. by whom he had no issue.

Sir Richard Head above mentioned, served several times in parliament for the city of Rochester. He died in 1689, and lies buried in Rochester cathedral, having been a good benefactor to the poor of St. Nicholas's parish, in that city.

Francis Head, esq. barrister at law, eldest son of Sir Richard, married Sarah, only daughter of Sir Geo. Ent, of London, M. D. who afterwards married Sir Paul Barrett, by whom he had six children. He died in his father's life time, in 1678, and was buried in the chancel of St. Margaret's church, Rochester; and by his will gave his house, pleasantly situated in St. Margaret's, to that see, for the residence of the bishop and his successors. Only two of his children survived him, viz. Sarah, married to John Lynch, esq. of Groves; and a son, Francis, who succeeded his grandfather in titles and estate, and resided at Canterbury. He married Margaret, daughter and coheir of James Smithbye, esq. by whom he had six sons and three daughters; he died, and was buried in St. Mildred's church, in Canterbury, in 1716. Of the above chil-

dren, only four sons and one daughter survived him, viz. Sir Richard, his successor, who died unmarried,

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in 1721; Sir Francis, of whom hereafter; James Head, esq. barrister at law, who died unmarried in 1727, and was buried at Ickham, in this county; and Sir John Head, bart. who was D. D. and prebendary and archdeacon of Canterbury, and succeeded his brother, Sir Francis, but died in 1769, without surviving issue, though he was twice married; first, to Jane, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Peter Leigh, by whom he had several children, who all died before him; secondly, in 1751, Jane, sister of Wm. Geekie, D. D. prebendary of Canterbury, who survived him, but by whom he had no issue.

Anne, the surviving daughter of Sir Francis Head, married William Egerton, LL. D. prebendary of Canterbury, and grandson of the earl of Bridgewater.

Sir Francis Head, bart. the son, succeeded his brother Richard in title and in this estate, and having new built the seat, resided here, as above mentioned.

The arms borne by the family of Head were, Argent, a chevron ermines, between three unicorns heads, coupé sable.^{/a}

Sir Francis last mentioned, married Mary, daughter and sole heir of Sir William Boys, M. D. (by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Paul Barrett, sergeant at law, who married the widow of Francis Head, esq. the eldest son of the first baronet) by whom he had three daughters and coheirs; Mary Wilhelmina, married in 1753, to the Hon. Harry Roper, eldest son of Henry lord Teynham, and died, s. p. in 1758; Anne Gabriel, married first to Moses Mendez, esq. by whom she had two sons, Francis and James, who both took the name of Head, and will be hereafter noticed; and a daughter, who became a nun professed in France; and secondly, in 1760, to the Hon. John Roper, next brother to Harry Roper above mentioned, by whom she had no issue, and died in 1771; and Eliza=

^{/a} Collins's Baronetage, edit. 1741, vol. iv. p. 498, et seq.

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beth Campbell, married to the Rev. Dr. Lill, of Ireland, since deceased, by whom she had one son, Francis, and three daughters.

On the death of Sir Francis, this seat, with the manor of Higham, Ridgway, and other estates in this parish, devolved, by settlement, to his widow, lady Head, who died in 1792, and was buried in the same vault with her late husband; and this seat, and the manor and estates above mentioned, descended by settlement, one fourth part to the widow of Francis Head, esq. (daughter of Mr. Egerton) re-married to colonel Andrew Cowell, of the Guards, as guardian to her only daughter by Mr. Head; another fourth part to James Roper Head, esq. his younger brother, who married Miss Burgess, and now resides at the Hermitage; and the remaining half part, or moiety, to Elizabeth Campbell, the widow of Dr. Lill; in which divisions the property of these estates remain vested at this time.

SIR ANTHONY ST. LEGER, in the reign of king Edward VI. was possessed of an estate, called the BROOKES, being marsh lands, with other lands in Higham; all which, in the 4th year of that reign, he conveyed to the king. This estate afterwards came into the possession of the Stuarts, dukes of Richmond, from whom it is now come, in like manner as Cobham hall, to the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present possessor of it.

CHARITIES.

THIS PARISH of Higham has a right of nomination to one place in the New College of Cobham, for one poor person, inhabitant of this parish, to be chosen and presented so, and by such as the ordinances of the college have power to present and elect for this parish; and if the parish of Halling make default in their turn, then the benefit of election devolves on this parish.

THOMAS SHAVE gave by will, in 1655, two dozen of bread to the poor of this parish, to be disposed of every Sunday; for which purpose he settled the Sun-house, with the yard, and three acres and three roods of land, now vested in the minister and churchwardens, feoffees in trust, and of the annual produce of 7l.

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HIGHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of two isles and two chancels, with a flat tower, having two bells.

Among other monuments and memorials in it are the following: In the chancel, a stone with a bend voided between six escallops for William Inglett, B. D. vicar of this parish, ob. Jan. 4, 1659; another, with a chevron between three leaves slipped, for Mr. Richard Pearson, forty-four years vicar here, obt. Ap. 14, 1710; under an arch, in the south wall, an altar monument for Anne, wife of Samuel Cordwell, and daughter of Richard Machan, esq. obt. 1642. In the north chancel, by the north wall, on an altar monument, a brass plate, having three cups covered, impaling on a chevron three birds heads erased, for Elizabeth Boteler, obt. 1615, wife of Wm. Boteler, esq. of Rochester, daughter of Sir William Crayford, leaving two sons and two daughters, Henry, Thomas, Anne, and Elizabeth; another like for Robert Hylton, late yeoman of the Guards to king Henry VIII. obt. 1529. A memorial for Elizabeth, wife of Robert Parker, of Shinglewell, who left two sons, Richard and Robert, ob. 1670.

The church, with its appurtenances, once belonged to the Benedictine abbey of St. John, in Colchester, and was granted at the instance of queen Matilda, wife of king Stephen (that king and his son, earl Eustace, confirming it) by Hugh, abbot, and the convent of that abbey, to the convent of the nuns of Lillechirche, in exchange for land, of one hundred shillings value, at East Doniland, in Essex. Notwithstanding which great disputes afterwards arose between them concerning this church, which was settled by agreement in the beginning of Edward II.'s reign, when Walter, abbot of Colchester, and his convent, gave up to the nuns all their right and title to it. In consideration of which they granted to the abbot and convent certain land in Lillecherche, belonging to this church, of the yearly value of thirty shillings; and if the land, called Blunteshale, should be made over to them by the nuns, on the same terms as the

/b See the monum. and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 746.

/c Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 885. Reg. Roff. p. 475.

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above land was granted to them, then they agreed to restore the lands of thirty shillings value to the nuns, and to receive the lands of Blunteshale in exchange for it of them, which was then confirmed by Gilbert, bishop of London, and S..... abbot of St. Alban's, and the abbot of Colchester above mentioned and his convent, having, for the purpose of this exchange, resigned this church into the hands of Walter, bishop of Rochester, and quitted all kind of claim to it, he granted and gave the same in alms to Mary, daughter of king Stephen, and her nuns at Lillechurch, with all its appurtenances, in as ample and full a manner as any of their predecessors ever possessed it; and at the same time, with the consent and good will of Amfelice, then prioress here, endowed the vicarage of this church as follows: viz. that the chaplain ministering in it should have all obventions of the altar, excepting twenty-four candles, which the nuns should receive on the day of the purification of the Blessed Virgin, of the better ones made on that day; and all legacies, made as well to himself as to the church, except it was a horse, ox, or cow, which the prioress and nuns should take; and that he should have all small tithes arising from the parish, excepting those from the demesnes of the nuns, and from the food of their cattle, and except the tithe of wool arising from the parish; and that he should have yearly six seams of corn from the nuns, viz. two of wheat, two of barley, and two of oats; of which, two should be paid to him at the feast of St. Michael, two at the Nativity, and two at the feast of Easter, and forage and herbage for one horse; and that he should sustain the burthen of clerks necessary to administer in the church, of whom one should daily be present at the greater mass before the said nuns; that the prioress should pay the synodals, and sustain the other episcopal burthens, saving, nevertheless, in all matters episcopal, the right to the bishop; all which was confirmed by him.

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The prioress and convent, in the reign of king Edward III. having begun the repair of this church, pope Alexander IV. in his 4th year, anno 1357, granted an indulgence of forty days remission of penance to all who should contribute to it, by his bull for that purpose, which was to continue in force for five years.

This church remained with the nunnery till the dissolution of it, about the year 1521, when it was, with the other possessions of it, surrendered into the hands of king Henry VIII. three years after which, the priory and church, together with all the rents and revenues belonging to them, were granted by the king, with the pope's consent, to the master and fellows of St. John's college, in Cambridge; the church, with its appurtenances, to be held by them in like manner as it was held before by the prioress and convent, and paying yearly to the bishop of Rochester, and his successors, 13s. 4d. as an annual pension; and

to the archdeacon and his successors, 7s. 6d. yearly for ever, as had been accustomed; and on the vacancy of the see of Rochester, to the archbishop and his successors, four shillings for procurations, &c. and also out of the revenues of the priory twelve pence yearly on Michaelmas day, in the priory, to the poor people dwelling and being there for ever. The instrument of the commissary of the bishop of Rochester, for the above union and appropriation of the priory and church of Higham, to the master and fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge, is dated in 1523; and with them the inheritance of the appropriation and advowson of the vicarage of the church of Higham continues at this time.

The yearly rent paid by the lessee of this parsonage to the master and fellows of St. John's, is 5l. 6s. 8d. in money, six quarters of wheat, three quarters of malt, and six couple of capons.

/d Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 885. Reg. Roff. p. 418. Ect. Thes. 385.

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About the time of the restoration of king Charles II. colonel Goodyer was lessee of it, and he sold his interest in it to one Page, who alienated it to Richard Pearson, A. M. vicar of this parish, who possessed the lease of it for forty years, and died in 1710, and devised his term in it to his nephew, John Pearson, who by his will devised it to his executors, Richard Pearson and John Till, of Essex, who, in 1738, for one thousand pounds, sold it to Mr. Tho. Harris, gent. of Sutton-at-Home. He died possessed of it in 1769, and by his will devised his interest in the term of this parsonage to Stephen Dilly, yeoman, whose widow is the present lessee of it.

The vicarage of Higham is valued in the king's books at 8l. 10s. and the yearly tenths at 17s. In the year 1650, this vicarage was valued at 60l. per annum. The vicar receives all tithes arising within this parish, excepting corn.

THERE ARE certain lands in Higham, in Okeley-farm, of which the impropiator of the parsonage takes but half the tithes (the other half being part of the portion of tithes belonging to the dean and chapter of Rochester, of which a further account will be given) These lands are now called dominical lands, and are thus described:

The orchard, below the house, five acres; Barnfield, eight acres; Downfield, eleven acres; Cookfield, eighteen acres; in the whole, forty-two acres. The impropiator takes the whole tithes of all the rest of Okeley-farm, as well as of the rest of the parish, excepting one field, called the Homestal, which belongs to the vicar, and is compounded for at three pounds and some shillings yearly.

The portion of tithes above mentioned was part of the antient possessions of the priory of Rochester. William de Cloeville gave for ever two parts of his

/e Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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tithe of Acle, now Okeley, to the monks of St. Andrew's, Rochester, in consideration of their having

made his son a monk there; which gift he made with the consent of Gosfrid Talbot, chief lord of the fee./f Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was consecrated in 1077, confirmed this donation, as did several of the succeeding bishops of Rochester, and others./g On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the reign of king Henry VIII. this portion of tithes was, together with the rest of the possessions of that monastery, surrendered into the king's hands in the 32d year of his reign; who presently after, in his 33d year, settled it, by his dotation charter, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it continues at this time.

It appears by the survey of this portion of tithes, called Okeley portion, taken by order of the state in 1650, on the dissolution of deans and chapters, &c. that the same was then valued at ten pounds per ann. improved rent, and was let, anno 6 queen Elizabeth, by the dean and chapter, to John Sedley, esq. for ninety nine years, at the yearly rent of 13s. 4d./h Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, died possessed of the lease of these tithes this year, 1775, and his descendant, the Right Hon. lord Gwydir, is the present lessee of them.

CHURCH OF HIGHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Master and Fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge. Henry Bearblocke, A. M. about 1630./i

William Inglett, B. D. obt. Jan. 14, 1659./k

Richard Pearson, 1666, ob. Ap. 14, 1710./l

/f Text. Roff. p. 168.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 47, 59, 87, 528.

/h Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xiv.

/i MSS. Twysden.

/k Parl. Surveys. He lies buried in this church.

/l He lies buried in this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Master and Fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge. George Smith, ob. Ap. 17, 1725./m
Henry Foche, B. D. inst. May 15, 1725, ob. 1732.

Michael Nickins, A. M. inst. Ap. 15, 1732.

Major Nourse, obt. 1759.

..... Mease.

John Youde, 1771, ob. 1796.

Richard Hargraves, A. M. 1796.

Present vicar./n

/m See account of him, Biog. Brit. vol. vi. p. 3725.

/n Master of Rivington free school, in Lancashire.

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CLIFF NEAR ROCHESTER.

NORTH-EASTWARD from Higham lies Cliff, called in ancient records, Clive, and sometimes Bishop's Clive. It is likewise called Cliff at Hoo, from its nearness to that hundred, and Cliff near Rochester and Gravesend, to distinguish it from the parish of Cliff near Dover. This parish, as well as that near Dover, are both frequently stiled West Cliff; the former as being situated westward of the latter; and the latter, as being situated westward of St. Margaret at Cliff, the adjoining parish eastward from it.

This place takes its name from the cliff or rock on which it stands. It is by many supposed to have been the place called, in the time of the Saxons, Cloveshoe, where several councils were held by the British bishops, of which a further account will be given.

THIS PARISH is very extensive, being from north to south about five miles, of which near three is marsh land, reaching to the Thames, which is its northern boundary, and incircles the whole level, winding round it in the form of a crescent. The situation of it is pleasant, but exceedingly unhealthy, owing to its nearness and exposure to so great a quantity of marsh land. The upland lies high, though mostly a level surface; the

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soil dry and fertile, being a loamy mould, especially in the common uninclosed field, which comprehends the middle part of the parish, and contains upwards of two thousand acres of arable land, though adjoining to it, near Cowling, the soil becomes very wet, clayey, and poor, and much covered with bushes and thick hedge rows; southward of the common field, on the road to Rochester, the land rises to the hilly country, a poor clayey soil likewise, where is the manor of Mortimers, at the southern boundary of this parish.

The village of Cliffe, called Church-street, is situated at the northern edge of the upland, on the chalk cliffe, hanging over the adjoining level of marshes, having the church within it (a conspicuous object to the river and neighbouring county). Adjoining to the church yard is a capital messuage and estate, called Courtsole, for many generations the property of the Ropers, some of whom appear occasionally to have resided here; and it continued in that name till Christopher Roper, lord Teynham, in 1645, alienated it to Sir Edward Monins, bart. of Waldershire, whose brother, Sir Thomas, by his will, in 1676, gave it to dame Elizabeth his wife, as she did in like manner, in 1705, to Mr. Thomas Short, who had married Elizabeth, her niece; and he, in 1721, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Joseph Hasted, of Chatham, whose grandson, Edward Hasted, of Canterbury, afterwards inherited it, but it is now in the possession of Mr. Tho. Williams, gent. of Horton, in this county.

This village is said to have been formerly much larger than it is at present, great part of it was burnt down by a casual fire, which happened here in 1520, about the time that the emperor Charles came into this realm, to visit king Henry VIII. which disaster it never recovered; but seems daily growing into further ruin

and poverty, the number of the inhabitants lessening

/o See Easling. /p Lambarde's Perambulation. p. 538.

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yearly, and several of the houses, for want of them, lying in ruins. A fair is held in it, on St. Pelagius's day, October 19.

There is another village, not far distant, called from its situation, West-street, about half a mile from which is the parsonage house, a mansion fit for the incumbents of so rich a benefice, though seldom occupied by them. In the marshes, which are called Cliff level, and are under the direction of the commission of sewers held at Rochester, there is a common mead, which is jointly stocked by the owners of estates here, according to the property they are intitled to in it.

This is in general supposed to be the place mentioned under the name of Clovesho, i. e. Cliff at Hoo, where several councils of the British bishops have been formerly held; though some, among which are Camden, Baxter, &c. and indeed Mr. Somner inclines this way, have thought this Clovesho to mean Abingdon, in Berkshire, antiently written Sheovesham, corruptly for Cleovesham, and urge, besides the similitude of the name, the conveniency of its situation for the members who attended these councils, that place being in the middle of the island, and in the kingdom of Mercia; whereas Cliff was situated in a bye corner of Kent, and inconvenient on that account to most who had business at it;/q but, as Dr. Plot well observes, it is no wonder the kings of Mercia called councils in Kent, which at that time they had wholly conquered; Cuthred, king of Kent, in 796, not being able to give a small piece of land to Christ church, without the leave of Cenulf, king of Mercia./r

In a national synod, assembled at Hertford, in the year 673, at which Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury presided, it was determined that a council should be held yearly at Clovesho. Whether they were held there so often is not known; however, the following

/q Camden, p. 161, 224. /r Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 19.

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are the only ones that have been transmitted to us – In 742, a great council was held there, at which Æthelbald, king of Mercia, presided, Cuthbert, archbishop of Canterbury, and the rest of the bishops sitting likewise in it./s

In 747, a famous council was held there under archbishop of Cuthbert, there being present, besides the bishops, priests, and many other ecclesiastics, Æthelbald, king of Mercia, with his princes and great men.

In 798, there was a council held there under archbishop Athelard.

In 800, a provincial council was held there by Cenulf, king of Mercia, and Athelard, archbishop of Canterbury, all the bishops of the province, the great men, abbots, and other persons of dignity, being assembled there.

In 803, a council was held there by Athelard, archbishop of Canterbury, with twelve other bishops, where in the see of Canterbury, according to the precept of

pope Leo III. was restored to its pristine right.

In 822, a synodal council was held in that noted place, called Clovesho, Bernulf, king of Mercia, and Wlfred, archbishop of Canterbury, presiding in it, all the bishops, abbots, and nobles, of whatever dignity they were, being present at it, in which, among other things, the injuries done to the church of Canterbury, by Ceolnulf, king of Mercia, were treated of, and several lands restored to it.

In 824 or 825, a synodal council was held in that famous place, which was called at Clofeshoum, Beornulf, king of Mercia, and archbishop Wlfred, presiding at it, with the bishops, abbots, and all the princes of the Mercians sitting in it.

King Richard II. in his 1st year, directed his writs to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, commanding them to

/s Wilkins's Councils, vol. i. p. 86, et seq.

/t Some suppose there was a council held there in each of those years. See Wilkins, ibid. and MSS. Cotton library, Aug. 73.

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erect beacons on each side of the river Thames, opposite to each other, that by the firing of them, notice might be given of any sudden attempt of the enemy; in consequence of which one beacon was erected here at Cliff, another at Tilbury, in Essex, among other places along the banks of the river.^u

This parish was antiently bound to contribute, among other places in this neighbourhood, to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

THE MANOR of Cliff, with its appurtenances, was given to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, in the time of the Saxon heptarchy, and its possessions were afterwards increased here by king Offa, who, in the year 791, gave Dunmalingdene, and by queen Ediva, who in the year 860, gave Oisterland, and by other benefactors to it.^w All which remained, as parcel of the possessions of the priory, at the consecration of archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th year of the Conqueror's reign, who, in the division which he made of the revenues of his church,^x allotted the manors of Cliff, Mallingden, and Bury-court, with their appendages, in this parish, for their subsistence, cloathing, and other necessary uses, to the monks of Christ church; but the premises, called Priors-hall, Hersing, East marsh, Bishop's-marsh, and others, he retained, as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury, for the use of himself and his successors.

These possessions above mentioned, belonging to the priory, are thus entered in the general survey of Domesday, under the title of Terra Monachorum Archiepi, in which the archbishop himself is said to hold them, but this is the usual style of all the possessions of the priory described in this record.

/u Rym. Fœd. vol. vii. p. 156. Lamb. Peramb. p. 424.

/w Among the MSS. in the Cotton library, is a charter of king Æthelred, in 1001, by which he gives Terra Cloufæ to this priory.

/x See vol. ii. p. 98.

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The archbishop himself holds Clive. It was taxed for three sulings and a half. The arable land is six carucates.

In demesne there is one carucate and a half, and 20 vil=leins, with 18 borderers, having five carucates and an half. There is a church and two servants; 36 acres of meadow; wood of 12 pence value. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, the whole manor was worth six pounds, and afterward seven pounds, and now 16 pounds.

In the 15th year of king Henry III. the possessions of the priory of Christ church in Cliff and Grean were valued at nine pounds. King Edward II. in his 10th year, granted to the priory of Christ church free war=ren in all their demesne lands that they possessed in the time of his grandfather, and that they had purchased in this parish, among others therein mentioned./y In an antient valuation, the temporalities of the priory in in this parish were estimated at one hundred and thirty pounds per annum. It appears by the Textus Rof=fensis, there was once a chapel at this manor of West-cliff.

These manors and premises continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church till the disso=lution of it in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, together with the lands and revenues belonging to it; all which were confirmed to the king and his heirs by the general words of the act, passed that year for this purpose.

King Henry VIII. in his 32d year, granted to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, the manors of West Cliff and Bury-court, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to them; the marsh grounds, called Great Hersing marsh, Shepherd's hope, South marsh, and Tuckney's, in this parish, together with other premises in Stoke, to hold in capite by knights service, at the yearly rent of 7l. 13s. 8¹/₂d. which was granted by the king in his 37th year, to the lord Cobham; to whom

/y Reg. Roff. Christ church, Cant. Cart. 134. Tan. Mon. p. 201.

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king Edward VI. in his 2d year, granted the marshes called Burye marsh, alias Patriche marsh, Crawledge marsh, and Haverwick marsh, and others in the pa=rishes of West Cliffe and Stoke, to hold in capite by knights service; and among the Harleian manuscripts there is part of an old roll, containing a survey of the marsh in Kent, with pictures of the manor houses of Cliff, Couling, Halstow, St. Mary's, and Allhallows, belonging to the lord Cobham or Sir Thomas Wy=att. His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being at=tainted of treason in the 1st year of king James I. his estates became forfeited to the crown, and were con=firm'd to it by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign; notwithstanding which the manor of West Cliff, and premises above mentioned, excepting Burye-court, of which an account will be given hereafter, whether by a family entail or otherwise, I have not found, went into the possession of Sir John Brooke, (second son of Sir Henry Brooke, alias Cobham) fifth son of the above mentioned lord Cobham, who was, anno 20 king Charles I. in consideration of his loyal=ty and sufferings, created baron of Cobham, to him and his heirs male. He alienated all his estates in this parish, containing, with the salts, upwards of fourteen hundred acres of land, with others in this

neighbourhood, to James duke of Richmond, who died possessed of them in 1655; since which they have descended, in like manner as Cobham-hall, in the same line of ownership, down to the Right Hon. John earl of Darnley, the present owner of them.

A court leet and court baron is held for this manor.

The MANOR of BURYE-COURT, now called BERY COURT, on the attainder of Henry lord Cobham, came to the crown as before mentioned; soon after which the reversion of it, after the death of the lady Frances, his widow, was granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury (son of that eminent statesman, William lord Burleigh) who was afterwards lord trea-

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surer of England, knight of the Garter, and chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and had married Elizabeth, sister of Henry lord Cobham above mentioned. He passed away this manor, with its appurtenances, to Bernard Hyde, esq. of London, in whose descendants it continued many generations, and till it was sold to Harvey, whose son, Samuel Clay Harvey, esq. died possessed of it in 1791; whose heirs and assigns are at this time entitled to the possession of this estate.

The MANOR of MALLINGDEN, now called MOLLAND and DEAN FEE, on the dissolution of the priory of Christ church, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. came into the hands of that king, as has been mentioned before, where it continued till queen Elizabeth granted it to William Ewens,^{/z} who quickly afterwards alienated it to Brown, from whom it passed in like manner to Sompner, who sold it to Hills, whence after some intermission it was conveyed by sale to Blackford, of Holnicote, in Somersetshire. Henrietta Blackford, of that place, spinster, died an infant, in 1733, possessed, among other premises in other counties, of one fourth part of this manor, and other lands in Cliff and Higham, which then came to her coheirs, Elizabeth Dyke, of Dulverton, in Somersetshire, widow, and Elizabeth her daughter, an infant, as coparceners in fee simple; after which Elizabeth Dyke, the mother, conveyed those premises in Somerset and Devonshire, to her son Edward Dyke, and in 1735, procured an act of parliament for an exchange of lands in Somerset and Devonshire, for others in Oxfordshire and Kent, among the latter of which was this manor, and to settle them to the same uses; by which means he became possessed of the entire fee of this manor, in which he himself had some share

^{/z} Grant of arms to Ewens, by Robert Cooke, clarencieux, in 1587. Harl. MSS. No. 1069-37.

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before. He died without issue, and Elizabeth his niece, daughter and heir of Thomas Dyke, esq. of Tetton became his heir, then married to Sir Thomas Ackland, bart. who in her right became possessed of it. This family was originally of Lankey, near Barnstaple, in Devonshire, and took its name from their seat in it, called Accalan, or Aclan, in allusion to which they bore, in early times, on their seals, Three

oak leaves on a bend, between two lions rampant. They antiently wrote their name, De Accalan, and afterwards Akelane, and Acland. John Ackland, esq. was of Columb John, in the parish of Broad Clist, near Exeter, and was, by king Charles I. for his eminent services in the royal cause, made a baronet; but the letters patent were destroyed in the confusion of those times, and there being a long minority in the family after the Restoration, new letters of exemplification of the former ones were not granted till 1677; but there was a special clause in them of precedency from the date of the first. His direct descendant was Sir Thomas Ackland, bart. of Columb John above mentioned. They bear for their arms, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, argent, on a bend sable, three lions heads erased argent, crowned or./a He died in 1753, leaving two sons, John Dyke Acland, esq. of Pixton, in Somersetshire; and Thomas, the latter of whom at length afterwards succeeded to the title and to this estate, of which he died possessed in 1794; since which it has been sold to the present owner of it.

This is a small manor; the court baron for it is held under a tree, there being no manor house remaining.

PRIOR'S-HALL, with other premises, which archbishop Lanfranc retained in this parish, as part of the revenues of the see of Canterbury, as has been already

/a Collins's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 407. Kimber's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 519, et seq.

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mentioned, remained in the possession of the archbishops till Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1195, anno 7 Richard I. with the king's consent, and for the mutual benefit of the churches of Canterbury and Rochester, exchanged, among other premises, a sheepcote in Clive, which was called Estmers, with two hundred and twenty sheep, and certain land in Clive, belonging to it, and certain tenants in this parish, with the lands which they held, and the rents, services, and customs, without any reservation to the archbishop and his successors, for the manor of Lambeth, &c. with the monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, to the use of their refectory, in like manner as they before had the manor of Lambeth, saving to the bishop of Rochester all episcopal right, &c. which exchange was confirmed that year by king Richard I. and afterwards by king John, in his first and second years.

The priory of St. Andrew's continued in possession of these premises and the manor belonging to them, called Prior's-hall, till the time of its dissolution, which happened in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was, with all the rents and revenues belonging to it, surrendered into the king's hands, who soon afterwards, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled the manor of Prior's-hall on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of it now remains.

William Gates, gent. of Rochester, died possessed of the lease of these premises in 1768, the term of which became vested in his executors. It is now in

the possession of James Roper Head, esq.

THE OTHER PART OF THIS PARISH, not belonging to the archbishop or church of Canterbury, was among those possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, the great bi-

/c Dugdale's Mon. vol. ii. p. 844.

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shop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the book of Domesday:

Ernulf de Hesding holds Clive of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed for half a suling. The arable land is In demesne half a carucate, and two vills, and 10 acres of meadow, and pasture for 100 sheep. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 30 shillings.

On the disgrace of bishop Odo, about four years afterwards, his estates were confiscated to the crown, and among them this of Cliff, which consisted of the manors now called Cardon's and Mortimer's, with lands, called Drap's, Ballard's, Mortimer's, Southwould, Northope, and divers others in the south-east part of this parish.

The MANOR of CARDON'S, in the reign of king Edward I. was in the possession of the heirs of Robert Cardon, Robert le Ram, and Alice Salamon. In the 20th year of king Edward III. John Cardon and others held it of the manor of Horton Kirkby, as the fourth part of one knight's fee, for which they paid respective aid, at the making the Black Prince a knight. Robert le Ram above mentioned died in the 36th year of that reign possessed of his part of this estate; Joane, the wife of John Ram, most probably one of his descendants, lies buried in this church, under a grave stone, with her memorial in French, cut in large capitals of a very antient form, round the verge of it.

In the 16th year of king Edward IV. it was in the hands of the crown, and was that year granted to the Carthusian monastery, commonly called the Charterhouse, in West Smithfield, London; on the suppression of which, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. it came to the crown, and was confirmed to the king by the act of the 31st of that reign. In which year the king granted to Thomas Gibbons, citizen and vintner of London, the manor of Cardon's, a tenement

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called Ballard's, and another called Mortimer's, and all other lands in Cliff and Higham, late belonging to the above monastery, to hold in capite by knight's service; before the end of which year he had the king's licence to alienate this manor, with Ballard's and Drap's, with their appurtenances in Cliff, with other premises, to Oliver Leder. How long the manor of Cardon's continued in the name of Leder I do not find; but about the year 1725 it was sold to the dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom the inheritance of it continues at this time, the present lessee being Mr. John Knight.

The MANOR of MORTIMER'S, now vulgarly cal-

led BLUE GATES, is situated at the southern extremity of this parish, in the high road from Cliff to Rochester, and was antiently in the possession of a younger branch of the great family of Mortimer, who in after times settled their name on it.

Hugh de Mortimer was possessed of this estate in the 1st year of king Edward III and had the grant of a fair to his manor here. In the reign of king Edward I. John Mortimer and Guncelin de Clyve were in possession of it; and in the 20th year of that reign, John, son of John Mortimer, and Robert le Ram, paid respective aid for it, as half a knight's fee, which the before mentioned John and Guncelin held at Shabrok in Clyve.

John Mortimer resided at Mortimer's in the reign of king Edward III. in the 11th year of which he was summoned to provide an hobleer, or light horseman, for the security of the coast about Genlade in Hoo. After the family of Mortimer had left the possession of this place, that of Englefeild, of Berkshire, succeeded to it; a noble family, as Philipott calls it, reputed to be of Saxon extraction, and descended from Hasculfus de Inglefeild,^c who lived at

^c Philipott, p. 126. From an old roll of this family.

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the latter end of king Canute's reign. His direct descendant, Sir Thomas Englesfeild, speaker of the house of commons, and chief justice of Chester, in the reign of king Henry VII. who bore for his arms, Barry of six, gules and argent, on a chief or, a lion passant argent,^d alienated this manor about the latter end of that reign to John Sedley, esq. auditor of the exchequer to that prince, whose descendant sold it to Wentworth; and Richard lord Wentworth, in the 2d and 3d year of Philip and Mary, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Thomas Polley, and his great grandson, Geo. Polley, esq. passed it away to Rob. Lee, gent. of Chatham, whose son, William Lee, esq. was surveyor of the navy in the reign of queen Anne. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Pett, esq. and secondly to Catherine, daughter of William Johnson, esq. by neither of whom he had issue. He died in 1757, much advanced in years,^e and by his will gave this estate to his kinswoman, Mrs. Ward, of Chatham, for her life, with remainder to her brother, rear admiral Henry Ward, esq. both of whom possessed it, and on the death of the latter, about the year 1768, it came to his son, Edward Vernon Ward, esq. who is the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

THE PARISH of Cliff has a right of nomination to one place in the New College of Cobham, for one poor person, inhabitant of this parish, to be chosen and presented so, and by such as the ordinances of the college have power to present and elect for this parish; and if the parish of Hoo makes default in electing in their turn, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

RICHARD COX, in 1611, gave by will to the poorest persons a tenement in the occupation of Richard Edmunds, now of the annual produce of 1l.

DR. WILSON, in 1614, gave to the poorest and eldest widower

and widow, 40s. each, and to the poor of the parish, 40s. yearly, to be paid out of three pieces of land, in the occupation of Wm. Slaughter, and now of the annual produce of 6l.

/d Kimber's Bar. vol. i. p. 125. /e See Darent, vol. ii. p. 268.

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THOMAS GALE, in 1620, gave by will to the same a tenement, in the occupation of William Halfpenny, now of the annual product of 10s.

BONHAM FAUNCE, in 1652, gave by will to the poor a piece of land, in the same occupation, of the like annual produce.

GEORGE PERRIT, in 1661, gave by will to the poorest persons of this parish a piece of land, now in the occupation of Mrs. Smith, now of the annual produce of 2l.

ROBERT PARKER, in 1678, gave by will to the poor, the sum of 5l. now of the annual produce of 6s.

JOHN BROWNE, late of this parish, yeoman, in 1679, gave a tenement, lying in Church-street, in the tenure of John Browne, and another, with its appurtenances, in Southwood-borough, for the education and teaching of twelve poor children of the inhabitants of this parish for ever. And he ordered, that his executor and the churchwardens for the time being should elect and choose a poor man or woman, being capable to teach, and also the children to be taught, &c. The master or dame to keep the premises in good repair.

CLIFF is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being a peculiar of the archbishop of Canterbury, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham. The church is dedicated to St. Helen. It stands at the north-west side of Church-street, and is a large handsome building, equal to most other churches in this county. It consists of two side isles, a nave, and a chancel, all lofty and spacious; the roof is covered with lead, and the walls embattled; at the west end is a good tower, in which is a clock, and a ring of six bells. In the chancel there are remains of good painted glass, and on the roof the arms of archbishop Arundel. Here are likewise six stalls, for the use of the monks of Christ church and others of the clergy, when they attended divine service in this church. Such stalls are frequently observed in the chancels of churches where the large monasteries had estates, being placed there for the above use, for formerly the clergy and laity sat apart, the former in the chancel, and the latter in the other parts of the church, in like manner as at present in the Roman Catholic countries abroad.

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There was formerly an organ in this church, the case of which is yet remaining.

Among other monuments and memorials in it are the following: In the nave, round the verge of a coffin like stone, in Saxon capitals, these words, JONE LA FEMME JOHAN RAM GYST YCI DEU DE SA ALME EIT MERCI +. On a grave stone a brass, with the figures of a man and his two wives and two children, for Bonham Faunce, gent. of this parish, ob. 1652, having had by his two wives, Elizabeth and Mary, each one child; another a brass, with the figures of a man and his two wives, one of them lost; and six children, for Thomas Faunce, yeoman, who had two wives, Alice and Elizabeth, by the former he had two sons and

one daughter, and by the latter one son and two daughters; he died in 1609, Alice died in 1592; Thomas his eldest son, being mayor of Rochester at his father's decease; on a pillar, south of the entrance into the chancel, on a brass plate, an inscription, with an account of John Browne's charity to this parish, as mentioned above. In one of the windows are these arms, Azure a cross patonce between five martlets or. In the north isle, round the verge of a stone, in the form of a coffin, this inscription, in Saxon capitals, ELIENORE DE CLIVE GIST ICI DEU DE SA ALME EIT MERCI AMEN PAR CHARITE. In the south isle, a brass for Elizabeth Gissome, wife of James Gissome of this parish, obt. 1688. A memorial for the Baynards of this parish./f

The church of Cliff (to which there belongs a manor in this parish, called Parson's borough, for which a court baron is still held) was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and was excepted in the great deed of exchange, which archbishop Cranmer made with king Henry VIII. by which he conveyed all the rest of his estates in this parish to that king, as has been mentioned before. The archbishop of Canterbury still continues patron of this rectory.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Clive was valued at one hundred and ten marcs. In the year 1650, it was valued at 200l./g It is valued in the king's books at 50l. and the yearly tenths, 5l. The present rector is paid 500l. per annum by the parishioners in general, who agree to pay all land and

/f See the monuments and inscriptions, in Reg. Roff. p. 744.

/g Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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other taxes besides, and they levy the whole at so much per acre among themselves, which raises in the whole about 650l. per annum.

The rector by old custom is bound to distribute at his parsonage house on St. James's day annually, a mutton pie and a loaf, to as many persons as choose to come there and demand it, the expence of which amounts to about fifteen pounds per annum. This continued till within these few years, but the present rector has found means to obtain the parishioners acquiescence for the discontinuance of it.

The tithes of the marsh land in this parish caused continual disputes between the prior and convent of Christ church and the rectors of this parish, concerning which they came at last to a composition, in 1229, which was confirmed by the archbishops, Richard and John; but this not satisfying the convent, they obtained, in 1290, from the rector, John de Bestan, an instrument under his seal, by which he relinquished all right and title to them; since which, to the present time, the marshes in this parish have been exempted from the payment of tithes. The prior and convent likewise contended for an exemption from tithes for their sheepcotes and mills in this parish, and the small tithes of their manor of Cliff, all which they obtained, in 1254, from Hugh de Mortimer, then rector of this church, by an instrument under his seal, but the disputes between them, owing to the incroachments of the convent, still continued, to settle which there were several compositions entered into between them at different times, which were con=

firmed by the several archbishops; all which may be seen in their registers, and in the Chartæ Antiq. in the Lambeth library./h

This parish is a peculiar jurisdiction, exempted from the authority of the dean of the arches, who is

/h See Ducarel's Repert. second edit. p. 167.

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the commissary of the deanry of Shoreham, and the rector of it is only visitable by the archbishop at Cliff. He is ordinary of his parish, and exercises several branches of ordinary jurisdiction, without any special commission. By himself, or his surrogate, he holds a court every year, soon after Easter, for the taking the oaths of the churchwardens on their entrance into office, and he grants licences for marriages, probates of wills, and letters of administration.

The seal, which once belonged to the ecclesiastical court of Cliff, having been many years lost, is said to have been found some years ago on Blackheath; the impression, A man's hand issuing from a gown sleeve, (probably that of doctor of laws) and holding a long staff, with a cross fixed on the top of it. The inscription, in old English letters, S. OFFICIALIT + JURISDICTIONIS DE LIBA POCH DE CLYFF, i. e. the seal of the officiality of the jurisdiction of the free parish of Clyff. The seal now used seems to be antient; the impression is the figure of a bishop, with his crozier in his hand; the inscription, S: PECULIARIS: JURISDICTIONIS: RECTORIS: DE: CLYFF, i. e. the seal of the peculiar jurisdiction of the rector of Cliff.

Godfrid de Scraembroke gave the tithes of his land at Scraembroke, in the parish of Cliff, to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, soon after the conquest; which gift was confirmed to it by Richard, Baldwin, and Hubert, archbishops of Canterbury. There were lands in this parish of the yearly value of sixteen pence, given for the saying of a mass yearly in this church.

CHURCH OF CLIFF.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishops of Canterbury. Richard Wallingford, in 1229./k

Hugh de Mortimer, in 1254.

Richard de Stratford, in 1277.

/i Surveys of Chantries, in Augm. Office. /k Ducarel's Rep. p. 167.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Archbishops of Canterbury Philip de Wyleby, in 1283.

John de Bestune, in 1289.

James de Cobham, in 1305.

Wm. de Wittesley, about 1350./l

Wm. de Jocelyn, alias Islep, inst.

Mar. 11, 1358, resig. Nov.

following./m

Wm. Uttinge, S. T. P. ob. Feb.

10, 1481./n

Nicholas Heath, in 1543, resig.

1548./o

Edmond Cranmer, in 1549./p

The Queen Hugh Weston, S. T. P. inst. Ap.
2, 1554./q
William Wilson, S. T. P. ob. May
15, 1615./r
Griffin Higgs, S. T. P. in 1631,
ejected./s
Samuel Annesley, LL. D. an in=
truder about 1640./t
Henry Holcroft, outed 1661./u
Geo. Stradling, S. T. P. in 1661./w
George Green, S. T. P. obt. Oct.
1739.
Wm. Nicholas Blomberg, S. T. P.
presented Nov. 1, 1739, obt.
1750.
James Harwood, A. M. ob. Feb.
15, 1778./x
John Simkinson, Aug. 1778. Pre=
sent rector.

/l Afterwards archbishop of Canter=
bury. Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 443.

/m More's Hist. Tunstall, p. 49.

/n Also rector of Chartham. He
lies buried in the chancel of Lambeth
church.

/o He had been bishop of Rochester,
and being translated to Worcester, had
the king's writ to hold this rectory in
commendam. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 18.

/p Archdeacon of Canterbury, and
brother of the archbishop. Batteley's
Somner, pt. ii. p. 158.

/q He was first dean of Westminster,
and then of Windsor. See Rym. Fœd.
vol. xv. p. 381. Newc. Rep. vol. i.
p. 718.

/r Prebendary of Rochester and ca=
non of Windsor, where he lies buried,
in St. George's chapel. Wood's Ath.
Fasti, vol. i. p. 177.

/s Afterwards chaunter of St. David's
and dean of Litchfield. Willis's Cath.
vol. i. p. 401. Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p.
239, 966.

/t Wood's Ath. vol. ii. p. 966.

/u He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew act.

/w And vicar of Sutton at-Hone, af=
terwards prebendary of Westminster,
and dean of Chichester. Wood's Ath.
vol. ii. p. 822.

/x Also vicar of Dartford.

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COWLING.

EASTWARD from Cliff lies Cowling, antiently
written Colinges and Culinges, so called from its cold
and bleak situation.

THIS PARISH of Cowling is more than four miles
in length, from north to south, and not half so much

in width; that part of it next to the marshes, which are more than two miles across, and bounded by the river Thames northward, lies low and flat; the soil a stiff wet clay, having much rough ground, and thick inclosures throughout it. In this part of it, near the edge of the marshes is Cowling castle, the ruins of which are converted into a farm house, about half a mile from which is Cowling-street; besides which there is another village, with the church in it, at the eastern side of the parish, close to the marshes, whence the ground rises southward to a very high hill, on which is the seat, called from its situation, Lodge-hill, having a most extensive prospect on all sides round it. Cowling is an unfrequented place, the roads of which are deep and miry, and it is as unhealthy as it is unpleasant.

COENULF, king of Mercia, in the 12th year of his reign, anno 808, gave to his faithful servant, Eadulf, one ploughland and a half, with all its appurtenances in Culinges, according as the bounds are in his charter mentioned.

In the reign of king Edward the Confessor, the lordship of Culinges was in the possession of earl Leofwyne, sixth son of earl Godwin, who was slain in the battle of Hastings, fighting on the behalf of his brother, king Harold, against William duke of Nor-

ly The original charter is now in the Surrenden library.

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mandy, afterwards called the Conqueror, on his landing in this kingdom.

Soon after the Conqueror's attaining the crown of this realm, he gave Culinges, among other vast possessions, to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in the survey of Domesday, taken about the 15th year of that reign.

The same Adam holds of the bishop (of Baieux) in Colinge, one suling and an half. The arable land is one carucate and an half. In demesne there are two carucates and five villeins, having half a carucate. There are four servants, and seven acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor and afterwards it was worth 40 shillings, now four pounds. What Richard de Tonebrige has in his lowy is worth seven shillings. Uluuin held it of earl Leuuin.

And somewhat further in the same record:

The same Odo holds Colinges of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is half a carucate. There is with one borderer, and four acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 20 shillings, now 30 shillings. Goduin held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, about four years afterwards, these estates at Cowling, as well as the rest of his possessions, were seised on, and became forfeited to the crown.

In the reign of king Edward I. Cowling was in the possession of Henry de Cobham of Cobham, in this

county. His son, John de Cobham, in the 17th year of king Edward III. obtained a charter for free warren within all his demesne lands within his lordship of Coulyng, among others. In the 20th year of that reign he paid respective aid for this manor, as one knight's fee, which Henry de Cobham before held in Coulyng of Margery de Revers, as she did of the king. He died possessed of this manor in the 36th

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year of that reign, and was succeeded in it by his son, John de Cobham, who in the 4th year of Richard II. obtained licence to embattle and fortify his manor house, which he then erected here, /z which grant he caused to be engraved on a tablet, and placed on a tower at the entrance of it, where it still remains visible; the words are engraved on brass, in antient characters, as follows:

KNOWETH THAT BETH AND SHALL BE
THAT I AM MADE IN HELP OF THE CONTRE
IN KNOWING OF WHICHE THING
THIS IS CHARTRE AND WITNESSING.

It is made in imitation of a deed or charter, with his seal of arms appendant, and is fixed on the eastern tower of the gate-house. And henceforward this mansion acquired the name of Cowling-castle; at which time it appears, there was then a large park adjoining to it. He died possessed of this manor and castle in the 9th year of king Henry IV. leaving Joane, his grand daughter (viz. daughter of Joane his daughter, by Sir John de la Pool) his next heir, and wife of Sir Nicholas Hawberk, whom she had married on the decease of Sir Reginald Braybrook, her former husband. She afterwards married Sir John Oldcastle, who in her right possessed this estate, and on account of his marriage with her, assumed the title of lord Cobham, and had summons to parliament accordingly; but in the next reign, engaging with others in a conspiracy, he was tried for it, condemned and executed, in the 6th year of king Henry V. being at the time of his death possessed, jointly, with Joane his wife of this manor and castle.

The story of Sir John Oldcastle's being accused of heresy, before Thomas Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury, and the proceedings had on it, are related in

/z Philipott, p. 126. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 66.

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Fox's Acts and Monuments./a Sir John Oldcastle, on this accusation of heresy, betook himself to his castle of Cowling, as to a place of strength and security; before which the person sent with a citation from the archbishop appearing, desired leave of him to enter and serve the same, but was refused; on which, not daring to enter without the owner's good will, he returned without performing his errand. After the execution of Sir John Oldcastle, Joane his wife surviving him, became again possessed of this manor and castle, together with the advowson of the church of Cowling, and the rest of the estates of her inheritance, of which she died possessed in the 12th year of king

Henry VI. She was then the wife of John Harpden, who, if he was living, did not possess this or any other of her estates after her death, for her only daughter and heir Joane, by her second husband, Sir Gerard Braybrooke above mentioned, then entitled her husband, Sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, to them, who was in her right lord Cobham, though he never received summons to parliament. His descendant, Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, resided at times both here and at Cobham; during whose time, Sir Tho. Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, marched with six pieces of cannon to this castle, which finding too strong to take, after having broke down the gate and part of the wall, and having had some discourse with the lord Cobham, who was in it, he marched next night to Gravesend. He died in 1558, and by his will gave to Anne his wife all his household stuff at Cowling-castle. His son and heir, Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, at his death, in the 39th year of queen Elizabeth, by his will gave this estate to his second son, George Brooke, esq. who being engaged with his brother, Henry lord Cobham, and others, in a conspiracy, was attainted of high treason, in the 1st

/a Vol. I. from p. 635 to 668, and p. 731.

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year of king James I. and executed, upon which his estates became forfeited to the crown, and were confirmed to it by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign. After which, king James, of his royal bounty, restored the manor, castle, and advowson, of Cowling, to his son William, then an infant, afterwards made a knight of the Bath; who died possessed of them about the year 1668. He was twice married; first to Penelope, daughter of Henry lord Dacre, by whom he left no issue; and secondly to Penelope, daughter of Sir Moses Hill, by whom he left issue four daughters, his coheirs; viz. Pembroke, married to Matthew Tomlinson, esq. Hill to Sir William Boothby, bart. of Broadlow Ash, in Derbyshire; Margaret to Sir John Denham, K. B. and Frances to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K. B. who in right of their wives became joint proprietors of this estate. Soon after which, Sir John Denham and Margaret his wife died without issue, on which her share descended to her three sisters, and their husbands, who in their right then became each of them possessed of a third part of it.

In the year 1669, Mathew Tomlinson, Sir William Boothby, and Sir Thomas Whitmore, made a division of this estate, excepting the advowson, into three equal parts, by deed, under their hands and seals; in which partition COWLING-LODGE, and certain lands adjoining, were allotted to Matt. Tomlinson; Newbarn, and lands adjoining, to Sir William Boothby; and the CASTLE, and other lands, to Sir Tho. Whitmore; and it was agreed between them, that all royalties, privileges, and liberties belonging to the manor, should be equally divided among them; after which, COWLING-LODGE, with the estate belonging to it, was sold after Tomlinson's death by his heirs, to Tho. Farrington, esq. of Chesilhurst; whose descendant of

the same name, alienated it to Mr. Jacob Harvey, of Islington; and his descendant, Samuel Clay Har-

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vey, esq. about the year 1760, built a good seat on this estate, called Lodge-hill, from its situation on the summit of it, intending the same for his residence, but before it was quite finished, he alienated this estate to Mr. John Smith, since deceased; whose brother, Mr. Tho. Smith, is the present possessor of it.

NEW-BARN, with the estate belonging to it, was conveyed by Sir William Boothby and Hill his wife, to Samuel Clay, merchant of London, from whom it passed in marriage to Harvey, whose descendant, Samuel Clay Harvey, esq. died possessed of it in 1791, and his nephew, Jacob Harvey, is the present owner of it.

COWLING-CASTLE, with the estate belonging to it, was alienated by Sir Thomas Whitmore to Frederick Herne, esq. who passed it away by sale to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, died possessed of it in 1795, s. p. and gave it by his will to his nephew, George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present owner of it.

The ruins of the castle or mansion shew it to have been a place of some strength. There are great parts of the towers and outward walls of it remaining; it was a square building, having a most round tower, which is now almost choaked up. At a small distance south-eastward from the castle, and entirely independent of it, is a handsome gatehouse, flanked by two round towers and embattled, having a portcullis to let down. Through this gate was the approach to the castle, as it is at present to the farm-house.

IN THE YEAR 961, queen Ediva, mother of king Edmund and king Eadred, gave to the church of Christ, in Canterbury, her land in Culinge, free from all secular service, excepting that of repelling invasions, and the repairing of bridges and castles; and king Edward II. in his 10th year, granted to the priory of Christ church free warren in all their demesne lands in this parish, among others therein mentioned.

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CHARITIES.

The parish of Cowling has the right of nomination to one place in the New College of Cobham, for one poor person, inhabitant of this parish; at the election of which one, such as by the ordinances of the said college have power to choose for this parish, nominate and choose two such poor persons, out of which two, the baron of Cobham for the time being is to select and present one, to be admitted and placed there; and if the parish of Shorne makes default in electing, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

HENRY WHITE, of Chalk, near Gravesend, who lies buried in St. Mary's church, in the hundred of Hoo, left an annual sum of money to the poor of this parish.

COWLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. James.

In the chancel of it, on a stone, are two brass plates, arms in a

canton, a falcon volant with bells, for Sybell, daughter of Gilbert Thurston, of London, the wife of Nathaniel Sparks, rector of this church 28 years, obt. 1639; in the east window these arms, gules, a chevron, or, and in the south window two coats, gules three lions passant guardant, or, and gules a fess fusillee, or. In the nave, near the pulpit, a brass, with the figure of a woman, for Feyth Brook, daughter of Sir John Brook, lord of Cobham, obt. 1508; another brass for Thomas Woodyear, gent. of Cowling, who married Mary, daughter of William Linch, gent. and had one son and three daughters, obt. 1611.

The church of Cowling paid an annual pension of 6s. 8d. to the priory of Rochester, on account of the tithes which had been given to it, in this parish, by Ralph, the butler of Eudo, (pincerna Eudonis) soon after the conquest, in pure and perpetual alms, being the tithes of his demesne field, called Westbrooke, which gift was confirmed by his descendant, Adam, butler, (pincerna) so that Richard, his brother, parson of this church, and his successors, should pay yearly to the monks there half a marc of silver, and it was confirmed likewise by bishop Gundulph, who allotted the above pension for their cloathing, and it was confirmed to them by several of his successors.

/b Text. Roff. p. 164. Reg. Roff. p. 268-47, and passim seq.

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This pension, at the dissolution of the priory in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. came to the crown, and was granted by that king, by his dotation charter, next year, to his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, to whom it continues still to be paid.

The patronage of the church of Cowling, about the reign of king John, seems to have belonged to the before-mentioned family named Pincerna, or Butler, at which time Adam Pincerna, or Butler, had the right of presentation to it. How long they possessed it, I do not find; but before the middle of the reign of king Edward I. it was come into the family of Cobham, and afterwards continued to have the same proprietors as the manor of Cowling had till the division of it in 1669, between Mathew Tomlinson, esq. Sir William Boothby, and Sir Thomas Whitmore. After which, the right of presenting to this church became vested in each of them, and their respective heirs alternately, in succession, as they are mentioned before.

Mathew Tomlinson's turn passed, with Cowling-lodge, to Farrington, and thence to Harvey, and afterwards to Mr. John Smith, who sold it to the Rev. Mr. Hopkins Fox, of Linsted, whose son, John Hopkins Fox, sold it to Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud, the present owner of it.

Sir William Boothby's turn was excepted out of the sale of New-barn to Samuel Clay, and after his death descended to William Boothby, esq. (eldest son of Sir William, by his second wife, Hill Brooke, who on the death of his half-brother, Sir Henry, became his heir to both title and estates) and on his death it came to his next brother, Brooke Boothby, esq. of Ashborne-hall, in Derbyshire, who, in 1748, conveyed his third turn of presentation to John Unwin, gent. of the Inner Temple, and he in 1757, conveyed his interest in it to Mr. George Gordon, wine-merchant, of Rochester,

who by his will, in 1760, devised it to his son, William Gordon, esq. who alienated it to the Rev. Mr. Thomas

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Ashcroft, clerk, who died possessed of it in 1768, after which it was sold to the Rev. Mr. Hopkins Fox before-mentioned; whose son, John H. Fox, sold it to Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud, the present proprietor of it.

Sir Thomas Whitmore's turn passed with Cowling-castle to Herne, and thence to Best, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, died possessed of it in 1795, and by his will gave it to his nephew, George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present patron of this third turn of presentation to this rectory.

This church, in the 15th year of king Edward I. was valued at twenty marcs./c The rectory is valued in the king's books at fourteen pounds, and the tenths at 1l. 8s./d It appears by the survey of it taken by order of the state in the year 1650, that it was then valued at seventy pounds./e It is now worth, with nine acres of glebe land, upwards of 200l. per annum.

CHURCH OF COWLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Adam (pincerna or butler) Gervase, the Dean./f

Richard, (pincerna or butler,)

about the reign of king John./g

Family of Cobham Reginald de Cobeham, anno 43

king Edward III./h

Brookes, lords Cobham Edward Monam, anno 17 king

Henry VII./i

Thomas Mudd, A. M. in 1630./k

Nathaniel Sparkes, in 1650./l

The King, hac vice William Lord, clerk, presented

Sept. 3, 1660.

Matthew Tomlinson, esq. Joes Lord, March 1, 1669.

William Boothby, esq. Thomas Greenhalgh, July 19, 1673.

Sir Thomas Whitmore Daniel Griffith, Dec. 22, 1674.

/c Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/d Ect. Thes. p. 384.

/e Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-library,

vol. xix.

/f Reg. Roff. p. 268.

/g Ibid.

/h MSS. Surrenden-libr.

/i Reg. Roff. p. 426.

/k MSS. Twysden.

/l He was rector in 1639.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Matthew Tomlinson, esq. Richard Slater, July 29, 1681.

William Boothby, esq. Thomas Truelove, Aug. 7, 1688.

Frederick Herne, esq. Robert Pickering, April 16, 1706.

Thomas Farrington, esq. Edward Robinson Payne, June 27, 1733.

William Gordon, esq. Thomas Ashcroft, April 1760, obt. Feb. 1768.

Thomas Best, esq. Peter Wade, A. M. March 4,
1768, obt. Sept. 1783./m
Rev. Hopkins Fox Matthias Rutton, A. M. Nov. 20,
1783, the present rector./n

/m Also vicar of Boughton-Monchel=
sea, and minor canon of Rochester.

/n And vicar of Sheldwich, in this
county.

- - -

FRINDSBURY.

SOUTHWARD from Cowling lies FRINDS=
BURY, called in antient charters, Freondesbyri. It
was likewise called Æslingham, alias Frindsbury, from
the manor of that name in this parish.

THE PARISH is situated adjoining to the river Med=
way, partly towards the south, and wholly eastward,
it is near five miles from north to south, though not
more than half as much in breadth, the surface of it
is a continued hill and dale, though it is in general
high ground, the soil is various, but the hills are mostly
chalk, the dales a loamy soil, and towards Hoo a stiff
clay, all for the most part fertile corn land. The village
adjoins to the town of Stroud on the north side, seem=
ingly as part of it, from whence the ground rises pretty
high to the summit of the hill on which the church
stands, on the opposite side of the river to the city of
Rochester, from which it is a conspicuous object. At
the north end of the street of Frindsbury the road
branches off on the left hand to Cliff and Higham, and
strait forward leads on to the Hundred of Hoo, on
which, at a mile's distance, is Wainscott, and further

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on Chattenden, both mentioned hereafter; and at the
north-west boundary of the parish, next to Cliff, the
manor of Æslingham. The high London road runs
along the southern part of this parish for near a mile
westward, beyond the pond called St. Thomas's wa=
tering place, at a small distance from which, on the
opposite side, there has been a shewy house, built
within these few years by Mr. David Day, who named
it Little Hermitage; a quarter of a mile southward of
the road, but nearer to Stroud, is Read-court, beyond
which this parish extends to the hamlet called the Three
Crouches, where the three parishes of Frindbury,
Higham and Cobham meet. The parish joins to the
river Medway from Stroud, along the shore opposite
to Chatham-dock, where, on the hill is a house called
the Quarry-house, having a beautiful view over the
river, the town, dock-yard, and adjoining country,
and till it joins the parish of Hoo, about half a mile
below Upnor-castle northward, all along between the
river and the hill are large quantities of salt marshes,
overflowed at every high tide.

UPNOR-CASTLE is situated a small distance below
Chatham-dock, on the opposite shore to it. It is a
stone building, and was erected by queen Elizabeth,
in her 3d year, for the defence of the river; but now,
and indeed for many years past, there has not been a gun
mounted in it for service, nor yet a platform.

In the castle there is a magazine of powder, for the

use of the navy, &c. for the security of which, here is an establishment of a governor, store-keeper, clerk of the cheque, a master-gunner, twelve other gunners, &c. There is likewise an officer's guard of soldiers, on detachment, which, with the rest of the forts on this river, excepting Sheerness, are under the command of the governor of Upnor-castle. One of these is the fort once called The Swamp, now The Birdsnest; but there has not been a gun mounted on it within remembrance, and the embrasures of earth have been

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long since mouldered away, and over-run with bushes and brambles. Another of them, called Cockham-wood fort, about a mile below on the same side the Medway, is yet to be seen; but with all the guns dismounted, and thrown by on the ground, the shot, &c. lying in the master-gunner's house just by, which, as well as the fort, is become very ruinous. The gift of the master-gunner's place, usually some invalid, is in the master-general of the ordnance; besides whom there is a quarter-gunner belonging to this fort.

Hooness-fort, commonly called The Folly, is situated still lower down on the same side the river, where there are no guns mounted; but there is a master-gunner from Upnor-castle, who lives at it for a week at a time, a boat being allowed for the transporting each gunner, and his provisions, weekly from Upnor-castle for the service of the navy. As to Gillingham-castle, on the opposite side the river, an account of it will be given in its proper place.

The south tower of Upnor-castle is allowed to the governor for his house, at which, on account of its unfitness for his reception, he never resides; but there are near the castle very good barracks, in which the gunners, soldiers, and officer commanding on the spot, are well accommodated. There is likewise a good storekeeper's house and gardens.

The honorable general James Murray was appointed governor of Upnor-castle in 1775, in the room of major-general William Deane, deceased, and on his pre-ferment, captain William Browne succeeded in 1778, and resigned in 1784, on being appointed lieutenant-governor of Guernsey. Colonel Jeffrey Amherst is the present governor.

In the reign of king Edward I. on occasion of a long drought, the monks of Rochester set out to go in procession to Frindsbury, to pray for rain; but the day appointed proving very windy, they apprehended their lights would be blown out, their banners tossed about,

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and their order much discomposed; they desired leave therefore of the master of Stroud hospital to pass through the orchard of his house; who thinking it of no consequence, gave leave, without the consent of his brethren. They understanding this, and remembering, that the hospital was of the foundation of Gilbert, sometime bishop of Rochester, whom the monks predecessors had resisted in the erection of it, and fearing these would attempt an injury to their privileges, having hired a company of ribalds, armed with clubs and bats, waylaid them in the orchard, assaulted, beat, and

put them to flight. After which though the monks desisted from going that way, yet they obliged the men of Frindsbury to come yearly on Whit-Monday in procession, with their clubs, to Rochester, as a penance for their crime. Hence came the bye-word of Frindsbury-clubs, and most probably the custom which the boys of Rochester and Strood had, of meeting on May-day yearly, on the bridge of Rochester with clubs, and there skirmishing with each other./o

This parish ought antiently, with others in this neighbourhood, to have contributed to the repair of the first pier of Rochester-bridge.

FRINDSBURY, with its appendages, Æslingham, Bromheye, Chatindone, Thornden, &c. was given to the church of Rochester by the several reigning kings during the Saxon heptarchy, between the years 764 and 789, of whom Offa, king of the Mercians, was the chief benefactor, who gave to it twenty plough lands, lying in Æslingham, by which name this parish seems at that time to have been described./p

These estates were wrested from the church of Rochester in the troublesome times, which soon after followed by reason of the Danish wars. They came afterwards into the possession of Harold, and on the accession

/o Lamb. Peramb. p. 396. MSS. Hist. Rochester, by F. Head.
/p Text. Roff. from p. 72 to p. 88. Reg. Roff. p. 76.

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of William the Conqueror, were given by him among other estates to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother, but archbishop Lanfranc recovered them again, in the solemn assembly held at Pinenden-heath, in 1076,/q and afterwards restored them to bishop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew; which gift was afterwards confirmed by archbishop Anselm, and by several of his successors, archbishops of Canterbury.

In the general survey of Domesday, Frindsbury is thus described under the title of Terra Epi Rovecestre, i. e. the lands of the bishop of Rochester, as follows:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Frandesberie. It was taxed in the time of king Edward the Confessor at 10 sulings, and now at seven. The arable land is 15 carucates. In demesne there are 5 carucates, and 40 villeins, with 28 borderers, having 11 carucates. There is a church and 9 servants, and 1 mill of 12 shillings, and 40 acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of 5 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 8 pounds, and now 25 pounds. What Richard held in his lowy was worth 10 shillings.

And a little further in the same survey:

In Rochester the bishop had, and yet has, four and twenty plats of ground, which belong to Frandesberie and Borestale, his own manors. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, they were worth three pounds, now they are worth eight pounds, and yet they yield yearly eleven pounds, and thirteen shillings and four pence.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was elected to that see in the time of the Conqueror, having after the example of archbishop Lanfranc, divided the revenues

of his church between himself and the convent, allotted the manor of Frindsbury, with its appendages, to the share of the monks, and it was confirmed to the church of Rochester, and the monks there, by king

/q Reg. Roff. p. 4, 442. /r Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 1.

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Henry I. king Stephen and king Henry II. and by several archbishops of Canterbury, and bishops of Rochester.

On bishop Gilbert de Glanvill's coming to the see of Rochester in 1185, the bishop claimed this manor, with its appendages, among other premises given to them by bishop Gundulph, as belonging to the maintenance of his table, to which the monks were at last forced to submit. In consequence of which, though he wrested the advowson of the church of Frindsbury from them, yet they continued in possession of the manor, with its appendages, till the dissolution of the priory in the reign of king Henry VIII.

In the 7th year of king Edward I. the bishop of Rochester claimed certain liberties by the grant of king Henry I. in all his lands and fees; and others by ancient custom, in the lands of the priory in Frenesberie, as well as in all other lands belonging to the church. All which were then allowed him by the jury. As they were likewise in the 21st year of that reign, and in the 7th year of king Edward II. to Thomas de Woldham, bishop of Rochester; and they were confirmed by letters of inspeximus, granted by king Edward III. July 13, in his 30th year.

In the 21st year of the same reign, upon a quarrel, the prior of Rochester claimed that he and his predecessors had in the manor of Frenesberie, &c. view of frank-pledge, and all matters belonging to it, from beyond memory; and that these liberties had been used without interruption. All which were allowed by the jury, &c.

That, as to pleas of the crown, a market, fair, gallows, and other liberties in this parish, he neither had, nor did ever claim them; and as to free-warren, he claimed it by grant of king Henry I. and said that he and his predecessors had the same in this and other pa-

/s Reg. Roff. p. 86. /t Ibid. p. 112, 663.

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ishes from the time of the said grant. But the jury found, that neither he nor they had used it in this parish; therefore it was determined, that it should remain without the liberty of it.

King Edward I. by his charter, in his 23d year, granted to the prior and convent of Rochester, free-warren in all their demesne lands of this manor; so that no one should enter on them, either to hunt, or to take any thing which belonged to warren, without the licence and good will of them and their successors, on the forfeiture of ten pounds.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this manor, with its appendages, Strode, Chetyndone, and Rede, was taxed at 24l. 6s. 8d. which latter was antiently called La Rede, and in the time of the Saxons Hreodham.

On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the

32d year of king Henry VIII. the manor of Frindsbury, with its appendages, the manors of Chatindon and Rede-court, and other premises in this parish, were surrendered, with the other possessions of it, into the king's hands, who presently after, in his 33d year, settled the manor of Frindsbury and Rede-court, with other premises in this parish, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of them continue at this time.

The lessee of the manor of Frindsbury is Philip Boghurst, esq. whose father of the same name erected the commodious and substantial court-lodge, situated near the church, and the lessee of the manor of Rede-court is Mr. John Boghurst, of Stroud.

THE MANOR OF ÆSLINGHAM becoming part of the possessions of the church of Rochester, as before-mentioned, was afterwards given by Gundulph, bishop of it, to Godfrey Talbot, but he reserved the whole tithes of it to the use of his monks. After which, this manor came into the family of St. Clere.

/u Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 7. Reg. Roff. p. 388.

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John, bishop of Rochester, about the time of king Stephen, dedicated the chapel of Heslingham in honor of St. Peter, and endowed it with all liberties and customs, which it had from the time of bishop Gundulph, his predecessor, from the gifts made by Hugh de St. Clere and his family, and from the tithes of all his demesnes of the land, which he held of the fee of the bishop of Rochester, at the time the chapel was dedicated, from which lands the monks of the church of Rochester had yearly ten shillings, which were received by those who had the care of the manor of Frindsbury; and the mother church of the manor had likewise yearly thirty sheaves of wheat, thirty of barley, and thirty of oats, on account of the sepulture of the servants, who should die of the family of Hugh before-mentioned, or his heirs; but if the lord of Eselingham, his wife, his son, or his daughter should die, and be brought to the mother church of St. Andrew, although the profits of his chapel should be lessened by it, they should be buried there. And the bishop further granted, that the lord of Eselingham should freely have such chaplain as he thought fit in his house, to maintain at his own table, in like manner as it was known to be in the time of Gundulph, Ralph, Ernulf, and John, bishops of Rochester, and at the time of the dedication.

In the reign of king Edward I. the same John de St. Clere held this manor, as one knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester./w After which William de Brampton and Alicia de Eselyngham held it, and their heirs paid respective aid for it, as one knight's fee, in the 20th year of king Edward III.

William de Halden died possessed of this manor in the 51st year of that reign. After which it came into the family of Neal, who had good estates about Higham, and from thence into that of Rykeld, or Rikhill, as the

/w Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.

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name came afterwards to be spelt; one of whom, John Rikhill, held his shrievalty at his manor-house of Eslingham, in the 3d year of king Henry VI. bearing for his arms, gules, two bars argent, between three annulets, or./x His descendant, Thomas Rikhill, alienated it to R. Frogenhall, whose heir passed it away by sale to Audley, and Fisher, and they sold it to Sir Thomas Cromwell, who was afterwards, anno 27 king Henry VIII. for his services in the suppression of the religious houses, created lord Cromwell, of Okeham, in Rutlandshire. He was the son of a blacksmith, at Putney, in Surry, and had been a common soldier under the duke of Bourbon, at the sacking of Rome; on his return home, he was entertained in the service of cardinal Wolsey, to whom he proved so acceptable for his dexterous management of particular matters, which the cardinal had then in hand, that he raised him from obscurity, and paved the way for his attaining those great and eminent dignities and titles he afterwards possessed. In the 23d year of king Henry VIII. which was after the cardinal's disgrace, he was made a privy-counsellor, and master of the jewel-house, the next year clerk of the hanaper, and in the 26th year of king Henry VIII. principal secretary of state, and master of the rolls. After which, for his artful management in the dissolution of the monasteries, in which he was the chief agent, he was made keeper of the privy seal, and soon after created lord Cromwell, as above-mentioned./y

After which, though a layman, he was constituted the king's vicar-general, over all spiritualities under himself, and afterwards obtained from the king large and extensive grants of the lands late belonging to several religious houses. In the 31st year of the same reign, he procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by act of parliament, and was further ad-

/x Philipott, p. 25. Reg. Roff. p. 372.

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 370.

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vanced to the dignity of earl of Essex, and quickly after knight of the garter, and lord high chamberlain of England.

But this hasty rise to so high a pinnacle of honor was as suddenly succeeded by his ruin; for next year on the king's displeasure, on account of his having been the chief adviser of his marriage with the lady Ann of Cleves, he was arrested at the council-table, and committed to the tower, and being convicted of high treason, he was condemned unheard, and almost unpitied, and beheaded on Tower-hill./z

On his attainder the manor of Eslingham came to the crown, at which time it consisted of the mansion and buildings, with the demesne lands, a fishery on the river Medway, and the rectory of Islingham, with all tithes of corn, oblations and emoluments belonging to it, parcel of the manor; the fee of all which continued in the crown till queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir William Drury, of Norfolk, one of whose descendants, in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it to Henry Clerke, esq. serjeant at law, and recorder of Rochester; whose descendant, Gilbert Clerke, esq. of Derbyshire, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose

son, Mawdistly Best, esq. died possessed of it in 1744, and by his will devised this manor to his second son, Mr. James Best, of Chatham, who died in 1782, and his eldest son, Thomas Best, esq. of Boxley, is the present owner of it.

THE ESTATE, called BROMHEY, or Bromgeheg, mentioned before to have been given to the church of Rochester, in the time of the Saxon heptarchy, was the gift of Egeberht, king of Kent, in the years 778 and 779, which was confirmed afterwards by Offa, king of Mercia, and was said to be situated within the limits of the castle, called Hrofeceaster, having on the east, Wuodafleet, and on the north a marsh called Scaga,

/z Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 373 et seq.

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which the water of Jaenlade surrounded./a This estate seems afterwards to have been divided. Part of it remained, as appears by different records in the possession of the bishop of Rochester, for Richard de Greenstreet, in consideration of one marc sterling, granted to Thomas, bishop of Rochester, and his successors, certain land in the manor of Bromhei, adjoining to the bishop's barn there,/b and in the year 1337, bishop Hamo de Hethe repaired, at great expence, his grange at Brumheye./c

Another part of this estate was granted to the family of Cobham, of Cobham, in this neighbourhood, by the bishop of Rochester, to hold of him and his successors, and a third part was in the possession of the prior and convent of Rochester, as appears by the Book of Aid taken in the 20th year of king Edward III. at which time Sir John de Cobham, and the prior of Rochester, held half a knight's fee in Bromhege.

Sir John de Cobham held his part of the bishop of Rochester as before-mentioned, and his descendant, John, lord Cobham, died possessed of it, by the name of the manor of Bromhei, in the 9th year of king Henry IV. since which I imagine this estate, which has for many years lost its antient name, has passed, in like manner as Cobham-hall, to the right honorable John, earl of Darnley, part of whose possessions in this parish it now remains.

It appears by the Textus Roffensis, that there was once a chapel at this place, bishop Thomas de Woldham, by his will, in 1316, bequeathed to the poor of this chapel of Bromhei eight marcs.

CHATTENDEN is an estate in this parish, which was once accounted an appendage to the manor of Frindsbury, and was as such given with it to the church of Rochester, in the time of the Saxon heptarchy, and re-

/a Text. Roff. p. 88. /b Reg. Roff. p. 193.

/c Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 374.

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maintained part of the possessions of the priory at its dissolution in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when this manor, with the rest of the possessions of the priory was surrendered into the king's hands, who that year granted the manor of Chattenden, and its appurtenances, to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, since which it has descended in like manner as Cobham-hall, and the rest of

the late duke of Richmond's estates, which in this parish consisted of 650 acres of land, to the right honorable John, earl of Darnley, the present owner of it.

William de Hoo, prior of St. Andrew's, Rochester, having for two years endured much ill usage, for not consenting to alienate the wood of Chetindone, changed his habit and died a monk at Woborne./d

Luke de Hores, with the consent of his heirs, granted to the prior and convent of Rochester, to the increase of their manor of Frindsbury, land at Chetindune, called the land of Eilric Bishop. In exchange for which they granted to him four acres of meadow in Stodbroc, adjoining in length against the ditch of Stroud-hospital.

GODDINGTON, alias Waltons, but more properly Wattons, is an estate, lying partly in this parish, and partly in Stroud, which, as appears by the escheat rolls, was once reputed a manor. In the 20th year of king Edward III. Simon Godyngton paid aid for this manor as half a knight's fee, which Alan de Godyngton before held in Frindsbury and Stroud, of Jeffry de Scotland, and he of the earl of Leicester. This estate seems afterwards to have been divided, part of it comprehending the manor and part of the demesne lands lying in the parish of Stroud, came into the possession of the priory of Rochester, as will be further mentioned under that parish, and the other part, which included the mansion, with part of the demesne lands situated near

/d Reg. Roff. p. 125. He was elected prior in 1239. See Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 349, 393.

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Frindsbury church, came afterwards into the family of Charles, one of whom, Robert Charles, had been possessed of land about Hilden, in Tunbridge, and was bailiff of the forest there to Robert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in the reign of king Edward I./e In this name it continued down to Richard Charles, of Addington; who dying without male issue, in the 11th year of king Richard II. his two daughters, Alice, wife of William Snaith, descended from William de Snaith, chancellor of the exchequer in the reign of king Edward III. and Joane, wife of Richard Ormeskirk, became his coheirs.

On the division of their inheritance, this estate became the property of William Snaith, who was in his wife's right possessor of Addington, and afterwards sheriff of Kent in the 9th year of king Henry IV. He died possessed of it in 1409, leaving Alice, his sole daughter and heir, married to Robert Watton, esq. who thenceforward resided at Addington, in her right. His descendants continued in possession of Goddington, holding it of the king, as of his duchy of Lancaster, by knights service,/f till William Watton, esq. of Addington, in the reign of king Charles II. alienated it to Francis Barrell, esq. serjeant at law, and recorder of the city of Rochester, who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a chief sable three talbots heads erased of the field.

He was elected to serve in parliament for the city of Rochester, in the 31st year of king Charles II. and dying in 1679, was buried in Rochester cathedral, as were his several descendants. By Anne Somer, his

wife, who died in 1707, he left three sons; Francis his heir, of whom hereafter; Henry, who was chapter clerk to the dean and chapter of Rochester, and died in 1754 unmarried; and Edmund, who was prebendary of Rochester, &c. and died in 1765.

/e Rot. Esch. No. 34. Philipott, p. 153.

/f Rot. Esch. an. 15 and 17 king Henry VIII.

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Francis Barrell, esq. the son and heir, was of Rochester, which city he represented in the last parliament of king William's reign. He died in 1724, leaving by Anne Kitchell, his wife, who died before him in 1717, one son and heir, Francis, and four daughters; Anne, who died unmarried in 1780, and Catherine, who married Josiah Marshall, esq. Frances, wife of Mr. John Page, and Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. William Louth, prebendary of Winchester, and elder brother to the late bishop of London. Francis Barrell, esq. the son, married first, Anne, daughter of Thomas Pearse, esq. of Rochester, by whom he left two surviving daughters, who will be further mentioned hereafter; secondly, Frances, daughter of Thomas Bowdler, esq. who died in 1736; and thirdly, Frances, daughter and at length co-heir of William Hanbury, esq. of Herefordshire, by whom only he had one son, Francis, who died before him, æt. 17, in 1755; so that his two daughters, by his first wife, who survived him, became his coheirs, viz. Anne, married to the Rev. Francis Dodsworth, vicar of Goddington, in this county, treasurer of Salisbury, and prebendary of York, &c. and Catherine, married to the Rev. Frederick Dodsworth, brother of the former.

But this estate of Goddington was devised by the will of Mr. Serjeant Barrell, who died in 1679, to his second son, Mr. Henry Barrell, who dying unmarried in 1754, gave it by will to his nephew, Francis Barrell, esq. for his life, with remainder to his niece, Catherine, wife of Josiah Marshall, esq. and her heirs for ever. Her eldest son, the Rev. Edmund Marshall, vicar of Charing, sold it in 1780 to Mr. Thomas Ayres, who rebuilt the house, and dying in 1796, gave it by will to his niece, Mary Anne Hopkins, who sold it to George Gunning, esq. the present possessor of it.

THE MANOR OF WAINSCOT, alias Parlabiens-yoke, was antiently the estate of a family of the name of Parlabilien, who in the reign of king Edward II. had

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possessions both here and at Kedbrook by Charlton, in this county. Soon after which it came to the Colepepers, of Aylesford, in which family it continued till Sir Thomas Colepeper, about the end of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Edward Randolph, whose heir sold it to Somers, of St. Margaret's, Rochester, who was descended from William Somer, chancellor of the exchequer in the reign of king Henry VI. and possessed much land in the hundred of Hoo. They bore for their arms, Vert, a fess dancette ermine.

His son, in the reign of king Charles I. alienated it to Mr. Robinson, of Rochester, whence it passed by sale to Mr. Henry Golding, of Upper Halling, whose heirs sold this manor to Francis Brooke, esq. of Town

Malling, who died in 1782, and by his will gave it to his nephew Joseph Brooke, esq. of Town Malling, and he sold it to the Rev. Edward Holme, as he did to Mr. John Boghurst, the present owner of it. There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

There was an estate in this parish called THORNDEN, or Thornindune, which was held of the manor of Frindsbury, by the wife of Robert Latimer.

The monks of St. Andrew's claimed the reversion of this estate at her death, but she affirmed that the inheritance of it belonged to her kindred. However, before her death, she gave it up, with all that she had upon it, to the monks, to be possessed by them for ever, placing at the same time the grant of it from bishop Gundulph, on the altar of St. Andrew, for which the monks gave her sixty shillings, and promised her besides, food and cloathing so long as she should live, food from the celerer, as much as for one monk, and one dish of flesh four days in the week; and cloathing from the chamberlain, honorable, such as became her age and person, and to such man and maid servant, as she should have, such food as the rest of the servants

/g Philipott, p. 153. Text. Roff. p. 198.

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of the church had; and further, they gave her twenty shillings yearly to pay their wages, and cloath them, and procure other necessaries for herself, and when she died the convent agreed, that they would bury her, and keep her anniversary yearly.

CHARITIES.

ROBERT GUNSLEY, and the PARISH OF FRINDSBURY, jointly purchased by deed in 1632, a mill and twenty-seven acres of land in Hoo, from the yearly produce of which the yearly sum of 1l. 13s. to be applied to the repairs of the church, the remainder to the poor in bread, vested in the minister and overseers, of the annual produce of 5l. 10s.

PHILIP STAINES gave by will, to be laid out in bread, lands vested as above, and of the annual produce of 3l. 2s.

JOHN WOODGRENE gave, to be laid out in bread, lands and tenements, vested as above, and of the annual produce of 5l. 10s. but subject to repairs.

RICHARD WATSON gave by will, to be divided among twelve of the poorest persons in the parish, a tenement, vested as above, of the annual produce of 9l. subject to repairs.

A PERSON UNKNOWN, gave seven acres of land in this parish, the rent accruing from which has always been expended in repairing the church.

BOWHAM PENNISTONE gave an acre of land near Upnor, towards the same use.

THE RENT of the Green, containing one acre, was given to repair the church.

FRINDSBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

At the time of Gundulph's coming to the see of Rochester, anno 1075, there was no church here, but there was not long afterwards one built of stone by Paulinus, sacrist of the church of Rochester, who ornamented it with books, vestments, &c.

The present church of Frindsbury, which however bears no marks of any deep antiquity, is dedicated to

All Saints. It consists of two isles and a chancel, with a spire steeple at the west end, in which is a peal of five bells

/h Reg. Roff. p. 118.

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and a small one. Richard Young, bishop of Rochester, in king Henry the Vth's reign, caused several windows to be made in this church, and when Lambard wrote his perambulation, the picture of this prelate was remaining in one of the windows. The font is a curious piece of gothic architecture.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: – In the chancel, on the north wall, a monument for William Watson, gent. and Rose his wife, the parents of Robert Watson, esq. also Katherine-Rebecca. Joane, Mary and Isabella, wives of the said Robert, placed here by the son and husband in 1673, above, the arms of Watson, Barry of six argent and gules, three crescents ermine on a chief of the second, two tilt spears, their heads broken off in saltier, or, and the same with impalements; a memorial, having sable, an eagle displayed, or, on a chief azure, bordered argent, a chevron between two crescents above, and a rose below, or, for Robert Mynors, esq. governor of Upnor-castle, obt. 1694. In the nave, memorials for the Fowlers, Couchman, Kidwells, Grangers, Almonds, Nash, and others. In the south isle, a monument, with azure, a dolphin imbowed argent, naiant, argent between three escallop shells, or, for Henry Needler, gent, obt. 1661; another for Robert Oliver, gent. obt. 1666; on the west wall a monument for Thomas Butler, who served queen Elizabeth in England, France and Spain, &c. anno 1621, Dennis, his wife, anno 1607, and Margaret, his wife, 1617./i

John, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Henry II. gave this church, together with the chapel of Strodes belonging to it, and all lands and tithes, to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester, towards the finding of lights there, and on condition that the sacrist/k of it should give after his death, for the good of his soul, yearly, on the day of his anniversary, one mark of silver; to buy bread to be distributed to the poor, which was confirmed by pope Celestine II. with licence to appropriate it to the use of their almonry. Walter, bishop of Rochester, soon afterwards, in the reign of king Henry II. confirmed this grant, together with the

/i See the monuments and inscriptions more at large in Reg. Roff. p. 737. /k Sacristarius in orig.

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free disposition of the church, and the presentation of the vicarage, but bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, who came to the see in 1185, finding the revenues of his bishopric impoverished by these gifts of his predecessors to the priory, re-assumed the possession of many of them, and though he left the monks in possession of the appropriation of this church, yet he annexed the advowson of the vicarage to his see again, and in 1193, the bishop, with the consent of William, archdeacon of Rochester, then rector of this church of Frindsbury, made Strood an independent parochial district.

Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin, on account of his great expences and the slenderness of his income, in 1256, obtained from the monks the appropriation,

saving to them an annual pension of one mark from it, (now paid to the dean and chapter) and all tithes within the limits of it, before that time possessed by them.

This was confirmed by the bulls of the popes Alexander and Clement IV. and by cardinal Ottobon, the pope's legate, who allotted it to the maintenance of the bishop's table for ever./l

Bishop Gundulph, in 1091, with the assent of archbishop Anselm, had granted to the monks of St. Andrew's, the tithes arising, as well from the food of their cattle, as from their agriculture, within the manor of Frindsbury, and others within his diocese, to the use of their refectory; which gift was confirmed by archbishop Theobald, by Ralph Prior, and the convent of Canterbury, by Walter Gilbert, and Henry, bishops of Rochester, &c. which latter further granted to them the small tithes, together with the other tithes arising from their manors and demesnes in Frindsbury, and their other manors within his diocese, according to former custom. All which was confirmed by Richard, bishop of Rochester, in 1280, who at the same time, at the instance of the prior and convent of Rochester, made

/l Reg. Roff. p. 66, 134, 528, 529.

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enquiry, by a solemn inquisition, in what manner the monks used to retain tithes in their manors, and in what manner they used to impart them to the parish churches; when it was found, that the parish church of Frindsbury was formerly endowed, in the name of a portion of tithes, in land called Nelesfelde, parcel of the demesne land of the manor of Frindsbury, which belonged to that church; and that they gave yearly, in the time of harvest, to the church in the name of tithe, one acre of wheat, one acre of barley, and one acre of oats of middle corn; but of wool, or the produce of the dairy, or other small tithes, the church did not, nor had used to take any thing. But in the grange of Chatingdone, which was a member of the manor of Frindsbury, the church took only the whole tithe of sheaves. At La Rede, which was a member of it likewise, the almoner of the priory took, as had been used of antient time, only the whole tithe of sheaves. But that the church of Frindsbury did not, nor had used to take any thing there. And of other small tithes, as well as of the mills, and hay in the manor of Frindsbury, and in their other manors, the parish church did not, nor ever used to take any thing; and he decreed, that the parish church of Frindsbury should be content with the endowment of the aforesaid land, called Nelesfelde, with which it remained endowed of antient time of the demesne land of the manor, in the name of tithes, and of the three acres of corn in the time of harvest, to be taken as before-mentioned, and in the tithes of sheaves in Chatingdone only; and that the monks should have and retain for ever all other tithes, both great and small, by whatever names they were called, in all their manors and places within his diocese, the tithes of sheaves, &c. in each of them, as were particularly mentioned in his instrument, only excepted.

All which was confirmed to them, as well as the former grants of bishops Walter, Gilbert, and Henry, by

John, archbishop of Canterbury, by inspeximus, in the

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year 1281./m In the 15th year of Edward I. this church was valued at sixty marcs, and the vicarage at one hundred shillings. In the 33d year of king Edward III. the church, with the chapel of Stroud, was taxed at sixty marcs. And in a subsequent valuation, the church of Frindsbury was valued at one hundred marcs. In the valuation of church livings, &c. taken in 1650, it was returned, that here was a vicarage worth forty pounds per annum, but then sequestered; and also one chapel, which belonged to the manor of Islingham, and was antiently endowed with the tithes of eight score acres of land, which paid only to the parson of the parish yearly, three copp of wheat, three copp of barley, and three copp of oats, and to the minister 13s. 4d. per annum, and that the said chapel was then employed as a barn.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 10l. 3s. 11 1/2d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 4 3/4d.

The parsonage of Frindsbury and advowson of the vicarage, still continue part of the possessions of the bishopric of Rochester. The endowment of the vicarage is not extant, but the vicar by usage, is entitled to all tithes, except those of corn and grain. The vicarage house is situated at an inconvenient distance from the church, and not in a very healthy situation, there are fifteen acres of glebe land. The register does not begin till 1669.

The family of Watson, who bore for their arms, Barry of six argent and gules, three crescents ermine on a chief of the second, two tilt-spears, their heads broken off, in saltier, or, were lessees of this parsonage many years. William, son of John Watson, of Riverhall, in Essex, settled in this parish in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and his descendants continued here afterwards for more than a century./n

/m Reg. Roff. p. 91, 92. /n Vistn. co. Kent, 1619.

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GOTCELINE DE HÆNHERSTE became a monk in the priory of St. Andrew in Rochester, and gave to it on that account, the half of his tithe of his land there, and in Frindsbury./o The portion of tithes seems to have remained part of the possessions of the priory, at its dissolution in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. who granted it next year, by his dotation charter, to his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it now continues.

This portion of tithes is commonly called Goldock's Portion, and arises out of certain fields in the parishes of Frindsbury and Stroud. In 1650 these tithes were valued at 10s. and the yearly reserved rent was 2s./p

The heirs of Richard Lee, esq. were lately lessees of these tithes under the dean and chapter.

CHURCH OF FRINDSBURY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Bishops of Rochester Ralf, before 1200.

William, about 1200./q

VICARS.

Thomas Colyere, in 1425./r
William Saunder, obt. Feb. 2,
1452./s

Walter Holmes, in 1626./t

Henry Bearblock, A. M. in 1630./u

Thomas Johnson, A. M. inst. 1659,
obt. 1665./w

John Wywill, obt. 1704.

Samuel Gibson, resigned 1720./x

/o Text. Roff. p. 169.

/p Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library,
vol. xiv.

/q He gave his consent for the mak=
ing the chapel of Stroud a parochial
church. Vide Comber's Vindication
of Tythes, vol. i. p. 233.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 571.

/s He was afterwards rector of Hin=
ton, in Northampton, and lies buried
in the latter church.

/t In 1626 a dispensation passed for
his holding this vicarage with South=
church, in Essex. Rym. Fœd. vol.
xviii. p. 876.

/u Also vicar of Higham. MSS.
Twysden.

/w Father of Mr. Johnson, vicar of
Cranbrook, born here in 1662.

/x He lies buried in Stroud church,
and died Feb. 10, 1724. Reg. Roff.
p. 735.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Bishops of Rochester Thomas Harris, resigned 1726./y

Richard Chapman, inst. August

25, 1726, obt. 1762./z

— Axton, 1762, 1764.

Francis Taynton, 1764, resigned
1779.

Robert Fountaine, 1779, resigned
January, 1788./a

W. P. Menzies, A. M. January
1788, the present vicar./b

/y He was presented to Gravesend and
Northfleet.

/z He was before rector of Swacliff,
which he resigned on being presented
to this vicarage, and was afterwards
minister of Cobham.

/a And minor canon of Rochester.

/b And minor canon of Rochester.

- - -

STROUD.

SOUTHWARD from Frindsbury lies Stroud,
called in the Textus Roffensis, Strodes.

THE PARISH lies within two jurisdictions, one of
which is within that of the justices of the county at

large, and the other within that of the bounds of the corporation of the city of Rochester and hundred of the same, the two divisions being known by the names of Stroud Infra and Stroud Extra; the former includes that part of this parish from the High-street of Rochester over the bridge to the mill, called Stroud-mill, including the same, and from thence along the High-street, at the right hand side thereof, to the sign of the Angel, and so beyond the church along the high road to the cross way leading from Rochester to Gravesend, and from Cuxton to Frindsbury, and thence up the said way leading to Frindsbury, to a house once called the Ship, including the church of Stroud, and so in circuit about, and including all Littleborough or Littlebury, unto the city of Rochester and Medway again./c

/c Kilburne's Survey, p. 263. History of Rochester, p. 257.

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The latter is partly within the jurisdiction of the court, held for the hundred of Shamel, and partly within that of the manor of Stroud, alias Temple.

This parish is situated for the most part to the southward of the high London road; the river Medway is its eastern boundary as far as Cookstone, near the banks of which is the manor house of the Temple; whence it rises up the hills till it joins the parish of Cobham, being the greatest part of it a chalky soil. The town of Stroud, through which the high London road leads over Rochester bridge to Dover, is situated at the northern boundary of the parish, almost adjoining to Frindsbury-street, and on the east to the river Medway and Rochester bridge, at the foot of which are wharfs, to which colliers of the largest burthens are brought up, and safely moored. The town consists of one principal street, having the church at the west end of it, near which are some remains of the hospital at Newark. The inhabitants consist in great measure of seafaring men, fishermen, and of oyster dredgers, the latter being conducted by a Company of free Dredgers, established by prescription, but subject to the authority and government of the corporation of Rochester; a further account of which will be given in the next volume, in the description of that city.

The town of Stroud is much improved of late years in the buildings of it, especially by the act of parliament passed in 1769, for new paving, lighting, and watching it; towards the expence of which, though the inhabitants of Rochester, which was joined in the same act, were subjected to the annual rate of one shilling in the pound of their rack rents, those of Stroud, in consideration of their large share of statute work belonging to this parish, were subjected only to ninepence, of which two thirds are paid by the landlords, and one third by the tenants; besides which there is a toll-gate erected in Stroud, the revenue of which is

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appropriated to this work. A considerable fair is held annually in this town on August 26, by grant, to the priory of Rochester, from king John, in his 7th year.

It continues for three days./d

STROUD, alias TEMPLE manor, is situated with= in the hundred of Shamel, and was given by king Henry II. to the Knights Templars, who had a man= sion, great part of which is still remaining, in the sou= thern part of this parish, near the banks of the Med= way; which, from their possessing it, has ever since acquired the name of the Temple manor. This gift was confirmed to them by king John and Henry III. but the whole order of them being dissolved in the 6th year of Edward II.'s reign, 1312, pope Clement V. im= mediately granted their lands and goods to the Knights Hospitallers, and the king afterwards confirmed that grant, and ordered possession to be delivered to them; though he, both before and afterwards, granted se= veral of their manors and estates to laymen and lay uses, which induced pope John XXII. anno 1322, when the confirmed the Templars lands to the Hospi= tallers, to denounce curses and excommunications against those nobles, knights, and other laymen, and even ecclesiastics, who against right were possessed of them. This bull probably occasioned the act made next year, in which, because the estates of the Temp= lars had been given for godly and pious uses, the king, nobles, and others assembled in parliament, granted that they should be assigned according to the will of the donors, to other men of religion, that they might be charitably disposed of to godly uses, and they were accordingly by it given to the Hospitallers. This manor of Strode, alias Temple, became accordingly part of the possessions of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, the prior of which hospital

/d Tan. Mon. p. 202, formerly held on the Assumption, Au= gust 15.

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granted the fee of it to king Edward II. who by his writ to the sheriff, commanded him to take it into his hands, and to account for the profits of it, &c.

King Edward III. in recompence of certain lands and tenements, lately belonging to his dear kinswo= man, Mary de St. Paul, countess of Pembroke, which he had taken into his hands, granted to her this ma= nor, with its appurtenances, then held in capite, for her life; and afterwards, in regard of the trouble and ex= pence which she had, and might be at, in relation to his daughter, Joane of Woodstocke, then living with her in her family; he, by other letters patent, in his 12th year, granted this manor and its appurtenances to her and her heirs for ever. She designed to have built a religious house in her manor here,/e but alter= ing her mind, she gave it, in the 18th year of that reign, to the monastery she had lately erected at Denny, in Cambridgeshire.

The manor of Strode, alias Temple, continued in the possession of the above monastery till the general dissolution of it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, with the rest of the possessions of it, surrendered into the king's hands, and confirmed to him and his heirs, by the general words of the act of the 32d year of that reign, in which year the king granted the scite of the late monastery of Denny, with

the greatest part of its possessions, among which was this manor, with its appurtenances, to Edw. Elrington, to hold in capite; and he, together with Grace his wife, that year, alienated this manor of Stroud Temple, two messuages, two wharfs, and five hundred acres of arable, pasture, and wood, and fourteen pounds rent, with their appurtenances, in Stroud Temple, to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, and his heirs; whose

/e Rymer's Fœd. vol. iv. p. 81. Leland's Collect. vol. i. p. 99. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 778. See more of her, under Swanscombe. Tan. Mon. p. 219. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 437.

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grandson, Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, being convicted of high treason, in the 1st year of king James I. though he had pardon of his life, yet he forfeited all his estates to the crown, and among them this manor; all which were confirmed to the crown, by an act passed for that purpose in the 3d year of that reign. Soon after which this manor was granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury (son of William lord Burleigh) who was afterwards lord treasurer of England, K. G. &c. and had married Elizabeth, sister of Henry lord Cobham above mentioned. He died possessed of it in 1612, leaving the possession of this manor to his only son and heir, William earl of Salisbury, who alienated it to Bernard Hyde, esq. of London; and he, upon his decease, gave it to his third son, Mr. John Hyde, who passed it away by sale to James Stuart, duke of Richmond, in the reign of king Charles I. from whom, after some small time, this manor was conveyed to Blague, of Rochester, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three garbs sable. His son, Isaac Blague, esq. died possessed of it, leaving Elizabeth his widow, daughter of Richard Round, of Dartford, surviving, and also two daughters infants. His widow was re-married to Mr. John Lampport, who in her right became entitled to the possession of this manor, after whose death it again reverted to the Blagues, one of whom alienated it to Mr. John Whitaker, whose nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Watteringbury, is the present possessor of it.

The MANOR of GODDINGTON, in this parish, mention of which has already been made under the parish of Frindsbury, in which great part of the demesnes of it lay, was formerly in the possession of Simon Godington, who, as there mentioned, paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which Alan de Godyngton before held in Strode, of

/f Philipott, p. 328. Rot. Esch. ejus ann. pt. v.

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Jeffry de Scoland, and he of the earl of Leicester. This manor afterwards, the demesnes belonging to it in Frindsbury having been separated from it, came into the possession of the priory of Rochester, with whom it continued till the suppression of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. who, by his dotation charter, in the 33d year of his reign, settled it on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where it now remains.

The dutchy of Lancaster claims over this manor. BONCAKES, alias NEWARK, is a manor here, which

had owners of the name of Boncake as early as the reign of king John, when Elyas, prior of Rochester, put an end to a suit between that convent and Matthew de Bigstrobe, for ten marcs sterling, and redeemed the service, which was owing from the sacristy on the six principal festivals, to William Boncake and his heirs, for the land of Pinendene in Strodes, parcel of this manor.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. this manor seems to have been divided among several owners, for at the making the Black Prince a knight that year, the master of the Newark or hospital of Stroud, the heirs of Richard Gromyn, John, the son of William Prior, of Stroud, and the heirs of Simon de Cockeford paid respective aid for one quarter of a knight's fee, which the said master, Robert Frankelyn and Nicholas de Cokesford before held in Stroud of Simon de Chellesfelde, and he of Jeffry de Scoland, and he of the earl of Leicester.

In the 43d year of king Edward III. James Peckham released to Richard Havekyn, of Stroud, the third part of a certain court, called Frankelyne's-court, most probably from the before mentioned Robert Frankelyn, in Stroud, together with all rents, suits of court, services, and appurtenances, arising from certain tenements in Stroud and Frindsbury, which court and rents once belonged to Hamon Baker, of Stroud.

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The manor of Boncakes, together with the manor of HAWKINS in this parish, afterwards became part of the possessions of the hospital of Stroud, frequently styled Newark, whence the former acquired the addition of that name to its antient one of Boncakes. They continued with the hospital till it was, together with all its lands and revenues, surrendered, with the king's licence, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. to the prior and convent of Rochester, where these manors staid but a few months; for next year that priory was also dissolved and surrendered, with the possessions belonging to it, into the king's hands; all which were confirmed to him, and his heirs, by the act of that year; after which the king, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled, among other premises, the late hospital of Stroud, and all the lands and possessions late belonging to it, among which were these manors of Boncakes, alias Newark, and of Hawkins, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they now remain.

A court baron is held by the dean and chapter for the manor of Boncakes.

The manor of Hawkins was lately held, by lease from the dean and chapter, by Francis Barrell, esq. on whose death, without male issue, his interest in it descended to his two daughters and coheirs; Anne, married to the Rev. Francis Dodsworth; and Catherine, since married to the Rev. Frederick Dodsworth, brother of the former; both of whom are now, in right of their wives, entitled to it. There is no court held for this manor.

The dean and chapter of Rochester are possessed of several small tenements and premises in this parish, parcel of the priory of Rochester, given to it at times

by different persons; an account of many of which the reader will find in the Registrum Roffense./g

/g Viz. p. 118, 119, 122, 123, 124, and 643 to 647.

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The YOKE, alias NORTH YOKE, is a small manor in Stroud, which lately belonged to Mrs. Mary Thornton, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Stephen Thornton, of Luddesdon, and she died possessed of it in 1779; and her trustee, the Rev. Samuel Denne, is now in the possession of it.

GILBERT DE GLANVILL, bishop of Rochester, at the very beginning of the reign of king Richard I. founded an HOSPITAL in this parish, not far distant from the east end of the church, which was afterwards called the NEWARK or STROUD HOSPITAL. It was erected by him to the honour of God and the Virgin Mary, for the health of his soul and those of his predecessors; successors, and benefactors; and also for the reformation of Christianity in the Holy Land, and for the redemption of king Richard I. and also for the receiving and cherishing therein the poor, weak, infirm, and impotent, as well neighbouring inhabitants as travellers from distant places, who should be suitably provided with beds, victuals, and drink, until their departure from thence, when others of the like fort should be sustained there in like sort for ever. And he appointed a master over it, to be nominated in future by himself and his successors, who should, with the advice of the bishop, have the care of the hospital, who being a regular himself, should have with him as many regulars as might enable him to perform the divine services there in a proper manner; and at the same time, with the consent of the prior and convent of Rochester, as well as of his archdeacon, he endowed it as is therein mentioned. He likewise exempted the scite and precincts of the hospital from all archidiaconal and decanal jurisdiction, so that the same should be subject solely to the authority of the pope, the archbishop of Canterbury, and the bishop of Rochester. And lastly, he or=

/h See the several grants of premises and the confirmations of this foundation, in Reg. Roff. p. 633, 634, 642, 643. And by Ed. III. by inspeximus, in his 6th year. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 434.

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ained, that after a sufficient allowance for the support of himself, the priests, and servants of it, all the residue should be applied in relieving the poor, who should be increased according to the improvement of their revenues.

In the 33d year of king Edward I. the bailiffs of Rochester distrained the goods of the master of this hospital, for the nonpayment of their part of the tallage assessed on the hundred of Rochester; but the master proving the hospital to be within the manor of Frindsbury, and the hundred of Shamel, and that he had neither land nor tenement there, a replevin was granted for them. The next year the master made complaint to the king on this account, who directed his writ to the bailiffs of Rochester, to desist in future, or to appear before him, to shew why they had not obeyed the same; after which the master remained quiet from any

further claims on this account.

From the first establishment of the hospital, a perpetual jealousy subsisted between the monks of St. Andrew's and the members of it: the former could never forget its having been founded out of their revenues, of which they thought they had been arbitrarily dispoiled by bishop Glanvill. Differences and altercations were therefore, no doubt, very frequent, and once in particular, the dispute was not terminated without blows. This affray, occasioned by the monks passing in procession through the orchard of the hospital, has been already related under the parish of Frindsbury; for the brethren opposing them, a smart rencounter ensued, which wrought so far on the monks, that they never attempted to pass in procession that way any more.

When bishop Hamo de Hethe, not long after his promotion to this bishopric, visited the hospital, he found great irregularity had been committed by some of the former masters, who had dissipated a considerable part of its revenues; he therefore, in the year 1330, with the consent of the chapter of Rochester, made

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some further regulations for the better government of it. He ordained, that on a vacancy, the master set over it by the bishop of Rochester, should be one who had professed the antient rule of St Austin, and should be a priest, and should have with him in the hospital four brethren priests, who should wear one uniform regular habit; and further, in memory of their founder, and of the church of Rochester, they should wear on the left side of their cloaks, and on their copes, over their breasts, a white cross of St. Andrew, the patron of that church. He likewise enjoined them to perpetual residence, unless on extraordinary occasions, and gave them rules and orders for their performance of divine worship, times and method of eating, sleeping, and matters of discipline; referring the punishment of greater crimes to the bishop of Rochester, and the lesser ones to the master or the confessor of the hospital; with rules relating to their common seal, the management of their revenues, &c.

The hospital remained in this situation till the reign of king Henry VIII. when John Wyldbore, the master, and the confreres of it, by their instrument, in the 31st year of that reign, surrendered, with the king's licence, their hospital, by the name of the hospital of St. Mary of Stroud, called Newarke, together with the buildings belonging to it, the manor of Hawkins, and all their lands and possessions in Aylesford, Halling, Stroud, Malling, and Snodland, or elsewhere, to Walter, prior, and the convent of Rochester, and their successors for ever, to hold of the king by fealty only, in lieu of all services. The revenues of the hospital, and the estates belonging to it, were at the time of its suppression, valued at 52l. 9s. 10¹/₂d. John Wylbore, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. was the last master of it.

A few months after the dissolution of this hospital, the priory of Rochester itself was likewise, together with all its estates and possessions, surrendered into the

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king's hands; who, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled the antient scite of the hospital, together with all the revenues belonging to it, among other premises, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance of them still remains.

The hospital was placed on the north side of the High-street, near the church yard; the scite of it still retains the name of Newark, but is so covered with modern buildings, that very little of the antient state of it is to be seen. The present lessee of the scite of it, under the dean and chapter is Mr. Tho. Hulkes, of Stroud; and of the almonry, now a malt house, Mr. Thomas Peene.

CHARITIES.

BESIDES the share this parish has in Mr. WATT'S charity, of which an account will be given under Rochester, other benefactions have been made to it. In particular, in the year 1632, ANTHONY YOUNG and JACOB PEMBLE, assigned to several parishioners of it, in trust for the poor, four pieces of land, one of which lies in Stroud, and the other three in the parishes of Hoo and Frindsbury, and are now let for the yearly rent of 5l.

WILLIAM FURNER, by will, in 1721, charged his three houses, in Cage-lane, in this parish, with the annual payment of 40s. to the minister of Stroud, to be by him distributed in bread to twenty of the most necessitous poor widows in this parish.

SARAH PHILIPS, by will, in 1740, gave 50l. to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers, in trust, to be put out to interest, the profits to be laid out in bread, and distributed on Nov. 8, yearly, in the church, to the most industrious poor, not taking alms.

In 1721, the parishioners appropriated 50l. per annum, which they then received from Mr. Watt's charity for six years, towards erecting a house for the reception of the poor. In 1724, 50l. was allotted towards completing this building out of the 750l. given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings, towards erecting such houses in the parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Margaret, Rochester, and in Stroud. By which means the present handsome and spacious brick building was erected on a piece of land belonging to this parish, near the north side of the High street.

THE PARISH OF STROUD has the right of nomination to two places in the New College of Cobham, for two poor persons, inhabitants of this parish, to be chosen and presented so, and by such, as the ordinances of the said college have power to present

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and elect for this parish; and if the parish of Cowling should make default in electing in their turn, then the benefit of election devolves to this parish.

STROUD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church of Stroud is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

It was formerly a chapel to the parish church of Frindsbury, and as such paid sixpence chrim rent to the mother church of the diocese. It is a spacious building, consisting of a nave and two isles, and the great chancel, with a tower steeple at the west end, in which is a clock and six bells, one of which was added in 1765. On the north side of the chancel is a vestry room, and underneath it an antient chancel house. In the south isle is a small stone chapel, built

in 1607, formerly belonging to a family of the name of Moreland, and afterwards to that of Gother, late of this town. There appears to have been formerly in it a chancel dedicated to the Trinity, and another chancel or altar to St. Mary, which last was ordered to be repaired by the parish, in 1512.

The tithes of Stroud were the demesnes of king Henry I. who gave them to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester.

Among other monuments and inscriptions, which are very numerous in this church, are the following: In the chancel, a memorial for the Cæsars; on the south wall, a monument for Samuel Gibson, A. M. vicar of Frindsbury, ob. Feb. 10, 1724: a brass plate, with the figures of a man and his three wives, for Thomas Glover, Agnes, Alicia, and Joane, his wives; he died in 1444. In the south isle, a stone with the figure of a religious person, and round the edge an inscription in capital Saxon letters, for Mariobe and John Creye; over the door of the chapel, south of this isle, is an inscription, that this chapel was bought and repaired by Capt. Richard Wood, in 1705. The raised tombs and head stones in the church yard are very numerous, but being for persons no ways related to this History, the account of them here would be superfluous.^{/k}

^{/i} Text. Roff. p. 130. Reg. Roff. p. 45, 58, 87, 105, 640, 642, 643. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 434. History of Rochester, p. 244.

^{/k} See the monuments and inscriptions at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 734.

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John, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Henry II. gave to the church of St. Andrew, towards the finding lights there, the church of Frindsbury, together with the chapel of Stroud belonging to it, and all lands and tithes belonging to them.

Gilbert, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Richard I. with the consent of his archdeacon (who was then rector of Frindsbury, and resigned this chapel into the bishop's hands, with all oblations, obventions, and other things belonging to it, except the tithes of corn) separated this chapel from the church of Frindsbury, and gave it by the name of the church of St. Nicholas of Stroud, in pure and perpetual alms, with all altarages belonging to it, as well of the living as the dead, and all other matters, excepting the tithing of corn, to the brethren of his new founded hospital of St. Mary of Stroud, for their maintenance and support, and he then constituted it a mother church, and assigned to it a cemetery of its own. And he decreed, that the master of the hospital should possess this church entirely, and should convert it to the use of the poor dwelling therein, so that he should provide and present to the bishop his diocesan, either one of his brethren, who should be a priest, or other fit chaplain, who should celebrate divine rites in it; and he willed, that the priests and clerks serving in it should be discharged from all pecuniary exactions, contributions, and payments, as well to the bishop as the archdeacon and dean of the place, and others; excepting only synodals of old accustomed to be paid. In which situation this church continued till the surrendering of the hospital of Stroud with all its possessions, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. to the prior and convent of Rochester, on the dissolution of which,

within a few months afterwards, it came into the king's hands, who granted it, among other premises, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, to the dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom this church,

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with the tithes and other appurtenances once belonging to the hospital, now remains.

Since the above grant of this church to the dean and chapter, it has been esteemed as a perpetual curacy, the bishop licensing the curate nominated to it by that body, who constantly demise a lease to him of all the emoluments of this benefice at the annual acknowledgement of one penny.

In the survey of the church livings of this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned, that Stroud was a donative, in the gift of the dean and chapter, worth 31l. 18s 3d. per annum, Mr. Daniel French, incumbent. It is not valued in the king's books.

King Henry I. gave THE TITHES of the manor of Tempe, i. e. Temple, to the priory of Rochester, which PORTION OF TITHE remained with the prior at the dissolution of it, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. by whom it was next year settled on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where it continues at this time, the present lessee being Mr. Thomas Hulkes.

CHURCH OF STROUD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES.

Master of Stroud Hospital. Richard Jackson, in 1501./l
Dean and Chapter of Rochester Robert Chamberlain, about 1630./m
John Man, 1642/n
Daniel French, ejected 1662./o
William Scot, about 1670./p
Ferdinand Booth, obt. Feb. 24,
1679./q
James Axe, A. M. 1685, 1688./r
John Harris, D. D. obt. Sept. 7,
1719./s

/l Reg. Roff. p. 416.
/m MSS. Twysden.
/n Walker's Suff. of the Clergy,
part ii. p. 309. White's Century.
/o Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.
/p And rector of Northfleet.
/q He lies buried in this church.
/r And vicar of Stockbury.
/s The editor of the Hist. of Kent,
printed in 1719, in folio, and other
books. He was prebendary of Roches=
ter, and rector of St. Mildred's, Lond.

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PATRONS, &c. CURATES.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Charles Parfect, 1720.
Richard Chapman, 1732, resig.
Caleb Parfect, A. M. resigned.
Christopher Beeke, 1736.
Richard Husbands, A. M. 1767./t

Edward Beedon, D. D. 1755./u

John Ward Allen, A. M. 1792.

Present curate./w

/t And minor canon of Rochester
cathedral.

/u And master of Jesus coll. Camb.

/w Vicar of Cowdham, and a minor
canon of Rochester cathedral.

END OF VOL. III.