

Edward Hasted
The history and topographical survey of the county
of Kent, second edition, volume 4
Canterbury
1798

<I>

THE
HISTORY
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT.

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

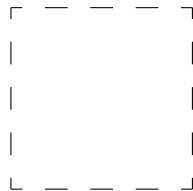
THE SECOND EDITION,
IMPROVED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

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 IV.

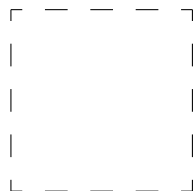


CANTERBURY:
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TO THE
HONORABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND
BROWNLOW,
LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER,
PRELATE OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER
OF THE GARTER, &c.

MY LORD,

IT is with much respect that I make use of the permission, you have given me of prefixing your name to this volume, which cannot but stamp a credit on it, much beyond its merits. The honor your Lordship has done me in the encouragement of my History from the first publication of it, and this

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continuance of it is a still further mark of your partiality to a county with which you are still materially connected by the relationship of your noble family, their large extended property and principal residence in it, a partiality strengthened by your Lordship's having presided over the chapter of the metropolitical church of Canterbury, when you first honored me with your notice and where the liberal conduct and affability of dean NORTH is still held in a pleasing and grateful remembrance. Permit me, my Lord, to return you my most respectful thanks for these repeated marks of your favor. That your Lordship may long continue to make happy that diocese, over which you now so worthily preside, are the fervent wishes of, my Lord,

Your Lordship's
much obliged,
and most obedient servant,

EDWARD HASTED.

LONDON,
JANUARY 10, 1798.

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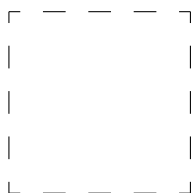
DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

1. To face title, Plate of ROCHESTER CASTLE, 8vo.
2. To face p. 1. Map of HOO, &c. HUNDREDS.
3. To face p. 45. Ditto, ROCHESTER and LARKFIELD DITTO.
4. To face p. 259. Ditto, MAIDSTONE HUNDRED.
5. To face p. 420. Plate of KIT'S COTY HOUSE, 8vo.
6. To face p. 422. Ditto, an ANTIEN T MONUMENT near ditto, 8vo.

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THE
LATH OF AYLESFORD,
CONTINUED.

THE HUNDRED OF HOO.

EASTWARD from the hundred of Shamel lies
the hundred of Hoo, bounded on the opposite side by
the water, called the North Yenlade, which separates
this hundred from the isle of Grean. Hollinshed, the
chronicler, says, that in his time Hoo was nearly an
island, and that there was then a common proverb of
this hundred, viz.

He that rides into the hundred of Hoo,
Besides pilfering seamen, will find dirt enow.

A very true saying of it at this time. Formerly it
used to be noted for the wealth of the yeomen who

inhabited it, but there are now few but bailiffs and lookers who live in it, the farmers and occupiers of the lands dwelling at Rochester and Stroud, and elsewhere; nor is there a gentleman's house, or a clergyman residing, in it, owing to the depth of the soil, the dirtiness of the roads, and the unwholesome air from the neighbouring marshes. It takes its name from its high situation, Hoo, in Saxon, signifying an hill. The hundred of Hoo contains the parishes of

1. HOO, ST. WARBURGH.
2. HIGH HALSTOW.
3. ST. MARY'S, HOO.
4. ALHALLOWS,
AND
5. STOKE, in part.

And the churches of those parishes:

It also contains part of the parishes of COBHAM and WEST PECKHAM, the churches of which are in another hundred.

- - -

HOO, ST. WARBURGH.

SO CALLED from the dedication of the church, and to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of St. Mary, Hoo, is the principal one in this hundred, to which it gives name. It is about two miles across each way; the soil is in general a stiff clay and heavy tillage land, but on the hill inclined to gravel; one half of it is marsh land, which extends to the river Medway, its southern boundary. Adjoining to the marshes is Hoo-street, having the church at the south end of it, the high spire of which is a conspicuous object to all the neighbouring country for some miles round, on the opposite side of the Medway. There are two other hamlets at the two extremities of the parish, Broad-street, close to Hoo common, at the western boundary; and at the opposite East-end. At Hoo-street the ground rises from the marshes to the high hill. The inclosures are small and the hedge rows thick, with a continuance of high spiry elms, and some scrubby oaks interspersed here and there, in different

places. The roads are very deep and miry, and full of water, and the air, from its contiguity to the large tract of marshes, very unhealthy.

In consequence of king Richard II.'s writ to the sheriffs of Kent and Essex, in his 1st year, one beacon was erected here at Hoo, and another opposite, at Fobbyng, in Essex, among other places along the banks of the river, that by the firing of them notice might be given of any sudden attempt of the enemy./a Peter Gunning, bishop of Ely, son of Peter Gunning, vicar of this parish, was born here. He was a person of the most diffusive charity, and a benefactor to all places he had any relation to, and at his death gave whatever he possessed to charitable uses, particularly the endowment of poor vicarages; he died in 1684, and by his will bequeathed a service of communion plate to the church of Hoo.

BEFORE the conquest, the MANOR of HOO, ST. WARBURGH, with the court of the hundred, was in the possession of Godwin earl of Kent, from whom it descended to king Harold, and after the conquest was given by the Conqueror to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday.

The bishop of Baieux himself holds Hou in demesne. It was taxed at 50 sulings, and now at 33. The arable land is 50 carucates. In demesne there are 4 and 100 villeins, wanting three, with 61 cottagers, having 43 carucates. There are 6 churches, and 12 servants, and 32 acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of 30 hogs. The whole manor, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, was worth 60 pounds, when the bishop received it the like, and now as much, and yet he who holds it pays 100 and 13 pounds. To this manor there belonged nine houses in the city of Rochester, and they paid six shillings,

/a Rymer's Fœd. vol. vii. p. 155.

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now they are taken away. This manor earl Godwin held. Of this manor Richard de Tonebrige held half a suling, and wood for the pannage of 20 hogs. In the time of king Edward and afterwards it was, and now is worth 40 shillings. Adam, son of Hubert, holds of the same manor one suling, and one yoke of the bishop, and one of his tenants has there in demesne half a carucate, and four villeins with half a carucate and one cottager. It is and was worth 30 shillings. Anschitil de Ros held of this same manor three sulings, and he has there in demesne one carucate and five villeins, with 12 cottagers, having one carucate and a half. There are five servants, and one mill of ten shillings, and 12 acres of meadow, and two fisheries of five shillings. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, it was worth six pounds, now six pounds and five shillings.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, his estates were confiscated to the crown, and among them this of Hoo.

King Richard I. exchanged the manor and hundred with Hugh Bardolf, for the honour of Bampton, in Devonshire, which had been forfeited to the crown by Fulk Paganel, or Painel, as he was usually called, to whom it had been given by king Henry II./b He was a younger son of William Bardolf, of Stoke Bardolf, and bore for his arms, Azure, three cinquefoils pierced or, as they remain on the roof of the cloisters of Christ church, Canterbury. He died without issue,/c on which this estate of Hoo became vested in the crown, whence it was granted, anno 17 king John, to Hubert de Burgh,/d then chief justice of England, and afterwards earl of Kent, on whose disgrace it seems to have become vested in Henry Grey and Hugh Poinz, in right of their wives, two of the five nieces and co=

/b Madox's Exchequer, p. 409, 507. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 684,

/c There are several pedigrees of this family among the Harleian MSS. in the British museum.

/d Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 693. vol. ii. p. 14.

heirs of Robert Bardolph above mentioned, in separate moieties.

Henry Grey left a son, Sir Richard Grey, whose principal seat was at Codnor, in Derbyshire, whose descendants were the barons Grey of Codnor. One of these, John lord Grey, of Codnor, paid respective aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as half a fee, which Henry de Grey before held in the parish of Wereburghe in Hoo of the king. He lived to a good old age, and dying about the 15th year of king Richard II. was succeeded by Richard, his grandson, (son of Henry, who died in his life time) who in the reign of king Henry IV. purchased the other moiety of this manor, and so became entitled to the whole fee of it.

But to return to this other moiety, which came into the possession of Hugh Poinz. His great grandson, Nicholas Poinz, died possessed of it in the 1st year of king Edward I. holding it in capite, by the service of half a knight's fee.^e He left Hugh Poinz, his son and heir, who had summons among the barons of this realm, in the 23d year of king Edward I. as had Nicholas, his son, in the next reign of king Edward II. whose descendant, Nicholas lord Poinz, having married Alianore, the daughter of Sir John Erleigh, died about the middle of king Edward III.'s reign, leaving two daughters his coheirs, Amicia, wife of John Barry, and Margaret, wife of John Newborough.^f They joined in the sale of this moiety to Judd, from which name it passed in the reign of king Henry IV. by sale, to Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, as before mentioned, who then became possessed of the entire fee of the manor of Hoo.

Richard lord Grey was much in favour with king Henry IV. who conferred many great offices on him,

^e Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 2. Rot. Esch. ejus ann. No. 46.

^f Ibid. History of the Grevilles. Rot. Esch. No. 62.

and employed him much, as well in war as in civil negotiations. He died in the 5th year of Henry V. it then descended down to Henry lord Grey, who died possessed of it in the 11th year of king Henry VII. without lawful issue, and was buried at Aylesford,^g under which parish a further account of this family may be seen. Upon which, although the manor and castle of Codnor came to Elizabeth, his aunt and heir, wife of Sir John Zouche, a younger son of William lord Zouch, of Haringworth, who bore for their arms, Gules, ten bezantes; which arms, with a canton, remain on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury; yet this manor of Hoo continued in the possession of the lady Catherine Grey (afterwards married to Sir William de la Pole) for the term of her life, and she died possessed of it, as appears by the Escheat Rolls, anno 1521; after which it devolved to Sir John Zouche above mentioned, who likewise died possessed of it in 1529. He was succeeded in it by Thomas Cornwall, who was possessed of it at his death, in the 30th year of that reign, as appears by the inquisition then taken. Sir Thomas Wyatt, of

Allington-castle, was the next proprietor of this manor; and he, in the 34th year of king Henry VIII. conveyed the hundred and lordship of Hoo, and the manor of Little Hoo, late belonging to Boxley abbey,^{/h} among other premises, to that king.

They continued in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 5th year, granted to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, &c. the hundred of Hoo, and the manors of Great and Little Hoo, to hold in capite by knights service; but his unfortunate grandson, Henry 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

^{/g} Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 711, 712, 692.

^{/h} See farther, Abbots' court in this parish. Inrolments, Augm. Off. Box C. 39. D. 27.

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among them these at Hoo, all which were confirmed to the crown by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign. Soon after which these manors were granted to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury (son of William lord Burleigh) who was afterwards lord treasurer of England, &c. and had married Elizabeth, sister of Henry lord Cobham above mentioned. He died possessed of them in 1612, and was succeeded in them by his only son and heir, William earl of Salisbury, who, in the 4th year of king Charles I. alienated them to Sir Edward Hales, bart. who possessed them at his death, in 1654; whose grandson, Sir Edward Hales, bart. became his heir, and entitled as such to these manors; but he possessed only the court baron of them; for the view of frank pledge belonging to the hundred, appears by the court rolls to have continued, from the lord Cobham's death, in the crown, and to have been in possession of the keepers of the liberties of England, as they were styled, from the death of king Charles I. in 1648, to the Restoration; three years after which, in 1663, he seems to have had, by the style of them, the full possession of both. Having risked his fortune in the service of king Charles I. and contracted debts to a large amount, he was obliged to abandon his country, to which he never returned; and this estate being vested by him in Sir John Tuf-ton, bart. and Edward Hales, esq. of Boughton Mal-herb, as trustees, was conveyed by them, by the name of the manor and hundred of Hoo, to Edward Villiers, esq. the 4th son of Sir Edward, second son of George Villiers, of Brokesby, in Leicestershire, by his first wife, Audrey, daughter and heir of William Sanders, esq.^{/i} upon which Edward his eldest son and heir, succeeded him in the manor and hundred of Hoo, and being much in favour with king William,

^{/i} Dugdale's Bar. vol. ii. p. 428, et seq. Collins's Peer. last edit. vol. iv. p. 159, et seq.

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was, in the 3d year of his reign, created viscount Villiers of Dartford, and baron of Hoo. He was afterwards, in 1697, created earl of Jersey, and died in 1711, leaving by Barbara his wife, daughter of Wm. Chiffinch, esq. two sons; of whom William, the eldest,

succeeded his father in titles and this estate; whose descendant, George Bussy Villiers, earl of Jersey, viscount Villiers of Dartford, and baron of Hoo, is the present possessor of this manor and hundred./k

The manor of Great Hoo extends over part of the parish of West Pechham, in this county.

At the court of this manor, the following constables and borsholders are appointed – one constable for the Upper half hundred, and another for the Lower half hundred of Hoo; and borsholders for the boroughs of Hardlefield, Boxley, Deangate, Dalham, Fincent, Church-street, and Oxenheath. The court is held yearly on Whit Monday.

BELUNCLE is a manor in this parish, which was formerly a seat of some eminence, and most probably was part of those possessions in the hundred of Hoo, which belonged to the family of Bardolf, and passed after the death of Robert Bardolf in marriage with one of his five nieces and coheirs, to Jordan Foliot, who, in the 9th year of king Henry III. performed his homage for it./l His son and heir, Richard de Foliot, passed away this manor by fine, in the 20th year of that reign, to Reginald de Cobham, second son of Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 42d year of it. After whose death, it seems to have descended to his nephew, Sir John de Cobham, of Cobham, who died in the 28th year of king Edward I. leaving by Joane, his first wife, daughter of Sir Robert de Septvans, a son Henry, who had the addition of junior to his name, to distinguish him

/k Collins's Peerage, vol. iv. p. 178.

/l Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 679. Philipott, p. 188.

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from Henry his uncle, of Roundal in Shorne, then living. He died soon after the 9th year of king Edward III. leaving by his wife, Maud de Columbers, three sons; John, who succeeded him at Cobham, and was ancestor of the Cobhams of that place, and of Sterborough-castle; Thomas, who was of Beluncle; and Reginald, rector of Cowling.

Thomas the second son had this manor of Beluncle by devise from his father, and was afterwards knighted. He changed his arms to, Gules, on a chevron or, three crescents sable, which coat was borne by all his posterity of this place. He resided here, and having married Agnes, daughter of Sepham, of Sepham, in this county, was succeeded by his son and heir, Thomas de Cobeham, who was likewise of Beluncle, and lies buried in Cobham church, with Maud his wife. His descendants afterwards continued to reside at Beluncle till, at length, John Cobham, esq. succeeded to this manor, and was alderman, and some time mayor, of the city of Rochester, where he resided, and in 1624, was a benefactor to the church of St. Nicholas there, by setting up the north window of the chancel. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Ballandine, of Derbyshire, by whom he had two sons, John and William, and a daughter Elizabeth. He died in the reign of king Charles I. leaving his wife, Elizabeth, surviving. Some time after which this manor became divided into moieties, one of which became vested in

colonel Richard Cobham, of Rochester; and the other in Clement Chadbourne and Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters of John Cobham, alderman, late of Rochester.

Clement Chadbourne and Elizabeth his wife, in 1708, conveyed their undivided moiety of this manor to colonel Richard Cobham above mentioned, who died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of which, Mary, carried one moiety of this manor in marriage to captain James

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Hayes, of Rochester, who bore for his arms, Gules, a chevron or, between three boars heads couped; who having purchased the other moiety, became possessed of the whole, and died in 1755, without male issue, leaving two daughters and coheirs, the eldest of whom Jane, carried it in marriage to the Rev. Mr. Js. Parsons, of Botherep, in Gloucestershire, who, in 1788, sold it to Richard Webb, esq. and he is the present owner of this manor. There is no court held for this manor.

ABBOT'S-COURT, now corruptly called ABBEY'S-COURT, was formerly the mansion of an estate here, called the manor of Little Hoo, alias Hoo Parva, which belonged to the abbey of Boxley; in consequence of which it has always been esteemed as lying within the borough of Boxley. King Richard I. confirmed to that abbey a market in Hoo, of the gift of Maud de Carvill. King Edward III. in his 33d year, granted free warren to the abbot and convent for their demesne lands within their manor in Hoo; and they continued in possession of this estate till the dissolution of their abbey in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands; who, in his 32d year, granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, at the yearly rent of 48s. 2d. since which it has had the same possessors as the manor of Great Hoo, and is now, with that, the property of the Right Hon. George earl of Jersey.

John lord Cobham, in the 36th year of king Edward III. settled two hundred and fifty acres of marsh, called Rowe and Slade marshes, lying within the lordship of St. Werburg's, in Hoo, on his new founded chantry or college in Cobham church.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 10th year, granted to Philip Conwayne, two marshes, called Estwike and Sprete, in this parish.

/m Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 827. Tan. Not. Mon. p. 214.

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CHARITIES.

THIS PARISH of St. Warburge, alias Hoo, has the right of nomination to three several places in the New College of Cobham, for three poor persons, inhabitants of this parish, to be chosen and presented so, and by such, as by the ordinances of the college have power to present and elect for this parish. And if the parish of Stroud should make default in their turn, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

THOMAS WALKER gave by will, in 1629, for the benefit of the poor, not receiving alms, a house and lands, vested in Mess.

Gilbird and Cart, of the annual produce of 5l.

Hoo is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. Warburgh. The church consists of three isles and a chancel.

In it, among others, are the following inscriptions on brasses: In the chancel, two for the family of Plumley, in 1615 and 1642; two others, for John Brown and Rich. Bayly, vicars; the latter, anno 1412. In the nave, one for Stephen and Richard Charlis, obt. 1446; another, John Beddyl, obt. 1500. In the south isle, one for Thomas Cobham, esq. obt. 1465, and Matilda his wite. In the north isle, one for William Alton and Gelyane his wife, by whom he had fifteen children./n

Robert Bardolf, lord of the manor of Hoo, in the reign of king John, granted to this church all the land, called Elwruetche, which joined to his field, called the Lese, towards the south; and also a piece of land, containing half an acre, in pure and perpetual alms, to find one lamp to burn nightly before the altar of St. Werburge, where the sacrament was kept.

Laurence, bishop of Rochester, in 1252, appropriated the church of St. Werburge of Hoo, with the chapel of All Saints, and all things belonging to it, to the prior and convent of Rochester, to the use of their almonry, they being the real patrons of it, by the grant of it, by the lady abbess and convent, and by the prior of St. Sulpice, provided that the church was served by a proper vicar, to be presented to him,

/n See these inscriptions at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 741.

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and his successors, who should in no wise neglect the cure of souls therein.

The vicarage of this church had no endowment for many years afterwards; but in 1337, Hamo, bishop of Rochester, with the consent of all parties, by his instrument that year decreed, first, that the religious, to whom the appropriation belonged, should have the mansion of the rectory of the church, together with all lands and the meadow belonging to it, which the religious had till that time possessed, as the glebe of it; and that all tithes of sheaves, wheresoever arising, as well from land dug with the foot, as cultivated with the plough, should in future belong to them; and that they should hold and possess the above lands and meadow, and should take the said tithes of sheaves of this kind for their portion, and that the burthens of sustaining and repairing the chancel of the church, and the buildings of the rectory, and the burthen of finding books, vestments, and other new ornaments, which did not belong to the parishioners to find (surplices, rochets, albes, and other habits and linen ornaments only excepted) should belong to the religious; and that they should cause to be delivered to the vicar and his successors, from the barns of the rectory yearly, at the time in which wheat was sown, one quarter of wheat; and at the time in which Palm barley was sown, one seam of Palm barley; and at the time in which peas were sown, two bushels of peas for porridge, and one load of straw for litter for his

cows; all which should be carried to the house of the vicar. And he further decreed, that the mansion of the vicarage of this church, with the garden and plat adjoining, and all tithes of rushes, hay, lambs, wool, calves, milkmeats, pigs, geese, flax, hemp, mills, pigeons, sylvia cedua, eggs, fruits of trees, bees, curtilages, conies, and fisheries, orchards, pannage, herbage, fowlings, merchandisings, and all personal tithes of things whatsoever, and oblations at the exequies of

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the dead in the parish churches of St. Mary's and Halstow, and other parish churches in Hoo, the bodies of whom ought to be buried in the cemetery of the church of St. Werburge, and all other oblations and obventions whatsoever to the church belonging and accruing, and not above assigned to the religious, should belong to the vicar and his successors in the vicarage; and that the burthen of the procuration belonging to the archdeacon, and also the burthen of providing surplices, rochets, albes, and other habits and ornaments of linen, and the burthen of repairing and maintaining the buildings and mansion of the vicarage wholly, and of books, vestments, and other ornaments to be provided by the religious, as also the providing of bread and wine for the sacrament of the altar, of processional tapers, and other lights belonging to the church, and of other matters necessary for divine worship, which did not belong to the parishioners to provide, nor were specified as above, should belong in future to the vicar and his successors in the vicarage. And that Sir John Reginald, of Chatham, then vicar, and his successors, should take the above mentioned tithes, oblations, and obventions for his portion in future, and should be contented with them, and should undergo and acknowledge the above burthens; but that all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, not before specified, as well the religious as the vicar and his successors, should undergo and acknowledge, in proportion according to the then taxation of the church and vicarage, as the same belonged to each of them.

The churches of Halstow and St. Mary's, as well as that of All Saints, now called Alhallows, in this hundred, were accounted but as chapels to this church of St Warburgh. In 1724, Laurence, bishop of Rochester, by his instrument, reciting that the chapels of Halstow and St. Mary of Hoo had been beyond memory pensionary to the church of St. Wer-

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burge, as to their mother church, viz. the former in two marcs, the latter in half a marc; of which annual pensions the church of St. Werburge, and the rectors of it, had been, as then plainly appeared, in possession for more than forty years before his time, confirmed them to the said church; and for the greater security of this matter, he decreed, that the parsons, who should be instituted in those chapels in future by the religious, to whom he had formerly granted the church of St. Werberge, with all things belonging to it, to their own proper uses, should, in the presence of him and his successors, having taken an oath for

that purpose, promise to pay the pensions as above mentioned./o

The church and vicarage continued part of the possessions of the priory of Rochester till the dissolution of it in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into his hands; and the next year the king settled this church and vicarage, by his donation charter, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they now remain.

This vicarage is a discharged living, in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 46l. 3s. the yearly tenths of which are, 1l. 17s. 7d./p

On the intended abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. this parsonage was surveyed and valued in 1649, when it consisted of a parsonage and manor belonging to it, with the tithes of all manner of corn and grain, and a fair manor or parsonage house adjoining to the church yard, with the garden, orchard, and yard, containing, by estimation, one acre, and other lands, which manor house, and its appurtenances, together with the tithes, were valued at one hundred pounds per annum. All which, as well as rents of assize, and perquisites of

/o Reg. Roff. p. 422, 424. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

/p Ect. Thes. p. 386. Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xiv.

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courts, lands, &c. were let by the late dean and chapter, among other things, in 1638, to James Plumley, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds and two good capons, or four shillings in money, for the term of twenty-one years; but the premises, with the lands, were worth, upon improvement, over and above the said rent, the yearly value of 122l. 16s. 7d. the widow Plumley being then the immediate tenant of them; that the lessee was to repair the premises and the chancel of the church; that the patronage of the vicarage, worth sixty pounds per annum, and upwards, was reserved by the dean and chapter, Mr. Lewis Howard being then incumbent of it; that there was due by custom from the rectory to the vicar, and payable annually at Christmas, a seam of wheat, a seam of barley, two bushels of peas, and a load of straw. There is a manor now belonging to the parsonage.

CHURCH OF HOO, ST. WARBURGH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Priory of Rochester Robert./q
Wm. de Lichefield, the last rector, resigned in 1252./r

VICARS.

Sir John Reginald de Chatham,
in 1337./s

John Browne./t

Rich. Bayly, obt. July 10, 1412./u

Thomas Barry, LL. B. in 1423./w

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Peter Gunning, obt. 1613./x

Christopher Dale, S. T. B. in 1628./y

Robert Cheeke, S. T. P. presented
in 1622, resig. 1625./z

/q Vide Rights of English Convoca=
tion, p. 575.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 421.

/s Ibid, p. 424.

/t He lies buried in this church.

Reg. Roff. p. 741.

/u He likewise lies buried here. lb.

/w Reg. Roff. p. 568.

/x He was likewife rect. of Graves=
end, where he lies buried; he was fa=
ther of Peter Gunning, bishop of Ely.

/y And rector of Halstow, by dispen=
sation, in 1628. Rym. Foed. vol. xix.
p. 57.

/z Twysden MSS. See More's Hist.
of Tunstall, p. 56.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Baxter.

Lewis Howard, in 1649.

John Wren.

George Wren, A. M. inst. 1685.

William Dormer, 1720.

Ralph Bishop, pres. July 1729,
obt. 1759.

Thomas Thomson, A. M. 1759, ob.
1786.

Evan Rice, June 24, 1786. Pre=
sent vicar./a

/a Upper master of the King's school of Rochester.

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HALSTOW.

NORTHWARD from Hoo lies Halstow, usually
called High Halstow, as well from its high situation,
as to distinguish it from another parish of the same
name, near Upchurch, in this county. This place is
written, in the Textus Roffensis,/b Haglestow, and in
other records, Aglestow.

IT LIES on high ground; the church, with Halstow
street adjoining to it, is situated in the southern part
of the parish, besides which there are several smaller
hamlets, as Clinches-street, Fenn-street, &c. the nor=
thern part, being one half of the parish, is marshland,
bounded by the river Thames; the hills cover the
greatest part of it; the soil and the country is other=
wise of the same sort as that of Hoo, last described,
in every particular.

The ROYALTY of the manor or lordship of Hoo
claims over this parish, and as such this place was an=
tiently part of the possessions of the family of Bardolf;
from which it passed in like manner to Poinz and
Grey; and from them, in process of time, to Edward

/b Text. Roff. p. 230. Reg. Roff. p. 146.

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Villiers, esq. whose descendant, the Right Hon. George
earl of Jersey, is the present possessor of it.

Reginald de Cobham was possessed of an estate in
this parish, and in the 14th year of king Edward III.

procured a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands in this parish of Halgesco.

John de Cobham, lord Cobham, gave an estate in this parish to the chantry of Cobham, founded by him./c

The prioress and convent of Dartford, and the college of All Saints, in Maidstone likewise possessed lands in this parish; part of the latter were the marshes of Eastwick and Spert, which by grant from the crown, came afterwards into the family of Somers, who possessed them in Charles II.'s reign./d This family, as appears by their pedigree, in the Heraldic Visitation of Kent, anno 1619, separated into two branches, one of which was of St. Margaret's, Rochester; and the other of this parish of Halstow. They bore for their arms, Vert, a fesse dancette ermine.

CHARITIES.

SIR JOHN CROMP gave, by will, in 1615, for poor widows, not receiving alms, a house and land, vested in the parish, of the annual produce of 8l.

RICHARD WHITE gave by will, in 1622, for the like purpose, land vested in John Prebble, of the annual produce of 1l. 10s.

RICHARD BAYLEY gave by will, in 1643, for the use of the poor, not receiving alms, land vested in Messrs. Cart, of the annual produce of 6s. 8d.

HALSTOW is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret.

In the chancel are the following brass plates: Two coats quarterly, 1st, parted per fess indented; 2d, a chevron between three ewers or flower pots, and inscription, for William Palke, minister of High Halstow, obt. 1618, and Anne, his wife; two more for William Groby, rector, obt. 1398, and William, his father, obt. 1396. In the church yard, a tomb for William Somer, of this parish, gent. set up by William his son, in 1607, and repaired by Richard Somer, his grandson, gent. of Clifford's inn, in 1672.

/c The deed of it is in the Surrenden library.

/d Rot. Esch. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. pt. ii. p. 133. Rolls of Parl. Temp. In-terregni. Aug. Off. Roll, Hen. IX.

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This church was esteemed but as a chapel to the church of St. Warburgh Hoo, as appears by the instrument of bishop Laurence, in 1274, by which he confirms the antient payment of two marcs yearly to the said church; and for the greater security of it, he decreed, that the parson, who should in future be instituted in the said chapel by the prior and convent of Rochester, patrons of the said church, should, in the presence of him and his successors, swear to the due performance and payment of that pension./e The priory of Rochester continued in possession of this pension till the surrendry of it, into the hands of Henry VIII. in his 32d year, who the next year settled it, by his dotation charter, on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, who now possess it.

In 1476, John Mapulton, rector of Halstow, commenced a suit against Richard Fletcher, rector of St. Mary's, in the consistory court, before the bishop's official, for the recovery and establishment of his right to certain tithes, as rector of the parish of Halstow;

viz. a moiety of all tithes, both great and small, in a district of land, called Le Meneparishe, the other moiety belonging to the rector of St. Mary's; and also of certain lands and tenements, called Eastwyke and Upwyke, as wholly situated within the parish of Halstow; and of a marsh, called Le Sperte, lying in Le Meneparishe, of which the rectors of this parish, his predecessors, were used to take a moiety of the tithes, the other moiety belonging to the rector of St. Mary's: all which were that year decreed to the rector of Halstow, by the definitive sentence of the official.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 14l. 5s. 7d¹/₂. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 8s. 6³/₄d./f

In 1650, this rectory was valued at 100l. per ann. Sir Edward Hales being patron, and Mr. Benjamin

/e Reg. Roff. p. 422, 404, et seq. Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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

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Crompt, incumbent. In 1784, the value of this rectory was 295l. per annum, and the clear neat profit 230l.

The church of Halstow seems to have passed as an appendage to the manor of Hoo, through the several different owners of it, to Sir Edw. Hales, bart. who was patron of it in 1650. His son, Sir Edw. Hales, bart. alienated the patronage of it, which after some intermediate owners was conveyed to Chapman, whose heirs sold it to the Rev. Richard Fletcher; on whose death in 1763, it became the property of his son, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, who, in 1786, sold it to the Rev. Robert Burt, who died in 1788; and his widow, Mrs. Sarah Burt, is now entitled to it.

CHURCH OF HALSTOW.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

William Groby, obt. 1399./g

William Beaufits, obt. 1433./h

John Rafe, in 1465./i

John Mapulton, in 1476./k

William Palke, obt. Decem. 2,
1618./l

Christopher Dale, in 1628./m

..... Woodyeare, A. M./n

Benjamin Crompe, A. M. in 1650,
obt. Mar. 8, 1663./o

Edward Turner, 1663, ob. 1716.

John Benson, 1721, obt. May 10,
1753./p

Richard Fletcher, A. M. 1753,
obt. 1763/q

Richard Fletcher, A. M. 1763,
resig. 1786./r

Robert Burt, 1786. obt. 1788.

Hon. H. Grimstone, 1788. Pre= sent rector.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 744. He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

/h He lies buried in Gillingham chancel.

/i Reg. Roff. p. 406.

/k Ibid. 404.
/l He lies buried in this church.
/m See Hoo, St. Warburgh.
/n MSS. Twysden.
/o Also prebendary of Rochester,
and lies buried in that cathedral.
/p He lies buried in Rochester cath.
/q Also rector of St. Mary's, by dis=
pensation, in 1753.
/r Son of the former, also rector of
St. Mary's, by dispensation, in 1763.
Presented in June, 1786, to the vicar=
age of Dedham, in Essex.

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ST. MARY'S, HOO.

NORTH EASTWARD from Halstow, lies St. Mary's, distinguished from others of the same name in this county, by the addition of at Hoo, and near Rochester, both which are frequently used in deeds relating to it.

There are two parishes mentioned in the Textus Roffensis, by the names of Ordmaeres circe de Hou, and Deremannes circe de Hou, which certainly mean this parish, and that of Alhallows adjoining. I should imagine the former was the name belonging to this parish of St. Mary.

THE CHURCH of St. Mary's, with the village adjoining to it, is situated about half a mile from the marshes, which extend as much farther towards the river Thames, which is its northern boundary. It lies much lower and more level than the adjoining parish of Halstow; the soil of it is in general more fertile, and not so much subject to gravel, though about Combe, which is situated midway between St. Mary's church and the marshes, the land is poor, and much covered with furze and heath. It is in other particulars of much the same description as the other parishes in this hundred.

The MANOR of St. Mary's Hoo, which is held of the paramount manor of Hoo, was, together with the mansion, called St. Mary's-hall, antiently part of the possessions of the family of Bardolf; and on the division of the estates of Robert Bardolf among his five nieces and coheirs, this manor fell to the share of Hugh Poinz, in right of Maud his wife, who was one of them./s His descendant, Sir Nicholas de Poinz, sold it to William de Halden, who died possessed of it in the 50th year of king Edward III. in whose fa=
mily it remained till the reign of king Edward IV.

/s See Hoo, St. Warburgh.

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when William de Halton, as the name was then spelt, in the 8th year of that reign, alienated this manor to William Lemyng, citizen and grocer of London. He was succeeded in this manor by Sir John Brooke, lord Cobham, who in the 7th year of king Henry VII. conveyed it by sale to Sir Robert Read, afterwards made chief justice of the common pleas, who died

about the 10th year of king Henry VIII.'s reign,^{/t} and on the partition of his lands among his four daughters and coheirs, this manor was allotted, among other premises, to the daughters and coheirs of his daughter Mary, then deceased, by her husband, Sir William Barentyne; and on a further partition of her share among them, Margaret, one of her daughters, became entitled to this manor, which she carried in marriage to Sir John Harcourt, of Elnall, in Staffordshire.^{/u} They, in the 30th year of Henry VIII. exchanged the manor of St. Mary's with John Wiseman, gent. for the priory of Ronton, in Staffordshire, who died possessed of it in 1558, leaving three sons;^{/w} of whom, Ralph, the second son, succeeded to the manor of St. Mary's Hoo, and was knighted in 1603. He was of Rivenhall, in Essex, where he died in 1608. The family of Wiseman bore for their arms, Sable, a chevron, between three cronels of tilting spears, argent. This branch of Rivenhall, bore the chevron ermine. His descendant, Sir William Wiseman, of Rivenhall, was created a baronet in 1660. He alienated this manor, at the latter end of the reign of king Charles II. to captain John Daniel; his arms were, Argent, a pale fusilly sable; whose sole daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Faunce, gent. of St. Margaret's, Rochester; whose son, Tho. Faunce, esq. was of Sutton-at-Hone, and succeeded

^{/t} See Chiddingstone, vol. iii. p. 219.

^{/u} Collins's Peerage, last edit. vol. vi. p. 66. Philipott, p. 234.

^{/w} Guillim, pt. ii. p. 191, 198. Kimber's Bar. vol. i. p. 327. See Morant's Essex, vol. ii. p. 146, 479.

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his father in this manor, and bore for his arms, Argent, three lions rampant sable, ribboned argent. In 1735, he married Jane, daughter of Edmund Barrell, A. M. prebendary of Rochester, by whom he had two sons, Edmund, vicar of Sutton-at-Hone; and Thomas, town major of Quebec; and three daughters, Anne, married to John Tasker, esq. of Franks; Mary, to Alured Pincke, esq. of Sharsted; and Jane to William Hey, esq. chief justice of Canada, and a commissioner of customs. The Rev. Edm. Faunce, the eldest son, married Anne, sister of James Chapman, esq. of Paul's Cray hill, by whom he had a daughter Anne, married to Mr. Stephen Lee, of Doddington; and one son, Mr. Edmund Faunce, who is now entitled to the inheritance of this estate. Among the Harleian manuscripts, in the British museum, No. 590-1, is part of a roll, containing a survey of the marsh of Kent, with pictures of several of the manor houses, and among them this of St. Mary's, then belonging to the lord Cobham.

NEWLAND's is a reputed manor in this parish, which was as high as any evidence can be traced, the inheritance of the family of Somer, since vulgarly called Somers,^{/x} who bore for their arms, Vert, a fess dancette ermine.

Richard le Somer made his will, as appears by the records of the church of Rochester, in the year 1347, and died possessed of this manor and other lands in Halstow, Higham, Leigh, and elsewhere in this coun=

ty, from whom it descended to John Somer, who was chancellor of the exchequer in the reign of Henry VI. and from him again to Jeffry Somer, who left two sons, William, who possessed the manor of Newland's, and Thomas, whose descendants were of Halstow. William was knighted, and thrice employed by queen Elizabeth, as public ambassador to foreign states.

/x Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619. Philipot, p. 234.

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His son, John Somer, clerk, was of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Maria, the eldest, married first Thomas Peniston, and afterwards Sir Alexander Temple, the latter of whom, upon the partition of their estates, became entitled to this manor, whose heir, about the time of the death of king Charles I. conveyed it by sale to the treasurers of the chest for sick and maimed seamen, at Chatham, in whom the possession of this manor and estate now remains.

There is no court belonging to this manor, which is held of the manor of St. Mary's.

COOMBE is a manor here, which soon after the conquest was in the possession of Wlfward de Hou, surname Henry, who became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, and afterwards gave to that priory the half of his tithes in this parish, and the third part of his substance after his death, to which his wife and his son Robert, and his brothers Hereward, Siward, and Edward, freely consented./y

How this manor passed afterwards I have not found till the reign of Henry VIII. when Sir Tho. Wyatt, of Allington castle, was owner of it; and he, in the 34th year of it, conveyed it, among other premises, to that king; and it seems to have remained in the crown till queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Thomas Walsingham.

At the beginning of the reign of king George II. about the year 1732, this manor of Combe, was purchased by the trustees, of the rector of St. George's church, Bloomsbury, London, with part of a sum of money allotted at the first erection of it, in 1731, towards the support of the rector, which money was directed to be laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements, in fee simple, as a perpetual fund for the maintenance of the rector, and his successors.

/y Text. Roff. p. 162. Augm. Off. Box C. 39. and D. 27.

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Edward Vernon, D. D. was the first rector of this church, and as such possessed and resided frequently at this manor; he died in 1761. His successor, as rector of Bloomsbury, was Charles Tarrant, D. D. afterwards dean of Peterborough, who finding it a very unprofitable estate, by reason of the great annual expence of the sea walls belonging to it, obtained an act in 1765, to enable him to sell it. In pursuance of which it was afterwards conveyed to David Lesley, esq. and Mr. John Proby; the former of whom soon afterwards died, leaving his two nieces, Frances and Sarah Meekes, his coheirs, who about the year 1773, joined with the heirs at law of Mr. John Proby, then

deceased, in the conveyance of this manor, to Owen and William Meredith, of Rochester; the latter of whom, on the death of his brother, in 1780, possessed the whole of this estate, which he sold in 1786, to the Rev. Richard Hancorn Duppa, of Hollingborne; whose devisee, Richard Duppa Duppa, esq. of that place, is the present owner of it.

The PORTION of TITHES above mentioned, since called COOMBE PORTION, given to the priory of St. Andrew, Rochester, by Wlfward, surnamed Henry, remained part of the possessions of that priory, at its dissolution in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when the same was surrendered into the king's hands, who the next year settled this portion of tithes, among other premises, by his dotation charter, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance of it now remains.

On the dissolution of the deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. this portion of tithes was, in 1649, surveyed, when it was returned, that the portion of tithes, called Combe, alias Coome, and also usually called St. Mary's, arising from lands, sometime before belonging to the crown of England, called Combe, with the tithe of ten fields and closes lying in St. Mary's, Hoo, containing, by estimation,

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one hundred and eighty-four acres, the improved rent of which was 10l. 14s. per annum, was let by the late dean and chapter, anno 16 Charles I. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of fourteen shillings per annum. The lessees of it, under the dean and chapter, have been for some time the owners of Combe manor as above mentioned, the present lessee being Richard Duppa Duppa, esq.

CHARITIES.

HENRY WHITE, formerly of Chalk (who lies buried under an altar tomb in this church yard) by his will, in 1622, devised 2l. per annum to the poor of this parish, not receiving alms, payable on St. Andrew's day; and he gave yearly sums to the poor of Chalk, Cowling, and Stoke.

The parish of St. Mary's, Hoo, has the 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 Higham should make default in electing, then the benefit of such election devolves to this parish.

ST. MARY'S is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building of one isle and a chancel.

In this church, in the nave, an inscription for Thomas Lukyn, obt. 1412, and Joane his wife. In the church yard is a tomb, partly sunk in the ground, for Henry White, a benefactor to this parish, and others in this neighbourhood.

This church was formerly esteemed but as a chapel to the church of St. Warburgh, Hoo, as appears by the instrument of bishop Laurence, in 1274, recited more fully before, being pensionary to that

church, beyond memory, as to its mother church, in the payment of half a marc yearly. This pension continued part of the revenues of the priory there till the dissolution of it in the 32d year of Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into that king's hands, who the next year settled it, by his dotation charter, on

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his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose revenues it now remains. Notwithstanding the above decree of bishop Laurence, the patronage of this church seems to have passed in the same chain of ownership that the lordship of Hoo did, and on a dispute concerning the right of presenting to this rectory, on a vacancy in 1501, Sir William de la Pole, in right of his wife Catherine, formerly wife of Sir Henry lord Grey, who had in his life time presented to it, brought his claim before the bishop's official, to establish his right to it, and it was decreed to him by the definitive sentence of the official; after which this patronage continued in the possession of the proprietors of the manor of Hoo till Sir Edward Hales, bart. in the reign of king Charles II. alienated it; and after some intermediate owners it was conveyed to Chapman, whose heirs sold it to Richard Fletcher, A. M. rector of this church, whose son, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, sold it, in 1786, to the Rev. Robert Burt; whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Burt, is now entitled to it.

In the year 1476, a suit was commenced before the bishop's official, against Richard Fletcher, rector of St. Mary's, by the rector of the adjoining parish of Halstow, for the recovery and establishment of certain tithes, as rector of the parish of Halstow, which claim was then established to him, by the definitive sentence of the official, as has been already recited fully under that parish.

This rectory is valued in the king's books, at 16l. 12s. 1d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 13s. 2½d.

On the dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. a survey was taken in 1650, of the several ecclesiastical livings in this diocese, by which it appeared, that here was a parsonage presentative, worth 83l. 13s. per annum, Sir Edw. Hales, patron; and Mr. Tracy, who had been sequestered from Bredherste, incumbent.

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CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of Hoo manor Henry Patriche, in 1381./z

John Rafe, in 1465./a

Richard Fletcher, in 1476./b

Ralph Samsbury, obt. Sept. 20,
1501./c

Tho. Ward, A. M. about 1630./d

Sir Edward Hales, bart. Richard Tracy, in 1640,
obt. 1679./e

Samuel Colyer, 1679, ob. Feb. 3,
1719.

Robert Hodges, 1719, ob. 1751./f

Richard Fletcher, A. M. 1753, ob.
1763./g
Richard Fletcher, A. M. resigned
1786./h
Robert Burt, 1786, ob. 1788.
George Chandler, 1788. Present
rector.

/z Reg. Roff. p. 425.

/a Ibid. p. 406.

/b Ibid. p. 404.

/c In his room, Sir William de la
Poole presented the vicar of St. Mar=
garet's, Rochester, but what his name
was I do not find.

/d MSS. Twysden.

/e Parl. Surveys, Lamb. lib. Walk.
Suff. of the Clergy, pt. ii. p. 379. See
also Bredhurst and Murston.

/f Also vicar of Alhallows.

/g Also rector of Halstow, by dis=
pensation, in 1753, and patron of both
churches.

/h Likewise rector of Halstow by
dispensation, in 1763, patron of both
churches, and son of the former.

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ALHALLOWS.

EASTWARD from St. Mary's lies the parish of
Allhallows, so called from the church of it being de=
dicated to All Saints, vulgarly called Alhallows.

THE PARISH of Alhallows lies both low and un=
healthy, having the marshes both on the north and
east sides of it, the boundary of the former being the
river Thames, and of the latter the water, called the
North Inlet, which separates it from the isle of Grain;
the soil of it is the same as St. Mary's, last described,

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but lying lower is more fertile land. The village,
with the church in it, stands about a quarter of a mile
from the marshes, at the north-east point of the up=
land, having no thoroughfare through it, excepting
towards the marshes, and is altogether a most unfre=
quented and dreary situation.

The PARAMOUNT MANOR of Hoo claims over this
parish, subordinate to which is the MANOR of WIND=
HILL, which in the time of king Edward I. was part
of the possessions of the abbot and convent of Read=
ing,/i with whom it remained till its dissolution, in the
reign of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered
into the king's hands;/k who, in his 32d year, granted
it in exchange, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington,
to hold in capite, by the service of the tenth part of one
knight's fee; but he, in the 34th year of that reign,
conveyed it back again to the king./l

The manor of Windhill remained in the crown till
king James I. in the beginning of his reign, granted
it to the city of London, whence it was soon afterwards
conveyed by sale, by the trustees of that corporation,
to Sir William Garway of London, who died possessed
of it in 1625, and left by his wife, Elizabeth, daugh=

ter of Thomas Anderson, seventeen children; of whom Henry, the second, succeeded him in this manor, and was afterwards knighted, and lord mayor in 1640; one of his descendants alienated it, in the reign of king Charles II. to Richard Head, of Rochester, from whom it descended down to Sir Francis Head, bart. of the Hermitage, in Higham, who died possessed of it in 1768. Since which it has descended down in like manner as that seat and his other estates in this neighbourhood, to his heirs, viz. one fourth of it to the daughter of Francis Roper Head, esq. another fourth to James Roper Head, esq. and the remaining

/i Book of Knights Fees, anno 7 king Edward I.

/k Inrolled in the Augmentation office, July 20, following.

/l Philipott, p. 46. Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 113.

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moiety to Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell Lill, who are now entitled to the fee of it. There is a court baron held for this manor.

ALHALLOWS HOUSE, is an estate here, the house of which is situated adjoining to the church yard, and was formerly a seat of good account, being antiently called Alhallows place, and the Place house. It was once the estate of the eminent family of Pimpe, of Pimpe's-court, in East Farleigh; one of whom, Sir Philip de Pimpe, was one of those proprietors of estates, within this hundred, who in the 11th year of king Edward III. were assessed to furnish out twelve men at arms, and six hobelers, for the defence of the sea-coast at Yenlade in Hoo; of which number Sir William de Pimpe was to find two men at arms. His descendant, Thomas Pimpe, senior, died in the 14th year of king Edward IV. and was buried in Alhallows church. He left, as now appears by his will, in the register's office in this diocese, two sons, William and John, and three daughters; one of whom, Margery, was prioress of Malling. Soon after which this estate passed by purchase to the family of Copinger, of whom Sir William, son of Sir Walter Copinger, of Buxall, in Suffolk, was lord mayor in 1512, in which year he died. They bore for their arms, Or, three bendlets gules, surmounted of a fess azure, charged with three plates. His descendant, Ralph Copinger, esq. left two daughters his coheirs; of whom the eldest, Elizabeth, married Sir Harbottle Grimston, eldest son of Edward Grimston, of Bradfield, in Essex, who in her right became possessed of this estate, and was afterwards created a baronet. His second, but eldest surviving son, Sir Harbottle Grimston, bart. succeeded him in this estate, and after the death of king Charles I. was strenuous in his endeavours to promote the Restoration; of which, as well as of his merits, king Charles II. at

/m Philipott, p. 46, 47. Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 128.

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his return, had a just sense. He was a man of much note, having been elected speaker of the house of commons at the time of the Restoration, and was afterwards made privy counsellor, and master of the Rolls. He died in 1683, and was succeeded in title and estates by Sir Samuel Grimstone, bart. his only survi-

ving son, by his first wife, Mary, daughter of Sir George Cooke, justice of the common pleas, he alienated this estate soon after his coming to the possession of it; which, at length, after some intermediate owners, was sold in 1713, to Mr. Samuel Fasham, of Deal, from whom it descended to his grand children, Samuel and Edward Roby, of Deal, and Mr. Bethel Dawes, their brother in law; Mr. Edward Roby died in 1775, Mr. Dawes in 1776, and Mr. Samuel Roby in 1777. Mr. Dawes devised his interest in this estate to Mr. Charles Ferne Sawkins for life, remainder to Mr. Sam. and Edward Roby aforesaid; the latter of whom dying before the testator, the fee of the reversion of Mr. Dawes's third part, after Mr. Sawkins's death, is become vested, one part in the testator's heirs at law, and the other in the children of Mr. Samuel Roby, who died in 1777; the other two thirds of this estate now belong to the children of Mr. Samuel and Mr. Edw. Roby, of Deal, brothers, both deceased, aforesaid.

There is mention in the court rolls of Hoo manor, of the manor of Newhall in this parish.

CHARITIES.

THE CHURCH WARDENS of Alhallows pay a fee farm to the crown, for a tenement near the Stocks in Hoo.

ALHALLOWS is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is dedicated to All Saints, commonly called Alhallows.

In the church are the following monuments and inscriptions: In the chancel, a brass for Stephen Cheraton, vicar, obt. 1518.

/n See his Life, in Biog. Brit. vol. iv. p. 2424.

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In the north chancel, one for Wm. son of Henry Copinger, obt. 1594, leaving Martha his wife, great with his only child, William Posthumous. His monument was fixed against the north wall, but the chancel becoming ruinous, and the communication to it from the church being stopped up, the monument was destroyed, but the plate, with the inscription, was put up again within the church, as near as could be, in a like position, against the wall; on the monument was a shield, with three bendlets surmounted, of a fess charged with three rundles, within a bordure. On the south wall, a monument, almost defaced, the arms of Copinger, with twelve quarterings, for Tho. Copinger, of Buxall, eldest son of Henry Copinger, esq. and Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Germin, put up by William Copinger, esq. his son and heir, by Francis, the only offspring of William Brooke lord Cobham, by Dorothy, daughter of Geo. Neville, lord Abergavenny, in 1587.

This church was antiently esteemed but as a chapel to the church of St. Warburgh of Hoo, as has been before fully recited.

Laurence, bishop of Rochester, in 1252, appropriated the church of St. Warburgh of Hoo, with this chapel of All Saints, to the prior and convent of Rochester, to the use of their almonry, they being the real patrons of it, provided that this church was served by a proper vicar, to be presented to him and his successors, by them and their successors, who should in no wise neglect the cure of souls in it./o

The vicarage of this church had no endowment for

many years afterwards; but in 1327, a dispute having arisen between the prior and chapter of Rochester, to whom it was appropriated, and Sir William de Oxford, concerning certain profits and incumbrances belonging to it, they mutually submitted the merits of it to Hamo, bishop of Rochester, their diocesan, who decreed, that all the tithes of sheaves, as well of lands dug with the foot as those cultivated by the plough, as also of wool and hay, whencesoever arising in the parish of this church, should in future belong to the religious, to whom the church was appropriated; and that they should receive the tithes, as above men-

/o Reg. Roff. p. 421, 442. Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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tioned, for their portion, and that the burthen of procuration to the archdeacon of Rochester, as well as the providing ornaments, vestments, and books, which did not belong to the parishioners to provide, and the amending them, so that it did not exceed the sum of two shillings in any one year, and the building and repairing the chancel of the church, should belong to the religious, who should in future undergo the said burthens; and he decreed, that the tithes of lambs, calves, pigs, geese, pigeons, mills, fisheries, rushes, herbage, cheese, milk, flax, hemp, and all other small tithes, oblations, and obventions to this church, in any way belonging, or arising, and not above assigned to the religious, and the burthen of repairing and maintaining the buildings and mansion of the vicarage wholly, and of the books, vestments, and ornaments aforesaid, the repairing and maintaining of which books, vestments, and ornaments, so that it did not exceed two shillings in any one year, belonged to the religious to provide; and also the burthen of providing bread and wine, of processional tapers, and other lights belonging to the church, and the rest of the necessaries for divine worship, which did not belong to the parishioners to provide, and were not above specifically noted, should in future belong to the vicar and his successors, and that Sir William, vicar as aforesaid, and his successors in this church, should in future take the said tithes, oblations, and obventions, with which being content, he and they should undergo and acknowledge the before mentioned burthens; but all other burthens, as well ordinary as extraordinary, not specified above, if any should happen, he decreed, should belong to the religious, &c.

In the 31st year of king Edward I. Henry de Grey and Hugh Poinz claimed the presentation to the vicarage of this church, then vacant, against the prior of Rochester, but in consideration of the prior's giving them one hundred shillings, they released all the right

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and title they had in it, to him and his successors for ever; and on an assize then had, the jurors found, that the advowson was the prior's right, and that he and his convent had possessed it to their own proper use for forty years and upwards. On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, this church and advowson were, together with the rest of the possessions of it,

surrendered in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. into the king's hands, who the next year settled them by his dotation charter on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where they now remain.

The vicarage of this church is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 30l. the yearly tenths being 16s. 9½d.

In the survey of the ecclesiastical livings in this diocese, taken in 1650, it was returned, that here was a parsonage, parcel of the possessions of the late dean and chapter; that the scite of the house, yards, barns, &c. contained eleven acres, and were then let at eight pounds yearly, improved rent. The whole was let by Walter Balcanqual, dean, and the chapter of Rochester, anno 10 Charles I. for twenty-one years, to Francis Butler, at the yearly rent of 10l. 13s. 4d. but was worth, over and above that rent, 67l. 6s. 8d. the lessee being bound to maintain the chancel in good repair. That the tenants of it then were, John and Christopher Whyting, and George Elcock, of Croydon; that the vicarage was worth thirty-eight pounds per annum, the incumbent being Mr. Hugh Whyting./p

CHURCH OF ALHALLOWS.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and convent of Rochester Sir William de Oxford, in 1327./q
Stephen Cheriton, obt. Sept. 19,
1518./r

/p Parl. Surveys, Lamb. lib. vol. xiv.
and vol. xix. /q Reg. Roff. p. 423.

/r He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester Matthew Morirce, about 1630.
Hugh Whyting, in 1650./s
..... Wood, 1720.
Robert Hodges, ob. 1751./t
Thomas Austen, A. M. presented
1751, obt. Oct. 1790.
Richard Bathurst, A. M. 1790,
resig. 1796./u
..... Douthwaite, 1796. Pre=
sent vicar.

/s Parliam. Surveys.

/t Also rector of St. Mary's, Hoo.

/u And a minor canon of Rochester
cathedral.

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STOKE.

THE last parish undescribed in this hundred, lies the next southward from that of Alhallows. A small part of it is within the hundred of Shamel. This place, as appears by the Textus Roffensis, was called Andscohesham in the time of the Saxons. In Domesday it is called Estoches and Stoches; and in later deeds by its present name of Stoke.

EADBERHT, king of Kent, gave part of his land for the good of his soul, and the remission of his sins, to the bishopric of St. Andrew, in Rochester, and Ealdulf, bishop of it, in the district called Hohg, at a place there called Andscoshesham, containing, by estimation, ten ploughlands, together with all things belonging to it, in fields, woods, meadows, fisheries, saltpans, &c. according to the known and established bounds of it; which gift was confirmed by archbishop Nothelm and king Æthelberht, in the metropolitical city, in 738. This estate was afterwards wrested from the church of Rochester during the troublesome times of the Danish wars, and was afterwards purchased by earl Godwin of two men, who held it of the bishop of Rochester, and sold it without the bishop's knowledge. The earl was succeeded in it by his eldest son, earl Harold, afterwards

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king of England, after whose death, William the Conqueror attaining the crown, seised on all the late king's estates, and gave this manor, together with other land at Stoke, among other premises, to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother. But Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, recovered the manor of Stoke from him, in the solemn assembly held at Pinenden-heath, in 1076, and afterwards restored it, with its church, to Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, and the church of St. Andrew, /v which gift was confirmed by archbishop Anselm, and by several of his successors, archbishops of Canterbury.

The manor of Stoke is thus described in the general survey of Domesday, taken about four years afterwards, under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands.

In How hundred. The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Estoches. In the time of king Edward the Conqueror, it was taxed at five sulings, and now at three. The arable land is five carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and 10 villeins, with five borderers, having 4 carucates. There is a church, and 4 servants, and 4 acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, and now it was, and is worth eight pounds and 20 pence, and yet he who holds it pays 13 pounds and 20 pence.

This manor was, and is belonging to the bishopric of Rochester; but earl Godwin, in the time of king Edward, bought it of two men, who held it of the bishop, and this sale was made without his knowledge.

But after that, William being king, Lanfranc the archbishop recovered it against the bishop of Baieux, and from thence the church of Rochester is now seised of it.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, having divided the revenues of his church between himself and his convent, allotted this manor to the share of the monks, ad

/v Text. Roff. p. 142. Reg. Roff. p. 27, 38, 46, 442.

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victim, that is, to the use of their refectory; /w and the same was confirmed to them, by several of the succeeding kings, archbishops, and bishops of Rochester. /x

On bishop Gilbert de Glanvill's coming to the see of

Rochester in 1185, he found it much impoverished, by the gifts of several of the best estates belonging to it made by bishop Gundulph, to the monks of his priory. This occasioned a dispute between them, the bishop claiming this manor, among others, as having belonged to the maintenance of his table. In consequence of which, though he wrested the church of Stoke from them, yet they continued in possession of this 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 antient custom, in the lands of his priory in Stoke, and other lands belonging to his church;^y which were allowed by the jury, as they were again in the 21st year of that reign, upon a Quo warranto; and again in the 7th year of king Edward II. and they were confirmed by letters of inspeximus, granted by king Edward III. in his 30th year. In the 21st year of king Edward I. on another Quo warranto, the prior of Rochester claimed that he and his predecessors had, in the manors of Stoke, &c. view of frank-pledge, from beyond memory, which was allowed by the jury. He also claimed free-warren, by grant from Henry I. but the jury found that neither he nor his predecessors had used it, therefore it was determined, that they should remain without that liberty, but king Edward I. by his charter, in his 23d year, granted that liberty to the prior and convent in all their demesne lands of this

^{/w} Reg. Roff. p. 2 and 5. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 1.

^{/x} Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 29. Reg. Roff. p. 37.

^{/y} See a particular account of these liberties under Frindsbury.

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manor, among others; so that no one should enter on them, either to hunt, or to take any thing which belonged to warren, without their licence, on the forfeiture of ten pounds. In the 15th year of king Edward I. the manor of Stoke was valued at nine pounds.

On the dissolution of the priory of Rochester in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. this manor was surrendered, with the other possessions of it, into the king's hands, who presently after, in his 33d year, settled it, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of it continues at this time.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

In 1720, Jacob Sawbridge, one of the South-Sea directors, purchased the lease of the manor-farm of Stoke, under the yearly rent of twenty eight pounds, clear of all taxes, the rack rent of which, was ninety pounds per annum. The present lessee is the Right Hon. John, earl of Darnley.

TUDERS, formerly spelt Teuders, is a manor in this parish, which antiently was held of the bishop of Rochester, as of his manor of Stoke.

In the 12th year of king John, this estate was held by Hugo de Stokes, as half a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester, by knight's service.^z His descendant, Theodore de Stokes, afterwards possessed it,^a and ingrafted his name on it; for from that time this manor

was called Theodores, and for shortness, Tudors; and Philipott says, he had seen an antient roll of Kentish arms, wherein Tudor of Stoke bore the same coat armour with Owen Theodore, vulgarly called Tuder, being Azure, a chevron between four helmets argent.

After this name was extinct here, this manor came into that of Woodward; one of whom, Edward Woodward, possessed it at the latter end of Henry VIII's reign. His descendant, in the beginning of the reign

/z Lib. Rubr. Scacc. /a Reg. Roff. p. 620.

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of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to John Wilkins gent. of Stoke parsonage, who died in the 19th year of that reign, and was succeeded in it by his kinsman and heir, George Wilkins, gent. who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Mr. John Copinger, of Alhallows, by whom he left no issue. He lies buried in this church. His arms were, Gules, on a chevron argent, a demi lion between two martlets sable, between three welk shells or; one of whose descendants, about the beginning of king Charles I's reign, alienated it to Bright, and Edward Bright, clerk, died possessed of it in the year 1670, on which this estate, by virtue of a mortgage term, passed into the possession of William Norcliffe, esq. of the Temple, London, whose widow possessed it after his decease, and since her death it is become the property of the Rev. Mr. Henry Southwell, of Wisbeach, in the Isle of Ely, who is the present owner of it.

Hugo de Stokes, owner of this manor in the reign of king Stephen, gave the tithes of it to the monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, to whom it was confirmed by archbishop Theobald, and the prior and convent of Canterbury,^{/b} and by several bishops of Rochester.^{/c}

At the dissolution of the priory, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. this portion of tithes, together with the rest of the possessions of the monastery, was surrendered into the king's hands, who settled it next year, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where it now remains.

This portion of tithes, called Tudor's portion, was surveyed soon after the death of king Charles I. in 1649, when it was returned, that the same arose out of the tenement of Tudors, and several other tenements, called Bartons, in the parish of Stoke, with six fields, containing by estimation, fifty-three acres; the

/b Reg. Roff. p. 87. /c Ibid. p. 47, 58, 87, 137, 528.

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improved value of which premises was five pounds per annum, all which were let by the late dean and chapter, anno 3 king Charles I. to Sarah Wilkins, at 6s. and 8d. per annum.

The present lessee is Baldwin Duppa Duppa, of Hollingborne, in this county.

MALMAYNES is a manor in this parish, now commonly known by the name of Maamans Hall, which was given, as well as that of Stoke, by the Conqueror, at his accession to the crown, to his half-brother, Odo, as has been already mentioned; and when archbishop Lanfranc recovered the latter from the bishop, at the

noted assembly of the county at Pinenden, as having before belonged to the church of Rochester, this manor was then likewise in his possession. Accordingly it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

The same Ansgotus (de Rochester) holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Stoches. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is two carucates, and there are in demesne . . . with seven borderers. There is one fishery of two shillings. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, it was worth one hundred shillings, now one hundred and ten shillings. Anschil held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux in 1083, this, among the rest of his estates, was confiscated to the crown. After which it became part of the possessions of the family of Malmains, a branch of which resided here, and fixed their name on it. John de Malmains, son of Henry, died possessed of it in the 10th year of king Edward II. In the 20th year of king Edward III. the heirs of Thomas de Malmayns, of Hoo, paid aid for three quarters of a knight's fee, which John Malmayns before held here of the king.

Richard Filiot seems soon afterwards to have been in possession of this manor, which passed from him into the family of Carew, and Nicholas Carew, of Bedington, in Surry, died possessed of it in the 14th year of

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king Richard II. His son, Nicholas de Carew, armiger, de Bedington, as he wrote himself, died in the 9th year of king Henry V. conveyed this manor by sale to Iden; from which name it passed, in the latter end of king Henry VIII's reign, to John Parker, whose arms were, Sable, on a fess ingrailed argent, between three hinds tripping, or, three torteauxes, each charged with a pheon of the second, which coat is now quartered by lord Teynham. His sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to John Roper, esq. of Linsted, who was first knighted, and afterwards created baron of Teynham, in this county. His son, Christopher, lord Teynham, died in 1622, and by his will devised this manor to his second son, William Roper, esq. who alienated it, in the reign of king Charles I. to Jones, in whose descendants it continued till the reign of king George I. when it passed by sale from them to Baldwin Duppa, esq. who died in 1737, and his son, Baldwin Duppa, esq. of Hollingborne-hill, possessed it at his death in 1764, since which it has continued in the same family the present owner, being Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of that place.

Sir John Malmeyns, of this parish, in 1303, made his petition to Robert, abbot, and the convent of Boxley, appropriators of this church; that as he was, on account of his house being situated at such a distance from the parish church, often prevented from attending divine service there, he might be enabled to build an oratory, for himself and his family, on his own estate, and might have a priest to celebrate divine services in it. To which the abbot and convent assented, provided, as far as might be, no prejudice might by it accrue to the mother church, themselves, or the vicars of it, which licence was confirmed by Thomas, bishop

of Rochester, that year.

/d See Collins's Baronetage, vol. v. p. 159, 160.

/e Visitation of county of Kent, 1619, with Additions.

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RALPH MALESMÆINS, about the reign of king Henry I. became a monk of the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, and on that account granted to the monks there his tithes of Stoches; and after his death Robert Malesmæins, his son, confirmed it, as did Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, Ralph, prior and the convent of Canterbury, and several of the succeeding bishops of Rochester.

At the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. this portion of tithes was surrendered into the king's hands, who granted it the next year, by his dotation charter, to his new-erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance of it now remains.

The present lessee, under the dean and chapter, is Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of Hollingborne-hill.

Reginald de Cobham, son of John de Cobham, possessed lands in this parish, and in the 14th year of king Edward III. procured free-warren in all his demesne lands in Stoke.

King Henry VIII. in his 32d year, granted to George Brooke, lord Cobham, a marsh, called Coleman's, alias Bridge-marsh, lying in Oysterland, alias Eastland, in Stoke; and other premises, parcel of the priory of Christ-church, to hold in capite, by knights service.

CHARITIES.

RICHARD WHITE, of Chalk, gave by will in 1722, an annual sum of money to the poor of this parish not receiving alms, vested in Mr. John Prebble, and of the yearly product of ten shillings.

STOKE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church, is dedicated to St. Peter.

In the chancel are these brasses: one for John Wilkins, gentleman, born in this parish, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Coppinger, esq. of Alhallows, obt. s. p. 1575, arms, Wilkins impaling Coppinger, and other coats, one for William Cardiff,

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B. D. vicar, obt. 1415; another for Frances Grimestone, daughter of Ralph Coppinger, esq. and wife of Henry Grimestone, esq. obt. 1608.

This church was antiently an appendage to the manor of Stoke.

King Henry I. gave his tithe of Stoke to the church of St. Andrew, and Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, and when he allotted the manor of Stoke to the share of the monks of his convent, the church passed as an appendage to it, and it continued with them, till bishop Gilbert de Glanvill took this church, among other premises, from them, and annexed it again to his see, where it remained till Richard, bishop of Rochester, with the consent of his chapter, granted the appropriation of it to the abbot and convent of Boxley for ever;

saving the portions of tithes, which the prior and convent used to take, from the demesnes of Sir Henry Malmeyns, and those arising from the free tenement of Theodore de Stokes, and the portion of four sacks of wheat due to the almoner of Rochester, and of four sacks of wheat due to the lessees of St. Bartholomew, which they used to take by the hands of the rector of the church, and which for the future they should receive by the hands of the abbot and convent, saving also all episcopal right, and a competent vicarage to be assessed by him, which instrument was dated in 1244. Soon after which, the bishop endowed this vicarage as follows:

First, he decreed, that the perpetual vicar of it should have all the altarage, with all small tithes, excepting hay, which should remain to the parson; and that he should have the chapel, and the cemetery of it, and the croft adjoining, and one mark of silver yearly, at the hand of the parson of Stoke, and that the vicar should sustain all burthens due and accustomed, and contribute a third part to the repair and amendment of the chancel, books, vestments, and other ornaments.

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Richard, bishop of Rochester, in 1280, at the instance of the prior and convent of Rochester, made enquiry in what manner the monks used anciently to retain their tithes in their manors, and in what manner they used to impart them to the parish churches of the same, when it was certified, that in the manor of Stoke, the parish church took the whole tithes of sheaves only, but of other small tithes, as well as of mills and hay, it did not, nor used to take any thing; and he decreed, that the parish church of Stoke should be content with the tenths of the sheaves of all kind of corn only. All which was confirmed to them by John, archbishop of Canterbury, by his let of inspeximus, in the year 1281.

In 1315 the abbot and convent of Boxley, as appropriators of the church of Stoke, claimed an exemption of tithes for a mill newly erected by them in the parish of Halstow, for the herbage of their marsh of Horsemershe, and for the rushes increasing, and the lambs feeding in it, before Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, and his commissaries, then visiting this diocese, as metropolitan, which claim was allowed by the decree of the archbishop, &c. that year.

On the dissolution of the abbey of Boxley, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. the church and vicarage of Stoke, together with the rest of the possessions of that monastery, were surrendered into the king's hands.

Soon after which, this rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage, was granted by the king to William Goodwyn, to hold in capite by knights service, and he, in the 36th year of that reign, alienated it with the king's licence, to John Parke, whose only daughter, Elizabeth, carried these premises in marriage to John Roper, esq. of Linsted, afterwards created lord Teynham; who in the 9th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated them to John Wilkins, gent. /f who levied a fine

/f Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 9, 20, 22.

of them in Easter term, anno 17 of that reign, and died possessed of them in the 19th year of it. He was succeeded in this parsonage and advowson by his kinsman and heir, George Wilkins, one of whose descendants, in the beginning of king Charles I's reign, alienated them to Bright, from which name they were sold to Baldwin Duppa, esq. since which they have passed in like manner as Malmains-hall, before described, to Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. the present proprietor of the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage of Stoke. The rectory of Stoke pays a fee farm to the church of ten shillings and eight-pence per annum.

The vicarage of Stoke is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of thirty pounds, the yearly tenths being 17s. 2d.

In 1650, this vicarage, on the survey then taken of it, was valued at forty pounds, /g Mr. Thomas Miller, then incumbent.

NICHOLAS DE CARREU, senior, lord of the manor of Malmeynes, in this parish, with the licence of king Edward III. which was afterwards further renewed and confirmed by king Richard II. in the 12th year of that reign, anno 1388, founded A CHANTRY for two priests in this church of Stoke; and he then, by his deed, endowed it with one messuage and one acre of land, in this parish, for their habitation and their maintenance, an annual rent of twenty-four marcs out of his manor, called Malemeynesemanere, which was confirmed by William, bishop of Rochester, who with the consent of his convent, made rules and orders for their presentation and admission, from time to time, and for the good order and celebration of divine rites in it, to which instrument the bishop, the prior and convent of Rochester, Nicholas de Carreu, and John Maister, and John Buset, chantry priests, severally set their seals.

/g Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xix.

CHURCH OF STOKE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Adam de Hafele, first
vicar 1244./h

William Cardiff, S. T. B. obt.
Oct. 16, 1415./i

Sir Richard Walshe, in 1501./k

John Spencer, in 1630./l

Thomas Miller, in 1649./m

Edward Turner, B. A. 1710./n

Richard Hancorn, A. M. resig.
1765./o

Thomas Higgins, 1765, obt.
1778.

William Parry, D. D. 1778. Pre=
sent vicar./p

/h Reg. Roff. p. 623.

/i He lies buried in this church.

/k Reg. Roff. p. 426.

/l MSS. Twysden.
/m Parl. Surveys. Lamb. lib. v. xix.
/n Also vicar of St. James in the
Isle of Grean.
/o Who afterwards took the name
of Duppa.
/p Lecturer of St. Giles's, Cripple=
gate, and minister of Charlotte chapel,
Bloomsbury.

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THE
CITY AND LIBERTY
OF
ROCHESTER.

EASTWARD from Stroud, on the opposite side
of the river Medway, lies THE CITY OF ROCHESTER,
situated on an angle of land formed by that river, which
coming from the south runs northward until it has
passed the city, after which it directs its course due east.
The jurisdiction of this city was antiently called the
hundred of Rochester./q

/q See Reg. Roff. p. 49.

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ROCHESTER was a place of some note in the time of
the Romans, owing to its situation at the accustomed
pass over the river Medway. It was probably called
by the Britons Durobrivæ, from the British word Dour
Water, and the termination Briva, which is added to
the old names of many places, and might signify among
the antient Britons and Gauls, a bridge, or passage over
a river; since it is no where used, but in the names of
places situated like this at rivers./r

Antoninus, in his Itinerary, calls it by the name of
Durobrivis, though it is corruptly spelt various ways in
the different copies of it. In the Peutingerian military
tables, in the decline of the Roman empire, it is writ=
ten Roibis; from which contracted, and the addition
of the word ceaster (derived from the Latin, castrum,
used by our Saxon ancestors to signify a city, town or
castle) they called it Hroueceaster, and by a further con=
traction, Rochester./s and here it is to be observed, that
all places ending in chester, fashioned in the Saxon
times, have arisen from the ruins of the old Roman
castra, not that the former were always placed in the
very same scite, though they were never very remote
from it./t Hence the antient stations about the noted
Roman wall, the ruins of many of which are still vi=
sible, are called chesters by the country people. It was
accounted in the time of the Romans, one of their sti=
pendiary cities, of which sort they had twelve in this
island./u

Most of our antiquaries agree in allowing it to be
the station mentioned by Antoninus in his Itinerary, un=
der the name of Durobrivis, situated twenty-seven
miles from London. The remains of the antient Ro=
man road, or Watling-street way, leading from Lon=
don hither, is very visible from Shinglewell, by Cob=
ham-park pales, towards Rochester, till it comes to the
north gate of the park, where it runs into the thick

/r Camd. Brit. p. 357. /s Burt. Anton. p. 178.
/t Burt. Anton. p. 41, 43. /u Richard of Cirencester, p. 23.

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coppice, and is lost; after which there are no remains of it, till you come to the top of Chatham-hill, in the high road to Canterbury and Richborough.

Rochester has never been very extensive, and appears to be larger now than at any time heretofore. In the time of Venerable Bede, it was rather esteemed as a castle, than as a city, and accordingly he styles it the castle of the Kentish men. Great part of the walls of this city still remain, and probably on their original foundation, and there is great reason to think, from the Roman bricks observable in different parts of them, that it was first fortified in the time of the Romans. The walls were built nearly according to the four cardinal points, and from east to west about half a mile distant, but from north to south not a quarter of a mile, so that being originally of so small a compass, this place might well be described in antient grants rather as a castle, than a city./w

The wall is still entire in some places, especially on the east and south sides, the north-east angle still retaining its antient form, height, and embrasures. It is in general about four feet in thickness, and on the east side where it is entire, the height is about thirty feet.

In the year 1225, the great ditch about the city is reported to have been begun, and in 1284, Saloman de Roffa had the king's licence to build about, and on the walls of Rochester, and to hold the buildings in fee.

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate,/x afterwards called Eastgate, which stood in the high street, near adjoining to the present free school, part of the portal being still visible on the south side of the street; most part of it remained in the reign of king Henry VIII. when Leonard wrote, who calls it a marvellous strong gate, and adds, no more gates appeared here than were commonly used. South gate was near Bully-hill, in the road to

/w Hist. Rochest. 12mo. 1772. /x Text. Roff. p. 63.

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St. Margaret's, the arch of which was taken down in 1770. There was another gate, as appears by the Registrum Roffense, called Cheldegate, which seems to have been in the north wall of the city leading to the marshes, that part of the wall being called from it Cheldegate-wall, and the lane in which it stood opposite the college gate Cheldegate-lane./y In the Textus Roffensis there is likewise mention made of a gate beyond the bridge.

WE HAVE no further mention of ROCHESTER, though it was undoubtedly a Roman station, as well as a stipendiary city, till after the rise of the Saxon heptarchy, when it became more distinguished; for king Ethelbert, having embraced the Christian faith in the year 597, built the church of St. Andrew here, and made it a bishop's see; by which he raised this city from obscurity, and gave it a distinguished place in ecclesiastical and civil history.

Rochester, from its situation at the most accustomed

passage over the river Medway, has been subject to more misfortunes than perhaps any other city whatsoever. In 676, Ethelred, king of Mercia, having invaded Kent, destroyed this city, and returned with great plunder to his own kingdom./z

During the Danish wars in England, Rochester frequently suffered from the inhumanity of those barbarians, this city being often besieged and plundered by them, the enemy in general committing unheard-of cruelties before they returned to their ships. Terrified and worn down by its misfortunes, this city at length made no further opposition against them, but submitted with the rest of the nation to the yoke of these invaders; in which state it continued, without any particular circumstances happening to it, till the Norman conquest in 1066, when it submitted to the conqueror,

/y Reg. Roff. p. 535, 537, 538, and 540.

/z Bede, lib. iv. chap. 12. Hunt, lib. ii. p. 318.

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on the same terms that the rest of the county did. This place suffered several times dreadfully by fire in the reigns of king Henry I. and II. From which misfortunes it recovered but slowly, and the intestine commotions of the kingdom happening soon afterwards, Rochester suffered again considerably; but Henry III. getting possession of it, and knowing what advantage the preservation of it would be, resolved to augment its strength, for which purpose he repaired and restored the walls to their former condition, and began a large ditch round the city.

As Rochester lies in the direct, and most frequented passage from the continent to London, it would be endless to recount the numbers of royal and illustrious persons, who have continually visited this city, in their way through it. Our public histories are filled with instances of this sort.

However, it may be worth noticing, that queen Elizabeth, in her return from a progress she had made round the coasts of Sussex and Kent, in 1573, took up her abode in this city for five days; on the last of which she honoured Mr. Watts with her company, at his house on Bully-hill. The day after her arrival, she was present at divine service, and heard a sermon in the cathedral./a

King James I. together with the king of Denmark, was present at a sermon preached here in 1606, by Dr. Parry, dean of Chester, the most eloquent preacher of his time./b

King Charles II. on his restoration, was received here with great demonstrations of joy, and the mayor and corporation presented him with a silver bason and ewer. After which he rested that night at the house of colonel Gibbons in this city.

King James II. on his abdication, came to Rochester on Dec. 19, 1688, and was received here by Sir Ri-

/a Hist. Rochester, p. 16. /b Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 416.

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chard Head, bart. in whose house he resided till the 23d inst. when he privately withdrew, and taking with him only the duke of Berwick, and two others, embarked

on board a tender in the river Medway./c

ROCHESTER, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, was in the king's hands; William the Conqueror, on his obtaining the crown, gave it, with the castle, to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother. Accordingly it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday:

The city of Rochester, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, was worth 100 shillings, and the like when the bishop (of Baieux) received it, now it is worth 20 pounds; yet he who held it paid 40 pounds.

On the disgrace of bishop Odo, in the year 1083, this place, with the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown.

From the Norman conquest, the cities and towns of England were vested, either in the crown, or else in the clergy, or in the baronage, or great men of the laity, of which places they were each of them immediate lords. Of these, some of them were vested in the king, *antiquo jure coronæ*, as part of the original inheritance of the crown, called in Domesday, *antient demesne*; others by *antient escheat*, as for want of heirs, or by *attainder*, *forfeiture*, *feoffment*, *exchange*, &c. &c./d

When the king was seized of any place in demesne, he was lord of the soil, i. e. of all the land within the scite and precinct of it, and of all the houses, shops, and buildings erected on it, the herbage and productions of the earth, profits of fairs and markets, pleas and perquisites of courts, and other profits of every kind within it. And when the king granted a city or town in fee, or perpetual ferm, it was a certain proof, that he was before seized of the whole of the same, its

/c Rapin. vol. ii. p. 782. /d Madox's *Firma Burgi*, p. 4.

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soil, profits, and appurtenances. When a town was put to fee-ferm, the tenure of it was Burgage; and the particular tenements lying within it were said to be so holden./e

King Henry I. let this city to ferm at pleasure, to the townsmen, at the yearly rent of twenty pounds, which was answered by the *præpositus*, or bailiff of it; and he granted to bishop Gundulf, and the church of Rochester, one fair to be held yearly in it, on the day before, and on the feast of St. Paulinus, with all toll arising from it, &c./f

King Henry II. by his charter, in the 12th year of his reign, granted to the citizens of Rochester, and their heirs, the city in fee (or perpetual) ferm, for twenty pounds sterling per annum, to hold of him and his heirs for ever; together with all pertinencies, liberties, and free customs belonging to it; and that they should have a guild merchant, with sundry other privileges, liberties, and customs therein mentioned.

King Richard I. directed his writ to the bailiff, and whole hundred of Rochester, commanding that no one, unless his servants, should buy any victuals in the city before the monks of St. Andrew's priory had bought theirs within it, which privilege was confirmed by king Richard I. who forbid even his own servants to buy

before them. It was made use of by the monks of this priory till its dissolution; the like privilege was exercised by several of the great monasteries in France, till their late dissolution, to the great disgust and inconvenience of every one else.

Before the city was granted to the burgesses in fee-farm, they accounted for a certain payment called maltolt, which they received from all persons passing through the city to embark for the holy land, but Richard I. abolished this toll./g

/e Madox's Firma Burgi, p. 14 to 21.

/f Reg. Roff. p. 527. /g Madox's Exch. p. 229.

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King Henry III. by his letters patent, in the 50th year of his reign, not only confirmed the charter of king Henry II. but in recompence for the faithful service of the citizens, and the damages and losses they had sustained in their obedience to him during the time of the troubles then in the kingdom, remitted to them a part of their annual fee ferm; and he granted, that they should be exempt from toll, lastage, stallage, and murage, throughout England and the sea-ports, and should have a free market within their city, and the return of all writs whatsoever.

This city was afterwards taken into the king's hands, where it remained in the 8th year of king Edward I. who then committed it to John de Cobham, to hold of him and his heirs in ferme, for his life, at the like yearly rent, that the citizens were used before to answer for it; which grant was allowed on a Quo warranto, brought against him in the 21st year of that reign.

King Edward III. by charter of inspeximus, in his 4th year, confirmed to the citizens of Rochester king Henry III.'s charter, as did king Richard II. in his 1st year.

King Henry VI. granted several liberties and privileges to this city; and that the bailiff of it, and the citizens, and their heirs, should have the passage called the Ferry, below the city and the town of Stroud, and from the town of Stroud to the city, the King's bridge on the other side of the water being broken; and also the space of the bridge, together with the house called the Barbican; and that they should have one fair in the city yearly, on the feast of St. Dunstan the bishop, May 29, together with great liberties, &c./h

/h Rot. Cart. anno 1 Henry VI. No. 44. Cart de annis, 21, 22, 23, and 24, No. 6. Cart de anno, 21 ad 24, No. 6.

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John Lowe, bishop, together with the prior and convent of Rochester, came to an agreement with the bailiff and citizens of Rochester, concerning the bounds and privileges of the city and precincts of the church, anno 1440, 27 Henry VI. in which, among other matters, it was agreed, that the bailiff and his successors might cause to be carried before them, by their sergeants, their mace or maces, and the sword likewise, if the king should ever give them one, as well to and in the parish church as in the cathedral and

cemetery, especially on festival days and processions, and solemn sermons, and at the reception and installation of the bishops, and at all other fit times; but that they should make no execution or arrest, or any thing belonging to the same, within the precinct of the monastery and palace of the bishop, unless the same should be specially required of the bishop or prior.

King Edward IV. by his charter, in 1460, in the 1st year of his reign, wherein he recited, that the city was situated in a place most defensible, and fit for the resistance of enemies, who might enter the realm; and that considering their loyalty and services, as well to him as his progenitors, and if they had more ample liberties, their service and readiness would be enlarged, confirmed to them their former charters, and granted to the citizens of Rochester, that instead of a bailiff, they should be called the Mayor and citizens of the city of Rochester, and so to purchase, plead, and be impleaded, &c. The mayor to be chosen on the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael yearly: That on the same day a coroner and two constables should be chosen: That the metes and bounds of the city, as well by land as by water, should be, from the city by land to the hospital called St. Bartholomew's, and from the wharf of the same to the water of Medway in circuit, i. e. to Kingsforowe and Sheracre, and Lancelane unto Horsted-street or farm,

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and from thence in circuit by the lane that lieth between the messuage of Gilbert Striche and William Horsted, unto Keneling's Crouch, alias Poule's Crosse, and from thence in circuit to the manor of Neshinden, and from thence to the Mill-hill next Neshinden, and from thence in circuit to the stone, and thence between the King's way leading to Woldham and the manor of Ringes, on the east part of the said manor, and from the said stone to the water of Medway there; and also from the city unto a cross placed in Littleborough, in the town of Stroud; and so in circuit about the said borough unto the city, and also by the water of Medway, that is to say, from Shireness all along up to Hawkewood; but in the charter of king Charles I. part of these bounds is thus expressed – From Horsted unto a mark stone in the highway, leading from Rochester to Maidstone, formerly called Kenelinge-crouch, and from thence unto Millhill, nigh to Nashinden, and from thence in circuit to a stone standing opposite the highway leading to Woldham, near the farm called Ringes, and from the said stone to the water of Medway there: That they should have power to search all merchandizes to be shipped there, and have all forfeitables, wrecks of the sea, and fishes within the liberties and precincts of the same; and should have the ferry over the water if the bridge should be broken: And also, assize of bread and ale, and of all victuals and weights and measures, and all other things whatsoever, belonging to the office of the clerk of the market: And be free by land and water throughout England, and have goods of felons, and outlaws of men resident, &c. and should keep a court of portmote, from fifteen days to

fifteen days, and should have power to attach by goods and arrest by body, or imprison: And should have cognizance of all pleas, real, personal, and mixed, within their limits, and return of all writs and precepts, and that the sheriff of the city and his officers

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should be exempt from doing any office: And that they should have all manner of fines, trespasses, deodands, &c. and keep two law days or leets on the Bullie, and a court of pie-powders, and have a fair on St. Dunstan's day; and that they should have pasturage of cattle in the city and Castle ditch, and liberty to build upon Eastgate bridge: That they should be justices of the peace within themselves, and direct their writs to their own ministers, and be exempt from the justices of the peace for the county: That no resident should be charged to bear office out of the city; and lastly, that they should have liberty to purchase twenty pounds per ann. to them and their successors.

The present seal of this corporation, having St. Andrew on his cross on one side, and the castle of Rochester on the other; round the former, *Sigillum Commune Civitatis Roffensis*; and the latter, *Sigillum Civium Roffensis*; appears to be very antient.

These charters and privileges were confirmed by king Henry VIII. and by his several successors down to king Charles I. who, by his charter, in 1630, ratified and confirmed that of king Edward IV. and all other charters granted to this city; and upon petition of the mayor and citizens, that there were some doubts, touching the bounds and limits of the city, they were then further explained and cleared up. By this last charter the present corporation was made to consist of a mayor, twelve aldermen, of which number the mayor was to be one, twelve assistants or common council, a recorder, and town clerk, two chamberlains, a principal serjeant at mace, a water bailiff, and other inferior officers. The day of election for mayor to be on the Monday next before the feast of St. Matthew yearly; and the day of swearing him into his office on the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael. The recorder to be chosen by the mayor and aldermen, and to take an oath of office. The mayor and two aldermen to hold a court of portmore from fifteen days to fifteen

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days; and lastly, the mayor, recorder, eldest aldermen, and last mayor, for the time being, were to be justices of the peace within the limits of the corporation. Anno 23 George III. an act passed for recovery of small debts in Rochester, and adjoining parishes therein named.

AT THE SYNOD held at Gratley by king Athelstane, in the year 928, there was a law made respecting the coinage of money, that there should be but one uniform species of it throughout the whole realm. Much inconvenience had, no doubt, been found from so many different sorts of money as then passed among the king's subjects; for the remedy of which he ordained the above wise law, which entirely abolished the privilege many had used, in coining money of their own, to the great prejudice of individuals, and the diminution of his own crown and dignity./i The profits

of these mints, which were considerable, they were still permitted to enjoy; but they had neither the denomination, stamp, or allay, as heretofore peculiar to themselves; for as Mr. Selden observes, after this time no money was coined without the king's name or effigies. The cities and places of public note, where there were mints allowed to be worked for the coinage of money, are named in the above law. Among other places, there were allowed at Rochester two for the king and one for the bishop; that is, where each of them should respectively take the profits arising from the current money of the kingdom coined at them./k

King John, in his 9th year, issued his writ patent for all moneyers, assayers, and custodes cuneorum, and among others to those of Rochester, to appear at Westminster, to receive his commands, and to bring with them all their dies sealed up with their seals./l

/i See Wilkins's Leges Anglo Sax. p. 59, 78, 118, 134.

/k Wilkins's Councils, vol. i. p. 206. Ibid. Leges Ang. Sax. p. 59. Pegg's Assemblage of Archiepiscopal Coins, p. 51 et seq.

/l Madox's Exchequer, p. 198.

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King Stephen, in the year 1149, suppressed most of the mints which had been set up during the troubles of his reign, particularly those of the great barons of the realm, as did his successor, king Henry II. in 1156; and though he, as well as several of his successors, reinstated the archbishop of Canterbury and York, the bishop of Durham, and some other ecclesiastics, in this privilege of a mint, and others had new grants for the like purpose; yet it does not seem that the bishop of Rochester was ever restored to his; nay, it seems probable he had never made use of it at all, no money coined by him having ever yet been met with: and what corroborates this the more is, that not the least notice of this prelate's mint, or of his right to one, is inserted among the numerous records and exemplifications of his privileges in the Registrum Roffense.

The STATE of Rochester, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, may be partly seen by the return to an order made by that princess, in her 8th year, for a survey of the several places in this county, where there were any boats, shipping, or the like; by which it appears, there were here, houses inhabited, 144; ships and boats, 7; one of two tons, one of six, one of ten, two of thirty, and one of seventy; a mayor, aldermen, customer, comptroller, &c. and a searcher of the custom house; four quays – the Town quay, the Watering quay, the Town ditch, and Strowde quay, belonging to the mayor and aldermen; and that there were persons in the place, occupied in merchandize and fishing, 27./m

The CITY at present consists of one principal street, of a handsome breadth and considerable length, having several bye lanes on each side of it. The bridge and the river Medway bound it westward, as the town of Chatham does towards the east.

/m MSS. Dering. History of Rochester, p. 231, 259.

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The castle, the church of St. Nicholas, and the ca=

thedral with its precincts, stand close on the south side of it, beyond which St. Margaret's street extends still further southward, with the church at the further extremity of it. The high road from London to Dover leads through the High street, which has several large inns in it, for the accommodation of passengers, the traffic of the road here being extraordinary great, especially in the times of peace with France. The houses in it are in general well built, and are inhabited by people of wealth and condition, the whole of it having been greatly improved of late years, especially since the act passed in 1769, for new paving, lighting, and watching the city; all which has been some years since effectually carried into execution. The intercourse of the inhabitants with the royal dock, victualling office, navy, and other branches of the shipping, proves a continual source of wealth and employment to them, many of whom are induced to reside here on those accounts, and though there are no particular manufactures carried on here, makes it a very populous and busy town. There is an establishment of the customs here, as one of the out ports, under the direction of a collector, a deputy comptroller, surveyor, &c. and of the excise-office, under a supervisor, and other inferior assistants.

The town hall of this city stands on the north side of the High-street, and was first erected in the year 1687. It is a handsome brick structure, supported by coupled columns of stone of the Doric order. The under part of it is open to the street, and, as well as the room above it, is made use of by the judges, whenever the assizes are held at this city. In the upper room all public business respecting the government of this city is transacted, and the elections of members of parliament are made.

The city of Rochester bears for its arms, Or, a cross gules, with an R in the centre; on the chief of the second a lion passant guardant or.

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Before the above mentioned building was erected, the antient Guildhall of the city stood on the same side of the High street, a little more to the eastward, on the spot where the present clock house was erected, and the clock given, at the sole charge of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, in 1706, and was given by him to the mayor and citizens for ever. A market is held weekly on Friday, for poultry, butter, pigs, earthenware, garden stuff, &c. on the area before the court hall of this city; and one on the same day for meat, in the shambles, built for that purpose within the clockhouse above mentioned; but this last is now almost deserted, the market of the neighbouring town of Chatham supplying the place of it. A writ of Ad quod damnum was executed on Thursday, June 10, 1787, in order to establish a market for the buying and selling of cattle on the fourth Tuesday in every month. Besides the fair held here by charter, on St. Dunstan's day (now on May 30) there is another held by prescription on St. Andrew's day, which now begins yearly on Dec. 11. On the first day of each fair, cattle is chiefly sold, and each fair continues for three days.

SOME ACCOUNT has already been given in the General History of this county of the first writs directed

to the several sheriffs, for summoning the knights, burgesses, &c. to parliament. The first of these writs that has been found is of the 49th of king Henry III. and though there were several parliaments in king Edward I.'s time, before the 18th year of his reign, yet there is no testimony left upon record of any writ or summons to them till that year; in which, as may be seen by the writs directed to the sheriff, two or three knights were to be chosen for each county, but no citizens or burgesses are mentioned till the 23d of that reign.

The earliest return extant for the city of Rochester is in the 23d of king Edward I. anno 1289; from which time, to the 17th year of king Edward IV. they

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may be found among the bundles of writs, directed to the several sheriffs, remaining in the exchequer; but from that time to the 1st year of king Edward VI. all the writs, indentures, and returns are lost, except one imperfect bundle, No. 33. Henry VIII. in which Rochester is missing, as it is likewise in the 1st year of king Edward VI. but as the names of the several burgesses returned to parliament for this city before that time can afford but little gratification to the reader, they are therefore omitted here.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THEM FROM THE SIXTH YEAR OF KING EDWARD VI. TO THE PRESENT TIME.

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD VI.

Years of the Reign, &c. Names of the Citizens in Parliament.

6th. Parliament at Westminster. JOHN NORTON, knt.
Christopher Roper.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN MARY.

1st. At Westminster. Thomas Moyle, knt.
Robert Dartnoll.

1st. At Oxford. Thomas Moyle, knt.
William Roper, esq.

IN THE TIME OF PHILIP AND MARY.

1st and 2d. At Westminster. William Roper,
Edward Bashe.

2d and 3d. At Westminster. George Howard, knt/n
William Cobham, knt.

4th and 5th. At Westminster. Hugh Cartwright,
Thomas Page, esq.

/n Browne Willis calls him Haywood.

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IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

1st. At Westminster. Edward Bashe,
Tho. Brooke alias Cobham

5th. At Westminster. Edward Bashe, esq.

Richard Watts, gent
 13th. At Westminster. William Holstock,
 George Catlyn, esqrs.
 14th. At Westminster. George Catlyn,
 William Partrige, esqrs./o
 27th. At Westminster. Wm. Brook alias Cobham
 George Bing, gents.
 28th. At Westminster. William Brook, esq.
 William Lewin, LL. D.
 31st. At Westminster. John Stanhope, esq.
 William Lewin, LL. D.
 35th. At Westminster. George Chowne, esq.
 William Lewin, LL. D.
 39th. At Westminster. Edward Hobbye,
 Tho. Walsingham, knts.
 43rd. At Westminster. The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES I.

1st. At Westminster. The same.
 12th. At Westminster. Edwin Sandys,
 Tho. Walsingham, knt.
 18th. At Westminster. Tho. Walsingham, knt.
 Humphry Clerk, esq.
 21st. At Westminster. Thomas Walsingham,
 Maximilian Dalyson, knts.

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES I.

1st. At Westminster. Henry Clerk, esq.
 Thomas Walsingham, knt.
 /o Samuel Cox, esq. was chosen in his room.

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1st. At Westminster. Henry Clerk, esq.
 Thomas Walsingham, knt.
 3d. At Westminster. Thomas Walsingham,
 William Brook, knts.
 15th. At Westminster. Thomas Walsingham, knt
 John Clerk, esq.
 16th. At Westminster. Thomas Walsingham, knt.
 Richard Lee, esq.

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES II.

12th. At Westminster 1660 John Marsham,
 Peter Pett, esq.
 13th. Ditto 1661 Sir Francis Clerk, knt.
 Sir William Batten, knt./p
 31st. Ditto 1678 Sir Richard Head,
 Sir John Banks, barts.
 31st. Ditto 1679 Sir John Banks, bart.
 Francis Barrel, esq.
 32d. At Oxford 1681 Sir John Banks, bart.
 Sir Francis Clerk, knt.

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES II.

1st. At Westminster 1685 Sir John Banks, bart.
Sir Francis Clerk, knt.

IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

1st. At Westminster 1688 Sir John Banks,
Sir Roger Twisden, barts.

2d. Ditto 1690 Sir Joseph Williamson, knt.
Francis Clerk, esq./q

7th. Ditto 1695 Sir Joseph Williamson,
Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knts.

/p In 1667, on his decease, Richard Head, esq. was chosen in
his room.

/q On his decease, in 1691, Caleb Banks, esq. was chosen in
his room.

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10th. Ditto 1698 Sir Joseph Williamson,
Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knts.

12th. Ditto 1700 The same.

13th. Ditto 1701 Francis Barrel,
William Bokenham, esqrs.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE.

1st. At Westminster 1702 Edward Knatchbull,
William Cage, esqrs.

4th. Ditto 1705 Sir Cloudesley Shovel,/r
Sir Staffd. Fairborne, knts.

7th. Ditto 1708 Sir Stafford Fairborne,
Sir John Leake, knts.

9th. Ditto 1710 Sir John Leake, knt.
William Cage, esq.

12th. Ditto 1713 The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE I.

1st. At Westminster 1714 Sir Thomas Palmer, bart.
Sir John Jennings, knt.

7th. Ditto 1722 Sir Thomas Palmer, bart./s
Sir John Jennings, knt.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE II.

1st. At Westminster 1727 Sir John Jennings, knt.
David Polhill, esq.

7th. Ditto 1734 David Polhill,
Nicholas Haddock, esqrs.

14th. Ditto 1741 Nicholas Haddock,/t
Edward Vernon, esqrs./u

/r On his decease, in 1707, Sir John Leake was chosen.

/s On his decease, in 1723, Sir Thomas Colby was chosen.

/t On his death, in 1746, Sir Chaloner Ogle was chosen.

/u Edward Vernon made his option for Ipswich, and David
Polhill was chosen in his room.

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21st. Ditto 1747 Sir Chaloner Ogle,/w
David Polhill, esq./x

28th. Ditto 1754 Hon. John Bing,/y

Nicholas Haddock, esq.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE III.

1st. At Westminster 1761 Hon. Tho. Parker, commonly called Lord Parker/z
Isaac Townsend, esq./a

7th. Ditto 1768 John Calcraft,/b
William Gordon, esqrs./c

14th. Ditto 1774 George Finch Hatton,
Robert Gregory, esqrs.

20th. Ditto 1780 The same.

24th. Ditto 1784 Sir Cha. Middleton, bart.
Nathaniel Smith, esq.

30th. Ditto 1790 George Best, esq.
Sir Rich. Bickerton, bart./d

36th. Ditto 1796 Sir Richard King, bart./e
Hon. Henry Tufton./f

The number of freemen, who vote for members, is at present, about 630.

/w On his decease, in 1750, the Hon. John Bing was chosen.

/x In 1754, Nicholas Haddock was chosen on his decease.

/y In 1757, Isaac Townshend was chosen on his decease.

/z On his succeeding his father, as earl of Macclesfield, in 1764, Sir Charles Hardy was chosen in his room.

/a On his death, in 1765, Grey Cooper was chosen in his room.

/b On his decease, in 1772, George Finch Hatton was chosen.

/c He vacated his seat, in 1771, and vice admiral Pye was chosen in his room.

/d He died in Feb. 1792, being rear admiral of the White; and on March 7, Nathaniel Smith was elected in his room. He died in June, 1794, and Sir Richard King was chosen in his stead.

/e Now admiral of the Blue.

/f Brother to the earl of Thanet.

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ROCHESTER, from its having been a station, situated at so important a passage over the Medway, might well be supposed to have been fortified by the Romans; the probability of this is strengthened by the Roman bricks still visible in several parts of the walls, and from the variety of Roman coins, from the time of Vespasian downwards, which have from time to time been found in the ruins of the castle./g In the time of the Saxon heptarchy this place continued a fortress of no small account; the whole city as well as the church, was then situated within the walls, and were together comprehended under the name of Castrum and Castellum Hroffceaster, by which the whole place was understood, and not any particular castle or tower in it; notwithstanding which, it seems probable, from the superiority as well as the convenience of the spot, where the present castle stands, that there was at the above time some strong keep or castle at no great distance from the scite of it, all fortified places having such a place of strength on some eminent place within them.

This castle was much damaged by the Danes, at the several times they besieged this city, as has been already mentioned; after which it seems to have lain

a long time desolate and neglected, but William the Conqueror repaired it, and put it in a defensible condition, after which he garrisoned it with five hundred soldiers.

Odo, bishop of Baieux, and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half brother, had certainly the custody of the castle, and the rebuilding and enlarging of it afterwards was most probably entrusted to his care. The land, on which part of the new fortifications were raised, belonged to the bishop of Rochester, in lieu of which the king gave him in exchange land in the

/g Hist. of Rochester, p. 21. Text. Roff. p. 76, 86, 88, et seq.
/h MSS. Cott. Lib. Vesp. A. 5. fol. 68, No. 22.

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neighbouring parish of Aylesford, as it is thus entered in the record of Domesday, in the description of the king's antient demesne of Aylesford.

The bishop of Rochester also, for the exchange of land on which the castle is placed, possesses so much of this land (viz. of Aylesford) as is worth 17 shillings and 4 pence.

The castle is situated on an eminence adjoining the river Medway, just above Rochester bridge, at the south west angle of the walls of the city. It is nearly of a quadrangular form, having its sides parallel to the above walls. It is about three hundred feet square within the walls, which were seven feet in thickness, and twenty feet high above the present ground, with embrasures. Three sides of the castle were surrounded with a deep broad ditch, which is now nearly filled up; on the outer side runs the Medway; in the angles and sides of the walls were several square towers, some of which are still remaining on the eastern side. What has been said above must be understood of the whole scite within the castle walls; for what is now usually called Rochester castle, is that noble quadrangular tower, which stands at the south east corner of it, and so lofty, as to be seen at several miles distance; a further account of which will be given.

Odo, bishop of Baieux, who had the custody of this castle, was an ambitious and turbulent prelate, insomuch that he aimed at nothing less than the papedom; but, as he was on the point of transporting himself and his treasures to Rome, for that purpose, his brother returned from Normandy unexpectedly, and surprized him just as he was setting sail, and sent him prisoner to the castle of Roan, in Normandy, where he continued the remaining four years of the Conqueror's reign, his castles and strong holds, as well as his lands and other effects being confiscated, and taken possession of by the king his brother. On the death of the Conqueror, in 1087, he was released from his imprisonment by William Rufus, and com-

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ing over to England, though the king retained the greatest part of his estates, yet he confirmed him in the possession of his earldom of Kent, as well as in many of his former places of trust, among which was the castle of Rochester. But when Odo found he had not the whole sway and disposal of every thing, as formerly, he

raised an insurrection in Kent, and having pillaged and destroyed many places in this county, he carried the whole of his plunder to Rochester, from whence he went to Pevensey castle, in Sussex, which he was forced, for want of food, to surrender up to the king, and to bind himself, among other conditions, to deliver up Rochester castle, where the chief of the Norman lords were shut up, under the command of Eustace earl of Bologne. For this purpose he was conducted hither, where he feigned to persuade the governor to deliver up the castle; but Eustace, guessing his meaning, detained him, and the soldiers who conducted him, prisoners; upon which the king, enraged at his deceit, immediately marched with his army to Rochester, having issued a proclamation, declaring every one a Niding (a nickname of reproach given to those who were guilty of the worst of crimes) who did not come to his assistance, by which means the people flocked to his army in great abundance; and besieging it so vigorously, that those within were compelled to surrender it to him. He afterwards permitted them to depart the kingdom with the forfeiture of their estates, but Odo himself he sent prisoner to Tunbridge castle, and stripped him of all his honours; after which he abjured the realm for ever, and was permitted to go into Normandy.

This castle no doubt received considerable damage in this siege, and it seems as if bishop Gundulf and the prior of St. Andrew's had not been so strenuous in the support of the king's interest as he expected of

/i Somner's Gavelkind, p. 65. Hist. of Rochester, p. 29, et seq.

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them, at least he seems to have entertained suspicions of that nature, and under that pretence to have refused to confirm the grant of the manor of Hedenham to the church of Rochester, unless he had one hundred pounds in money given him for so doing, which the archbishop, as well as the bishop of Rochester utterly refused; upon which Robert Fitzhamon and Henry earl of Warwick, as mediators, proposed, that instead of that sum, bishop Gundulf, as he was well skilled in architecture and masonry, should build for the king a tower of stone at his own expence, within the castle of Rochester; which the prelate strenuously refused, lest the future repair and maintenance of it, at the king's pleasure, should fall on the church of Rochester, till after much persuasion and assurance of being freed from every kind of expence for the future, on that account bishop Gundulf consented, and expended sixty pounds, the stipulated sum, in erecting the great square tower above mentioned, called Gundulf's tower, but most commonly the Castle, which has proved a lasting monument of his fame through succeeding ages.*/k*

It is almost certain, as well from the largeness of this building, the few years that this bishop lived afterwards, and the smallness of the sum laid out by him, that he did not near finish the building of it. It is a quadrangular of upwards of seventy feet square at the base, the walls of which are twelve feet thick; adjoining to the east angle of this tower is a small one,

about two thirds the height of the large tower, and twenty-eight feet square. There were in the large tower three stories of large and lofty apartments, and underneath a vault or dungeon for the safe keeping of the prisoners; and in the partition wall, in the center of the building, a well, two feet nine inches in diameter, neatly wrought in the walls, which well as=

/k Text. Roff. p. 145. History of Rochester, p. 26.

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cends through all the stories to the top of the tower, with each of which it has a communication. This great tower, with its embattlements, is about one hundred feet from the ground, and at each angle of it is another small tower, twelve feet square, and as many high, with floors and battlements above them. Considering how long this fabric has been neglected, there are few buildings perhaps so perfect; indeed the skill and ingenuity, and the nice contrivance of the architect, through every part of the building, both for conveniency and strength, must strike the eye, and gain the admiration of every one.

King Henry I. in his 27th year, granted, with the consent of his barons, to the church of Canterbury, and to William, archbishop of that see, and his successors, the custody and office of constable of the castle of Rochester for ever, with liberty for him and them to build a fort or tower therein, and that the knights, who were bound to the defence of the castle, should continue the same to him, /l &c. In the next reign of king Stephen, the archbishop having sworn allegiance to the empress Matilda, this castle was taken possession of by the king's friends, and most probably William de Ipre, earl of Kent, had the custody; for when Robert earl of Gloucester, Henry I.'s natural son, was taken prisoner at Winchester, and was committed to the charge of that earl, he sent him a close prisoner to this fortress. It does not seem to have been afterwards restored to the see of Canterbury; for archbishop Becket upbraided Henry II. with unjustly detaining the custody of it from him, and thereby notoriously violating the privileges of his church; but the king turned a deaf ear to his complaints.

On the accession of king Henry, William de Ipre, with the rest of the Flemings, was banished the king=

/l Regist. Eccles. Christi Cart. 31. Rapin, vol. i. p. 207.

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dom, and Henry, son of king Henry II. who was crowned king in his father's life time, gave the earldom of Kent and the castle of Rochester to Philip earl of Flanders; but the young king dying before his father, the earl never took possession of either. /m

King John, in his 3d year, is said to have restored this castle to Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, with whom it continued till the 17th year of that reign, when the king, by his writ, required the archbishop to give up the custody of it to him, and it seems never afterwards to have returned to that see. Notwithstanding the archbishop's acquiescence in the king's demand of it, the discontented barons con=

trived to get possession of it, and committed it to the custody of William de Albini, a valiant and expert commander; upon which the king immediately marched thither, and having invested the castle, carried on the siege against it vigorously for the space of three months; when the governor and his assistants finding no hope of relief, and that the outward walls were thrown down, and their provisions exhausted, surrendered themselves at discretion. The next year Lewis, the French king's son, being invited over to the assistance of the barons, landed at Sandwich, and immediately marched with his army hither, and invested the castle, which having suffered so considerably the year before, was soon reduced.

In the 10th year of king Henry III. Hubert de Burgh, then sheriff of this county, was commanded to repair the buildings of this castle, then in the king's hands, and two years afterwards, being then earl of Kent, he was, for his eminent services to king John and king Henry III. by the advice of the peers of the whole realm, made chief justice of England, and had a grant of the castle and port of Dover, with the revenues of the haven, and likewise of the castles

/m Camden, p. 259. Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 114.

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of Rochester and Canterbury during life, with the fee of one thousand marcs per annum for the custody of them, to be paid out of the exchequer. But the king's favour towards him declining, he was in the 16th year of that reign displaced from his great office of chief justice, and from the custody of this castle, among others; in all which trusts he was succeeded by Stephen de Segrave, who was displaced from them in the 20th year of that reign; and John de Cobham was appointed constable of Rochester castle in his room.

In the 42d year of that reign, Nicholas de Moels, constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports, was made sheriff of Kent and governor of the castles of Rochester and Canterbury; and in the 44th year of that reign, William de Say was appointed governor of them. In the 45th year of it, Robert Waleran was made sheriff of Kent, and governor of the castles of Rochester and Canterbury.

In the year 1264, being the 49th of his reign, the king greatly increased the fortifications of Rochester castle, which he entrusted to Roger de Leyborne, as chief constable of it, who had with him John earl of Arundel, Henry Delamaine, John earl of Warren, and others; and it was furnished with men, arms, and provisions, necessary to sustain a siege. Shortly after which, Simon earl of Leicester, who was one of the principal confederate barons, marched with a large army into Kent, to besiege this castle, and on his arrival on the western banks of the Medway, found his passage over the bridge disputed, and a pallisade and breastwork thrown up on the opposite side, well defended. On which, having sent Gilbert de Clare to attack the south side of the town, the earl himself attacked the bridge, but was twice repulsed by the citizens; at last, by the means of vessels filled with

combustibles, he set fire to the bridge, and tower on it, which were both of wood, and in the hurry and confusion occasioned by it, passed the river, and attacked the besieged with such vigour, that he entered the city and spoiled the church, and what was left of the priory; for Roger de Leyburne had before burnt down all the suburbs, and part of the city towards Canterbury, as well as part of the priory. After which the earl made a furious assault on the castle, and became master of every part of it, excepting the great tower, which was so bravely defended by the constable and his associates, that after laying seven days close siege, when it was near being taken, the earl suddenly raised the siege, and returned to London./o

King Henry afterwards gave this castle to Guy de Rochford, a foreigner, one of his favorites, but on his banishment it reverted again to the crown, and the king in his 48th year gave the custody of it to William de St. Clere, who died in his office that year. In the 54th year of that reign Bertram de Criol was made governor of it.

In the 2d year of king Edward I. Robert de Hougham, lord of Hougham near Dover, died constable of this castle, and the year following Robert de Septvans had the custody of it. By the clause-rolls of the 1st year of which reign, it appears that there were two priests called the king's chaplains officiating in the chapel of the king's castle here, whose stipends were fifty shillings a year each, and the sheriff of Kent was commanded to pay them the arrears of the same. Sir John de Cobeham was constable of this castle in the middle of the above reign. In the 33d year of that reign, anno 1304, Stephen de Dene was constable of Rochester castle. He had great contentions with the monks, concerning the taxing several of their lands,

/o Lel. Itin. vol. vii. p. 134. Lel. Coll. vol. i. p. 267. and part 2, p. 457. History of Rochester, p. 38.

which they alledged had never been taxed before, and on a trial in the exchequer, it was given for the monks, and he was displaced.

In the 3d year of king Edward III. anno 1328, William Skarlett was constable, and then distrained one Simon Sharstede for lands in Watingbury for castle-guard. In the 18th year of that reign, Sir John de Cobeham, lord Cobham, was constable of the castle and city of Rochester./p In the 33d year of it, John, lord Grey, of Codnor, was made constable of the town and castle of Rochester for life, and John de Newtoun was constable of this castle anno 11, king Richard II.

In the 2d year of king Henry V. William Criol, or Keriell, as this name became now to be called, died governor of it; in which office he was afterwards succeeded by Sir Thomas Cobeham, who held it at his death in the 11th year of king Edward IV. who repaired the walls of this castle, and of the city, which seems to have been the last work that was done to them. In the next century the castle became of little importance,

the greatest part of it was suffered to fall to ruin, in which state it remains at present. Some years ago the materials of the great tower, &c. were offered for sale, but the charge of separating and pulling down the stone work and the removing of it was judged to be so heavy an expence, that no one would undertake it on any terms.

The property, or fee simple of the castle of Rochester, after the reign of king Edward IV. rested among the manors of the crown, until king James I. in his 10th year granted it, with all the services belonging to it, to Sir Anthony Weldon, since which it has continued down in the same tract of ownership that Swanscombe manor has, to Robert Child, esq. who died July 28, 1782, and his widow, Mrs. Child, with the other trustees, under her husband's will, then became

/p MSS. pedigree of Cobeham. Reg. Roff. p. 551, 552.

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possessed of it, she afterwards married Francis, lord Ducie, and died in 1793; since which it has remained vested in the other trustees, under Mr. Child's will.

Many estates in this county, Surry and Essex, are held of the castle of Rochester by the tenure of Castle-guard; of these the manor of Swanscombe is the principal, the owner of which, as well as the rest, holding their lands of this castle, had antiently the charge of it committed to them, and owed their particular services to the defence of it, called Castle-guard.

These services have been long since converted into annual rents of money, further particulars of which, as well as the list of the manors and lands, which are so held, may be seen under the description of the manor of Swanscombe.

Though there is not any mention made of A BRIDGE at Rochester till the reign of king Henry I. yet it is highly probable there was one here some length of time before, for Ernulfus, bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in the 16th year of that reign, and collected the records contained in the Textus Roffensis, has inserted, among them, several regulations for the repair of Rochester-bridge, and seemingly as antient customs in his days.

Lambarde in his perambulation has given us three extracts from MSS. concerning this bridge, one from an antient record in Christ-church, Canterbury, and the others in the Saxon and Latin tongues, from the Textus Roffensis, before mentioned.

These records do not very materially differ from each other, they contain a curious account of the bridge, the number of its piers, the materials with which it was built, and the method by which it was kept in constant repair./q

By them it appears, that this antient bridge was made of wood, and that it consisted of nine piers,

/q Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 416 to 426.

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which made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, and from one end to the other was about twenty-six rods and an half, equal to four hundred and thirty-one feet, which corresponds nearly to the pre=

sent breadth of the river, where this bridge stood, in a direct line with the high-street of Rochester, and that of Stroud. And that towards the reparation and maintenance of it, different persons in respect of their manors, and lands in the adjacent neighbourhood were bound to bring certain materials, and to bestow both cost and labour in laying them, which duty grew either by tenure or custom, or perhaps by both, and it seems, that according to the quantity and proportion of the land to be charged, the materials found were either more or less./r

The owners of the manors and lands, chargeable with the repairs of this bridge, were used by antient custom to elect two men from among themselves to be wardens, or overseers of the repairs of it, at which time there was a wooden tower erected on the bridge, with strong gates, and it was probably near the east end of it, and was used as a fortification for the defence of this passage into the city.

The first mention of it in our English historians is in Stow's Annals, who writes, that when king John, in the 17th year of his reign, besieged and took Rochester-castle, he attempted to burn the bridge; but Robert Fitzwalter put out the fire, and saved it.

In the reign of king Henry III. it suffered much in consequence of the civil commotions between that king and his discontented barons, particularly in 1264, anno 29 Henry III. by Simon, earl of Leicester, as has been already fully mentioned before in the description of the castle.

In 1281 a sudden thaw swept several of the piers away, and considerably damaged the rest. In which

/r Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 426.

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state the bridge continued in 1292, when it was so broken, and out of repair, that people were obliged to go over in boats, and it seems to have lain much in the same condition in the 4th year of the next reign of king Edward II. when it appears by the records in the tower, that the king issued orders for the speedy repair of it, but this reparation seems to have been but slight; for Edward III. having made war with France, found the bridge in so weak a condition, as to make it unsafe for the passing of his army, and other necessary traffic. To remedy which, in the 17th year of his reign, he issued his writ, by virtue of which an inquisition was taken before the king's escheator, by the oaths of twelve men, who found that the bridge ought to be made good by the contributory lands, in their accustomed proportions.

In this enquiry there is mention made of a draw-bridge, and a barbican, the work of which belonged to the king; they were both on the west side. It was also found that the master and wardens of Stroud hospital were to repair the bridge and wharf, from the draw-bridge to the west end of it./s

Notwithstanding which care, after the taking of Calais in 1347, this wooden bridge being found continually subject to the want of repairs, as well on account of its being old and badly constructed, as from the depth of the river, and rapidity of the stream and tides, and

being very unsafe for so considerable a traffic, as must necessarily pass over it, it was resolved, that a new bridge of stone should be built, and placed nearer the castle, where the tide would not run so strong. This is the present bridge, a noble and useful work, which appears to have been completed about the 15th year of king Richard II.

For that year Sir Robert Knolles, and Sir John de Cobham de Kent, petitioned the parliament, that the

/s Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 255. Hist. Rochester, p. 47.

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portions and repairs of the contributory lands should continue so, according to the proportions therein mentioned; and that they might yearly choose from among themselves, two wardens, as had been accustomed, who might receive and purchase lands and tenements to the yearly value of five hundred marcs, and to be impleaded, all which was granted, saving that they should purchase but to the value of three hundred marcs yearly, and it appears that the old bridge was then standing, though in a very ruinous state, the use of which whilst the other was building, might be one of the reasons why the place of its situation was changed.

And in the 21st year of that reign, it was enacted in parliament, that the bridge of Rochester, then newly better made in another place, and all such tenements as were accustomed to pay any rents or customs to the old bridge, should thenceforth pay them to the new bridge.

Sir Robert Knolles (who had acquired great riches in king Edward the Third's wars in France, and had returned with wealth and honor) and Sir John de Cobham, are celebrated, as founders of this bridge, though the former is said to have principally contributed to the expence of it. At whosoever's cost it was, the donor could not certainly have performed a more public and useful service to his country.

In the above-mentioned petitions for the support of this new structure, which was considerably longer than the former, (the whole length being 566 feet) was set down very accurately in feet, inches, and quarters of inches, the proportion of the repairs belonging to each division, according to the former antient regulations of the lands contributory, for which proportion they are still liable to be called upon, if the lands proper, that is, the rents of the fee-simple estates belonging to the body corporate of the bridge, should prove insufficient.

The bridge, for height and strength, is allowed to be superior to any in England, excepting those at London and Westminster. It has a stone parapet on each

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side, strongly coped and surmounted with a railing of iron, and has now eleven arches, supported by strong and substantial piers, which are well secured on each with sterlings. The river has a considerable fall through these arches.

The present bridge is about forty yards nearer the castle than the old one, the foundation of which is still visible at low water, when the ground there, excepting in two narrow channels, is frequently dry.

King Richard II. by his writ under his privy seal,

in his 22d year, confirmed all these privileges; and further granted, that the persons and landholders of the contributory lands, should be reputed a community by themselves, for the governance of it; and that they might always yearly chuse two persons, that were contributory, to be wardens of the said new bridge, and to keep, oversee, support and maintain the same from time to time in the name of the whole; and further, that as he had granted by his letters patent that the wardens alone might acquire lands, &c. to the value of two hundred pounds per annum, he willed, that the said grant might extend to the wardens and community, and their successors, as well by bequest of lands and tenements bequeathable, as by gift and feoffment of lands, &c. not bequeathable, to hold to them and their successors for ever, the statute of Mortmain, or his former grant notwithstanding; and that the wardens so chosen should be yearly accountable before two auditors, to be assigned by the community. And further, that if the wardens should implead or be impleaded by others, concerning any matters, belonging to the bridge, they should maintain all manner of writs by the name of the wardens, and although they should be removed from their office, nevertheless, the writs should stand good and effectual in law. All which was confirmed by statute in the 9th year of king Henry V.

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In the reign of king Henry VI. little more than fifty years after the building of this bridge, it seems to have been much out of repair; for in the year 1446, the king, among other things which he granted to the city at that time, willed, that the citizens and their heirs should have the passage called the Ferry, below the city from the town of Stroud to it, the King's-bridge on the other side of the water being broken; and also the space of the bridge, together with the house called the Barbican.^t

In this state Rochester-bridge seems to have continued till the reign of king Henry VII. in the 5th year of which reign, John Morton, archbishop of Canterbury, a man in every respect born for the good of his country, according to the mode of that time, published forty days remission of sins to all such persons as would contribute any thing towards the repair of it. This method seems to have answered his intentions, for the bridge was soon afterwards repaired and made passable, and in the next reign it was ornamented with a coping and iron railing; the former by the bounty of one John Warner, a merchant of Rochester, and the latter by archbishop Warham.^u This munificent prelate lived to finish but one half of the iron work, and the succeeding times being turbulent, it remained in that state till the reign of queen Elizabeth, as will be mentioned hereafter.

The fee-simple estates, commonly called the lands proper, vested in the wardens and commonalty of Rochester-bridge, towards the repair and support of it, as they were in the reign of king Henry VIII. were the manors of Langgeden, Little Delce, beside Rochester, Tilbury and Greane, Nashenden, Dartford at Heathe, and of Sharnden in the Isle of Elmley, which was con=

/t History Rochester, p. 53. Rot. Cart. de Reg. Hen. VI.
/u Weever, p. 231, says, the iron work was made by archbishop
Deane, Warham's predecessor.

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firmed to the bridge by queen Elizabeth by letters of
inspeximus,^{/w} and it appears from other printed books
that they had vested in them for the like purpose lands
and tenements in Frindsbury, in the Isle of Shepey, in
Halstow, Hoo, Nashenden, Little Delce, Dartford,
Sharynden and Nesse, in the Isle of Elmley, Great
Delce in Rochester, at Eastwick and Spurt near Hoo
and Greane, tenements in Rochester and in Cornhill,
and a rent out of the hundred of Blengate, granted by
the king.

It has been mentioned, that the bridge continued in
a ruinous condition, notwithstanding the patronage of
the archbishops Morton and Warham.

This misfortune had been increasing from the reign
of king Henry VI. for the wardens, not being yearly
elected by the commonalty, continued in office for
many years together, in which time they let good leases
to their friends and servants, for long terms, at old
rents, notwithstanding they were greatly increased every
where, as was the price of all materials for building;
so that the repair and expences of the bridge annually
exceeded the income of it, nay these lands proper were
so concealed, that very few knew that there were such,
neither were the lands contributory to the repair of it
ever called upon for that purpose. By this mismanage=
ment, the bridge was so much out of repair, that its
ruin seemed near at hand, notwithstanding a toll had
been imposed on all passengers and carriages, towards
its support, in the reigns of queen Mary and queen
Elizabeth, and in the latter a fifteenth was gathered
over the whole county, and yet the work decayed more
and more.

When queen Elizabeth was at Rochester, in her re=
turn from a tour she had made round the counties of
Sussex and Kent, in the 16th year of her reign, Sir

^{/w} This is extracted out of an old quarto volume, among the
archives in the Bridge Chamber.

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William Cecil, secretary of state, afterwards lord Bur=
leigh, took that opportunity of acquainting her with
the ruinous state of this bridge.

Soon after which, the queen granted a commission
to several great officers of state and nobility, as well as
to several knights and gentlemen of this county, to ex=
amine into these defects, and the causes of them, and
devise means for their remedy. In the execution of this
commission, though the lord treasurer, the lord admiral,
the lord warden, and others of the great nobility, gave
their constant attendance and endeavours, yet the labo=
rious part which Sir Roger Manwood, chief baron of
the exchequer, took throughout the whole of it, de=
serves particular commendation, who passing through
every difficulty, of which there were not a few, first
got the leases of the lands proper, which had been frau=
dulently obtained, cancelled, and having thus improved
the revenues, afterwards contrived a plan, with no

small pains, for the perfect reformation and future conduct of both officers, and matters relating to it. And lastly, to perfect his scheme for its present and future preservation, he procured the statute of the 18th year of queen Elizabeth, for the perpetual maintenance of Rochester-bridge, in which it was enacted, that on the morrow after the general quarter-sessions for this county next after Easter (which day being found inconvenient, it was altered by parliament, in the 1st year of queen Anne, to Friday in the week next following the week of Easter) yearly, the wardens and commonalty of the lands contributory to the repair of the bridge, as many as conveniently might, should assemble at the castle of Rochester, and choose two persons of their commonalty to be wardens of the bridge, commonly resident, and housekeeping within the county, and twelve persons of their commonalty, to be assistants to the wardens for one year, after the first day of Pentecost next ensuing, and thus to assemble, and elect in the same place annually for ever. That every year on the Thursday in

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Whitsun-week, the two late wardens should have their accounts audited in the presence of one of the new wardens, at the least, and four of the assistants, and that no assistance should be demanded from the contributory lands, unless the new fund, or lands proper proved insufficient to defray the expence.

Nine years after which, the several lands proper being found inadequate to the necessary repairs of the bridge, and the wardens and assistants being doubtful of their sufficient authority to levy money on the contributory lands, an act passed for investing them with full power for that purpose, and to distrain in case of refusal; and for the more convenient assembling of the commonalty at the elections above-mentioned, it was further enacted that two householders at least, from every parish contributory within seven miles of Rochester-bridge, in which there were four householders, should be present at such elections, under penalty of ten shillings, and that the wardens, assistants, and inhabitants, should defray their own charges at such times.

That the business of the bridge may never be prejudiced by the want of attendance, the wardens and assistants are usually chosen one half of gentlemen who live in the adjacent country, and the other of the same in Chatham and Rochester. The latter meet weekly for this purpose at the Bridge-chamber, in the Crown-Inn yard, (where all the business relating to the bridge is transacted) but the former very seldom attend these meetings, though they are almost always present at the two annual meetings at Easter and Whitsuntide, to which matters of greater moment are deferred, at which times they inspect and deliberate on what has been and ought to be transacted at those weekly meetings in this intermediate time, and in future.

The improvements of the estates belonging to the bridge have been so great under the good management of the wardens and assistants, from the above time, that the bridge has not only been kept in excellent re-

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pair, and greatly ornamented, without any further as-

sistance from the contributory lands, but a fund has been accumulated against any sudden accident, or damage that might happen to the fabric.^{/x} The yearly value of the lands proper are now about 1000l. per annum. Within these thirty years the bridge was much disfigured by a temporary wooden bridge at the east end of it, where three of the stone arches had been broken, but these have since been rebuilt, and the coping, and iron work made equally handsome with the other parts of it. Both the entrances have been widened, and within these few years further improvements have been made to it at a very considerable expence, which renders it much more commodious and safe for the repassing of travellers than it was before.

At the east end, and fronting the passage over the bridge, was a CHAPEL or PERPETUAL CHANTRY, erected by Sir John de Cobham, one of the founders of the new bridge.

This chapel seems to have been finished soon after the bridge, and was called Allesolven chapel. By the foundation charter, three chaplains, to be appointed by the wardens of the bridge, were to officiate in it, particularly for the use of travellers, and to pray for the souls of the benefactors of the bridge, as well those living, as deceased, and especially for the souls of the lord John of Cobham, the founder and patron, and of Sir Robert Knolles, William Wangford, and Eleanor his wife, John Fremingham, and Alice his wife, William Makenade, Sir William Rykhull, then living, and for the souls of those deceased, viz. Sir William atte Pole, and Joane his wife, Nicholas Potyn, Constance, wife of Sir Robert Knolles, the lady Margaret, wife of Sir John de Cobham, before-mentioned, John Bukyng=

^{/x} History of Rochester, p. 55. Harris's Hist. p. 257. MSS. Hist. Rochester. Lamb. Peramb. p. 429.

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ham, formerly bishop of Lincoln, Sir William Waleworth, and all faithful people deceased.

They were to reside constantly in apartments contiguous to the chapel, and each of them was to receive an annual allowance of six pounds, at the hands of the wardens of the bridge, out of the revenues of it, who were to be at all expences of repairs, ornaments, utensils, and other matters whatsoever.^{/y}

But in the reign of king Henry VI. the revenues of the bridge were so diminished, that application was made to the king for his assistance, towards the maintenance of these chaplains, who, in his 20th year, granted to the wardens and their successors, the sum of one hundred shillings, which the convent and monastery of St. Augustine, near Canterbury, and their successors, used to pay yearly at the exchequer, from the ferm of the hundreds of Ryngleslowe, Dunhamford, and Blen=gate, in this county, to hold to them and their successors for ever.

What became of this chantry in the reigns of king Henry VIII. and king Edward VI. I have not learned, but in the year 1575, anno 18 queen Elizabeth, there was an arrear of five hundred pounds or more, depending in the court of exchequer, and probably due to the crown from the wardens and commonalty of the

bridge, for the salary of the priests of this suppressed chantry. This suit Sir Roger Manwood brought to an issue, and the cause being tried at the assizes, and judgment given in the exchequer, it was for ever discharged.

On the ground where this chapel stood a very neat stone building was erected by the wardens of the bridge, in 1735. The upper part of this building is stiled the Bridge-chamber, in which, and an adjoining room over the Crown gateway, the wardens and assistants hold

/y Reg. Roff. p. 555. Hist. Rochester, p. 50 and 208. Strype's Stow's Survey, book vi. p. 38.

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their weekly and annual meetings. On the front of this new building are the arms, carved in stone, of the principal benefactors to the bridge.

AN ACCOUNT of the river Medway has already been given in the General History of this county, it only remains therefore for some account to be given of THE OYSTER FISHERY on this river, carried on in the several creeks and branches of it within the liberties of this city, for the conducting of which there is a Company of Free-dredgemen established by prescription time out of mind, subject to the government and authority of the mayor and citizens.

But several persons contesting this authority, great inconveniences arose from it, and the fishery was much endangered by it; to prevent which, the corporation and free-dredgemen petitioned parliament for relief in the 2d year of king George II. when an act passed for the better ordering and governing this fishery; for making them secure under the protection of the mayor and citizens, and for confirming and settling their power and jurisdiction over that and the free dredgers belonging to it. By it the mayor and citizens have power once or oftener in every year to hold a court of admalty, to which the dredgers are summoned, and a jury is appointed from among them, which has power to make rules and orders for the times, when the oyster-grounds shall be opened/z and shut, and the quantity of oysters which shall be taken on each day of dredging, and also for the preservation of the brood and spat of oysters, and for otherwise regulating the fishery, with power for the jury to impose fines for the breach of all such orders as shall have been approved and confirmed by the mayor and citizens, to whose use all fines are to be applied. Every person is free of this company, after having served an apprenticeship of seven years. Any person catching oysters in this river, not free of

/z This is usually on St. James's day.

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the fishery, is termed a cablehanger, and liable to such penalty as the mayor and citizens shall impose on him.

The company frequently buy brood, or spat, from other parts, which they lay down in the river, where it soon grows to maturity. Great quantities of these oysters are sent to London and Holland, and even to Westphalia, and the adjacent countries.

ABOUT THE YEAR 600, Ethelbert, king of Kent, at the instance of St. Augustine, began to build a CHURCH

at Rochester, in honour of St. Andrew, and a MONASTERY adjoining to it, of which church St. Augustine in 604, appointed Justus to be bishop, and placed secular priests in the monastery; for the maintenance of whom the king gave a portion of land to the south of the city, called Prestefelde, to be possessed by them for ever, and he added other parcels of land, both within and without the walls of the city./a And notwithstanding in after times the gifts to this church were many and extensive, yet by the troubles which followed in the Danish wars, it was stripped of almost all of them, and at the time of the conquest it was in such a state of poverty, that divine worship was entirely neglected in it, and there remained in it only five secular priests, who had not sufficient for their maintenance.

Many of the possessions belonging to the church of Rochester had come into the hands of the conqueror at his accession to the crown, most of which he gave to his half-brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux, from whom archbishop Lanfranc recovered them, among other lands belonging to his own church, in the solemn assembly of the whole county, held by the king's command at Pinnenden-heath, in the year 1076.

Soon after this, Gundulf was elected bishop of Rochester, to whom and to this church, archbishop Lanfranc immediately restored all those lands which he had recovered, formerly belonging to it.

/a Reg. Roff. p. 1. Lamb. Peramb. p. 408. Hist. Rochest. p. 74.

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Bishop Gundulf displaced the secular canons which he found here, and with the advice and assistance of archbishop Lanfranc, placed Benedictine monks in their room, the number of which, before his death, amounted to sixty. Besides which, the bishop continuing his unwearied zeal in promoting the interest of his church, recovered and purchased back again many other lands and manors, which had been formerly given to it by several kings, and other pious persons, and had been at different times wrested from it. He followed the example of archbishop Lanfranc, and separated his revenues from those of his monks; for before the bishop and his monks lived in common as one family. He rebuilt the church and enlarged the priory; and though he did not live to complete the great improvements he had undertaken, yet he certainly laid the foundation of the future prosperity of both./b The most material occurrences which happened to the church and priory, from the above time to the dissolution of the latter, will be found in the subsequent account of the several priors and bishops of this church.

From the conquest to the reign of Henry VIII. almost every king granted some liberties and privileges, as well to the bishop of Rochester as to the prior of the convent; each confirmed likewise those granted by his predecessors. The succeeding bishops and archbishops confirmed the possessions of the priory to the monks of it, as did many of the popes. The Registrum Roffense is full of these grants in almost every page and as the most material of them are mentioned under the respective places they relate to in the course of this

history, the reader will, it is hoped, the more readily excuse the omission of them in this place.

/b Reg. Roff. p. 1. Dugdale's Mon. vol. iii. p. 1. History of Rochester, p. 75 and 116.

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A LIST OF THE PRIORS OF ROCHESTER.

Ordowinus was appointed the first prior, and was witness to the charter of foundation, dated Sept. 20, 1089. He afterwards resigned./c

Arnulph, originally a monk of Christ church, was constituted in his room, and continued here till he was elected prior of Canterbury, in 1096, from whence he was preferred to the abbot of Peterborough, and in 1115, to the see of Rochester. He was a good benefactor to this priory, and built the dormitory, chapter house, and refectory.

Ralph succeeded him; he had been a monk at Caen, and came over into England with Lanfranc, in 1107. On his being chosen abbot of Battle, in Sussex, he resigned this office. On the death of bishop Gundulf, the monks of Rochester desired him for their bishop, but in vain.

Ordowinus was again restored in 1107. He is said to have held this office under bishop Ernulph, therefore he was living in 1115.

Letard presided here under the same bishop.

Brian presided in 1145; and died on Decemb. 5, 1146.

Reginald, who in the year 1154, obtained from pope Adrian IV. a confirmation of the privileges of the church of Rochester. He is said to have died on April 29, in the obituary of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, but the year is not mentioned, nor that of the election of

Ernulf II. who was prior in the time of bishop Walter. The next I find is

William de Borstalle, who was preferred to the priorship from being cellarer to this monastery.

Silvester, who was his successor, from being cellarer was likewise made prior. In his time, anno 1177,

/c Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. i. p. 290.

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the church and the offices, as well within as without the walls were burnt. He rebuilt the refectory and dormitory, and three windows in the chapter house, towards the east. His successor was

Richard, who in 1182, resigned this office on being chosen abbot of Burton, in Staffordshire.

Alfred succeeded him as prior, and quitted it on being made abbot of Abingdon by king Henry II. between the years 1185 and 1189./d

Osbert de Scapella, from being sacrist was chosen prior. He wrote several books, and made the window of St. Peter's altar, and did many other works; he was a great benefactor to the buildings of this church.

Ralph de Ros, who presided in 1199, was the next prior, and whilst he was sacrist built the brewhouse, and the prior's great and lesser chamber, the stone

houses in the church yard, the hostiary, stable, and the barn in the vineyard, and caused the church to be covered and most of it leaded.

Heliass seems to have succeeded him. He finished the covering of the church with lead, and built with stone a stable for himself and his successors. He also leaded that part of the cloisters next the dormitory, and made the laundry and door of the refectory.

William is said after him to have enjoyed this office in 1222.

Richard de Derente was elected prior of Rochester in 1225; he, among others, in the year 1227, signified to the archbishop the election of Henry de Sandford to the see of Rochester, and he is said to have presided in the year 1238, and to have been succeeded by

William de Hoo, sacrist of this church, who was chosen prior in 1239. He built the whole choir of this church, from the north and south wings, out of the oblations made at the shrine of St. William; and

/d Willis's Mit. Abbies, vol. i. 291. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 453.

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after having governed here for two years, because he would not consent to the sale of some lands belonging to his convent, he was much persecuted, and resigning this office, became a monk at Wooburn, and there died. In his time, in 1240, the altar in the infirmary chapel was dedicated to St. Mary; and on the nones of November that year the cathedral church itself being finished, was dedicated by the bishop, assisted by the bishops of Bangor and St. Andrew./e

Alexander de Glanville succeeded him, who dying suddenly of grief, in 1252, was succeeded by

John de Renham or Rensham. In his time the church and monastery were plundered, and many ornaments and charters taken away. He is said by some to have resigned in Dec. 1283; but in reality he was then deposed by John, archbishop of Canterbury, visiting this church as metropolitan.

Thomas de Woldham, alias Suthflete, was elected bishop of Rochesler, and refused it; but being elected a second time, was consecrated in the parish of Chartam, in Kent, the 6th of January, 1291./f

Simon de Clyve, sacrist of this church, who growing infirm, resigned this office of prior in 1622, and was the same year succeeded by

John de Renham or Rensham who, was again chosen prior, in 1292. He died in 1294, and

Thomas de Shuldeford succeeded him, who being infirm, resigned in 1301, and was succeeded by

John de Greenstreet in February the same year, on whose resignation, in 1314.

Hamo de Hethe was elected to this office that year, as he was to the see of Rochester in 1317, though he was not consecrated till two years afterwards; during the time he governed this church as prior and bishop he was a great benefactor to it.

John de Westerham succeeded him, in 1320, and died in 1321, and was succeeded by

/e Willis's Mit. Abbies, vol. i. p. 294. /f Le Neve's Fasti, p. 248.

John de Speldhurst, cellarer of this convent, who was chosen by the monks, and confirmed by the bishop; he resigned in 1333. His successor was

John de Shepey, S. T. P. In 1336, he built the new refectory, and received towards the expence of it one hundred marcs. In his time also, in 1344, the shrines of St. Michael, St. Paulinus, and St. Ythamar, were now made with marble and alabaster, which cost two hundred marcs; and the year before he caused the tower to be raised higher with wood and stone, and covered it with lead, and placed four new bells there, calling them Dunstan, Paulin, Ythamar, and Lanfranc. On December 27, 1352, he was elected bishop of Rochester by papal bull./g

Robert de Suthflete, warden of Filchestowe cell succeeded on his predecessor's preferment to the bishopric in 1352, he died in 1361.

John de Hertlepe or Hertley, warden of the same cell, was chosen to succeed him that year; he resigned in 1380, and was succeeded by

John de Shepey, S. T. P. the subprior, who was elected the same year; he governed the priory thirty-nine years, and died in 1419.

William de Tunbrigg was the next prior, who having been elected by the monks, was confirmed by the archbishop of Canterbury (the see of Rochester being vacant) the same year; he presided in 1444, and was soon succeeded by John Clyfe, in 1447. After him,

John Cardone was prior, in 1448.

William Wode was prior in the reign of king Edward IV. and he was succeeded by

Thomas Bourne, who was prior in 1480, to whom

William Bishop probably succeeded; he occurs prior in 1496, and seems to have been succeeded by

William Frysell, who was elected to this office in 1509. His successor in it was probably

/g Le Neve says, by papal provision, bull dated October 22, 1352. Fasti, p. 249.

Laurence Mereworth, who occurs prior in 1533 and 1534, when he, with eighteen monks, subscribed to the king's supremacy.

Walter Boxley was the next, and last prior of this monastery; for king Henry VIII. in the 31st year of his reign, granted a commission to the archbishop of Canterbury, George lord Cobham, and others, to receive the surrendry of this priory; and accordingly the above mentioned prior and convent, by their instrument, under their common seal, dated April 8, that year (1540) with their unanimous assent and consent, deliberately, and of their own certain knowledge and mere motion, from certain just and reasonable causes, especially moving their minds and consciences, of their own free good will, gave and granted all that their monastery, and the scite thereof, with all their churches, yard, debts, and moveable goods, together with all their manors, demesnes, messuages, &c. to king Henry. VIII. with a general warrentry against all persons whatsoever. This deed was executed in the presence of a master in chancery, and was afterwards

inrolled in the court of augmentation.

The prior above mentioned, after the dissolution of this monastery, again took on him his original family and lay name of Phillips; for when any person took upon him the monastic habit, he immediately assumed the name of the place of his dwelling or birth, that by having so done, he might be divested and alienated from all former family connections and relationship, and consider himself entirely as the son of the church, and as having no other relations than those who were his brethren in the monastery.

The priory of Rochester was valued at 486l. 11s. 5d. yearly income; the whole of which came into the king's hands, as above mentioned; who, though he was empowered by parliament to erect new sees, and ecclesiastical corporate bodies out of the estates

of the Tan. Not. Mon. p. 202. History of Rochester, p. 85.

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belonging to these suppressed monasteries, yet more than two years passed before there was any new establishment founded by him here.

AFTER the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, king Henry VIII. by his charter under his privy seal, dated June 18, in his 33d year, founded within the precincts of the late monastery here, to the glory and honour of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, a CATHEDRAL CHURCH of one dean and six prebendaries, who were to be priests, together with other ministers necessary for the performing of divine service, in future to be called, The Cathedral church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary of Rochester, and to be the episcopal seat of the bishop of Rochester and his successors; and he granted the same episcopal seat within the precincts of the late monastery, to him and his successors for ever; and he appointed Walter Philipps, late prior there, the first dean of this church, and Hugh Aprice, John Wildbore, Robert Johnson, John Symkins, Robert Salisbury, and Richard Engest, the six prebendaries of it; and he incorporated them by the name of the dean and chapter of it, and granted that they should have perpetual succession, and be the chapter of the bishopric of Rochester, to plead and be impleaded by that name, and have a common seal; and he granted to the dean and chapter and their successors, the scite and precincts of the late monastery, the church there, and all things whatsoever within it, excepting and reserving to the king the particular buildings and parts of it therein mentioned; which premises, or at least the greatest part of them, seem to have been afterwards granted to the dean and chapter; and also excepting always to the bishop of Rochester and his successors, the great messuage, called the Bishop's palace, with all other his lands and tenements, in right of his bishopric, to hold the said scite, precincts, church, and appurtenances, to the dean and chapter and their successors for ever, in pure and perpetual alms; and he granted them full

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power of making and admitting the inferior officers of the church, and afterwards of correcting and dis-

placing them as they thought fit; saving to the king the full power of nominating the dean and six prebendaries, and also six almsmen, by his letters patent, as often as they should become vacant; and lastly, he granted, that they should have these his letters patent made and sealed in the accustomed manner, under his great seal. These letters patent were sealed with the great seal, June 20th following.

The dotation charter, under the king's privy seal, is dated the same day; by which he granted to the dean and chapter, and their successors, sundry premises, manors, lands, tenements, rents, advowsons and appropriations, part of the possessions of the late priory of Rochester, of the late priory of Ledys, of the hospital of Stroud and of the priory of Boxley, in the counties of Kent, Buckingham, Surry, and in the city of London, to hold in pure and perpetual alms, and he granted them, and each of them to be exempt and discharged from all payments of first fruits and tenths, reserving to him and his successors, in lieu thereof, the yearly sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds, (which rent has been since increased to 124l. 6s. for reasons as has been already mentioned under Southfleet and Shorne in the former volumes of this history) and lastly, that they should have these his letters patent made and sealed with his great seal, &c. On the 4th of July following, the king granted a commission to George, lord Cobham, and others, reciting, that whereas he had lately founded and erected the said cathedral church in the scite and place of the late priory at Rochester, and in the same one dean, six prebendaries, six minor canons, one deacon and subdeacon, six lay clerks, one master of the choristers, eight choristers, one teacher of the boys in grammar, to consist of twenty scholars, two subsacristis, and six poor men, he gave power and authority to them, or any two of them, to repair to the scite of the late priory, and there, according as they

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thought fit, to allot the whole of it, and to assign to the dean and canons separate and fit stalls in the choir, and separate places in the chapter there, and to allot to the dean the new lodging, containing two parlours, a kitchen, four bedchambers, the gallery, the study over the gate, with all other buildings leading to the house of John Symkins, one of the residentiaries, together with the garden adjoining, on the north side of the king's lodging. The hay, barn in the woodyard of the dean under the vestry, a stable for the dean adjoining the gate of the tower, and the pidgeon-house on the wall adjoining the ponds; and also to the prebendaries and minor canons and other ministers, and persons above-mentioned, and to each of them, according to their degree, convenient houses, and places about the church to be divided and assigned to each of them, as far as the buildings and ground of the scite would allow, so that the said dean and canons might have separate houses for their convenient habitation, and that the rest of the ministers and persons, that is, minor canons, deacon and subdeacon, scholars, choiristers, and upper and under master, should have smaller houses, in which they and their families should inhabit, and further, that they should put the dean, canons and other ministers

in possession of the houses and premises so assigned as aforesaid, provided always, that the said minor canons, and other ministers (except the dean and prebendaries) should eat at one common table, according to the statutes to be prescribed to them, and that they should certify under their seals to the chancellor and court of augmentation what they had done in it.

About three years afterwards, a body of statutes for the government of this church was delivered to it by three commissioners appointed by the king for that purpose, but like many others, they were neither under the great seal nor indented, so that their validity continued in dispute till the reign of queen Anne, in the sixth year of whose reign, an act passed to make them

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good and valid in law, so far as they were not inconsistent with the constitution of the church, or the laws of the land.

In these statutes, besides the members already mentioned, there is named a porter, who was likewise to be a barber, a butler, a cook and an under-cook; all the members still subsist in this church, except the deacon and subdeacon, the butler, cook and under-cook; the two first have been disused ever since the reformation, or at least very soon afterwards, and the other three are not necessary, as there is not any common table kept, nor indeed does there appear to have been one kept as directed by the statutes, for the several members of this church, excepting the dean and prebendaries, and the six almsmen. There were also by the statutes yearly exhibitions of five pounds to be paid to four scholars, two at each university. By the statutes they were to be more than fifteen, and under twenty years of age, to be chosen from this school in preference, and if none such were here, then from any other, so that there were neither fellow or scholar in either university; the pension of five pounds to continue till they commenced bachelor, and that within the space of four years; after which they were to enjoy the same for three years; when commencing master of arts they were to be allowed six pounds per annum, and after that 6l. 13s. 4d. The college to be at the option of the dean, or vice-dean, and chapter, who nominate the scholars, and forty pounds was directed to be laid out yearly in charity, and the repairing of highways and bridges.

By the charter of foundation, king Henry VIII. reserved to himself and his successors the right of nominating and appointing, by his letters patent, the dean and prebendaries, and by the statutes the dean must be a doctor of divinity, a bachelor, or doctor of law, and each of the prebendaries the same, or master of arts, or bachelor of laws, and to be appointed by the king's

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letters patent under his great seal, and presented to the bishop. The dean continues to be nominated by the king, four of the prebends are in the gift of the lord-keeper of the great seal, one is annexed by letters patent, and confirmed by act of parliament, anno 12 queen Anne, to the provostship of Oriel college, in Oxford, and confirmed by parliament the same year, and ano=

ther was by letters patent, anno 13 king Charles I. annexed to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The crown likewise nominates the six poor bedesmen, who are admitted by warrant under the sign manual; these are in general old and maimed sailors, who are pensioners of the chest at Chatham.

Walter Phillips, the last prior, on the surrendry of this monastery into the king's hands, was, by the foundation charter of the dean and chapter, dated June 18, anno 33 Henry VIII. appointed the first dean. He died in 1570./i

Edmund Freake, S. T. P. was installed in 1570, and was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1571.

Thomas Willoughby, S. T. P. and prebendary of Canterbury, in 1574, he died in 1585.

John Coldwell, M. D. of St. John's college, Cambridge, in 1585, and was consecrated bishop of Salisbury in 1591.

Thomas Blague, S. T. P. master of Clare-hall, and rector of Bangor, in 1591, and died in 1611.

Richard Milbourne, A. M. rector of Cheam, in Surrey, and vicar of Sevenoke, in 1611, and was consecrated bishop of St. David's in 1615./k

Robert Scott, S. T. P. and master of Clare-hall, in 1615. He died in 1620.

Godfrey Goodman, a native of Essex, and fellow of Trinity college, then master of Clare-hall, Cambridge,

/i See a list of the deans in Le Neve's Fasti, p. 252. History of Rochester, printed in 1723, p. 102.

/k He was afterwards translated to Carlisle.

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afterwards prebendary of Westminster, rector of Kermerton, in Gloucestershire, and West Isley, in Berkshire, and S. T. P. in 1620, and was consecrated bishop of Gloucester in 1624.

Walter Balcanquall, a native of Scotland, and S. T. P. in 1624. He was first fellow of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, then master of the Savoy./l He resigned this deanry for that of Durham in 1638./m

Henry King, S. T. P. of Christ-church, Oxford, archdeacon of Colchester, residentiary of St. Paul's, and canon of Christ-church, in 1638, and was consecrated bishop of Chichester in 1641.

Thomas Turner, S. T. P. canon residentiary of St. Paul's, London, rector of St. Olave's, Southwark, and of Fetcham, in Surry, in 1641, and was made dean of Canterbury in 1643.

Benjamin Laney, S. T. P. master of Pembroke-hall, vicar of Soham, in Cambridgeshire, rector of Buriton, in Hampshire, and prebendary of Westminster and Winchester, in 1660, and was consecrated bishop of Peterborough, at the latter end of that year./o

Nathaniel Hardy S. T. P. rector of St. Dionis Backchurch, archdeacon of Lewes, and rector of Henley upon Thames, in 1660. He died at Croydon in 1670, and was buried in the church of St. Martin's in the Fields, of which church he was vicar, having been by his will a good benefactor to the members of this cathedral, and their successors, as well as to the parishes of this city.

Peter Mew, S. T. P. succeeded in 1670. He had

been canon of Windsor, archdeacon of Berks, and pre=

/l Willis's Cath. vol. i. p. 255. Afterwards rector of Adisham, and vicar of Goudhurst, in this county. Rym. Fœd. v. xiii. p. 663.

/m Wood, in his Ath. vol. i. Fasti, p. 184, says, one John Richardson, D. D. succeeded Dr. Balcanquhall, and died in 1636.

/n Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, part ii, p. 11.

/o Whence he was translated to Lincoln. Willis's Cathedral, vol. i. p. 71.

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sident of St. John's college, Oxford. He was consecrated bishop of Bath and Wells at the end of the year 1672./p

Thomas Lamplugh, S. T. P. in 1672. He was first fellow of queen's college, Oxford, then principal of Alban-hall, and vicar of St. Martin's in the Fields. He was consecrated bishop of Exeter in 1676./q

John Castilion, S. T. P. prebendary of Canterbury, and vicar of Minster, in Thanet, in 1676. He died in 1688, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral.

On the death of Dr. Castilion, Simon Lowth, A. M. was nominated that year by king James II. to succeed him; but not being qualified as to his degree according to the statutes, his admittance and installation was refused, and the revolution quickly after following, he was set aside, and Dr. Ullock was nominated in his stead.

Henry Ullock, S. T. P. succeeded in 1689, at that time prebendary of this church, and rector of Leyborne. He died in 1706, and was buried there.

Samuel Pratt, S. T. P. clerk of the closet, succeeded in 1706./r He was canon of Windsor, vicar of Twickenham, and chaplain of the Savoy chapel. He died in 1723.

Nicholas Claggett, S. T. P. rector of Brington, in Northamptonshire, and of Overton sinecure, in Hampshire, and archdeacon of Buckingham in 1724. He was promoted to the bishopric of St. David's in 1731.

Thomas Herring, S. T. P. was first of Jesus college, Cambridge, and afterwards fellow of Bennet college. After a variety of parochial preferments he was advanced to this deanry in 1731, which he held in commendam from 1737, when he was promoted to the bi=

/p He was afterwards translated to Winchester.

/q He was afterwards translated to York. Willis's Cathedral, vol. i. p. 60.

/r The docquet for the grant bears date July 26, 1706. Harl. MSS. No. 2262-192.

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shopric of Bangor till his translation to the archbishopric of York in 1743./s

William Bernard, S. T. P. prebendary of Westminster,/t succeeded in 1743, but next year was promoted to the see of Raphoe, in Ireland./u

John Newcome, S. T. P. lady Margaret's lecturer of divinity, and master of St. John's college, Cambridge, in 1744. He had supplied the divinity chair at Cambridge with great reputation, during the latter part of Dr. Bentley's life, then regius professor, who for several years before his death had retired from all public business. He died in 1765.

William Markham, LL. D. and prebendary of Durham, in 1765. He was a great benefactor to the deanry-house, the two wings of which were erected by him, but were not finished before his quitting this preferment for the deanry of Christ-church, Oxford, which he did in 1767./w

Benjamin Newcombe, S. T. P. and rector of St. Mildred's, in the Poultry, in 1767. He was afterwards vicar of Lamberhurst, and died at Rochester in 1775.

Thomas Thurlow, D. D. and master of the Temple, in 1775, was in 1779 made bishop of Lincoln./x

Richard Cust, S. T. P. canon of Christ-church, in Oxford, which he resigned on this promotion. He was a younger brother of the late Sir John Cust, bart. of Lincolnshire, speaker of the house of commons, and uncle to lord Brownlow. He resigned this deanry in 1781, on being made dean of Lincoln, and residentiary of that cathedral.

/s In 1747 he was promoted to the archbishopric of Canterbury, and died at Croydon ten years afterwards. History of Rochester, p. 199.

/t He kept his prebend in commendam with his deanry.

/u He was afterwards promoted to the bishopric of Derry.

/w He was in 1771 advanced to the see of Chester, and since to the archbishopric of York.

/x Brother to lord Thurlow, late lord chancellor.

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Thomas Dampier, son of Thomas Dampier, dean of Durham, was educated at Eton, and was afterwards fellow of King's college, in Cambridge, vicar of Boxley, prebendary of Durham, and master of Sherborne hospital. In 1780 he was created by royal mandate S. T. P. and in March 1782, succeeded to this deanry, with which he holds, excepting the fellowship, the several preferments before-mentioned.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ROCHESTER is situated at a small distance from the south side of the middle of the High-street, within the antient gate of the priory.

This church was rebuilt by bishop Gundulph in the year 1080, and some part of this building still remains. The whole bears venerable marks of its antiquity, but time has so far impaired the strength of the materials with which it is built, that in all likelihood the care and attention of the present chapter towards the support of it will not be sufficient to prevent the fall of great part of it at no great distance of time.

The cathedral consists of a body and two isles, the length of it from the west door to the steps of the choir is fifty yards; at the entrance of the choir is the lower or great cross isle, the length of which is one hundred and twenty-two feet; from the steps of the choir to the east end of the church is fifty-two yards; at the upper end of the choir is another cross isle of the length of ninety feet. In the middle of the western cross isle, at the entrance of the choir, stands the steeple, which is a spire covered with lead, being one hundred and fifty-six feet in height, in which hang six bells. Between the two cross isles, on the north side without the church, stands an old ruined tower, no higher than the roof of the church. This is generally allowed to have

been erected by bishop Gundulph, and there is a tradition of its having been called the bell tower, and of its having had five bells hanging in it; yet the better conjecture is, that it was first intended as a place of

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strength and security, either as a treasury or a repository for records. The walls of it are six feet thick, and the area on the inside twenty-four feet square. On the opposite side, at the west end of the south isle, is a chapel of a later date than the isle, wherein the bishop's consistory court is held, and where early prayers were used to be read till within these few years. The roof of the nave or body of the church, from the west end to the first cross isle, is flat at the top like a parish church, as it is likewise under the great steeple; but all the other parts, viz. the four cross isles, the choir, and those on each side of it, except the lower south isle, which was never finished, are handsomely vaulted with stone groins.

The choir is upwards of five hundred and seventy years old, being first used at the consecration of Henry de Sandford in 1227. It is ornamented, as well as other parts of the church, with small pillars of Petworth marble, which however, as well as many of those in a neighbouring cathedral, have been injudiciously covered with whitewash, and several of them with thick coats of plaster. The choir was repaired, as to new wainscot, stalls, pews, &c. at a large expence, in 1743, and very handsomely new paved; at which time the bishop's throne was rebuilt at the charge of bishop Wilcocks.

The organ is over the entrance into the choir. The late one was erected early in the last century, and was but a very indifferent instrument. In the room of which a new one, built by Green, was erected in 1791, which is esteemed an exceeding good instrument.

At the north end of the upper cross isle, near the pulpit, is a chapel, called St. Williams's chapel, a saint whose repute brought such considerable profit to this priory, as to raise it from a state of poverty to affluence and riches. A large stone chest, much defaced, is all that remains of his shrine.

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At the south-east corner of the opposite cross isle is an arched door-way, richly carved and ornamented with a variety of figures, which formerly led to the chapter-house of the priory, in the room of which there is erected a small mean room, which is made use of as a chapter-house and library; for the increase of this library, the same as was intended at Canterbury; every new dean and prebendary gives a certain sum of money at their admission towards the increase of books in it, instead of making an entertainment, as was formerly the custom. In this library is that well known and curious MSS. called the Textus Roffensis, compiled chiefly by bishop Ernulfus in the 12th century, which was published by Thomas Hearne, from a copy in the Surrenden library. During the troubles in the last century this MSS. was conveyed into private hands, nor could the dean and chapter after the restoration, for two years, discover where it was; and at last they were obliged to

solicit the court of chancery for a decree to recover it again. Since which they have been once more in great danger of being deprived of it; for Dr. Harris, having borrowed it for the use of his intended history of this county, sent it up to London by water, and the vessel being by the badness of the weather overset, this MSS. lay for some hours under water before it was discovered, which has somewhat damaged it.

There is also another antient MSS. here, entitled *Customale Roffense*, thought by some to be more antient than the other. Great part of this MSS. has been published by Mr. Thorpe in a volume under that title.

Near the west end, in the same isle, is a square chapel, called St. Edmund's chapel; hence you descend into the undercroft, which is very spacious and vaulted with stone. There seems to have been part of it well ornamented with paintings of figures and history, but the whole is so obliterated, that nothing can be made out what it was intended for.

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The body of this church, the greatest part of which is the same as was erected by bishop Gundulph, is built with circular arches on large massy pillars, with plain capitals; the smaller arches above them being decorated with zigzag ornaments. The roof of the nave seems to have been raised since, and all the windows made new and enlarged at different times, particularly the large one in the west front; though the roof is now flat, by the feet of the groins still remaining, it appears as if this part of the church had been, or at least was intended to be vaulted. The breadth of it, with the side isles, is twenty-two yards. The west front extends eighty-one feet in breadth; the arch of the great door is certainly the same which bishop Gundulph built, and is a most curious piece of workmanship; every stone has been engraved with some device, and it must have been very magnificent in its original state. It is supported the depth of the wall, on each side the door, by several small columns, two of which are carved into statues representing Gundulph's royal patrons, Henry I. and his queen Matilda. The capitals of these columns, as well as the whole arch, are cut into the figures of various animals and flowers. The key-stone of the arch seems to have been designed to represent our Saviour in a niche with an angel on each side, but the head is broken off; under this figure are twelve others, representing the apostles, few of which are entire.

In this front were four towers, one on each side the great door, and the others at the two extremes; three of these terminated in a turret, and the other in an octangular tower, above the roof. That tower at the north corner being in danger of falling, was taken down a few years ago, in order to be rebuilt. Dean Newcombe left one hundred pounds towards the finishing of it. Against the lower part of this tower was the figure of bishop Gundulph, with his crozier in his hand; on the rebuilding of which it was replaced, but the

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tower remains unfinished, at not half the height it was before, to the great disfigurement of the front of this

church. Since which the tower at the opposite, or south-west corner, being ruinous, has likewise been taken down even with the roof of the church.

The royal grammar school of this foundation, besides the exhibitions before-mentioned, has had a later benefactor in Robert Gunsley, clerk, rector of Titsey, in Surry, who by his will in 1618, gave to the master and fellows of University college, Oxford, sixty pounds per annum, for the maintenance of four scholars to be chosen by them from the free school of Maidstone, and from this grammar school, such as are natives of the county of Kent only, of whom those of his name and kindred to have the preference, who are to be allowed chambers, and fifteen pounds per annum.

To conclude the account of this priory and cathedral, it should be observed that the precincts of it, after the dissolution, seem to have been a scene of devastation and confusion: the buildings were huge, irregular and ruinous, and little calculated to be turned into separate dwellings for small private families. Even a century afterwards, in the great rebellion in 1647, they were reported to be in a ruinous and woeful condition; at which time the church itself does not seem to have been much better; for archbishop Laud, in his return of the state of this diocese to Charles I. in 1633, says, that the cathedral suffered much for want of glass in the church windows, that the church-yard lay very indecently, and that the gates were down; about nine years afterwards this church suffered much from the fury of the rebel soldiers under colonel Sandys, who having plundered it, and broken to pieces what they could, made use of it as a tipling house, and the body of the church was used as a carpenter's shop and

/y Merc. Rusticus, p. 135. Hist. Rochester, p. 62.

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yard, several sawpits being dug, and frames for houses made by the city joiners in it.

After the restoration dean Hardy took great pains to repair the whole of it, which was effected by means of the benefactions of the gentry of the county, and 7000*l.* added by the dean and chapter; notwithstanding which, time has so corroded and weakened every part of this building, that its future existence for any length of time has been much feared, but this church has lately had every endeavour used, and great repairs have been made which it is hoped will secure it from the fatal ruin which has threatened it, the inside has been beautified, and being kept exceeding clean, it makes at this time a very pleasing appearance.

In this cathedral, among other monuments, inscriptions, &c. are the following: – In the choir, within the altar rails on the south wall, under three small arches, are pictures of three bishops with their mitres and crosiers, now almost defaced, on the outside these arms, first, the see of Rochester; second, the priory of Canterbury; third, a cross quartier pierced azure; within the rails, under the north and south windows, are several stone coffins and other remains of bishops monuments, but no inscriptions or arms; on the north side the choir a large altar monument for bishop Lowe, on the south side of it, these arms on a bend, three wolves heads erased, and the same with the addition of those of the see of Rochester in the sinister chief point. In the chapel, north

of the choir, under an arch in the north wall, a tomb, with the figure of a bishop, for Walter de Merton, put up in 1598, by Merton college, and having been demolished in the civil wars, after the death of Charles I. again repaired by them in 1662, on it are his arms, or, three chevrons party per pale argent and gules. At the east end a beautiful marble tomb for bishop Warner, obt. 1666; another for John Lee Warner, S. T. P. archdeacon, and the bishops nephew and heir, obt. 1679, put up by his son Henry Lee, arms, Lee and Warner quartered; a tablet for Lee Warner, esq. eldest son of the archdeacon, obt. 1698. In the chapel south of the choir, are three several defaced tombs of the antient bishops of Rochester; a memorial for Daniel Prat, A. M. son of dean Prat, and rector of Harrietsham, obt. 1723. In the nave, memorials for Christopher Allen, gent. John Gilman, A. M. prebendary, rector of Kingsdown, and vicar of St. Nicholas, Rochester, obt. 1710, Christopher, son of Richard Fogge, of Tilmanstone, esq. obt. 1708, being captain of the Rupert, and Mary

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his wife, obt. 1714, for Isaac Rutton, gent. and Mary his wife, obt. 1665; a monument and memorial for Francis Barrell, serjeant at law, obt. 1679, Anne his wife, 1707; another for Francis Barrell, esq. obt. 1724, Anne his wife, obt. 1717; a memorial for Anne, widow of Edmund Barrell, obt. 1710, on them the arms of Barrell ermine, on a chief sable, three talbots heads erased of the field, langued gules, with different quarterings and impalements. In the south isle, a monument for Richard Somers, gent. obt. 1682, erected by John his eldest son, arms, Somer, with impalements and quarterings. In the south cross isle, memorials for James Thurston, attorney at law, son of Hearne, and grandson of George, obt. 1695, and Mary his wife, obt. 1724, erected by his son Morrell Thurston; on the east wall a monument with his bust in an oval, for Sir Richard Head, bart. obt. 1689, put up by Sir Francis Head, bart. a hatchment for Mary, wife of captain Robert Wilford, obt. 1683, in the middle window argent, a lion passant gules, between two cotizes azure, and the date 1664. In the north cross isle, memorials for Margaret, widow of John Pymm, gent. and daughter of Finch Dering, gent. of Charing, obt. 1684; for Augustine Cæsar, M. D. obt. 1683; on the east wall a monument for Augustine Cæsar, M. D. obt. 1677; on the east wall a monument for William Streaton, nine times mayor, and a good benefactor to this city, obt. 1609; in one of the north windows these arms, Barry of eight, or, and sable, eight martlets of the first. In the chapel of the Virgin Mary, south of the nave, a memorial for John Crompe, esq. eldest son of Benjamin Crompe, prebendary. obt. 1718; a monument for Benjamin Crompe, A. M. rector of Halstow, and prebendary, obt. 1663; a memorial for Frances, wife of Daniel Hill, prebendary, obt. 1706, arms, azure, a book expanded argent, garnished, or, between three cherubims of the 3d, with impalements; on a small brass plate in our lady's chapel, for Frances Hill, obt. 1729, placed by Daniel Hill, S. T. P. a monument for Robert Hill, third son of Daniel and Frances Hill, obt. 1729, erected by Thomas, his brother. In the nave, memorials for Ann and Frances, wives of Francis Barrell, esq. the former died 1734, the latter 1736; for Henry Barrell, son of Francis Barrell. serjeant at law, and chapter clerk, obt. 1754; for Catherine, daughter of William Upcott, esq. obt. 1727; for Jane, wife of Thomas Faunce, esq. and daughter of Edmund Barrell, prebendary, obt. 1759; for Francis, only son of Francis Barrell, esq. obt. 1755. In the south isle, memorials for John Benson, A. M. rector of Halstow, obt. 1753; for Robert Unitt, obt. 1738; Elizabeth, his wife, 1739, Robert, their son, 1754; for Edmund Strange, esq. obt. 1756;

and Mary, his wife, 1760. In the south cross isle, a memorial for John Denne, D. D. archdeacon and prebendary, and rector of Lambeth, obt. 1767; a marble tablet for Morrell Thurstone, obt. unmarried, 1747; memorials for George Prat, A. M. curate of

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Chatham, and vicar of Boughton Monchelsea, obt. 1747, and buried in the same grave with his brother the Rev. Daniel Prat; for the Rev. Samuel Prat, A. B. obt. 1765, son of George and Mary Prat, and for several others of their children; a mural white monument, with a small bust at the top, fixed to the wall on the right side of the choir entrance, under it, Archetypum hunc deidit Joseph Broke de Satis arm; underneath a tablet to the memory of Richard Watts, esq. a principal benefactor to this city, obt. 1579, at his mansion house on Bully-hill, called Satis, the monument erected by the mayor and citizens in 1736, Richard Watts, esq. then mayor./z

At the SOUTH WEST corner of the precincts of the cathedral, bishop Gundulph separated a portion of ground for an habitation for himself and his successors; and though there is no particular mention of a palace for near eighty years after his death, yet there is the strongest reason to think he built himself one here at the time he re-edified the church and priory, with the offices belonging to it, when he separated his own maintenance from that of the monks, and lived no longer in common with them, as one family. Bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, who came to the see in 1185, is recorded to have rebuilt all that had been burned down of this palace by one of those dreadful fires which laid waste the greatest part of this city. What situation it remained in till the time of bishop Lowe I have not discovered; but he seems to have rebuilt it, one of his instruments being dated from his new palace at Rochester, in the year 1459. But whether the building was not so substantial as it ought to have been, or that the six succeeding bishops being translated to better sees, the repair of it was neglected; it appears to have been but a cold and uncomfortable habitation when bishop Fisher resided here, in 1524; for Erasmus of Rotterdam, in his letter to him that year, complains of the bishop's want

/z See these monuments and inscriptions more at large in Registerum Roffense, p. 701.

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of attention to his health, by residing at this house, and adds, that his library here was composed of such thin walls, that the air came in through the crevices of them; that it was neither wainscotted nor floored with wood, having only a brick pavement.

This learned prelate and cardinal was the last who resided here; and after the Reformation, which soon followed, not only this house, but those belonging to the see at Halling and Trotescliffe, were let for terms of years, and forsaken for the palace at Bromley, in this county, as a pleasanter spot, and more convenient habitation for the bishops of this see. The tenements which are now standing on this scite, on the south side of the College-green, were erected, as is supposed, by those who obtained a grant of it during the civil wars, before which it must have been in a deplorable

rable situation, as appears by the return of the survey made by the parliamentary commissioners, in 1647, as follows – The scite of the palace, containing one great messuage, called the palace, where the bishop's court is held; four rooms, in the tenure of Bathe; a gallery, divided into two rooms and four chambers; the ward, a prison, wash-house, kitchen, three rooms, an orchard, and one garden, John Walter, steward, with the office of bailiff and beadle to all the manors, except Bromley and the keeping of the gaol, granted by patent for life: The extended rents of all which were only 12l. 13s. 4d. The prison, which was formerly a part of these buildings, at the west end of them, has been disused for more than thirty years; and near the spot where it stood, an office for the register of the diocese was erected, at the charge of bishop Pearce, in 1760.

About the year 1678, Francis Head, esq. of this city, by his will, generously bequeathed his mansion house, in the parish of St. Margaret, to the bishops of this see, for their better accommodation when at Rochester; but his intent was unhandsomely frustra-

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ted, by the bishop's granting a lease of it soon afterwards, in which state it has continued ever since.

The DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER is the smallest of any in this kingdom; the whole of it is situated within the western division of this county. It has one archdeacon, and contains ninety-nine parishes, included in the deanries of Rochester, Malling, and Dartford.

The deanry of Shoreham, though properly indeed within this diocese, yet being a peculiar of the archbishop, is subject to his immediate jurisdiction, in like manner as the parishes of Frekenham in Suffolk, and Isleham, in Cambridgeshire, as belonging to this see, are subject to the jurisdiction of the bishops of Rochester, and not to those of Norwich.

This bishopric is not only distinguished from almost every other in the kingdom, by the narrowness of its district, but likewise for the slenderness of its revenues. Before the conquest the revenues of it were not a sufficient maintenance for the bishop and four or five secular priests; and after bishop Gundulf had received from archbishop Lanfranc, the manors and lands, part of the antient possessions of this see, which had been recovered from Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, at the famous assembly at Pinenden, and had gained others back again of which it had been deprived, he allotted so large a part of the revenues of his church to the priory, when he separated his own from those of the monks, that his successors were much impoverished by it, and would have been more so, had not bishop Gilbert de Glanvill disputed their title to them, and recovered many of these manors and churches to his see, for the use of himself and his successors: and yet after all this, the income of the bishop of Rochester was so slender, that the bishops were compelled to retire for good part of the year to some of their palaces in the country, with a few attendants, nor could they afford to attend the

parliament or council at any distance beyond London; and although they solicited and obtained on this account some appropriations from the pope, yet from the increasing dearness of the times, they felt but little benefit from them and the monks, though they were most plentifully provided for in comparison of their bishop, yet they were dissatisfied, and frequently laid claim to part of his maintenance, and put him to much expence in defending his right; indeed, it was with the greatest difficulty he withstood their incroachments. However, as the manors and possessions of this bishopric were but few, so it in great measure escaped the general plunder others suffered at and after the Reformation.

In bishop Fisher's time the income of this see amounted to only 300*l.* in the king's books it is valued at 358*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* and, like many other ecclesiastical benefices, was then most probably over rated. In the year 1559, the clear annual profits of it are said not to exceed 207*l.* per annum, part of its possessions being then wrested from it; ^{/a} at present it is about 600*l.* clear yearly value, notwithstanding which many of the bishops of this diocese may, with great truth, be said to have been inferior to few of their brethren in abilities or learning, and several of them have enjoyed the highest posts both in church and state.

The PATRONAGE of this bishopric, in very early times, seems to have been wholly annexed to the see of Canterbury. King John, by his letters patent, in his 16th year, restored it to archbishop Langton, as his right. ^{/b} King Henry III. in his 10th year, confirmed to the archbishop the possession of the temporalities of this see during the vacancy of it, so that the archbishop at such times always seized on them, and on the consecration of the elect restored them to him,

^{/a} Strype's Annals, vol. i. p. 152.

^{/b} Prynne's Antient Records, 24, 27, 90. Spelman's Works, part ii. p. 110.

on his performing his fealty to him, as the archbishop in his turn did the like for this bishopric to the king. In these times the archbishops and bishops of this realm usually kept their kennels of hounds, as did the bishop of Rochester; at whose death, as appears by antient records, this kennel of hounds was rendered to the archbishop as a mortuary, so likewise was his palfrey, saddled and well caprisoned, and his silver cup; and to the king, *sede vacante*, under the name of, *muta canum et multura*.

For many years, though the monks of Rochester made some shew of electing a bishop, yet their choice was almost always made in conformity to the archbishop's Congé de liré till the year 1235, when the archbishop refusing to confirm the election of Richard de Wendover, as not being nominated by him, the monks appealed to Rome, and the pope confirmed their choice, and prohibited the archbishop from interfering any more in the elections of the bishops of this see. This did not however secure to the monks that freedom of election they contended for, though

the archbishop could not interfere, yet the pope assumed the privilege he had deprived the archbishop of; and from the time above mentioned, for the space of one hundred years and upwards, there were only two bishops of this see that were not advanced to it by the plenitude of the papal power, the succession to it being provided for by the usual method of the bull of papal provision. In which situation the patronage of it continued till the 25th year of king Henry VIII. when, by an act then passed, the election of this bishop, as well as the others in this realm, was to be made by the dean and chapter, on receiving the king's Congé de lire, with which a letter was to be sent, containing the name of the person they should elect and choose; in which method the election of the bishops of this see continue to be made at this time.

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A LIST OF THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER.

Justus, one of the companions of St. Augustine, at his first coming hither, was made by him the first bishop of this church, in 604, soon after the building of it, and he seems to have been a person eminent for his holiness and integrity of life. On the death of king Ethelbert, which happened in 616, Eadbald his son succeeded him in the kingdom of Kent, and immediately forsook the Christian religion; after which the torrent of infidelity ran so high, that Justus was obliged to abdicate his see, and retire to France, from whence he came back on the conversion of king Eadbald again to Christianity, and exercised his pastoral office here till 624, when, on the death of Melitus, he was translated to the see of Canterbury. He appointed

Romanus to succeed him in this bishopric that year, but he did not enjoy it long, for being sent to Rome with some letters from the archbishop to pope Honorius, he was unfortunately drowned before he reached the continent, in the year 627. After which there seems to have been some intermission before another bishop was appointed; but about the year 633, Paulinus, who came over with St. Augustine into Britain, and had been made archbishop of York, from whence he had been obliged to fly on the death of king Edwin, arriving at Rochester, and finding it destitute of a pastor, accepted the government of this church at the desire of archbishop Honorius. He continued bishop of this see till his death, in 644; he was buried in the sacristy of his church, but being afterwards canonized in 1704, his relics were removed, and placed in a silver shrine in the body of the new church, built by bishop Gundulph, to which a great concourse of

/c Hist. Rochester, p. 109, et seq. Brit. Sanct. vol. ii. p. 263, Godwin, p. 519. Ang. Sacr. p. 329.

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people afterwards flocked, and many rich offerings were made at it. On his death,

Ithamar, a Kentish man born, and the first of this nation that had been made a bishop, was advanced by archbishop Honorius to this see, one who was not at all inferior to any of his predecessors, either in piety

or learning. He died in 655, and was buried in the body of this church, whence on account of the many miracles said to be wrought at his tomb, his relics were removed and enshrined by bishop Gundulph; this shrine was afterwards repaired and much ornamented by bishop John, who believed himself cured of a distemper in his eyes by touching these relics; on these accounts he was canonized.

Damianus, a South Saxon, succeeded Ithamar in 656, on whose demise, about the year 664, this see remained vacant for some time, till, at length,

Putta was ordained bishop by archbishop Theodore, who, though well skilled in the discipline of the church, was contented with a private station, for which he was more fit than to encounter the times in a public character. Being disgusted with the poverty of his see, he had thoughts of resigning it, when Ethelred, king of Mercia, entering Kent, and burning this city, together with part of the church, confirmed him in that design. This was in 676, after which he went into Mercia, and accepted the charge of some small retired parish, under Saxulf, the bishop of those parts, getting his living mostly by teaching the Roman method of church music, in which occupation he spent the remainder of his days, nor would he hearken to any persuasions of returning to his bishopric. The see of Rochester was at this time in a wretched desolated state, the church was greatly damaged, if not in ashes, by the fire above mentioned, its bishop was fled, and its revenues so scanty, as to induce few to take the future care of it; however, archbishop Theodore prevailed on one

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Quichelm, or Gulielmus as Bede calls him, to accept of this charge, and accordingly ordained him bishop of Rochester about the latter end of the year 676; but he finding himself destitute of a maintenance, abandoned this see, after no long continuance in it. To whom, after some space of time, succeeded

Gebmund, who continued bishop to the time of his death, in the year 692. His successor was

Tobias, a monk of Canterbury, who was consecrated by archbishop Brithwald. He was an Englishman, and was well skilled in the Greek, Latin, and Saxon languages, and in various other parts of learning, being a scholar of archbishop Theodore, and Adrian, abbot of St. Austin's. He died in the year 726, and was buried in the portico of St. Paul, within the church of St. Andrew, which he had made as a place for his own burial.

Adulf succeeded the same year, and died in 741. His successor was

Dun, or as he is called by some, Duina; he was present at a council held at Cliffe, in 747.

Eardulf seems to have been consecrated bishop of this see soon afterwards, during whose government here the church of Rochester may be said to have recovered in some measure its past misfortunes, by the countenance and assistance of several princes, though there appears to be great confusion in the dates of the several grants made to it.

Dioran succeeded him, and was bishop in 778.

Weremund, in English, Worre, was bishop in 788, and died soon after the year 800./d

Beornmod was soon after his decease appointed to this see by archbishop Athelard: he died about the year 841. To whom succeeded

Tadnoth, and to him again

Bedenoth, concerning whom there is nothing recorded but their bare names.

/d Or rather, according to Wharton, about 802. See Ang. Sac. p. 331, et seq.

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Godwyn I. succeeded him, and was at the council at Kingsbury, in 851, being probably dean of London. From this period to the Norman conquest the account of the bishops of this see is mutilated and uncertain. The deplorable state of those times, occasioned by the confusion of the Danish wars, darkening the history of both church and state with impenetrable obscurity; so far indeed we know by what followed, that most of the estates of this church were wrested from it, by one side or the other, none of which seem to have been restored till after the Norman conquest, so that this church and its bishops must have continued in a state of great poverty till that time.

Cutherwulf was bishop in 868.

Swithulf succeeded him, and appears to have been bishop in 880; he was, in 897, appointed one of the guardians of the western part of Kent, to defend it against the Danes, who then infested it, soon after which he died of the plague.

Buiric seems to be the next bishop of this see, and he presided here in the year 938 and 945.

Cheolmund probably succeeded, and to him

Chineferth, who died before the year 955.

Alfstane was bishop after him, and died in the year 984. His successor was

Godwyn II. who seems to have been the same that king Ethelred II. in 986, having taken offence at his haughty behaviour, besieged in the city of Rochester; after which the king plundered the estates belonging to the church, and took several of them from it, however before his death he made some restitution for these injuries.

Godwyn III. was the next bishop, and seems to have been the same who was taken prisoner with archbishop Alphege, when Canterbury was surrendered to the Danes, in 1011, and who is mentioned in a letter of king Edward the Confessor, as bishop of

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Rochester, as late as the year 1044; he must therefore have sat in this see thirty-three years at the least, but how long he lived after this date does not appear.

Siward, abbot of Chertsey, was consecrated bishop in 1058; before which, from the death of Godwyn, this see being impoverished by a variety of misfortunes, continued destitute of a pastor. This bishop was present at the synod begun at Winchester, in 1072, and is reported to have died in 1075; whenever that event happened, he certainly left his church

in a miserable state of poverty, and in want of every thing, as well within as without; for there were at that time only four secular canons in it, who were forced to live on scanty food, each meal of which was either begged or bought at the time, and were clothed in a common lay habit.

Ernost, a monk of the abbey of Bec, in Normandy, was consecrated bishop of Rochester by archbishop Lanfranc, in the beginning of the year 1076, as the archbishop had experienced his worth, he advanced him to this see, that he might bring the distracted affairs of this church into better order, but he was removed by sudden death in the month of July that year; on which

Gundulph, a monk of the same monastery of Bec, was by archbishop Lanfranc's means advanced to the bishopric in 1077, who turned the secular priests out of this priory, and filled it with monks of the Benedictine order.^c He was a man not so eminent for his learning as distinguished for his prudence and subtle management of those affairs he had the direction of. He, with the assistance of the archbishop rebuilt the church from the foundation, and enlarged the priory, both which at that time were hastening to ruin, and though he did not live to finish them, yet the future greatness and prosperity of both were owing to him.

^e See Harl. MSS. No. 261-5. History of Rochester, p. 116.

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He removed the bodies of his predecessors, which had been buried here, into some part of his new fabric; he inclosed the remains of his predecessor, St. Paulinus, in a shrine of silver, at which such considerable offerings were made as proved a fund of wealth to this church and monastery. Besides the manors and lands restored to him by Lanfranc, he recovered many others which had been wrested from his church, and divided the possessions of it, one part of which he allotted to the monks, and the other as a maintenance to himself and successors. He founded an hospital at Chatham for poor people and lepers, dedicating it to St. Bartholomew, and a nunnery at Malling; he repaired the castle walls of Rochester, and began the large white tower of the castle, which still goes by his name, as has been already observed. Besides the above, he obtained many other benefits to his priory, and never ceased his endeavours till he had advanced it to wealth, beauty, and estimation. Having enjoyed this see thirty-two years, in the reigns of the Conqueror, William Rufus and king Henry I. he died in 1107,^f and was buried in his own church before the cross of the high altar, perhaps on the south side near the confessionary, in a chest without any effigies. He was succeeded by

Ralph, abbot of Seez, in Normandy, who was consecrated in 1108. This prelate, though he was sickly and infirm, yet he had the character of being pleased with toys and jests, insomuch that he was by some called Nugax or the Trifler. In the year 1114, he was by the king advanced to the archbishopric of Canterbury.

Ernulf, a native of France, was the next bishop of

this see. By the persuasions of archbishop Lanfranc he came over to England, and continued some time a monk in Christchurch, Canterbury, till he became

/f Vita Gundulfi in Bib. Cott. Nero, A. viii. Ang. Sac. p. 333.

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prior there; after which he was made abbot of Peterborough, and lastly he was sent for by the king, who obliged him to accept of this bishopric, and accordingly he was consecrated in 1115. He was ever active and industrious for the benefit of the churches over which he presided, and left noble monuments of his assiduity in each of them. In this of Rochester, he built a dormitory, refectory, and chapter house, and bestowed lands and a variety of gifts on this church and monastery. To him the famous manuscript, called the Textus Roffensis, being a collection of records, gifts, and antient privileges of the church of Rochester, owes its birth. He died in 1124, aged 84.

John, archdeacon of Canterbury, was consecrated bishop in 1125. The church of Rochester was finished in his time, and was dedicated by him, in the presence of the king, many of the nobility, clergy, and others, on May 7, 1130; but whilst the king and his company were here, the city took fire, and the new church, as well as the priory, suffered considerably by it, insomuch that the monks were forced to disperse themselves in different abbeys whilst the monastery was repairing. He died in 1137; after his death this bishopric was committed to the care of

John, bishop of Seez, in Normandy, who was consecrated after the middle of the year 1137, in whose time the church and convent were repairing, the monks of it being dispersed. He died before the year 1142.

Ascelin, prior of Dover, succeeded him in this see, and the priory being now repaired, the monks returned to it. He seems to have been strenuous and active, as well in maintaining as restoring the rights of his church, on which account he repaired in person to the court of Rome. /g He died in 1147.

/g It was this bishop to whom St. Bernard wrote his 205th Epist.

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Walter, archdeacon of Canterbury, succeeded him, being consecrated in 1147. He was brother to archbishop Theobald, who being present, nominated and presented him to the monks of Rochester, assembled in the chapter house of Canterbury, to be by them elected bishop, according to ancient custom, by which the new bishop was likewise obliged, before his consecration, to swear fealty to the church and archbishop of Canterbury, and that he would not endeavour or consent that they should be deprived of their rights over this church, and that the pastoral staff of the deceased bishop ought to be brought to the altar of Christ church by the monks of Rochester, and that during the vacancy of the see of Canterbury, or absence of the archbishop, the bishop of Rochester ought to perform the episcopal services in the church of Canterbury, as the right and peculiar chaplain of the said church, whenever he should be called upon

by the convent for that purpose. In 1170, he was present with other bishops, and assisted at the coronation of Henry, eldest son of king Henry II. for which he was excommunicated by archbishop Becket. He was much addicted to hunting; and when he was in his eightieth year, Peter Blesensis wrote his fifty-sixth Epistle to him, to persuade him to leave it off. He died, when he had sat almost thirty-five years, in 1182.

Gualeran, archdeacon of Baieux, and domestic chaplain to archbishop Richard, was that year elected bishop of Rochester, in the usual manner, in the presence of the archbishop, who holding the gospel in his hands, first committed the care of this bishopric in spirituals to the bishop elect, and then put him in possession of the temporalities, by the delivery of a ring to him, the chief justice of England being present, and making no objection to it on the king's behalf. It is said, that disagreeing with his monks, whilst he was preparing for a journey to Rome, to

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solicit the pope for leave to eject them from his priory, and to introduce seculars again, he was seized with a fit of illness, of which he died at Rochester, in 1184, and was buried in his own church. After his death a great dispute arose between the monks of Canterbury and Rochester, concerning the placing the pastoral staff of the deceased bishop on the altar of Christ church, to be left there, and delivered by the former to the new bishop, but on the interposition of the archbishop, the latter at last acquiesced, and the whole of this ceremony was performed accordingly. The archbishop being at his palace at Otford, the monks of Rochester went thither to him, and there, on his nomination, in 1185, they elected

Gilbert de Glanvill, archdeacon of Lisieux, for their bishop, who was accordingly consecrated. Soon after his coming to the see, he demanded from them many of the manors and possessions which his predecessor, bishop Gundulph had given to them, which he alleged had belonged to his see, which was greatly impoverished by his granting them away from it. This occasioned a dispute, which was carried on with uncommon heat and violence for some years; but the monks were in the end obliged to submit to his clemency, and award in every thing they had contended with him, and the bishop again resumed several of the manors and possessions above mentioned for the maintenance of himself and his successors. The monks were put to such heavy charges during this litigation, that they were necessitated to coin the silver shrine of St. Paulinus into money; this they did perhaps with less reluctance, as this saint began now to be not so much regarded in comparison of St William, who having undertaken a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, had been, as they termed it, martyred on the 23d of May, 1201, on the high road beyond Chatham, in his journey towards Canterbury, and his body having been brought back to Rochester, was solemnly

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interred in this church, where the rumour of several

miracles wrought at his grave soon brought crowds of people to partake of them, and the continual gifts and offerings made at it yearly, greatly enriched this priory.

About the year 1194, bishop Glanvill began the foundation and endowment of an hospital, in the neighbouring parish of Stroud, for the relief of poor persons, and committed the care of it to secular priests. This the monks looked on with a jealous eye, as done merely in opposition and prejudice to them and their order; but the bishop regarded them not, and all their endeavours to ruin it from time to time were in vain. However, to appease them, and if possible to unite the two foundations in one band of affection, he behaved much more gracious to the monks than before, and conferred several marks of his favor on them and their monastery. He built a new cloister for them at his own expence, furnished their church with an organ, and gave them several utensils, ornaments and books./h

Bishop Glanvill, on his promotion to this see, found the buildings of his palace either fallen down or ruinous, he therefore rebuilt it, and erected likewise a new mansion for himself and his successors at Lambeth. He died in 1214, to the great joy of the monks, who could not forgive the injuries he had formerly done them. He was buried, without any pomp or funeral ceremony, the nation being at that time under an interdict, on the north side of the altar, where his tomb may be seen within the rails, with his effigies, in his robes and mitre, lying at length upon it.

Benedict, precentor of St. Paul's, London, was elected bishop in his room, in the chapter-house at Rochester, in 1214; preceding which, king John, by his letters

/h In the 6th and 7th years of king Richard I's reign, it appears that he was one of the barons of the king's exchequer. Madox's Exchequer, p. 744.

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patent, had granted and confirmed to Christ-church, Canterbury, and Stephen, archbishop of the same, and his successors, the patronage of this bishopric, and the custody and management of the church during the vacancy of the see, as patrons of it, and that neither before nor after the election, the king's assent should be required, but that the whole should belong to the archbishop for the time being, and that the bishop elect should receive his temporalities heretofore called royalties, plenarily from the hands of the archbishop, and should perform his fealty to him for the fees belonging to it, and perform such services as were due to the king and his heirs, to the archbishop and his successors, as lords and patrons; and that the archbishop should perform the same services to the king and his heirs; and lastly, that the bishop should perform his fealty to the king and his heirs, as to his prince, but not on account of any fee./i

The year following king John besieged the castle of Rochester, then in the possession of the discontented barons, at which time this church and convent suffered severely. The former was so rifled, that not a pix with the sacrament remained on the altar./k He died in 1226, and was buried in his own cathedral.

Henry de Sandford, archdeacon of Canterbury, stiled the great philosopher, was elected bishop of Rochester in 1226, and was consecrated accordingly. Before his election the old dispute was again revived, concerning the delivery of the late bishop's pastoral staff at Christ-church, Canterbury, which being referred to the archbishop, he determined that the monks of Rochester should deliver their crozier to the archbishop, who should give it to the prior of Christ-church, and he to the bishop elect.

/i Wharton, vol. i. p. 386. Rot. Cart. anno 16 John, m. 6.

/k In the 9th and 10th years of king Henry III. bishop Benedict appears to have been one of the barons of the king's exchequer. Madox's Excheq. p. 747.

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In 1227, the new choir of the church of Rochester had service first performed in it; next year died Stephen Langton, archbishop of Canterbury, and the monks of Christ-church, to secure their privileges, immediately elected another in his room; on which the king sent bishop Sandford to Rome, to set aside the election, and he succeeded in his negociation. On his return Richard Wetherside, the successor of Langton, was consecrated, together with the bishops of London and Ely, at Canterbury, in 1229. But a great dispute arose concerning the right of performing this ceremony, the bishop of Rochester claiming it, as chaplain of the church of Canterbury, and the bishop of Bath, as the senior bishop of the province. After much altercation they compromised the matter; the bishop of Rochester consecrated the archbishop, and the bishop of Bath the other two. King Henry III. and many of the nobility being present at the ceremony. He died in 1235, and was buried in his own church.

Richard Wendover, rector of Bromley, in Kent, was elected by the convent that year, and presented to Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, (afterwards sainted) who rejected him, on pretence of his ignorance and want of learning, but more probably because he was not nominated by him. Upon which the monks appealed to Rome, and after a contest of three years, obtained their suit, and a bull for his consecration, which was performed by the archbishop in the church of St. Gregory, Canterbury, in 1238. After which it does not appear that the archbishop interfered any more in the elections of the bishops of this see, nor do we find any further mention of the pastoral staff being sent to Canterbury. On November 5, 1240, he, together with the bishop of Bangor, performed the dedication of the church of Rochester. Four years after which, a council of the British bishops was held at Rochester. He died in 1250, and from a regard to his piety and

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holiness of life was buried in the abbey church of Westminster, by the king's especial command./l

Laurence de St. Martin, chaplain and counsellor to king Henry III. and archdeacon of Coventry and Litchfield, was elected bishop by the monks in 1250, and was consecrated accordingly. In 1256 he was at Rome, and then obtained the canonization of St. William the

Martyr, at whose tomb many miracles had been said to be wrought, from the time of his being buried in this church. Probably William's body was at this time removed into the north end of the upper cross isle, and a suitable tomb erected over it. What remains of it at present near the tomb of bishop Merton, consists of a large coffin of Petworth marble, decorated with ancient ornaments. The pope likewise granted indulgences to all such as should offer at this tomb, which so increased the numbers of pilgrims and devotees, that the church reaped a good harvest from them, even to the time of the dissolution of the priory.

In 1264, in the contests between king Henry and his barons, this city was besieged, and in the confusion a party of the latter entered this church, plundered it of all its valuables, defaced the monuments, abused and slew many of the monks, and then converted it into a stable.

Bishop Laurence died in 1274, and was buried in this church, near the great altar, on the north side, where his tomb still remains, having his effigies at full length, in his habit, and mitre lying on it.

Walter de Merton was elected bishop of this see that year, and was consecrated accordingly. He was a person of great abilities, and was lord chancellor at the time of his election. About the year 1264, he had laid the foundation of a college at Maldens, in Surry;

/l Godwin, p. 529. Wharton's Ang Sacr. vol. i. p. 348.

/m He had been prebendary of St. Paul's and of Exeter. Newcombe's Repert. vol. i. p. 159.

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but afterwards changing his mind, he turned his thoughts to Oxford, where he began the foundation of Merton college, which he finished in 1274, and liberally endowed it about the time of his becoming bishop here. He procured the grants of the manors of Cobhambury and Middleton for his bishopric; but notwithstanding his great interest and power, the priory itself did not reap the least benefit from him. He died in 1277, being unfortunately drowned as he was passing over the river Medway here in a boat, there being then no bridge, and was buried near the north wall of the upper cross isle in the chapel, and near the tomb of St. William, where a new and elegant monument was erected for him, at the charge of the warden and fellow of Merton college, in 1598.

John de Bradfield, monk and precentor of this priory succeeded him, and was consecrated next year. The monks elected him for his quiet and humble behaviour, and as one, who being of their own society, would greatly benefit their convent; but in this they were grievously disappointed, for after his election he neglected them, and never conferred a single favor on them. He died anno 1283, and was buried in this church, on the south side, where his tomb, having his effigies at length on it, still remains. On his death, the monks elected John de Kyrkeby, archdeacon of Coventry, but he renounced it by an instrument soon afterwards, on which they elected

Thomas de Inglethorp, dean of St. Paul's, London, who was confirmed and afterwards consecrated by the

archbishop at Canterbury that year. He had the character of being worthy, mild and affable, of a cheerful disposition, and given to hospitality. He died in 1291, and was buried with all due solemnity in his own church, near the high altar, on the south side./n

/n Godwin, p. 531. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 352. History of Rochester, p. 139.

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A few days after the burial of this bishop, the great dispute and skirmish happened between the monks of St. Andrew and the brethren of Stroud hospital, relating to the former's passing in procession through the hospital in their way to Frindsbury, the whole of which has been already related in the account of the hospital.

Thomas de Woldham, prior of Rochester, was next elected by the monks, but on account of some ill usage he received from the archbishop's domestics, utterly refused it; however, the monks elected him a second time, when he acquiesced, and was consecrated at Chartham, in 1291. He died in 1316, and by his last will left ten pounds to the finishing of St. Williams's tomb, and by other legacies to the poor, seems to have been charitably disposed. After which great influence was used by the archbishop and other great personages, to induce the monks to chuse according to their commendations, which Hamo de Hethe, then prior of Rochester, who was a competitor for this bishopric, observing, and fearing they would prevail against him, privately sent for the monks of Fylchestow, in Suffolk, a cell to this monastery of St. Andrew, and by that means secured a large majority in his favor; for on the election, in 1316, of thirty-five monks present on this occasion, twenty-six voted in his favor; but pope John XXII. having by his bull of provision reserved this turn to himself, conferred it on one John Puteolis, a Frenchman, the queen's confessor; this kept the see vacant more than two years. However, the archbishop certifying that the election of Hamo preceded the date of the pope's reservation one day, after much delay and rehearings, it was pronounced in favor of the elect; and accordingly

Hamo de Hethe was consecrated at Avignon in 1319, but the expences of this suit, the journey, his consecration and fees, amounted to more than 1441 florins, or two hundred and sixteen pounds. This sum, which

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probably exceeded his whole yearly income, greatly distressed him; it appears he was not able to discharge the debt of it for near a year and an half after his consecration, nor was this the only difficulty he had to struggle with; the buildings of his palaces and manor-houses were not only ruinous, but were despoiled of the stock, implements of husbandry and furniture, which ought to have remained in them. Thus embarrassed, he retired, with a very small family, and not having a sufficiency for the support of his few domestics, the clergy of his diocese supplied him with provisions and money, the proportion of which amounted to twelve pence in every marc of the annual value of their bene=

fices. The repairs and improvements which he afterwards made at his palaces and manor-houses, from time to time, were considerable; at Halling in particular, in 1323, he rebuilt the hall at the cost of one hundred and twenty pounds, the lofty front of the palace, and and great part of the walls, the chapel and dining-room, and likewise the neighbouring mill at Holborough, and that at Borstall; and at Trottescliff he built a dining-room for himself, another for his clerks, and a kitchen, and surrounded the whole with walls; he endowed and augmented several vicarages, and was a good benefactor to this church, to the several buildings of the convent, to the re-edifying of which he gave large sums at different times; and what they esteemed more than all, presented them with a costly mitre of St. Thomas Becket, which he had purchased of the executors of the bishop of Norwich. He founded an hospital for ten poor persons at Hith, the place of his birth, and endowed it with rents of twenty marcs per annum. Being grown old and decrepit, and weighed down with numberless afflictions, he requested the pope to take the resignation of his bishopric, but this seems to have been refused; for he died in possession of it three years afterwards, and was buried in this church, by the north wall.

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John de Shepey, prior of Rochester, was nominated to this see, at the king's recommendation, by bull of papal provision, that year, and was consecrated by the bishop of Winchester, at the priory of St. Mary Overies. He was appointed chancellor of England in 1356, and executed that office for two years; after which he was constituted lord treasurer, which office he held till his death. He had the character of being well skilled in science and literature. He died at his house, called the Place, at Lambeth, in 1360, and was buried in this church, and his portraiture was painted on the wall over his place of burial, nothing of which now remains. By his will, he bequeathed one hundred marcs for defraying his funeral expences, the same sum towards the reparation of his church, and one hundred pounds to the cellarer's office for providing necessaries.

William Wittlesey, LL. D. master of Peter-house, archdeacon of Huntingdon, and vicar-general to the archbishop, was elected bishop of Rochester that year, and was consecrated accordingly. He was afterwards made dean of the arches, and was rector of Croydon and Cliff. He was translated to the see of Worcester by the pope's bull in 1363./o

Thomas Trilleck, dean of St. Paul's, London, and brother to John, bishop of Hereford, was appointed to this see by the pope's bull of provision next year, before he was elected by the monks, and was consecrated the same month by Guido, cardinal of Bologna, in the chapel of his palace. He died about Christmas 1372, and lies buried in St. Mary's chapel in his own church.

Upon his death, the monks elected John de Hertley, their prior, to be their bishop; but the pope rejected him, and in his room, by his papal bull of provision, appointed

Thomas de Brinton to this bishopric. He was doctor of the decretals, and had been some time a benedictine monk at Norwich. He had travelled much, and arriving at Rome he preached several learned sermons in Latin before the pope; for which and other exercises, in which he discovered great abilities, he was much admired, and became very famous. Pope Urban made him his penitentiary, and afterwards advanced him to this see as before-mentioned; after which he became confessor to king Richard II. and a great benefactor to the English hospital at Rome. He died in 1389, and was buried, according to some, near his predecessor in St. Mary's chapel in this church; but according to others, in the church of Seal, in this county. On his death the monks elected John Barnet, but the pope rejected him, and in his room appointed by his bull of provision

William de Bottlesham to this see, who was so called from that town in Cambridgeshire, where he was born. He was a dominican friar, and subprior of Anglesea; having commenced doctor of divinity at Cambridge, he became very much famed for his learning and eloquence in his sermons, which advanced him to the see of Landaff; from whence he was translated to his bishopric by papal provision in 1389. He died in the beginning of the year 1400, and was buried in the dominican church in London.

John de Bottlesham, chaplain to the archbishop, was consecrated bishop of Rochester next year in his room. He had been prebendary of Brampton, in the church of Lincoln, master of Peter-house, and vicar-general to the archbishop of York. He died anno 1404, and lies buried in this church./p

Richard Yong, bishop of Bangor, was his successor, being translated to this see by papal provision the same

year, but the pope dying, as well as his successor, before the bull was compleated, the confirmation of his translation met with much delay; however, at last he obtained it, and had possession of this see, in spirituals as well as temporals, delivered to him at Lambeth by the archbishop, in 1407. He died in 1418, and was buried in St. Mary's chapel on the south side of this church, having a marble stone over him.

John Kemp, LL. D. archdeacon of Durham, was elected by the monks in 1419, and consecrated accordingly. He was at the time of his election keeper of the privy-seal. He was translated to the see of Chichester anno 1421, and thence again successively to those of London, York, and Canterbury. He was a native of Wye, in this county, the church of which he made collegiate, and amply endowed it. On his translation the monks elected John Spofford, abbot of St. Mary's, York, whom the pope translated to the see of Hereford before his consecration, and on the same day, by his bull provision, advanced

John Langdon, a monk of Christ-church, Canter=

bury, and master of Canterbury-college, to this see, who was consecrated on the Trinity Sunday following. He was born in this county, and educated at Oxford, where having commenced bachelor of divinity, he soon became celebrated for his learning, and wrote a chronicle of English history, which he published among other works. Bale asserts that he afterwards commenced doctor of divinity, and became sub-prior of Christ-church, Canterbury, and afterwards keeper of Canterbury college, as before-mentioned. In the 10th year of king Henry VI. he was sent the king's ambassador to France, and afterwards to the council of Basil, and had one hundred pounds paid him for the expences of his journey. He died there that year, and his body being brought over to England, was honourably entombed in the Carthusian monastery in London. This

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bishop was a good benefactor to the new bridge at Rochester.

Thomas Brown, LL. D. first subdean, then prebendary of Lincoln, and dean of Salisbury, and for many years vicar-general to the archbishop, succeeded to this see, being consecrated anno 1435, at Canterbury. He was sent to the council of Basil to supply the place of his predecessor; whilst he was there he was declared bishop of Norwich by the pope's bull, in 1436.

William Wells, abbot of St. Maries, York, was his successor, being consecrated that year. He was employed by the king as ambassador both to the pope and the emperor. The register, which passes under his name, shews the great attention he paid to the business of his diocese. He died at Trottescliff in 1444, and was interred in this church.

John Lowe, S. T. P. was his successor, he was born in Worcestershire. and was early received into Worcester college, Oxford, where he acquired his doctor's degree by the fame of his superior abilities; after which he became prior of the Augustines at London, and at last provincial of the order. He was not only learned himself, but a great friend to literature, and collected from all parts a library in his convent in London, and by his diligence preserved several copies of the fathers from perishing, and besides wrote several books himself. King Henry VI. in 1433, made him bishop of St. Asaph, on account of his great learning and frequent zeal in preaching, whence he was translated by the pope's bull in 1444 to this see. He is said to have built his palace at Rochester; he died in the latter end of the year 1467, and was buried under a marble tomb near that of bishop Walter de Merton, in his own church.

Thomas Scott, LL. D. surnamed afterwards Rotham from the place of his birth in Yorkshire, was the

/q Willis's Cath. vol. ii. p. 97, 146, 199.

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next bishop of this see, he was educated at King's college, and was master of Pembroke-hall, and prebendary of Lincoln. King Edward IV. gave him the provostship of Beverly, made him keeper of his privy seal, and bishop of Rochester in 1468, in which year he

was one of the king's ambassadors to France. He was translated from hence to Lincoln in 1471.

John Alcock, LL. D. succeeded him in this see. He was a very temperate and pious man, born at Beverly, and educated at Cambridge; he was first dean of the royal chapel of St. Stephen, Westminster, and prebendary of Salisbury; he was made master of the rolls, and in 1472 was advanced to the see of Rochester, and next year he had the custody of the great seal, and in 1476 was translated to Worcester, and from thence to Ely.

John Russel, a native of the city of Winchester, was bred at Oxford, where he commenced LL. D. He was afterwards archdeacon of Salisbury, then keeper of the privy seal, and then lord chancellor; he had been likewise a prebendary of St. Paul's, and chancellor of Oxford, and was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1476, after which he was translated to Lincoln in 1480, where he lies buried, on his tomb his name is spelt Roscel.

Edmund Audley, A. M. second son of James, lord Audley, prebendary of St. Paul's, canon of York, and archdeacon of the East Riding, succeeded to this see, and was consecrated in 1480. He was translated to Hereford in the middle of the year 1492, and thence again to Salisbury.

Thomas Savage, LL. D. of Cambridge, canon of York, and dean of the king's chapel at Westminster, was appointed to this see by papal provision in 1492, but he was not consecrated till next year, when he obtained licence for that ceremony to be performed elsewhere than in the church of Canterbury.

Godwin, p. 535. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 380. Weever, p. 314. Hist. Rochester, p. 152.

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This licence began about this time to be commonly applied for by the several bishops of this province, and granted for a certain fee and recompence paid to the priory of Christ-church in lieu of their being consecrated in it, few bishops after this time being consecrated in the church of Canterbury. He was translated to London in 1496, and afterwards to York.

Richard Fitzjames, LL. D. prebendary of St. Paul's, vicar of Minehead, and rector of Aller, canon of Wells, warden of Merton college, Oxford, master of St. Leonard's hospital, Bedford, and almoner to Henry VII. was appointed bishop of this see the same year. He obtained the like licence that his predecessor had done for his consecration, and was translated to Chichester in the beginning of the year 1504, and afterwards to London.

John Fisher, S. T. P. succeeded him. He was born of a gentleman's family at Beverly, in Yorkshire, where he received his first education, and was sent from thence to St. Michael's-hall, Cambridge, now part of Trinity college, and succeeded at length to the government of it, and in 1504 and 1514, was chancellor of the university, in which first year, he had been deservedly for his care in that office, promoted to the mastership of Queen's college. The fame of his singular erudition increasing, Margaret, countess of Richmond, made him her chaplain, and it was through his means that she

founded those two magnificent colleges, Christ's and St. John's, in Cambridge, and endowed them liberally, and settled a yearly stipend for ever on the divinity professor in both universities. He was nominated by the king in 1504, to this bishopric, the pope's bull of provision bearing date that year, as well as his licence for consecration without the church of Canterbury. He was a man of uncommon learning, far beyond most other divines of his time, and of a sanctity of life which approached near that of the apostolic

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times. In 1508 he resigned his mastership of Queen's college, on the death of the countess of Richmond, who left the whole care of finishing her foundation of St. John's college to him; this he happily completed, and not only increased its revenues himself, but gave it afterwards one of the best furnished libraries of the time, which, however, it was deprived of. He had formed likewise a design of founding at his own proper cost, a third college at Cambridge. In 1512, he was deputed by the English bishops to the council of Lateran. Bishop Fisher is thought to have been the principal composer of that refutation of the tenets of Luther, which king Henry VIII. is supposed to have written, and which in 1521 was presented in his name to the pope; as a reward for which, the pontiff dignified him with the title of defender of the faith. About the year 1530, the bishop and his whole family nearly escaped being poisoned, one John Rouse, his cook, having thrown some poison into a pot of gruel, which was prepared not only for the bishop and his family, but the neighbouring poor; seventeen persons were poisoned, of which, however, all recovered except two, who died of it. This occasioned the act, passed that year, to punish those who were guilty of the crime of wilful poisoning, by throwing them into boiling water. The bishop warmly opposed the king's divorce, and his marriage afterwards with Anne Bullen; and what was amazing for a man of his learning and abilities, he in 1534 countenanced, though with others of superior rank and equal abilities, the imposture of Elizabeth Barton, the nun, commonly called the holy maid of Kent; but he made his peace with the king, by presenting him with what was then thought to be one year's produce of his bishopric, viz. three hundred pounds. Next year, refusing to swear to the act of the king's supremacy, he was, together with Sir Thomas More,

/s Barrington's antient Statutes, p. 406.

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the chancellor, sent to the tower, and an act of attainder passed against him, and being cast in a *præmunire*, his bishopric was declared vacant. In the mean time the bishop was hardly used; for his goods being seized, he had little left but rags to cover him, and was as ill supplied with diet and other necessaries. At last, to make an example that should make the boldest tremble, the king resolved to give both bishop Fisher and Sir Thomas More up to the rigor of the law. To this end the bishop was required again to take the oath of supremacy, which he refused, as it was supposed he would:

about the same time pope Paul III. to reward his fidelity to the church of Rome, raised him to the dignity of a cardinal. This, in all likelihood, might hasten his death, and being condemned he was beheaded on Tower-hill, on June 22, 1535, a month after his being made cardinal, and some days before the hat sent by the pope arrived in England. He suffered in the 80th year of his age; his head was afterwards set on London bridge, and his body buried in Barking church-yard, and afterwards removed to the tower. Far unlike many of his predecessors, as well as successors in this see, but following the rule of the primitive church, he would never change this bishopric for a better, saying frequently, his church was his wife, and he would never part with her, because she was poor.

John Hilsey, S. T. P. of the order of Friars Preachers, was successor in this see after the death of bishop Fisher, and was consecrated at Winchester, in 1535. He was head of the Dominican convent in London, which he held till 1538, when he resigned it. Though he favored the reformers in some matters, yet in others he was zealously devoted to the church of Rome. He died in 1538, and was buried in his own cathedral.

Among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, are several MSS. of the life of bishop Fisher, by different persons. It is in Biog. Brit. vol. iii. p. 1929, vol. i. p. 281.

Wharton, p. 383. Godwin, p. 537. Hist. Rochester, p. 154.

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Nicholas Heath, S. T. P. fellow of Clare-hall, and archdeacon of Stafford, was his successor, and was consecrated in 1540, being bishop here at the time of the new foundation, which took place about three months afterwards; soon after which he had a dispensation to hold the rectories of Cliff and Shoreham, in commendam. In 1543 he was translated to Worcester, and afterwards to York.

Henry Holbeach, alias Rands, which last was his family name, but being a native of Holbeach, he assumed that name, according to the custom of the ecclesiastics of that time, though his son assumed the name of Rands. He was S. T. P. first prior and afterwards dean of Worcester, having been consecrated suffragan bishop of Bristol in 1537, was elected bishop of Rochester in 1543, and confirmed soon afterwards. He held the rectory of Bromsgrove, with the chapel of Norton, in Worcestershire, in commendam, and was translated to Lincoln in 1547.

Nicholas Ridley, S. T. P. was a native of Northumberland, and became first fellow, and afterwards master of Pembroke-hall, in Cambridge, after which he was prebendary of Canterbury and Westminster, vicar of Herne, and of Soham, in Cambridgeshire, and was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1547, and translated to London in 1550. He was afterwards in the reign of queen Mary, in 1555, burnt at Oxford, at the same stake with bishop Latimer.

John Poynt, S. T. P. succeeded to this see. He was nominated to it by the king's letters, in 1549, and consecrated at Lambeth in 1550. He was born in Kent, and finished his education at Queen's college, Cambridge. He is said to have been a man of learn-

ing, well skilled in different tongues, and an excellent

/w Guillim's Heraldry, p. 121. /x Harl. MSS. No. 1422.

/y Godwin, p. 537. Hist. Rochester, p. 155. See his life in the Biog. Brit. vol. vii. sup. printed in 1766.

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mathematician, and to have been frequently consulted by archbishop Cranmer in religious matters. About the time of his promotion an order of council was made, that no bishop should for the future hold any other benefice in commendam, except John Poynt, bishop elect of Rochester, and that, because he had no episcopal palace; accordingly he had licence to hold in commendam with his bishopric the vicarage of Ashford, the rectories of Towyn, in Merionethshire, and of St. Michael's, Crooked-lane, with a prebend in the church of Canterbury. He was translated to Winchester in 1551, and afterwards, on the accession of queen Mary, fled from England, and died at Strasburgh in 1556./z

John Scory, B. D. one of the six preachers of Canterbury cathedral, was appointed his successor in this see, in 1551, he was translated to Chichester in 1552, and afterwards by queen Elizabeth to Hereford.

The bishopric of Rochester continued vacant for more than three years after this; when in consequence of the queen's Congé d'elire, in 1554,

Maurice Griffith, frequently styled Dr. Mores, was elected and consecrated in 1554. He was born in Wales, and educated among the Dominicans at Oxford, and was at the time of his election archdeacon of that diocese, and prebendary of that church, rector of St. Magnus, London bridge, and of Southfleet, chancellor and vicar-general to the bishop of London; several of which preferments he held afterwards. About Midsummer 1555, the judges held their assizes in the open air at the bishop's palace, in the College-yard, at Rochester, and as the season was warm, a sail was extended from the wall over them, to screen them from the sunbeams; at which time a storm arose, and the wind obtained such power over the sail as to pull down part of the wall to which it was fastened, and the judges and people fled hastily away for safety.

/z Bayle's Dictionary, vol. iv. p. 692,

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Many persons are said to have died in the year 1559, by a pestilential fever and quartan ague, which then raged in different parts of England, and seized those mostly who were advanced in life, and it is remarked as an extraordinary circumstance, that thirteen bishops died within twelve months; one of this number was bishop Griffith, who died in his palace of Southwark, and was interred with much solemnity in his parish church of St. Magnus, in London./a

Edmund Allen, B. D. was nominated on his death to this bishopric. He was a native of Norfolk, and on queen Elizabeth's accession was appointed one of her chaplains, and ambassador, though to what place is not mentioned; but he died before his consecration in 1559, and was buried in the church of St. Thomas Apostle, London.

Edmund Guest, or as his name is sometimes spelt

Gheast, S. T. P. fellow of King's college, Cambridge, and archdeacon of Canterbury, was next consecrated bishop of Rochester that year. He held his archdeaconry and the rectory of Cliff in commendam, and was translated to Salisbury in 1571.

Edmund Freake, S. T. P. originally a monk at Waltham, in Essex, in which county he was born, and afterwards a prebendary of Westminster, canon of Windsor, archdeacon of Canterbury, dean of Salisbury, and then of Rochester, was consecrated bishop of this see in 1571. He held the above archdeaconry, and the rectory of Purleigh, in Essex, in commendam. He was translated to Norwich in 1576, and afterwards to Worcester. He bore the character of a pious and learned man, and a zealous assertor of church discipline.

John Piers, S. T. P. was elected bishop of this see in 1576, and consecrated at Lambeth. He was first a fellow of Magdalen college, in Oxford, then made master of Baliol college, and afterwards dean of Chester,

/a Godwin, p. 538. History of Rochester, p. 157.

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both which preferments he probably resigned, on his being admitted to the deanry of Christ-church, which he likewise quitted when he was raised to the see of Rochester. After which he held in commendam the deanry of Salisbury, in which, as well as in this bishopric, he succeeded Dr. Freake; and had licence to hold the livings of Laingdon and Fillingham. He is said to have been a man of humanity, liberality, and beneficence, and not only learned himself, but an encourager of learning in others. He was translated to Salisbury, and thence to York./b

John Yonge, S. T. P. was nominated his successor. The congé d'elire for which was dated in 1577, and he was consecrated at Lambeth. He was a native of London, and the rectory of St. Margaret, New Fish-street, was probably the first benefice he enjoyed. He was afterwards collated to the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate; elected master of Pembroke hall, in Cambridge, on the recommendation of bishop Grindal, who likewise preferred him to a stall in the church of Southwell; which last, as well as a prebend in Westminster abbey, and the benefices of St. Muge and Wouldan, he had licence to hold in commendam. He was accused to lord Burleigh of avarice and want of hospitality; which he excused himself in, from the scanty revenues of his see, which did not amount to more than two hundred and twenty pounds clear yearly income./c He died at his palace of Bromley in 1605, in the 71st year of his age, and was buried in the chancel of that church.

William Barlow, S. T. P. was his successor, being elected in 1605, and soon afterwards was consecrated. He was a native of Lancashire, and became fellow of Trinity hall, in Cambridge. Archbishop Whitgift collated him to the rectory of St. Dunstan's in the East, and he occurs likewise a prebendary of St. Paul's; he

/b Godwin, p. 538. History of Rochester, p. 159.

/c Strype's Annals, vol. ii. p. 530. vol. iv. p. 226.

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was installed prebendary of Westminster, and the

next year dean of Chester, and afterwards a prebendary of Canterbury. He continued bishop of this see near three years, and was translated to Lincoln in 1608. He was an excellent and learned preacher, and when dean of Chester, was employed by archbishop Whitgift to draw up an authentic relation of the famous conference held at Hampton court, in 1603, before king James. He published several books and discourses in divinity.

Richard Neile, S. T. P. of St. John's college, Cambridge, who had been first prebendary, then treasurer of Chichester, vicar of Cheshunt, master of the Savoy, and clerk of the closet, and was then dean of Westminster, was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1608, and held the above deanry in commendam. About the end of the year 1610, he was translated to the see of Litchfield and Coventry, and afterwards to Lincoln, Durham, Winchester, and York, where death put a stop to his further translation on this side the grave.

John Buckeridge, S. T. P. was elected bishop of this see that year, but was not confirmed till the year following; he was elected from Merchant Taylor's school to St. John's college, Oxford, where he became fellow, and afterwards president. He appears to have been possessed at times of the rectories of Tanbridge, North Kilworth, a prebend of Hereford and Rochester, the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, the archdeaconry of Northampton, and a canonry of Windsor; what of these he enjoyed at the same time, and what he held in commendam, I have not found. He was translated from hence to Ely, in 1628, and dying in 1631, was buried at Bromley, to which parish he bequeathed the sum of twenty pounds, and was a benefactor to St. John's college, Cambridge. He is said to have been a sedulous preacher (his sermons being now extant) and to have written a book against the pope's power in temporal matters.

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Walter Curle, S. T. P. was nominated his successor, and consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1628. He was a native of Hertfordshire, and became fellow of Peterhouse college, and afterwards vicar of Plumsted, in 1608, which he resigned that year, probably on his being promoted either to the rectory of Bemerton, in Wiltshire, or of Mildenhall, in Suffolk, of both which he is said to have been incumbent. The dignities he enjoyed previous to his being made bishop were, the prebends of Lyme and Hastock, in the church of Salisbury, which he afterwards held in commendam with this see, and the deanry of Litchfield in 1620. In 1629 he was translated to the see of Bath and Wells, and afterwards to Winchester.

John Bowle, S. T. P. formerly fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and then dean of Salisbury, was his successor in this see, being consecrated in 1629. He died in 1637, and was buried in St. Paul's cathedral, London.

John Warner, S. T. P. was elected bishop of Rochester, that year, and was consecrated accordingly. He had been fellow of Magdalen college, Oxford, rector of St. Michael, Crooked-lane, and of St. Dionis Backchurch. Archbishop Abbot gave him a pre-

bend at Canterbury, by which means he afterwards became rector of Bishopsborne, and was soon after nominated to the deanry of Litchfield. At this period he stood forth a zealous defender of the constitution, both in church and state; and he was the last bishop who exerted his eloquence to preserve the right of his order to sit in parliament. Not long before the death of king Charles I. bishop Warner, by the king's command, wrote a treatise against the ordinance for the sale of church lands, and he afterwards published several sermons against the murder of the king, at his

/d An Account of his Life was published at Lond. 8vo. 1712. Godwin, 539. History of Rochester, 165.

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own no small hazard: but what arguments or discourses could avail when justice, equity, and reason, were grown odious to the times; the tide of fanaticism and rebellion swept away all that was desirable by good men, and every thing submitted to superior force. In this general ruin the bishop and his brethren were despoiled not only of their spiritual dignities and revenues, but of much of their private fortunes, and the king himself fell a sacrifice to the merciless rage of enthusiasts, and the then wicked designs of the worst of men. This bishop was one of those nine prelates who lived to see the re-establishment of both church and state, being at that time about seventy-seven years of age. He does not seem to have held any benefice in commendam, yet as well before as after the Restoration he shewed the piety and munificence of his disposition, and few instances have of late times been found of persons devoting such large sums to pious and charitable uses; for before his re-establishment he distributed 8000*l.* among necessitous clergymen, who had been ejected from their preferments. He expended 700*l.* in making and repairing the beautiful and elegant font in the cathedral of Canterbury, of which church he had been a member; and he bequeathed 500*l.* more to the dean and chapter there for books in their new erected library. His gift and liberality, towards the repair of his own cathedral, amounted to 1000*l.* and in his will he added 50*l.* to a like benefaction of 1000*l.* which he had formerly made to the repair of the church of St. Paul, London. He had before his death presented Magdalen college, Oxford, with 1300*l.* for books, and he left to that society 50*l.* more to be applied to the same use. He founded four scholarships in Baliol college; he bequeathed 2000*l.* for purchasing impropriations towards the augmentation of the smallest vicarages in it. He gave liberally towards the redeeming of captives out of slavery in Barbary; and lastly, what will

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ever reflect the greatest honour on his name and memory, he was the munificent founder of Bromley college. The bishop died in an advanced age, at his palace in Bromley, in 1666, and was interred in his cathedral at Rochester, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory./e

John Dolben, S. T. P. was elected bishop of this see

in 1666, and was consecrated at Lambeth. He was a native of Northamptonshire, and was a student of Christ church, of which he was deprived by the parliamentary visitors, on the breaking out of the civil war. He afterwards served as ensign in the royal army, at the battle of Marston-moor, and was much wounded at the siege of York. In 1656, he took orders, and on the Restoration was well rewarded by the king for his past sufferings and loyalty; for he was immediately appointed clerk of the closet, and was installed canon of Christ church, Oxford; then prebend of Caddington Major in the church of St. Paul; archdeacon of London; vicar of St. Giles's, Cripplegate; and dean of Westminster; he was also almoner to the king, and rector of Newington, in Oxfordshire. After his advancement to this see, he held his deanery above mentioned in commendam with it, and in 1683, he was translated to the archbishopric of York. He was a person of genius and abilities, and left behind him the character of being a worthy good man.

Francis Turner, S. T. P. dean of Windsor, and master of St. John's college, Cambridge, was elected bishop of Rochester in his room, in 1683, and was consecrated accordingly. He was the son of Dr. Thomas Turner, successively dean of Rochester and Canterbury, and was elected from Winchester school to New College in Oxford, where of course he be-

/e See Bromley, vol. i. p. 562. Life of Somner, before his Roman Ports, p. 95. Bishop Warner's Life is published in the Biog. Brit. vol. vii. printed in 1766.

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came fellow; after which he became rector of Thersfield, in Hertfordshire, and was a considerable benefactor to that parish. He then was collated to the prebend of Sneating, in the church of St. Paul, and was afterwards a canon residentiary in that church; though he had regularly taken all his degrees at Oxford, yet he was elected master of St. John's college, Cambridge. He had, after his advancement to this see, a dispensation to hold in commendam with it the deanry of Windsor, as well as the rectory of Hasely, in Oxfordshire; but he possessed these preferments but a very short time, for he was translated to Ely in 1684.

Thomas Spratt, S. T. P. was his successor, being elected that same year. He was a native of Dorsetshire, and became fellow of Wadham college, then prebendary of Carlton cum Thurleby, in the church of Lincoln and of Westminster; he was afterwards presented to the living of St. Margaret's, Westminster; and made canon of Windsor. These preferments he quitted on his promotion to the deanry of Westminster, and had on his election to this see licence to hold it in commendam. After the accession of king James he was appointed clerk of the closet, and dean of the chapel royal. About the latter end of the year 1692, the bishop and several other persons of distinction were charged with treason, by three men, who had forged an association under their hands, and then one of these villains contrived to drop it in one of the bishop's parlours at Bromley,

that it might be found there by the king's messengers. He then laid an information against him, and the paper being discovered, he was put under confinement; but the forgery appeared so gross, that the bishop was immediately discharged. He died of an apoplexy, at his palace of Bromley, in 1713, aged seventy-seven, and was interred in Westminster abbey, where there is a monument, with an elegant inscription

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tion by bishop Smalridge, erected to his memory. He was a person of great sharpness of wit, and had that elegance of style, both in his writings and discourse, that he was inferior to none in either. At first he cultivated the muses, but left them to study and improve the beauties of the English language in prose; by which means he became one of the greatest masters of it, of which his writings are sufficient proof.

Lewis Atterbury, S. T. P. was his successor in this see, being elected in 1713, and consecrated soon afterwards. He was a younger son of Dr. Lewis Atterbury, prebendary of Lincoln and rector of Milton Keynes, in Buckinghamshire, in which parish he was born. He was elected from Westminster school to Christ church, where he distinguished himself as an able and strenuous advocate for the present church establishment. His fine genius, improved by study, with a noble spirit to exert his talents, could not remain long unnoticed; and he was, soon after his leaving the university, appointed chaplain to king William and queen Mary. He was afterwards appointed preacher at Bridewell and lecturer of St. Bride's. In 1700 he was presented to the archdeaconry of Totness, and then made a canon residentiary of the church of Exeter; which preferments seem to have been in reward for his endeavours to retrieve the synodical rights of the clergy; and it was for his happily asserting the rights and privileges of the English convocation, as the vote of the university expresses it, that he had the degree of doctor of divinity conferred on him by diploma, without doing exercise or paying fees. Upon the accession of queen Anne, he was appointed one of her chaplains, then installed dean of Carlisle, and presented to the rectory of Shepton; he was afterwards made preacher of the Rolls, and the next year chosen speaker of the Lower House of Convocation; in 1711 he was promoted to the deanery of Christ church, and two years afterwards was ad-

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vanced to this see, as has been before-mentioned, and had licence to hold the deanry of Westminster in commendam with it, as his predecessor had done before; and had a vacancy happened during the queen's life, it is generally imagined, he would have been translated to the see of Canterbury.

From the personal marks of disrespect which were shewn to the bishop by king George I. immediately on his accession, his resentment was stimulated to oppose the measures of the court constantly in the house of lords. His uncommon abilities, joined to an unceasing assiduity, had rendered him a troublesome antagonist to the ministry, at the time when he was accused of

holding a treasonable correspondence, and as no punishment could be inflicted on him by the laws then in being, it was resolved to make a special law to deprive him of his preferments, and to sentence him to perpetual banishment. The bill to inflict these pains and punishments on the bishop of Rochester, received the royal assent in 1723, and within a month afterwards he embarked and landed at Calais. While in exile the bishop resided principally at Paris, and died there in 1732. His body was brought over to England, and privately interred in a vault, which he had prepared before his banishment, in Westminster-abbey. On the urn which contained his bowels was inscribed, In hac urna depositi sunt cineres Francisci Atterbury, Episcopi Roffensis; but there is no memorial over his grave.^f

Samuel Bradford, S. T. P. was on the above deprivation translated from the see of Carlisle hither, being elected in 1723, and as his predecessor had done, held the deanry of Westminster in commendam with it. He was a native of London, and was of Benet college, but quitted the university without taking a degree, intending to follow the profession of physic; the design of which he soon relinquished, and afterwards procured,

^f Godwin, p. 541. Hist. Rochester, p. 185 et seq.

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by means of archbishop Sancroft, a royal mandate for the degree of master of arts. After the revolution he took orders, and in the beginning of the year 1691, was appointed minister of the church belonging to St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark, and was collated by the archbishop to the rectory of St. Mary le Bow. He was nominated preacher of Boyle's lecture, and on queen Anne's visiting the university of Cambridge, in 1705, he was, with several others, created doctor of divinity; he was made a prebendary of Westminster, and in 1710 nominated to the bishopric of St. David's, and he was given to understand that he should keep his prebend in commendam with that see; but by a change of times, which soon after followed, this favor was not only refused, but he was not even to be permitted to keep his rectory of Bow, and this, from the circumstances of his family, obliged him to decline the bishopric; after which he was elected master of Benet college, advanced to the see of Carlisle, and in 1723 to this of Rochester, as has been before-mentioned. He died at the deanry of Westminster in 1731, in his 79th year, and his remains were deposited in Westminster abbey. On the west wall of the north cross of that church, not far from the place of his interment, there is a monument erected to his memory.^g

Joseph Wilcocks, S. T. P. succeeded to this see, being translated from the bishopric of Gloucester in 1731, and at the same time appointed dean of Westminster, and allowed to hold it in commendam. He was of Magdalen college, Oxford, after which he became chaplain to the factory at Lisbon, and on his return from thence was appointed chaplain to king George I. and preceptor to the Prince of Wales's daughters, and in 1721 was made a prebendary of Westminster, and advanced to the bishopric of Gloucester, where he repaired the episcopal palace, which had been uninhabited for a consi-

derable time before. The magnificent western front of Westminster abbey, which was finished chiefly under his care, may be considered as a splendid monument of his zeal in promoting the welfare of that church.

Though the revenues of this bishopric were so small, yet he declined any higher promotion, though he was offered the archbishopric of York, frequently using the expression of his predecessor, bishop Fisher: This church is my wife, and I will not part with her because she is poor.

He was a person endowed with many virtues, both public and private, of great innocence and cheerfulness of manners, and of a disposition ever desirous of doing good to all. He was a continual patron to Bromley college, whilst he lived, and constantly resided at Bromley palace, where he laid out much money in the repair and improvement of it. The fatigue of his last visitation of his diocese probably shortened his days, for he died quickly afterwards, in 1756, being then about eighty-two years of age, and was buried at Westminster abbey, where an elegant monument is erected to his memory.

Zachary Pearce, S. T. P. was his successor, as well in his bishopric as his deanry. He was fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and was presented to the rectory of Stapleford Abbats, in Essex, and next year to that of St. Bartholomew, behind the Exchange, which he resigned in 1723, for the vicarage of St. Martin in the Fields. He was afterwards made dean of Winchester, and was elected prolocutor of the lower house of convocation; in 1747 he was advanced to the see of Bangor, and held the vicarage of St. Martin's in commendam with it, till his translation to this bishopric.

In 1768, bishop Pearce, having obtained the king's leave, resigned his deanry of Westminster; he had before that warmly solicited leave to resign his bishopric;

but his request was not thought proper to be complied with. Neither the request, nor the refusal can be well accounted for. The bishop died, advanced in years, at his house at Ealing, in Middlesex, where he chiefly resided in winter, in 1774, and was buried at Bromley, having been in his life-time a good benefactor to the college there. He was a person of much learning, and of distinguished taste and judgment, and his numerous publications, both as a divine and a critic, have sufficiently proved the truth of this assertion.

John Thomas, LL. D. rector of Blechingley, in Surry, who had succeeded bishop Pearce, in his deanry of Westminster, in 1768, likewise succeeded him in this bishopric in 1774. He died at Bromley palace, on August 22, 1793, having bequeathed by his will, among other benefactions, one thousand pounds to Christ church, and the like sum to Queen's college, in Oxford. He was buried in a vault at Blechingley, in Surry.

Samuel Horsley, S. T. P. succeeded him in this bi-

shopric, as well as in the deanry of Westminster, in the October following, being at that time bishop of St. David's, and vicar of South Weald, in Essex, which he held in commendam with it, but then resigned. He is the present bishop of this see, and the 91st in succession from the first erection of it by St. Augustine, in the year 604.

The arms of the see of Rochester are, Argent, on a saltier gules, an escallop shell or.

THE DIOCESE of Rochester has in it one archdeaconry, stiled, the Archdeaconry of Rochester, which is valued in the king's books at 34l. 14s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 9s. 5¾d./i

/i Ect. Thes. p. 381. See Le Neve's Fasti, p. 253. Registrum Roffense, p. 7.

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A LIST OF THE ARCHDEACONS OF ROCHESTER

Anschitillus, who enjoyed this dignity about the year 1089.

Herewyse, in the reign of king Henry I.

Robert Pull was admitted to it about the year 1140.

Paris was archdeacon in 1176/k, on the resignation of the former.

Roger de Weseham, about 1238; he was also dean of Lincoln, and resigned this archdeaconry in 1245, on being made bishop of Litchfield and Coventry./l

William de Trippolaw, about 1245.

William de Sancto Martino, about 1267. He died in 1274.

John de Sancto Dionysio, in 1280. He was one of the king's chaplains, master of the rolls, and rector of Bodiham, in the diocese of Norwich.

Roger Lovel enjoyed this dignity in 1307.

William Read was archdeacon of this diocese, and was made bishop of Chichester, in 1369.

Roger Denford possessed it in 1395.

Richard Broun, alias Cordon, died possessed of this dignity in 1452.

Roger Rotheram was possessed of it in 1472, having been a prebendary of the church of Lincoln, which he seems to have resigned on taking this preferment.

Henry Sharpe, LL. D. in 1486.

Henry Edyall was archdeacon in 1495. He had been collated to the prebend of Gala Minor, in the church of Litchfield, in 1480./m

Nicholas Metcalfe, S. T. P. succeeded him. He was prebendary of Lincoln, and rector of Woodham Ferrers; he was master of St. John's college, Cambridge, at the time of his death in 1537.

/k He was the pope's nephew. /l Willis's Cath. v. i. p. 387.

/m He was one of the executors of archbishop Morton's will. Somn. Cant. part ii. p. 158.

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Maurice Griffith succeeded that year, and resigned this preferment in 1554, on his being made bishop of this see.

John Bridgewater succeeded in 1560, being then rector of Wotton Courtney; he was afterwards rector of Lincoln college, rector of Luccomb, canon residen=

tiary of Wells, and rector of Porlock; all which he resigned in 1574, being a Roman Catholic, and retired to Rheims, where it is said he became a jesuit.

John Calverly, of All Souls college, succeeded in 1574, and dying in 1576, was buried at Beckenham, of which church he was rector.

Ralph Pickover, S. T. P. of Christ-church, Oxford, was installed in 1576. He was sub almoner to the queen, and in 1580 was preferred to a canonry of Christ-church, Oxford, and afterwards to the archdeaconry of Salisbury, on which he resigned this dignity, and was succeeded by

Thomas Staller, S. T. P. and rector of Alhallows, Lombard-street, was installed in 1593. He died in 1606.

Thomas Sanderson, S. T. P. of Baliol college, Oxford, was installed in 1606.

Richard Tillesley, S. T. P. and rector of Stone and of Cookstone, was the next archdeacon. He died in 1721, and was buried in Rochester cathedral.

Elizeus Burgess, S. T. P. was installed in 1621, during whose time king Charles I. by his letters patent in 1636, annexed the sixth stall, or prebend of the church of Rochester, to this archdeaconry; of which, as well as his other preferments, he was deprived in the time of the troubles by the fanatics. He was also prebendary of Ely, vicar of Canewdon, in Essex, and rector of Southfleet. He died in 1652, and was probably buried at Southfleet./n

/n Willis's Cathedrals, vol. ii. p. 382.

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John Lee, S. T. P. had this dignity conferred on him in 1660. He was the son of Thomas Lee, of London, by Anne, sister of John Warner, bishop of Rochester, and wrote himself afterwards Lee, alias Warner. He died in 1679.

Thomas Plume, S. T. P. was installed in 1679. He was likewise vicar of East Greenwich. He died in 1704, æt. 74, and lies buried in Longfield church-yard, having bequeathed the greatest part of his considerable property to charitable uses./o

Thomas Spratt, A. M. succeeded in 1704. He was son of the bishop of this see of the same name. He was likewise prebendary of the churches of Winchester and Westminster, rector of Stone, and vicar of Boxley. He died in 1720, and was buried near his father in Westminster abbey.

Henry Brydges, S. T. P. brother of James, duke of Chandos, was appointed his successor in 1720, and died in 1728. He was rector of Agmondesham.

Samuel Bradford, A. M. son of the bishop of this see, succeeded him, being appointed the same year. He was rector of Newcastle upon Tyne, and died within a month afterwards.

John Denne, S. T. P. was appointed his successor. He was rector of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and afterwards of Lambeth; both which he held at his decease. He died in 1767, æt. 74, and lies buried in this cathedral.

John Law, S. T. P. was his successor, and is the present archdeacon of this diocese. He was vicar of

Shorne, in this county, which he resigned in 1776, and now holds the rectory of Westmill, with that of Much Easton, and the perpetual curacy of Chatham, in this diocese.

There were formerly TWO PARISHES within the walls of this city, ST. CLEMENT'S and ST. NICHOLAS'S,

See vol. 1st of this History, p. 411. vol. ii. p. 391, 442.

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and two without the walls, ST. MARY'S and ST. MARGARET'S; of which there remain at this time only St. Nicholas's and St. Margaret's.

ST. CLEMENT'S PARISH was situated in the western parts of this city, and seems to have extended from the Court-hall westward to the river, and from north to south within that line to the city walls. A considerable part of the walls of this church is still remaining, at the entrance from the High-street into the lane formerly called St. Clement's, but now Horsewash-lane. The east end, or chancel, is visible; the south wall, or part of it, is now the front of three houses almost in a line northward from Bridge-lane, and the north wall forms the back of these houses. The width of the church does not appear to have been above forty feet. There was in it a row of pillars and arches, extending from east to west, at about fourteen from the north wall, making a narrow isle; two of these pillars and one arch are still to be seen, in one of the houses above-mentioned. Adjoining to the north wall of the church was the church-yard, which in 1580 was become private property, as appears from an entry in the court-roll; and according to another minute in the same, the garden of the parsonage was situated at no great distance from the mill-ditch and the north wall of the city.

This church was a rectory, of which John Harrope was the last rector. He died in 1538; after which there does not seem to have been another rector collated to it, the parish being served by different curates.

The income of this rectory was become so trifling at the reformation, by the abolishing of masses, obits, and such other profits, which before perhaps made up a considerable part of the rector's slender maintenance, that it was no longer worth any one's while to accept of it. It never was in charge for first-fruits or tenths, nor was it, as far as appears, ever subject to an assessment, except of 1s. in 1533, towards defraying the

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expence of a proctor in convocation. In these circumstances it was united to the adjoining parish of St. Nicholas, by the act of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. passed for this purpose.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY was situated without the eastern gate of the city. The church was in being in the time of the Saxons, anno 850; for that year Ethelwulf, king of the West Saxons, and Ethelstan, king of Kent, gave to duke Ealhere, a small piece of land, called Healve Aker, in the eastern district, without the wall of the city of Rochester, in the southern part of it; in which land there was a church, dedicated in honor of St. Mary the Virgin.

When this church was desecrated, I have not found, nor any further mention of it; but am informed there is a part of the suburb of Eastgate which claims to be extra-parochial; most probably it was part of the parish of St. Mary.

THE PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS, the only one at present within this city, appears to have been a parochial district before the conquest. It certainly was so in the time of bishop Gundulph, who came to this see in 1076, though there was no church belonging to it for some centuries after; but in lieu of it, the parishioners resorted to an altar in the cathedral, called the parochial altar of St. Nicholas; the officiating priest at which was appointed by the convent, and presented to the bishop.

Walter, bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 1147, confirmed to the monks of the priory this parochial altar, together with the church of St. Margaret, which belonged as a chapel to it, and he appropriated to them all profits and obventions, as well of the altar as the chapel. This was certainly set aside by bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, in the reign of king Richard I.

/p History of Rochester, p. 207, 209.

/q Reg. Roff. p. 6. History of Rochester, p. 201.

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who divested them of all profits and emoluments belonging to this altar. However, he reinstated them in their old accustomed pension of forty shillings yearly from it. By this means, the bishop recovered the patronage of this parish to the see of Rochester, where it has ever since remained.

This altar is supposed by many to have been placed in the large recess on the east side of the north great cross isle of the cathedral. It was certainly below the choir, and was removed from the place where it before stood by the monks, as appears by the judicial act made in 1312, by which the parishioners were allowed to perform their services at it, and they agreed, that whenever the prior and chapter should cause a proper church to be built for them elsewhere, they would then resort to it, as to their parish church, without any further claim in that, or any other place in the cathedral.

Notwithstanding this, the prior and chapter were so well satisfied at the altar's remaining in the cathedral, that for more than one hundred years no steps were taken towards it; but at length, in the reign of king Henry V. by the endeavours of bishop Richard Young, and by the interposition of archbishop Chicheley, the inhabitants were, by a composition, in 1421, suffered to finish a parochial church for themselves on the north side of the cemetery of the cathedral, the walls of which had been raised several years before, and the bishop by his instrument for this purpose further decreed, that the altar of St. Nicholas should be transferred to the church, when finished, as well as all parochial right, belonging to it; and that the church, when finished, from that time should be called the parish church and rectory of St. Nicholas, and not the vicarage, to the disburthening of his church, and of the prior and chapter; so that for the future all burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, especially as to the reparation and main-

taining of the church, should belong to the rector and the parishioners of it, and not to the cathedral church,

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or the prior and chapter; to whom he reserved their accustomed yearly pension of forty shillings from the vicar of the said altar; and he decreed, that the rector should take institution for it; and he reserved to himself the collation to it, whenever it should become vacant, &c.

From this decree the prior and chapter appealed to the archbishop, and alledged, that to the said altar united and annexed to the religious, there was one vicar received and admitted, who used to undergo and bear the care of the parishioners of it; and that the right of taking all parochial ecclesiastical rights, and especially all and all manner of tithes of every sort of corn, of mills and pastures, belonging to it, from the first foundation of the cathedral church did, and ought to belong to the prior and chapter, as rectors of the said altar, and as the superiors, and having the pre-eminence of the vicar in the right and name of their church, in which the altar was situated, of all which rights, parochial and ecclesiastical, they had been in possession beyond the memory of man; and that at all times the chaplain of it had been admitted under the name and stile of vicar, and in no wise as rector, nor had he ever carried himself as such; and lastly, that the ground on which the church was built was the proper soil belonging to them. Upon which, the archbishop, in 1421, decreed, with their consent, among many other regulations, that the parishioners should have leave to build their church, and should entirely finish it within three years, and from time to time to repair it afterwards; that they should renounce all right and title to the aforesaid altar, or to any other thing in the cathedral; and that the vicar of the said church, and the parishioners should for ever have free liberty to bury, without any interruption from, or leave asked of the prior and convent, either in the church, or in the cemetery south of it, and between that and the cathedral, vulgarly called Greenchurch Haw, or in the other ce-

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metery contiguous to the church, westward of the cathedral, as it was bounded by the walls and gates of the prior; and that the vicar, who before obtained institution, by the name of vicar of the altar, before mentioned, should perform divine offices in this new-built church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, and should sustain the care of the parishioners, and by the name of the vicar of the church of St. Nicholas, within the precinct of the priory of Rochester, should be instituted and so nominated for the future, and that the parishioners should repair the walls of the cemeteries at their own proper expence; and he decreed, that the vicar, and his successors, should pay for ever to the prior and convent the annual pension of forty shillings, and as to the taking of the tithes of gardens, rushes, mills, and other titheable things, arising within this parish, and the profits and commodities for their support, by which they might be enabled to support the burthens incumbent on them, the archbishop, on account of various and ar-

duous matters by which he was then hindered, deferred determining the same, but reserved it to himself to make his decree concerning them, at his future leisure./r

This church was afterwards consecrated by John, bishop of Dromore, in the absence of the bishop of Rochester, on Sunday, Dec. 18, 1423.

No description is left of this church, which appears to have remained near two hundred years; but the building becoming ruinous, and in 1620 being judged incapable of being repaired, it was taken down, and a new one, which is now standing, was erected on the same spot.

This building was consecrated on Sept. 24, 1624, (as was an additional burying-ground the day following) by Dr. John Buckeridge, bishop of Rochester. It extends in length one hundred feet, and in breadth sixty

/r Registrum Roffensis, p. 560 et seq.

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feet; it consists of a nave and two isles. It is a substantial spacious church, handsomely sitted up and ornamented, and extremely well constructed for public worship; at the north-west angle of it is a tower steeple containing two bells.

The present altar-piece was given by Edward Bartholomew, esq. in 1706; he likewise gave for the use of the church two silver flaggons, and a patten of thirty pounds price. Edward Harlow, in 1609, gave a gilt cup. Francis Brooke, esq. in 1703, gave a large silver plate for the offerings at the sacrament; and Henry Austen, gent. gave two handsome large common-prayer books to be placed on the altar.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following – In the chancel, a brass plate for Alice, daughter and heir of John Williams, of Stroud, first married to John Tucke, alderman; and secondly, to Thomas Robinson, regist. ob. 1574; a memorial for Robert Bayley, late minister of this parish, obt. 1701; in the north window, gules on a chevron, 3 crescents sable, and inscription, that the window was set up at the charge of John Cobham, esq. and alderman in 1624; on a gravestone, south of the altar, are the arms of Austen, and under it a vault for that family, made by a faculty; a monument, arms, sable three fishes argent in pale, Barry, with the figures of a man and his three wives, for Thomas Rocke, gent. alderman, and four times mayor, obt. 1625; a monument, arms, three wolves heads couped, within a bordure sable, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a desk, for George Wilson, esq. twice mayor, obt. 1629, and Anne his wife, obt. 1630. In the nave, memorials for Elizabeth, first wife of Sir Robert Fane, only daughter of Norton Halke, gent. obt. 1661, and for Elizabeth, his second wife, eldest daughter of Richard Head, esq. obt. 1663; for Henry, son of Richard Head, esq. obt. 1673; for Barbara, wife of William Head alderman, obt. 1703; a monument for George Robinson, four times mayor, obt. 1657. In the south isle, against the south wall, a brass plate for Thomasine, daughter of William Watts, wife of Robert Hall, mayor, obt. 1575. In the north isle, a monument for Robert Conny, M. D. only son of John Conny, surgeon, and twice mayor, the son of Robert Conny, of Godmanchester, in Huntingdonshire, gent. he married Frances, daughter of Richard Manley, esq. of Holloway-court, they both died in 1723; a monument, arms, or, three goats heads erased sable, for Philip Bartholomew, gent. and Sarah his wife, who

both died in 1696, placed by Leonard, their only surviving son; in the north window, sable, a chevron between three tuns argent, and a little lower PHILPOT./s

This parish is situated within the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The vicarage of St. Nicholas in 1291 was valued at five marcs. It is valued in the king's books at 20l. 8s. 9d. per annum, and the yearly tenths at 2l. 0s. 10½d. In 1649 the yearly value of it was returned at 59l. 6s. 8d per annum./t

The bishop of Rochester continues patron of this vicarage.

A house was allotted to the vicars of it some centuries ago; it is situated not far from the free-school, and a piece of ground belonging to it extends to the north wall of the city. Some part of the old house was rebuilt by the late vicar, Mr. John Vade.

The pension of forty shillings due from the vicar of the parochial altar of St. Nicholas continued to be paid to the prior and convent till their dissolution, when it was granted by king Henry VIII. to his new-founded dean and chapter, who now possess it.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Bishop of Rochester Thomas Chamberlayn, in 1421./u
Edward Pulteney, 1460./w
Patricius Stanes, 1476./x
Richard Sewster, alias Hewster,
A. M. 1501./y
James Deyer, A. M. 1624./z
Elizeus Burgis, S. T. P. 1628./a
Allen Atworth, 1649./b

/s See the monuments and inscriptions in this church at large in Reg. Roff. p. 721.

/t Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/u Reg. Roff. p. 563. He was the first vicar, on the building of the church.

/w Regist. Prerog. Cant.

/x Official of the archdeacon. Reg. Roff. p. 406.

/y Reg. Roff. p. 418, 426.

/z Ibid. p. 725.

/a Archdeacon of Rochester, and rector of Southfleet, by dispensation in 1628. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 56.

/b Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Bishop of Rochester Dixon, S. T. P./c
Robert Bayley, obt. October 8,
1701./d
John Gilman, A. M. obt. Nov.
17, 1710./e
Samuel Doyley, A. M. obt. May
1748./f

..... Boyce, inducted May 16,
1748, obt. Nov. 1751.
John Vade, A. M. obt. June
1765./g
Charles Allen, obt. 1795.
William Wrighte, 1795, the pre=
sent vicar.

/c Preb. of Rochester.

/d He lies buried in this church.

/e Preb. of Rochester, and rector of
Kingsdown. He lies buried in the ca=
thedral.

/f He lies buried near the west door
of the cathedral, but without any in=
scription.

/g In Jan. 1755, a dispensation passed
for his holding this with Croydon.

THERE is a manor in this parish, called the manor of
AMBREE, Manerium Amberiæ, which is now part of the
possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, and
formerly belonged to the priory. It was called the
celler's court, and was held at le Ameribenche, i.e.
the almonry bench, of the priory whence it acquired
its present name.

IN THIS PARISH, at a small distance southward of
the castle, is a large mount, thrown up in antient times,
called BULLY-HILL, on which there are several genteel
houses built; the principal of which is situated on the
summit of the mount, commanding a most delightful
view of the river, both above and below the bridge,
the navy, docks, &c. the cathedral, castle, and adjoin=
ing country, altogether forming a prospect hardly to be
exceeded. This seat, with the surrounding gardens,
was the property of Thomas Pearce, esq. commissioner
of the navy, whose son, Thomas Pearce, esq. sold it to
Thomas Gordon, esq. who rebuilt it; his daughter and
heir carried it in marriage to her first-cousin, William

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Gordon, esq. late M. P. for this city, and sheriff for
this county in 1763. He resided here, and died pos=
sessed of it in 1776, leaving an only daughter and heir,
and his widow, Mrs. Gordon, surviving, who is the
present possessor of it./h

SATIS is a seat which lies westward from that last-
mentioned, nearer the river, on the edge of the cliff,
at a considerable height from it. In the reign of queen
Elizabeth it was the property and residence of Mr. Ri=
chard Watts,/i who represented this city in parliament,
in the 5th year of that reign. He had the honour of
entertaining the queen at his house here, in the year
1573, and the last day of her continuance in this city,
as she was on her return from one of her excursions
round the counties of Sussex and Kent. It is said that
when Mr. Watts, at her departure, apologized for the
smallness and inconvenience of his house, but ill suited
for the reception of so great a princess; the queen, in
return, made use of the Latin word Satis only; signi=
fying by it, that she was very well contented with it;
since which this house has acquired the name of Satis.
After his death, his widow became possessed of it, and
about six years afterwards married Mr. Thomas Pagitt,

who enjoyed it in her right. She died possessed of it; after which, in pursuance of Mr. Watts's will, it was sold, and the money arising from the sale of it applied towards the support of the alms-house, now called Watts's hospital, in this city. Who were the possessors of it afterwards, I have not found; but in Charles II's reign, it was owned by Mr. alderman George Wood= yer, who resided here./k His widow, Mrs. Martha Woodyer, of Shorne, in this county, together with William Woodyer, her son, by deed, in 1698, con=

/h See the third volume of this History, p. 447.

/i He died here in 1579, and was buried in the cathedral, as has been already mentioned.

/k See more of the Woodyers, under Shorne, vol. iii. p. 447.

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death devised it to his son, Mr. Philip Brooke, who was succeeded in it by his son, Joseph Brooke, esq. late recorder of this city, who rebuilt the greatest part of it, he resided in it till the death of his uncle, Francis Brooke, esq. when succeeding to his seat at Town-Malling, he removed thither, where he died in 1792, as did his widow Mrs. Brooke, in 1795. It is now the residence of John Longley, esq. recorder of this city.

Walker Weldon, of Swanscombe, owner of Roches= ter-castle, in 1722, conveyed to Mr. Philip Brooke, that part of the castle-ditch and ground, as it then lay uninclosed, on Bully hill, being the whole breadth of the hill and ditch without the walls of the castle, extend= ing from thence to the river Medway; under which title it descended, with Satis, to Mr. Joseph Brooke, who about fifty years ago filled up the ditch, within a few yards of the river, and planted it with trees, and it now forms a lawn to the front of the house. When the hill was levelled for the above purpose, many Ro= man urns, pateræ, lachrymatoræ, and other remains of that nation were found by the workmen; most of which were given to Dr. Thorpe, of this city.

The large mount or hill of earth, on which Mrs. Gordon's house and gardens are situated, in all likeli= hood was thrown up by the Danes in the year 885, at the time they besieged this city, a circumstance men= tioned by most of our antient historians. There is one similar to it at Canterbury, thrown up probably by the same people, though it is not quite so large, and stands somewhat further from that castle.

By king Edward IV's charter to the citizens of Ro= chester, in the 1st year of his reign, he granted to them a view of frank-pledge, and also to hold a court of pie powder, in a certain place called the Boley, within the suburbs of the city. This is a separate leet from that held in the Guildhall, and the inhabitants of this small district are bound to appear before the recorder, as steward of the court of the mayor and citizens,

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which is annually held on the Monday after St. Mi= chael, who then appoints an officer, called the baron of the Bully, for the year ensuing, by presenting him with the staff of office. The court is holden under an elm tree at the east end of the hill. The householders

of this spot are generally appointed to the above office in succession./l

The charities belonging to this parish will be mentioned hereafter, in the list of those given in general to the city of Rochester.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARGARET is of large extent, and contains all the lands without the walls on the south side of the city, that are within the bounds of its jurisdiction. It is stiled in some records, St. Margaret's in Suthgate,/m and in those of the city, the Borough of Suthgate./n

There are two streets of houses in this parish, the one called St. Margaret's-street, leading from Bully-hill to the church, and so on to Borstall and Woldham southward; the other at some distance from it called St. Margaret's-bank, being a long row of houses, situated on a high bank at the north-east boundary of the parish, on the south side of the great London road to Dover, between St. Catherine's hospital in Rochester, and the Victualling-office, in Chatham. These houses are within the manor of Larkhill.

THERE are SEVERAL MANORS within the bounds of this parish, the most eminent of which is that of

BORSTALL, which was given to the church of Rochester and bishop Beornmod, in the year 811, by Cæ-nulf, king of Mercia, as three plough lands.

This manor seems to have continued part of the possessions of the church of Rochester, without any interruption, till the time of the conquest. It is thus described in the general survey of Domesday, taken in

/l History of Rochester, p. *281 et seq.

/m Reg. Roff. p. 546. /n Hist. Rochester, p. 5.

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the year 1080, under the general title of Terra Epi Rovecestre, i. e. the lands of the bishop of Rochester.

In the hundred of Rochester, the same bishop (of Rochester) holds Borchetelle. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at two sulings, and now for one suling and an half. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and six villeins with three carucates. There are 50 acres of meadow, and two mills of 20 shillings. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, it was worth six pounds, and now 10 pounds.

In Rochester the bishop had, and yet has, 24 plats of ground, which belong to Frindsbury and Borstal, 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 11 pounds and 13 shillings and four-pence.

When bishop Gundulph was elected to this see in the time of the Conqueror, and after the example of his patron, archbishop Lanfranc, separated his own revenues from those of his convent, this manor in the division was allotted to the bishop and his successors.

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in 1255, it appears that the bishop had in the manor of Borstalle one hundred and forty acres of arable, estimated each acre at 4d. forty acres of salt meadow at 8d. each, and fourteen acres of salt pasture, each at 6d. which,

with the rents of assise, made the total value of the whole manor 9l. 10s. 3d. the repair of the buildings yearly amounting to twenty shillings./o

This manor still continues in the possession of the bishop of Rochester; but the demesne lands are leased out by him to Mrs. Vade, of Croydon, in Surry.

By the agreement made between John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, and the bailiff and citizens of Rochester, in the 27th year of king Henry VI. concerning the

/o Reg. Roff. p. 10, 64, 65, 133.

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limits of the jurisdiction of the city, according to the charter then lately made to them, this borough and manor of Borstall was declared to be exempt from the precinct of the hundred of Rochester, and the law-day of it, and from all payments, fines, suits, forfeitures and ameraciements due on that account, as being within the liberty of the bishop, and his church./p

The monks of Rochester priory had several grants of TYTHES, and other premises made to them within this manor and hamlet.

Robert Ernulf and Eadric de Borstalle, gave the tithes of their lands in Borstalle to the priory, which were confirmed to it by several bishops of Rochester, and others./q In which confirmations they are described, as the whole tithe of Borstalle of corn, and two parts of the tithes of the land of Ralph de Borstalle./r Eadric de Hescenden, with his wife and two sons, entered into the society of the monks of this priory, upon condition, that when they died, the monks should say a service for them, as for their brethren; and the monks were to have for ever the tithes of their lands in Borestealle and Freondesberie, but in corn only.

Several parcels of land, &c. lying within the manor or hamlet of Borstall, were likewise at times given to these monks. All these premises continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it, in 1540, when they were surrendered into the king's hands, and were settled by him, three years afterwards, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they remain at present.

This manor, with others in this neighbourhood, was bound antiently to contribute to the repair of the first pier of Rochester-bridge.

NASHENDEN is a manor in this parish, which lies about three-quarters of a mile south-eastward from Bor-

/p Reg. Roff. p. 575. /q Text. Roff. p. 166.

/r See Registrum Roffense, p. 481, and 482.

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stall. In the Textus Roffensis it is called Hescenden, and in Domesday, Essedene.

This manor was part of those vast possessions, with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother Odo, the great bishop of Baieux; accordingly it is thus entered, under the title of that prelate's lands, in the general survey of Domesday:

Rannulf de Columbels holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Essedene. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and 19 vil-

leins, with three borderers having three carucates. There are three servants, and 8 acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth three pounds, when he received it four pounds, now five pounds. Earl Leuvin held it.

It appears by the red book of the exchequer, that this estate in the reign of king Henry II. was held by Thomas de Nessingden, of Daniel de Crevequer, as one knight's fee of the old feoffment.

In the reign of king Edward I. this manor was become the property of Jeffry Haspale, whose descendant, John de Aspale, for so the name was then spelt, died possessed of Nashenden in the 31st year of that reign, holding it of the king in capite. After which it appears to have come into the name of Basing, and from thence quickly after into that of Charles.

Richard Charles, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, anno 1 Richard II. died possessed of the manor of Naseden, which he held of the king in capite by knight's service, excepting forty acres of pasture and wood, which he held of the lord Grey, as of his manor of Aylesford; whose nephew, Richard, son of his brother Roger Charles, died possessed of it in the 11th year of that reign, holding it of the king in capite, as of his honor of Peverel and Hagenet, by knight's service.

Nicholas Haut afterwards possessed this manor, in right of his wife Alice, who was a descendant of the

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above-mentioned family. She held it for the term of her life with remainder to James Peckham, who on her death, in the 1st year of king Henry IV. came into the possession of it. He obtained the king's licence two years afterwards, to give and amortize to the wardens of Rochester-bridge, and their successors, this manor, and also one hundred acres of pasture, with their appurtenances in Ellesford, the manor then being worth yearly, and above all reprises 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum./s Since which it has continued part of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of the said bridge, for the support and repair of it. The present lessees of this manor are Leonard Bartholemew and Phil. Boghurst, esqrs.

An account of the tithes of this manor will be given, with those of Little Delce in this parish./t

There was a chapel at this place, dependent on the parish church of St. Margaret./t

GREAT DELCE is a manor which, with the estate now called LOWER DELCE, lies on the eastern side of this parish, about half a mile southward from Eastgate, in Rochester. It was formerly called Much Delce and Delce Magna, or Great Delce, and was given by William the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother, under the title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday:

In the lath of Aylesford, in Rochester hundred, the son of William Tatum holds Delce of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at one suling and one yoke. The arable land is There is one carucate in demesne, and five villeins having five carucates. There are 12 acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of one hog. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards,

it was worth three pounds, and now 70 shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

This manor afterwards came into the possession of a family, to which it gave name. Herebert, Gosfrid,

/s Archives of Rochester bridge. /t See p. 173.

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and Hugo de Delce possessed it in successive generations. After which it passed to Buckerel, and the heirs of Thomas Buckerel, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry III. held it as two knights fees and a half, of Bertram de Criol./u After which this estate seems to have been separated into parcels, for Geoffry de Haspale held this manor as the fourth part of a knight's fee only, at the time of his death, in the 15th year of king Edward I. as appears by the inquisition taken for that purpose.

The next family who succeeded, as appears by the original deeds of this estate, was that of Molineux, descended from those of Sefton, in Lancashire; but they did not keep possession of it long, for by the evidence of an antient court-roll, Benedict de Fulsham was lord of it in the 30th year of king Edward III. His descendant, Richard Fulsham, held it of the king in capite, as the fourth part of a knight's fee, at his death in the 5th year of king Henry V. Soon after which this name seems to have become extinct here; for in the 9th year of that reign, Reginald Love died possessed of it, and his successor held it till the latter end of king Henry VI's reign, when it passed by sale to William Venour, whose arms were, Argent, on a fess sable five escallops or, three and two, and who died possessed of this manor in the 1st year of king Edward IV. After which it was within a few months conveyed by sale to Markham, descended from an antient family of that name in Nottinghamshire, in which name it staid but a very short time before it was sold to Tate, who passed it away to Sir Richard Lee, citizen of London, and grocer, who served the office of lord-mayor in the 39th year of king Henry VI. and the 9th year of king Edward IV./w He was the eldest son of John Lee, of Wolksted, in Surry, and grandson of Symon Lee, who

/u Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.

/w Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 122, 123.

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was descended of ancestors in Worcestershire, and bore for his arms, Azure, on a fess cotized or, three leopard's faces gules. He lies buried in the church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, his arms are remaining in East-Grinstead church, and in that of St. Dionis Backchurch, in London, with those of several marriages of his posterity; his son Richard Lee seems to have had this manor of Great Delce by gift of his father during his life-time, and kept his shrievalty at this mansion in the 19th year of the latter reign, his son Richard, who was both of Delce and of Maidstone, left two sons, the youngest of whom, Edward, was archbishop of York,/x and the eldest Richard, was of Delce, whose only surviving son, Godfrey, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. procured his lands to be disgavelled, by the general act passed for this purpose,/y after which his descendants continued

to reside here for several generations, but Richard Lee, esq. about the latter end of queen Anne's reign, passed away the whole of this estate, excepting the manor, and forty acres of land, to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, in this county, from which time this seat and estate acquired the name of Lower Delce.

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. died in 1727, and was succeeded by Thomas Chiffinch, esq. his only son and heir, who died without issue in 1775, and by his will bequeathed this, among his other estates, to his niece and heir-at-law, Mary, the daughter of his sister Elizabeth Comyns, who afterwards carried them in marriage to Francis Wadman, esq. of the Hive, in Northfleet, and he is the present possessor of Lower Delce.

THE MANOR OF GREAT DELCE, and the forty acres of land above-mentioned, together with a farm, called King's Farm, continued in the possession of Richard Lee, esq. who died possessed of them in 1724, and his grandson, Richard Lee, esq. of Clytha, in Wales, now

/x See his life in Biog. Brit. vol. i. p. 215.

/y The descent of Lee is in Vistn. co. Kent. anno 1619.

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possesses this manor; but in 1769, he alienated all the demesnes of it, together with King's farm, to Mr. Sampson Waring, of Chatham, who died possessed of them in 1769, leaving his brother, Mr. Walter Waring, and his sister, Mrs. Smith, of Lower Delce, his executors, who are at this time entitled to the profits of them. The court for the manor of Great Delce has not been held for some years.

The manor is held by castle-guard rent of Rochester castle; but when the mansion and most part of the lands were sold, as above mentioned, from Lee to Chiffinch, the former expressly charged the whole of that rent on the premises bought by Chiffinch, and entirely exonerated that part which he reserved to himself from paying any portion of it.

An account of the tithes of this manor, given to the priory of Rochester, may be seen under the following description of Little Delce manor.

LITTLE DELCE, or DELCE PARVA, now known by the name of UPPER DELCE, is a manor in this parish, situated in the high road between Rochester and Maidstone, somewhat more than a quarter of a mile from the former. This likewise, as well as that of Great Delce, was given by William the Conqueror to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in the book of Domesday:

In Rochester hundred, Ansgotus de Roucestre holds Delce of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates, and there are in demesne with one villein, and five borderers, and six servants. There are 12 acres of meadow, and 60 acres of pasture. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was, and is worth 100 shillings. Osuuard held it of king Edward.

This estate, on the disgrace of bishop Odo, most probably reverted again into the king's hands; and seems afterwards to have been in the possession of a

family, who assumed their name, De Delce, from it, and held it of William de Say, as one knight's fee.^{/z}

In the reign of king John, this manor was in the possession of Jeffry de Bosco, a Norman; but when that province was seized by the king of France, the lands of the Normans, in this kingdom, became vested in the crown, by way of escheat or seizure, under the title of, Terra Normanorum; thus the manor of Little Delce was seized by king John, in the 5th year of his reign, who gave it to William de Ciriton, the sheriff, for two hundred pounds, two palfreys, and two goss hawks,^{/a} on condition, that if the said Jeffry should return to his allegiance, he should, without delay, again possess the same.^{/b} But this never happened, and this manor continued in the descendants of William de Ciriton. Odo de Ciriton died possessed of it in the 31st year of king Henry III. holding it of the king in capite, by the service of one knight's fee.^{/c} This family was extinct here before the middle of the reign of king Edward I. for in the 9th year of that reign, as appears by Kirkby's Inquest, Richard Pogeys held this manor. At the latter end of the reign of king Edward III. it was possessed by the family of Basing, from which name it went into that of Charles. Richard Charles died possessed of the manor of Little Delce, in the 1st year of king Richard II. leaving his brother's sons, Richard and John, his next heirs; the former of whom died possessed of it, anno 11 Richard II. and left a son, Robert Charles, who dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs, viz. Alice, married to William Snayth, and Joan to Richard Ormskirk; and on the division of their estates, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, in right of his wife, Alice, the eldest of them. Soon after

^{/z} Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer. ^{/a} Austuris.

^{/b} Madox's Exchequer, p. 295, note/e.

^{/c} Philipot, p. 294. Rot. Esch. anno 1 and 11 Richard II.

which, Charles and William Snette, for so the name is spelt in the bridge archives, gave and amortized this manor of Little Delce, of the yearly value of six marcs, above all reprises, to the wardens of Rochester bridge and their successors, for the support and repair of the same. Since which it has acquired the name of Upper Delce, by which it is now only known, and it continues at this time part of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of the said bridge, for the purposes above mentioned. The present lessees of this manor are Leonard Bartholomew and Philip Boghurst, esqrs.

The tithes of Great and Little Delce, Borstal, and Nashenden, were given, in the time of bishop Gundulph, to the priory of Rochester.

Gosfrid de Delce, together with his wife and children, on their being admitted to be partakers of the benefits received from the prayers of the monks, gave the whole of the tithes of Little Delce, both great and small, to the priory of St. Andrew.

Ansgotus de Rovecestre accepted of the like bene=

fit from the church of St. Andrew, and the monks there, in the time of bishop Gundulph, and gave to the church and monks there, all his tithes, both great and small, of Great Delce, and in like manner the whole of his tithe mill, and of a certain piece of land included within the wall of the monks, towards the south, and five acres of land near Prestefelde, and at their request, gave them, on his death bed, cloathing, and they performed service for him as for a monk.

Uulmer, the tenant of Arnulf de Hesdine, by the advice of Adelold, brother of Baldwin, monk of St. Andrew, accepted the benefit of that society, and gave to it his whole tithe, worth ten shillings yearly. Robert de St. Armand gave his tithes of Neschene and Borstelle to St. Andrew's priory. These several tithes were confirmed to the priory by various bishops of Rochester; by Theobald, archbishop, and

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Ralph, prior, and the convent of Canterbury. They remained part of the possessions of the priory till their dissolution in 1540; three years after which they were settled on the new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they still remain.

The PARISH of St. MARGARET, in Rochester, is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is situated at the south extremity of St. Margaret's-street; it consists of one nave and two chancels on the south side of much later date than the church. That towards the east end was built and long supported by the family of Lee, of Great Delce, whose remains lie in a large vault under this chancel; but since the alienation of their mansion here, the repair of this part of the fabric has devolved on the parishioners. The chancel, at the east end of the church, belongs to the appropriator, who consequently repairs it. At the west end of the church is a tower, containing five bells; it is entirely covered with ivy to the top of it, which makes a most beautiful and picturesque appearance. Against the east wall, in the south chancel, is the antient bust of a man in robes, with a coronet on his head. In the reign of king Charles II. a coronet, set round with precious stones, was dug up in this church yard; and the report of the parish has been, that one of our Saxon kings was buried here.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: In the chancel, a brass for Syr James Roberte Preest, obt. Sep. 24, 1540. A monument, arms, Head, impaling quarterly a chevron between three hawks belled or, for Francis Head, esq. eldest son of Sir Richard Head. bart. obt. 1678; he married the only daughter of Sir George Ent. In the north window, Argent, three crosses bottony fitchee sable, and argent on a bend quarterly, an escallop gules. In a pew, partly in the chancel and partly in the nave, Argent on a bend gules, between two pellets, three swans proper. In the nave, a brass for Tho. Cod, vicar, a benefactor to the steeple of this church, obt. Nov. 1465.

/d History of Rochester, p. 237. Harris's History of Kent, p. 196.

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In the chancel, south of the rectors, a monument, arms, Argent, a right hand coupé sable, impaling Lee, for Thomas Manly, esq.

the third son and heir of George Manly, of Lach, esq. he married Jane, second daughter of Richard Lee, esq. of Delce, and left one only son and two daughters, obt. 1690. In the east window, arms of Lee, Azure on a fess cotized, or three leopards heads gules. In a chapel, west of the Lee chancel, in the east wall, a bust of a person with a crown on his head, much defaced./e

At the time of bishop Gundulph's coming to the see of Rochester, and for almost a century afterwards, this church or chapel of St. Margaret, for it is frequently mentioned by both names, was accounted only as an appendage to the parochial altar of St. Nicholas in the cathedral, and the one underwent the same changes as the other;/f and Walter, bishop of Rochester, in 1147, confirmed the above mentioned parochial altar, together with this church of St. Margaret, which belonged as a chapel to it, to the monks of this priory, and appropriated it to them. This grant was set aside by bishop Gilbert de Glanville, in the beginning of the reign of king Richard I. who not only separated this church from the altar of St. Nicholas, and divested the monks of all manner of right to it; but on the foundation of his hospital at Stroud about the same time, he gave, in pure and perpetual alms, among other premises, this church of St. Margaret to the master and brethren of it, and appropriated it to them, reserving only half a marc yearly to be paid to the priory, in lieu of the oblations which the monks used to receive from it./g

The monks by no means acquiesced in this gift, but seized every opportunity of asserting their right to this church, and after several appeals to the pope from time to time, and confirmation and decrees made in favour of each party,/h the dispute seems to have

/e See the monuments and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 726.

/f See the account of St. Nicholas's parish above.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 631. This was confirmed by pope Cœlestine III. in his third year.

/h Reg. Roff. p. 104. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 349.

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been finally settled in 1255, when the pope adjudged, that this church of St. Margaret, with all its appurtenances, should for the future belong to the prior and chapter of Rochester; accordingly from the above time they kept possession of it.

From the time of bishop Walter's appropriation of the profits of the parochial altar of St. Nicholas, with this church appendant to it, to the prior and convent, to the divesting them of it by bishop Glanville, it is likely, instead of a curate being appointed, the duty of this parish was discharged by some member of the society, as it was probably afterwards, whilst in the possession of the hospital, by one of the priests of that foundation; however, within a few years after the convent recovered the permanent possession of St. Margaret's, a vicar was certainly appointed, for William Talevez occurs by that title in 1272.

The vicars seem to have had only a yearly stipend for the convent for their pains, for more than a century afterwards; but in 1401, the prior and chapter came into a composition with the vicar for the endowment of this church; in which they agreed, that

the vicar and his successors should for the future have, for their maintenance, and the support of the burthens therein mentioned, a mansion with its appurtenances, to be assigned for the vicarage of it, and the accustomed and entire altarage of it, and all the small tithes of the three manors of Nessenden and Great and Little Delce, and of all goods and lands, except the tithes of mills, within the parish, and except the tithes, great, small, and mixed, arising from the lands, cattle, and other things belonging to the religious; and that he and his successors should have three quarters of wheat with three heaps, and three quarters of barley with three heaps, to be taken yearly at their barn, at the times therein mentioned, and the tithes of sheaves, which should arise in gardens not cultivated with the plough; and that the vicar and his suc-

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cessors, content with the above portion, should not demand any thing further of the religious or their successors; and further, that he and they should undergo, at their own proper costs and charges, the burthens of repairing, maintaining, and new building, as often as need should be, the buildings, with their appurtenances, and all other things belonging to the said mansion, with its appurtenances, as well as all things belonging to the celebration of divine services, and the administration of the sacraments and sacramentals to the parishioners, and the finding of bread and wine, lights, books, vestments, and other ornaments necessary to the celebration of divine services, which of custom or right ought to belong to the secular rectors of this church; and also the procurations and subsidies, according to the taxation of his and their portion; but all other things whatsoever, belonging or which in future should belong to this church, as well as all tithes whatsoever, arising or to arise from the lands and possessions of the prior and convent within the parish, even though they should be let or sold to laymen, they the said prior and convent should take and have, who should likewise maintain and repair the chancel, except as before excepted, at their own proper costs and charges. Notwithstanding the stipulation of the vicar for himself and his successors, not to require any increase of their portion from the prior and convent, Edmund Harefelde, vicar of this church, did not consider this clause as obligatory upon him; for in 1488, he petitioned the bishop for an augmentation of his vicarial portion, who decreed, that the vicar and his successors should yearly receive, as the portion of his vicarage, from the prior and convent, five marcs in money; and out of the tithes and profits of this church, appropriated to the prior and convent, four quarters of wheat with four heaps, and four quarters of barley with four heaps, to be taken yearly at their barns of the Upper court, in

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Harreat, with liberty of entry and distress on the parsonage on non-payment; and he decreed, that the endowment of the vicarage, over and above the portion above mentioned, should be as follows, that the vicar for the time being should have the mansion

of the vicarage of this church, with the garden adjoining, for his habitation, which they used to have of old time there, and then had; and all manner of oblations whatsoever within the bounds of the parish, and all manner of tithes whatsoever, as of hay, lambs, wool, mills, calves, chicken, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, bees, honey, wax, cheese, milk, the produce of the dairy, flax, hemp, pears, apples, swans, pigeons, merchandizes, fisheries, pastures, onions, garlicks, and safes whatsoever arising and coming; and also the tithes of sheaves in gardens, whether cultivated with the plough or dug with the foot, increasing within the parish; and the tithes also of firewood, woods, thorns, silva cedua, as well as of all billets, faggots, and fardels whatsoever, within the limits of the parish; and he further decreed, that the burthens of repairing, amending, and new building the mansion, with every appurtenance belonging to it, and the celebration and ministration of the sacraments and the sacramentals to the parishioners, of the finding of bread and wine, and lights to the church, 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 said church, according to the taxation of his portion. But that the burthen of repairing and amending the chancel of the church, as well within as without, as also 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 the church, should in future be borne by the prior and convent and their successors, at their own proper charge and expence; and that all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, of the

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vicarage, and to the vicar belonging, by reason of the same, except as before excepted, should belong to him and his successors, to be borne and supported at his and their own proper costs and charges; saving to the bishop and his successors, a right of augmenting and diminishing this vicarage, and of correcting, amending, and explaining the above decree, whenever he or they should think it expedient so to do; and saving to himself and his successors, all episcopal right, &c.

The appropriation of this church, and the patronage of the vicarage, continued part of the possessions of the prior and convent till the dissolution of the monastery, in 1540, when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who three years after, by his dotation charter, settled this appropriation and vicarage on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they remain at this time.

Adjoining to the north wall of the church yard is a piece of ground, which has probably belonged to the vicars of this parish ever since their first institution here; an antient court roll mentions their being possessed of it in the year 1317.

In the 5th year of king Edward III. John de Folkstan, vicar of St. Margaret's, held a messuage, with its appurtenances, adjoining to the church yard, by the assignment of the prior and convent, with the ordination of the bishop, as belonging to the portion

of his vicarage; which messuage, with its appurtenances, was held of the master and brethren of the hospital of Stroud, by fealty, and the service of two shillings yearly, and also the payment of twelvepence to them, after the death of each vicar./k

/i This instrument is dated on the feast of the Purification, in the year above mentioned, 1488. Reg. Roff. p. 578.

/k To both parts of which indenture the master and brethren put their common seal, as did the vicar, the bishop of Rochester, and the prior and convent theirs. Reg. Roff. p. 548.

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The vicars, I am told, now hold this piece of land of the dean and chapter, as of their manor of Ambrée, on their paying a small acknowledgment.

The vicarage house being from age become irreparable, was taken down, with an intention of erecting a convenient and substantial dwelling in the room of it; for which purpose Mr. Lowth, the late vicar, for several years deposited an annual sum with the dean and chapter, towards defraying the charges of it; and about 1781, erected on this spot a neat and convenient house, built of brick and sashed, with proper offices adjoining, for the use of himself and his successors, vicars of this parish. By an agreement between John Ready, vicar of it, and the dean and chapter, the former, in consideration of several benefits and benevolences done to him by the latter, consented to take an annual payment of 5l. 6s. 8d. instead of the pension in money and corn, granted by the composition made in 1488. Some recompence indeed has since been made for this unjust bargain by the dean and chapter, who have settled on it a larger augmentation than on any other church in their patronage. The vicarage of St. Margaret is valued in the king's books at 10l. and the yearly tenths at 11./l

In the survey, taken after the death of Charles I. in 1649, of the church livings within this diocese, by the powers then in being, on the intended abolition of deans and chapters, it was returned, that there were belonging to this rectory or parsonage, a parsonage-house, two barns, one stable, and other housings, and also certain tithes, profits, &c. belonging to it, together with certain glebe land, called Court-hill and Court hill marsh, containing together nine acres, and and one marsh, lying in the parish of St. Nicholas, Rochester, called Cow marsh, with the waste ground called salts, containing together seven acres, and all

/l History of Rochester, p. 237. Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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that piece of ground called Upper court, alias Hogshaw, containing one acre; in all seventeen acres, worth together 130l. per annum, viz. the house and lands, 12l. per annum, and the tithes 118l. per ann. all which were let, among other premises, by Henry King, late dean of the cathedral church of Rochester, by his indenture, in 1639, to George Newman, esq. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent, for Preestfield and Stroud marsh, of 4s. 4d. per annum, and for all the other premises twelve quarters of wheat, heaped, making together the yearly rent of 31l. 1s. 8d.

Next the vicarage was, in like manner surveyed, and returned at the yearly value of 30l./m

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and convent of Rochester William Talevaz, in 1272./n
John de Folkstan, 1330./o
John Eastgate, 1401./p
Thomas Cod, obt. Nov. 1460./q
Edmund Hatefelde, 1488./r
John Wryte, 1535.
Dean and Chapter of Rochester John Symkins, clerk, July 16,
1555./s
Christopher Dale, S. T. P. about
1627./t
..... Selvy, 1644.
Wm. Sandbrooke, LL. B. 1644,
obt. Mar. 1659./u
Daniel Hill, S. T. P. 1726, obt.
June, 1729./w
John Denne, S. T. P. instituted
1729, resigned 1731./x

/m Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth
library, vol. xiv.

/n History of Rochester, p. 235.

/o Reg. Roff. p. 548.

/p Ibid. 559.

/q He lies buried in this church.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 578.

/s One of the prebendaries of Ro=
chester cathedral, he had been the last
prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, and
is said to have been deprived of his
preferments by queen Mary, for being
married.

/t MSS. Twysden.

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

/w And prebendary of Rochester.

/x Archdeacon of Rochester, and
vicar of St. Leonard, Shoreditch. He
resigned this vicarage of St. Marga=
ret's, on being presented to the rec=
tory of Lambeth.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester William Lowth, A. M. Novem.
1731, obt. Feb. 1795./y
Arnold Carter, A. M. 1795. Pre=
sent vicar./z

/y Vicar of Lewisham, and preben=
dary of Winchester, where he died;
he was elder brother to the late bishop
of London.

/z Vicar of West Peckham and mi=
nor canon of Rochester; the former he
resigned for this vicarage.

CHARITIES.

EXCEPTING the share of Mr. Watt's charity, which this pa=

rich enjoys, the donations to it appear to have been very few.

JOHN WRYTE, clerk, vicar of this parish, by deed, anno 28th Henry VIII. invested in trustees a piece of land in this parish, called Culverhawe, containing half an acre, adjoining to the old church yard northward, and to the highway eastward, for the use of the parishioners for ever, as a place of exercise and recreation.

ROBERT GUNSLEY, clerk, by will, in 1618, bequeathed to the poor of this parish a piece of land in the parish of Hoo, containing six acres and one rood, now let at 5l. 5s. per annum.

JOHN MANLY, esq. by will, in 1687, gave to the poor widows of this parish 10s. per ann. to be given in wheaten bread.

On the east side of St. Margaret's-street is a poor house, erected in 1724, for the reception of the needy and indigent belonging to this parish; towards the building of which 200l. were appropriated, out of the 750l. given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings.

ROCHESTER has given TITLE to several families. Sir Robert Carr, or Kerr, K. B. the favourite of king James I. was first created by letters patent, in 1611, Viscount Rochester, afterwards installed Knight of the Garter, and created Earl of Somerset. He died in 1645, leaving an only daughter, Anne, who married William earl of Bedford, so that his titles became extinct.

Henry Wilmot, only son of Charles viscount Wilmot of Athlone, in Ireland, and lieutenant general of the king's horse, was, out of regard to his military

/a Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 425, et seq.

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conduct, first created, by king Charles I. in 1643, Lord Wilmot of Adderbury, in Oxfordshire; and afterwards, by king Charles II. for his faithful services during those unhappy times, Earl of Rochester, by letters patent, dated at Paris, in 1652. He died at Dunkirk in 1659, and his body was brought over and buried in Spellesbury church, in Oxfordshire. He left an only surviving son, John, who succeeded his father as earl of Rochester, &c. and for his bright parts and excellent wit, was usually styled, The witty earl of Rochester. He died in 1682, leaving three daughters his coheirs, so that for want of male issue, his titles became extinct.*/b*

Laurence Hyde, 2d son of the great earl of Clarendon, lord chancellor in the reign of Charles II. was a person highly favoured and honoured by that prince, who being then viscount Hyde, was, by letters patent, in 1682, further advanced to the title of Earl of Rochester; after which he was made President of the Council; and on king James's accession, Lord High Treasurer and knight of the Garter. In the last year of king William's reign, he was made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and by queen Anne again Lord President of the Council. He died in 1711, and was buried in Westminster abbey, leaving one son, Henry, and four daughters.*/c* Henry, the son, succeeded as earl of Rochester, &c. as he did to the earldom of Clarendon on the decease of his first cousin, Edward earl of Clarendon, without male issue, in 1723. He left one son, Henry, viscount Cornbury, who died but a small time before him, and both of them with=

out male issue, in 1753; so that this title became extinct.

Our HERBALISTS have taken notice of the following RARE PLANTS in and near Rochester:

/b See his life, Biog. Brit. vol. vii. p. 193. Bolton's Peer. p. 242.

/c Collins's Peerage, 2d edit. vol. ii. p. 332.

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French mercury, close to the bishop's palace here./d – Anchusa, alknot, or Spanish bugloss, found near and about Rochester. – Piperitis, pepperwort or dittander, found upon Rochester common. – Chamæpitys vulgaris, or common ground pine, found near Rochester. – Caryophyllus sylvestris flore simplici suave rubens, the single red pink, growing on the castle walls.

CHARITIES, belonging to the City of ROCHESTER.

FEW TOWNS of so small an extent have been benefitted by so many and considerable donations for the relief of the poor as have been made to this city. As early as the reign of king Edward II. SYMOND POTYN, a man of no small account, who had several times represented this city in parliament, and dwelt at the inn, called the Crown, in Rochester, by his will, in 1316, bequeathed a house for an hospital, to be called the Spital of St. Catharine of Rochester, in the suburb of Eastgate, for such poor men or women of this city, lepers, or otherwise diseased, impotent, and poor, to be received therein, and there to abide on the alms of charitable people. This hospital escaped dissolution at the Reformation, and continued to be used as such, according to the will of the founder; but towards the end of the last century, abuses having been practised in the management of it, a complaint was lodged against the persons concerned, by the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of St. Nicholas; who alledged, that this hospital was become ruinous, and likely to go to decay, from the revenue of it being reduced by the mayor of this city, and the vicar of St. Nicholas letting the leases for small sums, and for a long term of years. On this representation, a commission of enquiry was granted by the court of chancery, which was held in this city, in 1704; when full proof being made of these iniquitous practices, the commissioners decreed, that the lessees should deliver up their leases, and accept of them for a shorter term, and should pay 100l. towards putting the hospital in proper repair, and for defraying the charges of the commission; and in order to prevent such like and other abuses in the management of this charity for the future, they decreed, that all leases of the possessions belonging to the hospital should be

/d Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 332. Merrett's Pinax, p. 23.

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let by the mayor and citizens, under their common seal, with the consent of the above mentioned vicar, as one of the patrons of it, for not more than twenty-one years; and that the yearly reserved rent, for the use of the hospital, should be at least two full thirds of the real and improved value of the premises demised; and further, that the dean and chapter, with the mayor and the vicar of St. Nicholas, should be the patrons and visitors of the hospital; and that the provider of the other charitable estates of this city should account for the revenue and disbursements of it. This hospital is situated in the High-street of the suburb of Eastgate, almost at the east

end of it. It was rebuilt in 1717, and contains twelve apartments, which are occupied by the like number of aged people, beside their habitation, are allowed twelve chaldrons of coals and six dozen of candles yearly among them, and they are paid about 1l. 6s. a year each, out of the profits of the estates, after a deduction of the repairs of the hospital.

ALDERMAN BAILEY, of the city of Rochester, by his will, in 1579, gave 300l. in trust, for the poor of St. Catherine's, as an addition to their former allowance; which, with some further private contributions, enabled the trustees to purchase 400l. 3½ per cent. Bank annuities, the dividend arising from which is equally distributed among twelve poor inhabitants above mentioned.

MR. RICHARD WATTS, of Rochester, by his will, proved in 1579, ordered, that after the marriage or death of his wife, his principal dwelling house, called Satis, on Bully-hill, with the house adjoining the closes, orchards, and appurtenances, his plate and furniture should be sold, and after some legacies paid thereout, the residue should be placed out at interest by the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the perpetual support of an alms-house, then erected and standing near the Market cross in Rochester, and that there should be added thereto six rooms, with a chimney in each, for the comfort and abiding of the poor within the city; and that there should be made therein convenient places for six good mattresses or flock beds, and other good and sufficient furniture for poor travellers or wayfaring men to lodge in, being no common rogues nor proctors, for no longer time than one night, unless sickness should detain them; and that the above mentioned poor folk dwelling therein should keep the same sweet and neat, and behave themselves civilly to the said poor travellers; each of whom, at their first coming in, should have 4d. and should warm themselves at the fire of the poor

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dwelling in the said house, if need be. And further, to purchase flax, hemp, yarn, wool, and other necessary stuff, to set the poor of the city to work, he gave to the mayor and citizens all other his lands, tenements, and estates for ever, the annual rents of which at that time amounted to 36l. 16s. 8d. His widow and sole executrix, having married about six years afterwards, and doubts arising about the above will, it was agreed, that she should keep Satis, the furniture, &c. in consideration of which she should pay 100 marcs towards repairing the alms-house, and also all the monies bequeathed by her husband, and clear the land willed of all claims, and convey other lands of the yearly rent of 20l. and the mayor and citizens agreed to purchase hemp, &c. to set the poor to work, and to provide for travellers as directed; and it was agreed, that the succeeding mayors should provide a sufficient citizen to receive and disburse the yearly profits, under the name of PROVIDER, who should deliver an annual account to the dean and chapter or the Bridge wardens; and that the poor residing in the house should be put in by the mayor for the time being. In the above state this charity continued until the year 1672, when the parishes of St. Margaret's and Stroud exhibited a complaint in chancery, that they had no share in this charity, left to the poor of the city of Rochester, although part of their parishes was within the precincts and liberties of the same; that the estate in London was leased by Mr. Watts for ninety-nine years, at 8l. per annum, which lease expired in 1658; that by improvements it then yielded 200l. per ann. that the estates in Chatham brought in yearly 50l. above the

original value, which was 20 marcs; in consequence of which a decree was made, that St. Margaret's parish should receive 30l. per annum till the lease of ninety-nine years of the estate at Chatham expired; that afterwards they should receive six parts out of thirty, which should from time to time be made by any improvements, over and above the said 30l. And that the parish of Stroud should receive 20l. on the same condition; and when the said lease expired, four parts out of thirty of the improved rents, together with the 20l. per annum; and the remaining twenty parts were decreed to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the relief of travellers and other charitable uses. The estates of this charity are now so much improved that they amount to near 500l. per annum. The house appointed for the reception of poor travellers is situated on the north side of the High-street, and is probably the original building. It was repaired by the mayor and citizens in

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1771, at no inconsiderable expence. Agreeable to the benevolent design of the donor, six poor travellers are received into it, and have each of them lodging and entertainment for one night gratis, and 4d. a piece; and that this charity may be more generally known to such as may wish to partake of it, an inscription is placed over the door, informing them of it.

ALEXANDER READYE, of Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, minister of the word of God, by a deed of gift, in 1613, gave to the mayor and citizens the sum of 50l. to be lent by them to two decayed citizens, tradesmen, living in this city; two other antient commoners there, being householders; and two poor maidens born within the same, for the term of four years, with such security and in such manner as is therein mentioned.

ROBERT GUNSLEY, clerk, by his will, in 1618, gave in trust the rectory and parsonage of Broadhempston, in Devonshire, and all lands, tithes, and commodities thereto belonging, to the intent, that presently after his decease, a licence of mortmain should be procured, and the same should be conveyed and assured to such persons as should be thought adviseable for the relief and comfort of the poor people, inhabiting in the parishes of Maidstone and Rochester, by equal portions, to be bestowed in bread every sabbath day to feed them, and in cloaths to cover them, according as the rents would allow, every year. The licence of mortmain was afterwards procured, and the rectory, with its appurtenances, conveyed accordingly. The half part of the present rents and profits of it, amounting to 15l. 15s. is yearly distributed among the poor people of Rochester, agreeable to the will of the donor; which makes a portion of the bread distributed in St. Nicholas's church, after sermon, every Sunday in the afternoon.

The trustees of the estate of Sir JOHN HAYWARD, by the direction of his will, in 1635, settled by indenture, in 1651, 50l. per annum, for the benefit of the poor of St. Nicholas's parish, to be paid out of the manor of Minster, and certain other messuages, lands, &c. in the isle of Shepey. This was for the sole purpose of erecting a workhouse, or otherwise setting to work and employing the poor inhabitants of the said parish, and raising and continuing a stock of money and provisions for that purpose. These Shepey estates increasing in their rents and profits, Francis Barrell, esq. residuary trustee of Sir John Hayward's estates, in 1718, purchased 636l.

South Sea stock, which he transferred to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the perpetual support of three charity schools, to be called, Sir John Hayward's charity schools. Two of these were directed to be in St. Nicholas's parish, for teaching 20 poor boys of that parish; the master to have 12l. per ann. the other for 20 poor girls of the said parish, the mistress to have 8l. per ann. The other school to be in Stroud, the master or mistress to have 10l. per annum, for teaching thirty poor children of that parish and Frindsbury; and if any surplus of the dividends of the above sum should afterwards remain, he directed the same to be laid out in books or otherwise, to the advantage of the schools. The mayor, recorder, late mayor, senior alderman and town clerk, and the ministers of the respective parishes, to be perpetual governors of this charity. There are no buildings erected for these schools, but the children are taught in the respective houses of the masters and mistresses. The above mentioned 636l. has since increased to the sum of 1100l. by additions, in lieu of dividends, and by others, made by Francis Barrell, esq. above mentioned.

ARTHUR BROOKER, esq. by his will, in 1675, gave to the mayor and citizens an annuity of 4l. per annum, issuing out of a messuage and lands, in the parish of Alhallows, in the hundred of Hoo, 20s. thereof to be paid yearly to the minister of St. Nicholas, for an annual sermon in that church, on the day of his burial; the remaining 3l. to be distributed among the poor people of the same parish, 1s. per week in bread, every Sunday in the afternoon; and the residue of 8s. to be given among such poor people as should be present the day whereon the sermon should be preached.

DR. LAMPLUGH, bishop of Exeter, and sometime dean of Rochester, by a deed of gift, in 1678, gave 50l. to the mayor, the dean, and other trustees therein mentioned, for ever, in trust, to be lent to such young men, being freemen, tradesmen and inhabitants within the city of Rochester, as should be by them nominated, in sums not less than 5l. nor more than 10l. on such security as they should approve of, to be repaid within four years, according to the terms and conditions therein mentioned.

SIR RICHARD HEAD, bart. by his will, in 1689, gave several houses and lands, in the parish of Higham, to the mayor and citizens, to bestow the rents, first in keeping the premises in repair, and the residue in providing bread, to be weekly distributed on every Sunday, in the afternoon, in St.

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Nicholas' church, among the most necessitous poor of that parish, by 2s. per week in bread, and the overplus to be divided at the year's end, among four of the most ancient poor men, and the like number of the most ancient poor women, of the same parish. These premises now bring in a clear yearly sum of 10l.

FRANCIS BROOKE, gent. town clerk of this city in 1697, forgave the mayor and citizens a debt of 50l. owing to him, in consideration of their paying an annuity of 4l. for ever out of their estates, to be distributed by their committee of charitable uses, which sum is now annually distributed to poor persons inhabiting this city.

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, one of the representatives in parliament for this city, by his will, proved in 1701, gave 5000l. to be laid out by his executors, in purchasing lands

and tenements, towards the building and perpetually maintaining of a FREE SCHOOL at Rochester, for the instructing and educating the sons of freemen of this city, in the mathematics and other things that might fit and encourage them to the sea service, or arts and callings relating thereto. This legacy was to be appropriated to the intended charity after the sale of the testator's Kentish estates, which was directed to be as soon as convenient, after his decease, before which the claimants were not entitled to any interest in the same. The mayor and citizens, on the delay of the executors to put this part of the will in execution, made many applications to them, but to no purpose, as they availed themselves of the discretionary power for the time of selling the estates vested in them, during which time the freemen's sons were in a worse situation than before Sir Joseph's decease, he having for many years employed a schoolmaster to instruct them at his own expence. In the latter end of the year 1703, the mayor and citizens exhibited their complaint in chancery against the executors for this delay. This cause was long depending in the court of chancery, but in 1708, a decree was obtained, by which it was ordered, that some small portions of Sir Joseph Williamson's estates, lying in Frindsbury, Shorne, and Higham, being appraised and valued with the approbation of both parties, should be immediately transferred to certain trustees, mentioned in the decree, and that the residue of the legacy should be paid at stated times to the said trust. This was at last complied with, but not without great trouble to those who prosecuted this affair on behalf of the city. The court of chancery likewise confirmed certain orders and con-

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stitutions for the settling and perpetual governing the school, wherein it is appointed, that the mayor of Rochester, the dean, the recorder, the master of the Trinity house, the commissioner of Chatham dock-yard, the two representatives for the city, the senior resident prebendary of the cathedral, the two wardens of the bridge, the late mayor, the senior aldermen, and the town clerk, should be for ever the ordinary governors of the same (five of whom at the least should be requisite to act) with power to choose the masters, and make and alter such rules, orders, and constitutions, as they should find necessary and convenient, so that the same should be approved of by the extraordinary governors, for which purpose they should have an annual meeting on the Tuesday next after Midsummer day; and that the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord high chancellor, or lord keeper, the bishop of Rochester, the lord or proprietor of Cobham-hall and park, and their successors for ever, should be the extraordinary governors and visitors of this charitable foundation, and should have power to act in any case, where the ordinary governors fail in their duty, and finally to determine any differences that might arise between the ordinary governors and other the subordinate officers of this foundation. If the revenue of the estate will permit, the upper master was to be allowed 100l. per annum, and the under master or usher, 40l. per annum. The school, with the master's house, is a handsome sashed brick building, well accommodated to the purpose. It is situated on the north side of the High-street, without the city wall, close to the spot where the east gate of the city formerly stood; but unfortunately a great part of the foundation of the building being laid in the rubbish that filled up the ditch of the city wall, the fabric from time to time gave way, which was attended with no small expence to the charity: But the

estates and school are now in so flourishing a condition, that the masters receive their full salaries, and the charity is cleared of every incumbrance. Mr. JOHN COLSON, afterwards mathematical professor at Cambridge, was the first master of this school; and the celebrated actor, Mr. Garrick, whilst under his tuition here, shewed thy early dawns of his great genius; several instances of which are still remembered by several in Rochester.

EXCLUSIVE of the above benefactions for the education of youth, there is a voluntary subscription subsisting, for the educating several children of poor parents, who are not en-

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titled to the above free school. The number at present, who receive the benefit of them, is twenty-two.

THOMAS PLUME, archdeacon of Rochester, by will, in 1704, gave to the city of Rochester, 50*l.* to be lent on good security, by the mayor and aldermen, to five poor tradesmen, for ever, gratis.

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THE
HUNDRED
OF
CHATHAM AND GILLINGHAM.

THE next Hundred eastward from Rochester, is that of CHATHAM and GILLINGHAM, which was formerly esteemed as two separate half hundreds, viz. the half hundred of Chatham, and the half hundred of Gillingham.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. CHATHAM.
2. GILLINGHAM in part.
3. ST. JAMES'S, in the Isle of Graine.

And the churches of those parishes.

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CHATHAM

LIES adjoining to Rochester eastward. It is called in Domesday, CETEHAM, and in the Textus Roffensis, CÆTTHAM. This place seems to take its name from the Saxon words cyte, a cottage, and ham, a village, i. e. the village of cottages.

THE PARISH OF CHATHAM extends four miles in length from north to south, and between two and three miles from east to west. The soil, excepting in the vale, where it is a fertile loamy land, is in general chalk, but in the southern part it is mostly a red earth,

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mixed with flints, and rather unfertile; its northern boundary is the river Medway, near which, in the vale, the town of Chatham, and the dock-yard, with its appendages are situated, hence the chalk hills rise suddenly on all sides. Towards the south it extends over much hilly ground, interspersed with frequent coppice woods, having the look of a wild dreary country. Through the town of Chatham the great high road leads from London to Dover, at the eastward of it is

Chatham-hill, an entire surface of chalk, and just below it in the valley, on the right hand, the hamlet of Luton, near which there is some fertile loamy soil.

THE TOWN OF CHATHAM, the greatest part of which has been built since the reign of queen Elizabeth, adjoins to that of Rochester, which, with Stroud, makes one long street of more than two miles in length, of which Chatham is one, being commonly called the Three Towns, through which the high road leads from London to Dover, as above-mentioned.

It is situated close to the bank of the Medway for about half a mile, after which the river leaving the town flows north-north east. It is like most sea ports, a long, narrow, disagreeable, ill-built town, the houses in general occupied by those trades adapted to the commerce of the shipping and seafaring persons, the Victualling-office, and the two breweries, and one or two more houses, being the only tolerable built houses in it. At the east end of the town is the parish workhouse, built in 1725, on a large and extensive plan. Northward of the High street, close to the foot of the opposite chalk hills, which rise here to a great height, is another part of this town, called the Brook, from its having been built on land of that name, formerly belonging to the priory of Leeds, over most part of which the tide at times frequently flowed, till within these few years. It consists of a long row of houses, which have of late been greatly increased with streets leading from them up the hill, about the middle of which, at some

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distance from all others, is a number of houses, built closely together, called Slicket's hill, so as to form a little town of itself. It is exceeding populous, owing to its numerous connections with the several departments of government, and the shipping business carried on at it. It has a large and well supplied market for meat, poultry, garden stuff, &c. on a Saturday weekly, not only sufficient for its own use, but for the city of Rochester likewise, which is mostly supplied from it. A fair is held in the town yearly, on May 15, and September 19, for three days each, for cloaths, millinery, pedlary, toys, and various sorts of goods. Over a long broad road or causeway, separately railed along for the convenience of carriages, as well as foot passengers, called the Land-wall, built and repaired at the charge of government, leading from the High-street, at about a quarter of a mile's distance close to the river, is the Old Dock, being the repository of royal stores and ordnance; and further on, the Royal Dock, above which, on the chalk hill, lies the village of Brompton, situated partly in this parish, and partly in that of Gillingham, consisting of about four hundred houses, most of which have been erected within the memory of persons now living, and from its pleasantness and near situation to the dock-yard, is continually increasing. Near it are the barracks for the soldiers, which are surrounded by extensive lines of fortification, to defend the docks and stores, on any invasion of the enemy on the land side.

Close to the houses on the opposite or south side of the High-street, over the chalk hill at about a quarter of a mile distance, there has been a new road cut of late

at a very great expence, by the authority of parliament, to avoid the inconvenience of passing through this street./e The inhabitants of Chatham were so much alarmed at this, lest, the thoroughfare of their town

/e See more of this road under Rochester.

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being neglected, their traffic would likewise soon decay, that they refused to have their town comprehended in the act, which those of Rochester obtained, for the new paving and otherwise beautifying that town and Stroud, as the making this new road was to be part of the act. However, they soon found, on the other hand, that if the town of Chatham too was not made more safe and commodious for travellers, the greatest part of them would most probably avoid so unsafe and disagreeable a thoroughfare, by travelling the new road, which again alarmed them so much, that in 1772 they procured an act themselves for the like purposes, which was followed by another more extensive in 1776; in consequence of which the High-street has been new paved and lighted, and several of the annoyances have been removed, which before rendered this narrow thoroughfare so inconvenient and disagreeable to passengers; the expences of which are raised on the proprietors of houses and lands, by a rate not exceeding ninepence in the pound.

The storehouses and wharf, for the use of the ordnance, are situated on a narrow slip of land below the chalk cliff on the north side of the town between the church and the river; this is usually called the Old Dock, from its having been the original royal naval yard, till king James, in the year 1622, finding it too streight for the growing service of the navy, as it had then in it only one small dock, removed the naval yard to its present adjoining situation, and assigned this to the use of the office of ordnance, to which it continues at this time appropriated.

The guns belonging to the royal shipping in this river are deposited on this wharf in long tiers, and large pyramids of cannon-balls are laid up on it, ready for service; there is likewise a continued range of storehouses, in which are deposited the carriages of the guns, and every other kind of store, usually under the care of this office; in one of them is a small armoury of

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muskets, pistols, cutlasses, pikes, polaxes, and other hostile weapons arranged in proper order. This department of the ordnance is under the management of a storekeeper, who has a good house here to reside in, a clerk of the survey, and clerk of the cheque, who have each handsome salaries and separate offices to transact their business in, and two extra clerks, besides other inferior officers and labourers.

THE ROYAL NAVAL DOCK adjoins to the above-mentioned one northward, and ranges along the eastern bank of the river for near a mile in length.

Though, as it has been already taken notice of, king James is said to have removed the naval yard hither, yet it is most probable, that his predecessor, queen Elizabeth, had before made some docks for the shipping

here. King Charles I. much improved his father's plan, he erected several considerable buildings, enlarged the scite of the yard, and made new docks for floating the ships, in with the tide. King Charles II. on his return to his dominions, visited this dock in 1660, and viewed the Royal Sovereign, a first rate man of war of one hundred guns; about seven years after which, this dock, with every matter contained in it, had nearly been destroyed, for in the year 1667, this nation being at that time at war with Holland, Admiral de Ruyter, the Dutch Admiral, with fifty sail of ships, anchored at the Nore, whence he dispatched his vice-admiral Van Ghent, with seventeen sail of his lightest ships and eight fire ships, to destroy this dock and the navy riding in this river. Van Ghent having taken Sheerness, though it was gallantly defended by Sir Edward Spragge, blew up the fortifications and burnt the store-houses, and from thence on the 10th of June sailed up the Medway. The famous general Monk, duke of Albermarle, having in the mean time hastened to Chatham, had done every thing for the security of the river, that the short space of time would admit of, but a strong easterly wind and spring tide brought the enemy on with such

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resistless force, that the chain laid across the river, to prevent their approach, was presently broken, and the Mathias, Unity, and Charles the Fifth, three large Dutch prizes taken in that war, and placed there to guard the chain, were presently burnt by them, and many other vessels damaged. After which, Van Ghent pressing forward between the sunken ships, brought six of his men of war and five of his fire-ships, before Upnor-castle, and notwithstanding they met with as warm a reception as was possible, from the indifferent state that fortress was in, yet they found means to seize the hull of the Royal Charles, when finding the country alarmed, and prepared to oppose them, they ventured no farther up the river, but immediately retreating, on their return burnt the Royal Oak, and in effect destroyed the Loyal London, and the Great James, which they left a great part under water, after which Van Ghent joined Admiral de Ruyter, having lost in this expedition only two ships, which ran on shore, and were burnt by his own people, and 150 men. It appears by the account of the duke of Albermarle, that the whole of this disgrace and misfortune was owing to the wilful neglect of Sir Phineas Pett, commissioner of Chatham yard; for which he was impeached by the house of commons, but means being found to screen him, it came to nothing.

This attempt so surprising and disgraceful, gave the English nation such a just alarm for the safety of the royal navy and yards on the Medway, that the several forts along the banks of it were immediately put in a proper posture of defence, especially the fort of Sheerness, where the fortifications were greatly increased and a line of such heavy cannon mounted on them, commanding the entrance of the river, that it is hardly possible for the fleet of any power to attempt to pass them for the future, without being torn to pieces.

This dock-yard has been from time to time greatly improved and enlarged, especially within these few years; there are many elegant buildings in it, inhabited

by the commissioner and other principal officers belonging to it, which will become the opulence of the nation, and the importance of the navy; besides which there are many neat and commodious offices for transacting the business of the yard. There are large storehouses, one of which is six hundred and sixty feet long, and work-rooms, which by their spaciousness, convey to us a magnificent idea of their vast contents, and the extensive works carried on within them. The sail-loft, in which the sails are made, is two hundred and nine feet in length. In these magazines are deposited prodigious quantities of sails, rigging, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, rosin, and every other ingredient necessary for the building and equipping of ships. The coils of cordage, and heaps of blocks, with every other article, are arranged in such order, that on any emergency they may be taken out without the least confusion. For every department there are proper officers and attendants assigned, for the more expeditious dispatch of business; so that even a first rate is often equipped for sea in a few weeks. The masts are carefully deposited in storehouses, peculiarly adapted for this purpose, one of which is two hundred and thirty-six feet in length, and one hundred and twenty feet wide; some of these masts are near one hundred and twenty feet long, and thirty-six inches in diameter. There are also two spacious basons of water, where the timber for these masts is kept continually floating till it is wanted for use. The smith's shop contains twenty-one fires; here the anchors are made, some of which weigh near five tons. The new rope-house is very extensive, being 1140 feet in length; here large quantities of hemp are twisted into cables, some of them one hundred and twenty fathoms long, and twenty-two inches round. In this yard there are four deep and wide docks, for docking and repairing large ships, in one of these the Victory was built, a first rate ship, the largest then in the universe, as it is said, carrying one hundred and ten guns. There

are also six slips or launches, on which new ships are constantly building. The new Royal George, of one hundred guns, was built here in 1788, and was the first ship of that rate ever launched from a slip. The Royal Charlotte, of the same dimensions, was launched in 1790, and the Ville de Paris, of one hundred and ten guns, and of much larger dimensions, has been launched here since. The whole of the yard, towards the land, is surrounded with a wall; the approach to it is through a large handsome gateway, flanked by two towers and embattled. This gate is strictly watched by the porter and his assistants, who examine every stranger before he is permitted to enter the yard.

The business of this yard is transacted by a commissioner, who has three clerks under him, a clerk of the cheque, storekeeper, master-shipwright or builder, clerk of the survey, and two master attendants, two master shipwright's assistants, master caulker, clerk of the rope-yard, master ropemaker, a boatswain, purveyor, surgeon, and other inferior officers. The better to secure these magazines from any mischief or ac-

cident, there passed two acts in the 8th year of queen Anne, for vesting certain lands and tenements in trustees, for the better fortifying and securing this dock, among others; in pursuance of which a large quantity of land, and many houses, which lay adjoining to this yard and the Old Dock, were purchased for the crown; but nothing further was done in this matter, till the year 1758, anno 31 George II. when this nation being then at war with France, and threatened with an invasion from the enemy, it was thought necessary, as far as possible, to secure the docks from any attempt that might be made on them; to effect which, another act passed that year, for the purchase of more lands, and vesting them in the crown, and extensive lines were immediately formed round the dock on the land side, secured by rampants, pallisades, and a deep broad ditch, extending from the river above the Old Dock, to the

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same again below the yard next Gillingham, about a mile in length, and including the hamlet of Brumpton, and Chatham church, with several houses near it, near which spot the most antient street of this town is supposed to have been situated. Large and commodious barracks were likewise erected within them, sufficient to contain five regiments of soldiers, and a battalion of artillery, which are constantly quartered here, to guard and defend these lines and the docks, whenever occasion should require. These fortifications have been repaired and augmented, at a very considerable expence; a new redoubt has been made, at the summit of the hill, at the south-east extremity of them, called Amherst's redoubt, and a sort is intended to be added on the river Medway, for the better protection of it against the common enemy. Since which another act passed in 1782, for vesting further lands on the south side of the town in the crown, for extending the lines on that side to wherever it should be thought proper, for the further security of this grand arsenal of the navy of Great-Britain.

At the entrance of Chatham from Rochester, on the north side of the High-street, is the Victualling-office, for the use of the royal navy lying here, at Sheerness, and the Nore. In it there is a cooperage, pickling, baking, cutting, slaughter, and store-houses. A new wharf has been lately made to it, and additional buildings erected for the further convenience and service of the victualling. /f This office is under the management of an agent victualler, and a store-keeper. The inhabitants of Chatham, with those of Gillingham, were antiently bound to contribute to the second pier of Rochester bridge.

From the vicinity of this place to Rochester, which was most undoubtedly a station in the time of the Romans, it would appear strange if some vestiges of that

/f History of Rochester, p. 275.

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nation were not found in Chatham, or near adjoining to it. The summit of the hill to the northward of the town points out from its situation, how necessary the possession of it must have been to the Romans, for the

safety of their adjoining station. Indeed within these few years, there have been discovered sufficient proofs of its not having been neglected by them; for in throwing up the lines of fortification, for the defence of the dock-yard, at Brompton, in the year 1756, on the west side, a little below the summit of the hill, at the south-east extremity of the lines near Upbery-farm, were found ten or twelve graves in which were human skeletons, and in some of them different pieces of armour, a part of a helmet, the head of a spear, the umbo of a shield, a large sword, many beads of different colours, &c. and afterwards a tumulus was discovered, having in it an urn filled with ashes. Many more graves have been opened since near the above, as the military works have been carried on, in which human skeletons of both sexes have been found entire, together with swords, heads of spears, &c. and in one of them a bottle, made of red earth, resembling in shape a modern water bottle. Great numbers of Roman coins, but mostly obliterated, have been found scattered about this place, and it seems probable that there have been many tumuli over the whole of it, which the plough has long since levelled, the graves of which have not been as yet discovered. On the breaking up the ground for the making of Amherst's road, in 1779, about forty rods west-north-west of Upbery-farm, in a line with Chatham church, the workmen met with the strong foundation of a building, in some parts not more than four or five inches below the surface, but in others somewhat more. Its depth was about six feet and an half, the width twelve feet, and apparent length, as far as can be judged at present from the breadth of the trench, about eighteen feet. On clearing the earth from it, this foundation ap-

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peared to be the outside and party walls, about two feet thick, of several small cells or rooms, lying in a range south-south east; one of these was in size nine feet three inches, by seven feet three inches, another ten feet square, and a third ten feet by seven feet; the floors of them were of sand, for there was no pavement remaining, about four feet and a half below the surface of the hill; the insides of the walls were done in the antique fresco, with red, blue and green spots, and among the rubbish many pieces were found with broad red and other coloured narrow stripes on them; and on some the marks of the brush were very visible.

Among the rubbish of the adjoining ground, as well as in sinking the ditch to the southward of them, there have been found scattered about many human bones, pieces of Roman brick and tile, numbers of Roman coins, among which was one of the empress Faustina, and one of the emperor Claudius, very fair; several small pieces of iron, heads of spears, an iron ring, together with a variety of broken urns, pots, lachrymatories, &c. but all of them much broken, which might happen from their being deposited on the summit of the hill, from whence the plough continually forcing the earth into the hollow below, at the same time broke these vessels in pieces with the point of it, though it might not penetrate deep enough to turn them upon the surface of the ground. The bones were so much

decayed as to crumble into dust, on being pressed between the finger and thumb. The urns, &c. were composed of different kinds of earth; some of them, among which were the pateræ, were of a fine coralline red, as well within side as without; others were of a lead colour, and the larger ones of a coarse black earth, mixed with sea sand, as appeared by the small pieces of shells remaining in them. On the west-south-west side of these cells the foundation of a larger building, not so deep in the ground as the others, was discovered, which was traced within the redoubt, as far as the bank of

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earth thrown out of the ditch would permit, and was found to measure thirty feet by twenty-one.

What these foundations are the remains of, time only can shew; in all probability much more of them remain undiscovered, to clear up the use of them. But the tumuli, and other sepulchral fragments, belonging to persons of both sexes, plainly shew it to have been a common place of burial in the time of the Romans, as well for their station at Rochester, as the use of their stationary summer camp, established here, or near adjoining to it. Mr. Douglas, in his *Nenia Britannica*, has published his observations on the various Roman remains discovered within these lines at different times, with several engravings of the tumuli opened, and the contents found in them. Besides the Roman coins a great number of old English, French, and German coins, and many different sorts of tradesmen's tokens have been found scattered about grounds here.

The Roman road, as has been already mentioned, is not to be found on this side Cobham park-gate, where it loses itself in the woods, and does not discover itself again till it comes to the top of Chatham-hill, although in the field where the above-mentioned foundations have been discovered, there appears a very large raised way, running quite across the field, and pointing south-south-east, beyond which there is nothing further to be seen of it. Some of our antiquarians have doubted, if this was not part of the Roman road; but as this would leave Rochester, which is by all allowed to be the Roman station after Vagniacæ, near a mile to the southward, they have given that conjecture up, and have rather chosen to follow it up Chatham-hill, at the top of which the left hand or north hedge of the high road seems to stand upon it for a great way, as may be perceived not only from the rising and falling of the ground on each side, but from the breaks of the hedges, and the intersections of other cross roads between Chatham and Rainham.

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Indeed, lately some further discovery has been supposed to have been made of the remains of it, from the top of Chatham hill westward, close to the south side of the present high road, as far down the hill as the house known by the name of the White Horse, which seems to stand upon them, beyond which nothing more of them is to be seen, these remains of the Roman road, if they are such, point in a direct line south-westward to the windmill near St. Margaret's church in Rochester, and the gate of Cobham-park above-mentioned.

CHATHAM gave the TITLE OF BARON to John, the great duke of Argyle, who was in 1705, anno 4 queen Anne, created baron of Chatham and earl of Greenwich in this county, to him and his heirs male. In 1719 he was created duke of Greenwich, and died in October, 1743, without male issue, so that the above titles became extinct./g

The lady Hester Pitt, sister of Richard, earl Temple, and wife of the right hon. William Pitt, in consideration of his great and important services to this nation, was in 1761, created baroness of Chatham, with a continuance of the title to her and her heirs male, by her said husband.

On July 30, 1766, the above-mentioned right hon. William Pitt, on a further consideration of his services, was created viscount Pitt, of Burton Pynsent, in Somersetshire, and earl of Chatham, with remainder to his heirs male. He died in 1778, leaving by the lady Hester his wife, John, now earl of Chatham, William, now a privy counsellor, chancellor of the exchequer, and prime minister of this kingdom, &c. and James-Charles, who died in the West-Indies in 1780, unmarried, and two daughters, Hester, married to Charles, viscount Mahon, now earl Stanhope, and Harriot, married to Edward, eldest son of lord Eliot.

/g See vol. i. of this history, under Greenwich, p. 382, and Sundridge, vol. ii. p. 14.

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ON THE SOUTH side of Chatham-hill, and on the chalk hills in this parish southward from it, are found several different kinds of the satyrion, or orchis plant, viz.

Orchis hermaphroditica, the butterfly satyrion.

Testiculus psychodes, the gnat satyrion.

Testiculus vulpinus spegodes, the humble-bee orchis.

Orchis melittias, the bee orchis.

Orchis myodes, the fly satyrion.

Orchis ornithophora, birds satyrion.

Orchis ornithophora folio maculoso, spotted birds orchis.

All these sorts I have frequently gathered myself there, year after year.

The following have been observed by our old botanists in this parish:

Limonium, sea lavender, below the Old Dock.

Rubra spicata cretica, small candy madder, in great plenty on Chatham-hill./h

IN THE TIME of Edward the Confessor, Chatham was in the possession of Godwin, earl of Kent, on whose death it descended to his eldest son, Harold, afterwards king of England, who being slain at the battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror seized Harold's possessions, and gave this estate, among others, to his half-brother, Odo, bishop of Baieux; accordingly this place is thus entered, under the general title of that prelate's lands, in Domesday:

In Ceteham hundred, Robert Latin holds Ceteham to ferm of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is sixteen carucates. In demesne there are three, and 33 villeins, with four bor-

derers having 10 carucates. There is a church, and 15 servants, and one mill of thirty-two pence, and twenty acres of meadow, and six fisheries of 12 pence. Wood

/h Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 412.

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for the pannage of one hog. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth 12 pounds, now 15 pounds, and yet it pays 35 pounds. Earl Goduin held it.

On the disgrace of the bishop, about four years afterwards, the king seized on this, among the rest of his possessions, which became confiscated to the crown. After which Chatham appears to have been granted to the eminent family of Crevequer, written in Latin, *De Crepito Corde*, this being their seat, or *Caput Baronie*, i. e. the principal manor of their barony, for some time, until they removed themselves to Leeds castle, being before frequently written *Domini de Cetham*. They bore for their arms, Gules, a plain cross, or, as they appear on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury, and impaled with those of Albrineis, were put up in the window of All Saints church, in that city.

Robert, son of Hamon, or Hamo de Crevequer, who had probably the grant of this estate from the Conqueror, appears to have held it of the king, as of his castle of Dover, in capite, by barony, their barony, which consisted of five knights fees, being stiled *Baronia de Crevequer*. His son Hamo, commonly called from his office Hamo Dapifer, left a son Robert, who erected Leeds castle, and the priory there, in 1119, to the former of which he afterwards removed the capital seat of his barony, whose great grandson Hamo died in the 47th year of king Henry III. being then possessed of this manor of Chatham, held as before-mentioned, and the manors of Farleigh and Teston, likewise in capite, as members of it, belonging, as well as the manor Ledes, to his barony. He left Robert, his grandson, son of Hamo his heir, who afterwards taking part with the barons against the king, this among other estates was seized on, and though he was afterwards restored to the king's favor, yet he never gained possession of this manor, which seems to have remained in the hands of the crown till the 19th year of king Ed-

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ward I. when it was granted to Guido Ferre for the term of his life. He died possessed of it in the 4th year of Edward III. the same being then of the inheritance of Giles de Badlesmere, and held in capite by knight's service.

Giles de Badlesmere was only son and heir of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who had had a grant of this manor from king Edward II. in his 11th year. In the 7th year of king Edward III. he had possession granted of his lands, though he had not then accomplished his full age. After which having received summons to parliament, he died in the 12th year of that reign, without issue, being then possessed of this manor, and leaving his four sisters his coheirs.

On the division of whose inheritance, the manor was allotted to the share of Margaret, the youngest sister,

wife of Sir John Tiptoft,^{/k} who died before him; but he having issue by her, continued in possession of this manor by the courtesy of England, for his life, and died possessed of it anno 41 king Edward III. holding it in capite, by the service of one knight's fee. Their son and heir, Sir Thomas Tiptoft, died in the 46th year of that reign, without male issue, so that his three daughters became his coheirs; of whom the youngest, Elizabeth, married Sir Philip le Despencer, who on the partition of their estates, had this manor allotted to her share, she died before her husband; but leaving a daughter and heir, Margery, Sir Philip continued in possession of it for his life, on whose death, in the 2d year of king Henry VI. Margery, his daughter, inherited this manor, being then the wife of Roger Wentworth, esq. who in her right became entitled to it.^{/l} Their descendant, Sir Thomas Wentworth, of Nettlested, in Suffolk, was summoned to parliament anno 20

^{/i} Pat. in Turr. de anno 11 and 12 Edward II. pars 1 ma.

^{/k} Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 39, 59. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

^{/l} See the second volume of this History, p. 478.

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Henry VIII. among the peers of this realm, and died in the 5th year of king Edward VI. being then lord chamberlain of the king's household, and was buried in Westminster abbey. Thomas lord Wentworth, his son and heir, succeeded to this manor, and was made deputy of Calais, from which trust he was, however, shortly after removed, on account of his youth and inexperience. On king Edward's death he was one of the first who appeared for queen Mary, who, in the 1st year of her reign, made him a privy counsellor, and again deputy of Calais, and the marches of it; which office he held till the fatal loss of that place.

In the 8th year of queen Elizabeth, he alienated the manor of Chatham to Francis Barneham and Stephen Slanie, who quickly after passed away their interest in it to John Hart and Michael Barker; and they, in the 20th year of that reign, had licence to alienate it to Reginald Barker, esq. who died in 1600, and was buried in Chatham church, where an altar tomb was erected to his memory, with the effigies of him and his wife on it. He bore for his arms, Barry or and sable, a bend gules, in chief a crescent sable, for difference. Anne his widow sold it to Sir Robert Jackson, who, in the reign of king Charles I. conveyed it by sale to Sir Oliver Boteler, then of Teston; whose grandson, Sir Oliver Boteler, bart. gave it in marriage with his daughter Joan, to Christopher Rhodes, esq. whose son of the same name, afterwards possessed it, and bore for his arms, On a bend a lion passant guardant, in the dexter point an acorn. On his death, s. p. his sister marrying Charles Birkhead, esq. intitled her husband to it, and he is the present possessor of this manor.

There is a market and two fairs belonging to this manor; the former is held weekly on a Saturday, and the latter on May 15, and Sept. 19, yearly, and holds for three days each time.

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WADESLADE, or Walderslade, now vulgarly called WASLETT, is a manor here, which was formerly accounted a member of the manor of Chatham, of which it is now held. After the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, it came into the possession of the Crevequer's, from whom it passed into the family of Leyborne, of Leyborne in this county.

Henry de Leyborne, in the 4th year of king Edward II. obtained a charter of free warren for his lands in Warderslade, Sharstede, and Lydesynge, in this parish. In the 28th year of king Edward I. he, with his brother Simon, had attended the king in his expedition into Scotland, and was present with many others of the gentry of this county at the siege of Carlaverock, and were both knighted for their services there. They seem both to have been younger brothers of William de Leyborne, of Leyborne castle. On the death of Sir Henry de Leyborne, it is probable this manor descended to his niece, Juliana de Leyborne, who having issue by neither of her husbands, each of whom she survived, it escheated to the crown for want of heirs, for it appears by the inquisition, taken in the 43d year of king Edward III. after her death, that there was then no one who could make claim to her estates, either by direct, or even collateral alliance. After which, this estate continued in the crown till king Richard II. in his 11th year, gave it to the priory of canons, alias Chiltern Langley, in Hertfordshire, where it continued till the dissolution of that house in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. who, in his 31st year, granted to Richard, suffragan bishop of Dover, this manor, together with the scite of the above monastery, and all other lands and possessions belonging to it, in Hertfordshire and Kent, excepting two marshes and a small parcel of land in Preston, in this county, to hold during his

/m Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 42. Philipott, 104, 218.

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life, without any rent or account whatever, provided, that if he should be promoted to one or more ecclesiastical benefices, or other dignity or annuity of the yearly value of one hundred pounds, that then this grant should be void. His name was Thornden, alias Stede. On the foundation of the dean and chapter of Christ church, in Canterbury, anno 33 Henry VIII. he was made one of the new prebendaries of it, and soon after rector of Adisham, in this county, which probably vacated the above grant; however, this certainly happened before the 36th year of that reign, for the king that year granted it to Sir Thomas Moile, to hold in capite by knights service; and he gave it in marriage with his youngest daughter and coheir, Amy, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Ollantigh in Wye; who, in the 9th year of queen Elizabeth, passed it away, by the name of the manor of Waldesland, alias North Waldesland, in Chatham, to John Mabbe, sen. goldsmith, of London, as he did in the 20th, to William Emmes and Catherine his wife; who, in the 25th year of that reign, alienated it to Rich. Fogge, gent. and he the next year sold it to Mr. Thomas Cocks, who transferred it in like manner in the 36th year of

the same reign, to Richard Lee, esq. of Delce, in Rochester; whose eldest son, Richard Lee, esq. succeeded to this estate, but quickly afterwards gave up his right in it to his next brother, Thomas Lee, who dying without issue, gave it by his will to his nephew, Richard, eldest son of his brother, Richard Lee, of Delce, and his descendant of the same name passed it away in queen Anne's reign to Sir Owen Buckingham, alderman of London, and lord mayor in 1705. He died possessed of Wadeslade in 1713, leaving by Frances, his second wife, a son, Owen Buckingham, esq. who died possessed of it in 1720, being killed in

Philipott, p. 104. MSS. pedigree, Lee. See Great Delce, in Rochester. Chatham court rolls.

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a duel. After his decease it came to the Manleys of Reading, and from that name it passed in moieties, one of which came into the possession of William Bosville, esq. whose eldest son and heir, Henry Bosville, esq. of Bradborne, in Sevenoke, dying in 1761, unmarried, devised this moiety to his kinsman, Sir Richard Betenson, of Bradborne, bart. on whose death, s. p. this moiety went, by the limitation of Mr. Bosville's will, to Thomas Lane, esq. of Sevenoke, who is the present owner of it. The other moiety of Wadeslade passed from the Manleys into the name of Lisle, from whence it was alienated to Dr. Philip Bearcroft, on whose decease it descended to his three sons, Philip, Edward, and John Bearcroft, and they some few years ago joined in the sale of it to Abraham Chambers, esq. of London; he died in 1782, leaving his widow surviving, and two sons, who are, as coheirs in gavelkind, the present possessors of his moiety of it. There is a court baron now held for this manor.

SHARSTED, vulgarly called SHAWSTED, is a manor lying among the woods in the southern part of this parish, which had antiently owners who took their surname from it.

Fulco de Sharsted held it as half a knight's fee, in the beginning of the reign of king Edward I. and Simon de Sharsted died possessed of it, and likewise of a moiety of the manor of Lydsing, in this parish and Gillingham, in the 25th year of that reign, at which time he held this manor as half a knight's fee. In the reign of king Edward II. Sir Henry de Leyborne was possessed of it, in the 4th year of which he obtained charter of free warren for his lands in Sharstede, Lydesinge, and elsewhere in this parish. Isabella his widow, paid aid for this manor in the 20th year of king Edward III. holding it as half a knight's fee of the honour of Ledes. Soon after which

See Bradborne, in Sevenoke, vol. ii. p. 84.

Book of Knight's fees in the Exchequer. Rot. Esch ejus an.

Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 42.

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it came into the family of Say, for in the 30th year of the above reign Sir Roger de Say, granted to his brother, Sir Jeffry de Say, his manor of Sharstede and Lydesynge, in the parishes of Chatham and Gillingham, with their appurtenances, to hold in perpetual

inheritance. He seems to have alienated it to Robert Belknapp, who, in the 50th year of king Edward III. granted the manor of Sharstede, and a moiety of the manor of Lidesynge in Chatham and Woldeham, with their appurtenances, to the prior and convent of Rochester, at the yearly rent of twenty-two marcs for ever, and performing likewise certain religious services, as is therein mentioned. This manor of Sharsted, with that of Lydsyng, continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled them on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance of them remains at present. The present lease of these manors is vested in Mr. John Boghurst, of Stroud.

HORSTED is a manor in this parish, part of the lands of which are in Rochester, the boundary of the liberty of that city extending towards the south-east, as far as this house.

This place is supposed to take its name from Horsa, the Saxon general, and brother of Hengist, the first king of Kent, who engaging the Britons under the command of Catigern, brother of king Vortimer, the chiefs encountering each other hand to hand, were both killed on the spot; Catigern is supposed to have been buried near the field of battle, at the place now called Kit's Coty house; and Horsa at this place, which, from that circumstance, assumed the name of

/s Reg. Roff. p. 220, 221, 222. See more of this manor in Tan. Not. Mon. p. 203. viz. Pat. 6 R. 2. p. 2. m. 18. Pat. 16, R. 2. p. 3. m. 7. Rec. in Scacc. 12 Hen. VIII. Pasch. Rot. 12.

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Horsted, i. e. the place of Horsa. In the fields near it, there are number of large stones dispersed over the lands, some standing upright, and others thrown down by time, which it is probable were placed as memorials of those who were slain on the side of the Saxons in this memorable rencounter, and were buried here.

This manor, in the reign of king Henry III. was part of the possessions of the eminent family of Apulderfeld; for in the 38th year of it, William de Apulderfeld obtained a charter of free warren for his lands at Horsted. After they were become extinct here, it became the property of Waryn, one of whom, John, son of Edmund Waryn, died possessed of it in the 12th year of king Edward III. From this name it passed to Benedict de Fulsham, who was lord of it in the 30th year of that reign. His descendant, Richard Fulsham, held it at his death, in the 5th year of king Henry V. Soon after which it passed into that of Love; Reginald Love died possessed of it in the 9th year of the above reign, and his successor held it till the latter end of king Henry VI. when it passed by sale to William Venour, who died possessed of Horsted in the 1st year of king Edward IV. After which it was, within a few months, conveyed to Markham, in which name it staid but a very short time before it was conveyed to Tate, who passed it away to Sir Richard Lee, citizen and grocer of London, in

whose descendants this manor remained till Richard Lee, esq. of Delce, in Rochester, in the reign of queen Anne, passed it away by sale to Robert Harvey, esq. of Crimplesham, in Norfolk; and he, in 1717, alienated it, with other estates, to William Walter, esq. of Chatham, who dying in 1745, gave this manor by will to his nephew, Thomas Walter, esq. and he, soon after the year 1767, conveyed it, with other

/t Lambarde's Peramb. p. 393. See vol. i. p. 5, of this History.
/u Philipott, p. 293. Rot. Esch. an.

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estates in this parish, to Benjamin Hatley Foote, esq. on whose death, in 1791, his son, George Talbot Hatley Foote, succeeded to it, and is the present owner of it. There is no court held for this manor.

SNODHURST, now vulgarly called Snolledge, is an hamlet here, which was formerly part of the possessions of the family of Crevequer, lords of Chatham. Part of it seems to have been accounted an appendage to the manor of Great Delce, and is said, in the records of the time of king Edward III. to have consisted of sixty acres of land, which are likewise called a carucate, and in others the fourth part of a knight's fee, and are said to lie in Parva, or Little Chatham.

Snodhurst, in the beginning of the reign of king Edward II. was in the possession of the family of Badlesmere. Bartholomew de Badlesmere, in the 9th year of that reign, obtained a charter of free warren for his lands in Snodhurst and Chatham; but at the latter end of it, associating with the barons against the king, he was taken and executed at Canterbury, being then possessed of this estate, as appears by the inquisition taken in the 2d of Edward III. Notwithstanding this delinquency, his young son, Giles de Badlesmere, found so much favour with the king, that in the 7th of Edward III. doing his homage, he had possession granted of his inheritance, though he had not then accomplished his full age. He died in the 12th year of that reign without issue, upon which his four sisters became his coheirs; and on the division of their inheritance, although Maud the eldest sister, wife of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, had some small part of it, yet Elizabeth, the second sister, wife of William Bohun, earl of Northampton, had by far the greatest share of it allotted to her; however, she appears to have parted with her interest in it before the latter end of that reign, when Benedict de Fulsham appears to have died possessed of it; and his descendant held it at his death, in the 5th year of king Henry V.

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after which this estate passed through the like succession of ownership as Great Delce, in Rochester, before described, till the reign of queen Anne, when Rich. Lee, esq. of Great Delce, passed it away by sale to Robert Harvey, esq. of Crimplesham, in Norfolk; and he, in 1717, alienated it, with other estates, to William Walter, esq. of Chatham, who bore for his arms, Azure, a fess indented or, between three spread eagles argent. He died in 1745, and gave this estate to his nephew, Thomas Walter, esq. who, soon after

the year 1767, conveyed it, with other estates in this parish, and St. Margaret's in Rochester, to Benjamin Hatley Foote, esq. whose son, George Talbot Hatley Foote, esq. is the present owner of it.

SETTINGTON, alias SITTINGTON, is a farm and reputed manor in this parish, which, in the reign of king James I. was part of those ample possessions in this parish and neighbourhood, which were owned by Sir Maximilian Dalyson; who, at his death, gave this estate to his son of the same name, who in like manner gave it to his second son, Mr. Charles Dalyson, gent. of Chatham, and he alienated it to Mr. Isaac Walker, gent. of Luton, in this parish, who devised it by his will to his three sons, Richard, Isaac, and William, whose several shares in the year 1714, were become centered in Mr. John Walker, the only surviving son of Richard; he passed it away by sale to Richard Venner, of Northfleet, whose heirs sold it to Mr. Laurence, of Evans; from whom it was sold in the year 1773, to Mr. John Holloway, of London, the present proprietor of it; who has, as I am informed, lately alienated it.

There is a good old mansion, called ROOM-HOUSE, situated at a small distance from the High-street of Chatham, on the south side of it, in the road leading from thence to Maidstone. This was formerly the seat of the Walkers, who alienated it to commodore Mihell; he sold it to George Hinde, esq. after whose

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death it was possessed by his widow, and she carried her interest in it in marriage to George Monroe, esq. since which it has been sold to James Best, esq. of Chatham, who died in 1782; one of whose sons, Mr. Richard Best, now resides in it.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, founded by Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in 1078, the year after his advancement to that see, was situated adjoining to the south side of the High-street, less than a quarter of a mile from the entrance into this parish from Rochester. It was originally instituted as a lazar-house, i. e. for the reception of poor and leprous persons, and consisted of a master, who was sometimes stiled custos, or warden, and at others, prior, and of brethren and sisters. The original revenues of it were but small, and though they were afterwards increased at different times, and confirmed by king Henry III. and his successors, yet this hospital probably would before long have sunk into ruin, had not the founder so firmly connected it with the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, the prior and chapter of which he ordained perpetual patrons of it. From the time of their foundation, the poor brethren received weekly and daily allowances of provisions from the above convent, who permitted them to take to their use the oblations and profits of the altars of St. James and St. Giles in their cathedral; they had besides the privilege of taking alms from those persons who dined at the archbishop's table on the day of his installation, and the cloth which covered the table was their perquisite. In the reign of king Henry VI. an attempt was made to prove this hospital to have been founded by the king's progenitors, but on an inquisition being taken it was found that neither the king, nor

any of his predecessors ever were founders of it, nor had he or they any interest in it as such.

/w Tan. Not. Mon. p. 211. History of Rochester, p. 277.

/x Reg. Roff. p. 218.

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Notwithstanding what has been mentioned before, concerning the dependence of this hospital on the priory of St. Andrew, there is no doubt of its having always been a corporation distinct from the priory; for especial grants were made to them, and the master and brethren were tenants to the convent, for lands held by them of one of the manors belonging to it. They also demised their estates in a corporate capacity, and were from time immemorial possessed of a common seal.

The dissolution of the priory of Rochester was, no doubt, sensibly felt by the poor members of this hospital; for the constant charitable supply held forth to them by the convent being withdrawn, they had no other support than what arose from the revenue of their small estate, which probably did not much exceed thirteen pounds per annum.

How this hospital escaped the general dissolution of these houses in the reigns of king Henry VIII. and king Edward VI. I have not found; but it was certainly in being, in the year 1579, anno 22 queen Elizabeth; probably the poverty of its revenues might be the cause of its preservation. In the above year a suit was commenced in the exchequer against the brethren, upon the pretence of concealment, as appears by the letter wrote that year by Yonge, bishop of Rochester, to the lord treasurer Burleigh, in behalf of this house, which he stiles, the poor hospital of Chatham; and Lambarde, who wrote his Perambulation about this time, calls it a poor shew of a decayed hospital, and the bishop, in his letter above-mentioned, says, that the suit would be to the utter spoil and undoing of certain poor lazars, and other poor and impotent persons then resiant here, and not only of them, but of such like, who might stand in need of the same in time to come. This letter seems to have had the desired effect, and to have stopped all further proceedings against it at that time. In the reign of king James I. a like plea was again set up, and a grant was made by that prince, in

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the 17th year of his reign, to several different persons, at the nomination of James, viscount Doncaster; which suit was defended by the poor brethren, by the advice and with the assistance and cost of the successive deans of Rochester, till the beginning of Charles I's reign, when the whole was referred to arbitration, and settled to the satisfaction of the hospital; the above grant and all other claims on it, being dismissed and compromised by the pains and at the cost of Dr. Balcanqual, then dean of Rochester. In this deed of arbitration, it appears, that from the foundation of the chapter anno 33 Henry VIII. the deans of Rochester had been patrons of this hospital, and ever had the placing of the poor brethren in it, and the disposing and letting of all the lands and tenements belonging to it./y

Since the restoration the estates of this hospital have been enjoyed by the successive deans of Rochester, as patrons of it. The hospital itself has been long since demolished, part of the chapel being all that remains of this antient structure. There were formerly only three brethren, one of whom was always a clergyman, and officiated as the chaplain in this chapel. But in 1718, dean Pratt made an alteration in this respect, by appointing a second chaplain, who was likewise to enjoy the privileges and emoluments of a brother, and at present there are four brethren of this society, two of whom are in orders.^{/z} No part of the mansion of this hospital remains at this time, houses having been long since erected on the scite of it, but the chapel, which in the time of king Edward III. appears to have had a cemetery belonging to it, is now standing close by it, and has been erected at different periods.^{/a} The most antient part is the east end, which is probably the remains of the original structure, which was erected by

^{/y} Reg. Roff. p. 224.

^{/z} History of Rochester, p. 281.

^{/a} A view of it is engraved in the Customale Roffense, pl. 1.

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Hugh de Trottesclyve, a monk of Rochester, in the time of Henry I. for the use of the lepers, and dedicated by him to St. Bartholomew. It is a small circus, having three narrow gothic windows, and is built and roofed with stone; hence a chancel extends to the west, which, though antient, does not appear of equal antiquity with the others. Dean Pratt purchased the remainder of the lease of this part of the building, then demised out to other uses, and having repaired it, fitted it up with wainscotting and pews. From this chancel an additional building is continued farther westward, new built in 1743, at the expence of William Walter, esq. of Chatham, who new pewed it, erected the steeple, and was otherwise a considerable benefactor to this chapel, which is of the greatest use to the inhabitants of this part of the town, the parish church being at so great a distance from it.

The FUND, usually stiled THE CHEST AT CHATHAM, the produce of which is regularly appropriated to the relief of sailors, who have been wounded in the service of the Crown, was first planned by Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins, in the year 1588, after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, when the seamen of the royal navy voluntarily agreed to advance a certain proportion of their pay towards the support of their distressed brethren. This was found to answer so well the benevolent purposes for which it was designed, that it has been continued to the present time, and has at various times been countenanced and encouraged by the crown and legislative authority; and in the 1st year of king James II. when a further duty of five shillings per ton was laid on all foreign built ships, one moiety of it was given, by parliament, to the use of this charity, which is besides possessed of several estates of land in this county. It is under the management of several governors, with an accountant, paymaster, clerk, and surgeon. The gratuities and pensions are distributed from the produce of the

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revenues to such seamen, wounded or hurt in the service, as appear adequate to their loss or sufferings, as are set forth in the smart ticket made out by the surgeon, and signed by the captain, lieutenant, master, and all the warrant officers.

Sir John Hawkins above mentioned, was the son of William Hawkins, who was the first Englishman that made a voyage to Brasil; he was born at Plymouth in 1520, and was esteemed a valiant and experienced seaman; Hawkins, Drake, and Forbisher, then reputed three of the best sea officers of the time, acted as vice admirals under Charles lord Howard of Effingham, on board the fleet prepared to oppose the Spanish Armada, and the former was knighted by that nobleman, then lord high admiral, for his skilful and gallant conduct in that expedition. Sir John Hawkins died in 1595, aged 44, on board the Garland man of war, in sight of the island of Porto Rico, in the Spanish West Indies, and his body was committed, as is usual, to the sea. His second wife survived him, and erected a monument to his memory, in St. Dunstan's in the East church, London, in which parish he had lived. By will he bequeathed sums to the poor of that parish, Deptford, and Plymouth./b

SIR JOHN HAWKINS, not satisfied with having promoted this benevolent scheme, soon afterwards founded and endowed, at his own costs, an HOSPITAL in this town, nearly opposite to St. Bartholomew's before mentioned, as a comfortable retreat for poor decayed mariners and shipwrights. The building for their reception appears, from an old inscription cut in the wall over the entrance, to have been finished in 1592; and in 1594, queen Elizabeth, at the request of the founder, granted a charter of incorporation, by the name of, The Governors of the hospital of Sir John

/b Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 44. See his Life, in Biog. Brit. vol. iv. p. 2556.

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Hawkins, in Chatham. By this charter the governors were to consist of twenty-six persons, of which number four only were to be elective, and the others were to be invested with this trust by virtue of their respective offices, viz. the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of Rochester, the lord high admiral, the lord warden, the dean of Rochester, the treasurer, the comptroller, surveyor and clerk of the navy, six principal masters of mariners, two principal shipwrights, and the master and wardens of the Trinity house for the time being, and their successors; that at the election of any new governor there should be five governors, who dwelled in the county of Kent, present. Power was likewise given to Sir John Hawkins and others, to assign, and for the governors to purchase and take lands and tenements, not exceeding the clear yearly value of one hundred marcs, that is, 66l. 13s. 4d. After which, Sir John, during his life time, conveyed to the governors the lands and tithes which he intended for this hospital, the rents of which then amounted to 66l. per annum. The beneficent founder of this charity did not long survive this institution, for he died in 1595; soon after which twelve

pensioners were settled in this hospital, and a weekly stipend of two shillings was paid to each poor person; but this allowance being found to exceed what the annual revenue would admit of, in the year 1609, it found requisite to reduce their number to ten. The estate belonging to it has been since so considerably improved, that the poor men's stipend is now augmented to 3s. 6d. per week each; and they are besides allowed a chaldron of coals yearly. No person is eligible who, whilst in the service of the royal navy, has not been maimed, disabled, or otherwise brought to poverty. The deputy governor is appointed under the common seal, and inhabits the principal house belonging to the hospital, with the yearly fee of forty

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shillings. The archbishop is visitor of the hospital. This hospital has been, not many years since, taken down and rebuilt on a more commodious plan than before; the principal entrance is now facing the street, and the apartments are rendered light and airy, one of the elected governors having generously given a benefaction of five hundred pounds for this purpose; but excepting this one instance, notwithstanding the many large and superfluous fortunes which have been acquired in the royal navy, only one other person has followed the laudable example of the founder of this charity, viz. Robert Davis, who, as the inscription on the mansion house of the hospital, put up in memory of it by the governors, tells us, was an honest, upright seaman, who was slain in battle in 1692, and by his will left the whole of his effects to this hospital, the produce of which, amounting to sixty pounds, was paid by his executrix towards the relief of this foundation. It was at first recommended by the governors to the minister incumbent of Chatham, to examine the poor of this hospital in matters of religion and piety once in each quarter at the church, and 2s. 6d. was to be allowed him for each time of examination. This was altered by dean Pratt in 1718, and at present four pounds per annum, charged on this mansion house, which the governors hold by lease from the members of St. Bartholomew's hospital, are paid to those brethren of it, who are in orders, and the service stipulated for it is, that one of them shall preach every Sunday in the chapel of their own society, and once in every quarter instruct the poor persons of Sir John Hawkins's hospital in the truths of the Christian religion.

CHARITIES.

SIR EDWARD GREGORY, commissioner of the yard here, by his will gave to the minister and churchwardens 100l. to be placed out at interest, the produce to be distributed at their discretion to the most necessitous poor. This was, in 1714, placed in the South Sea stock, but in 1720, it was sold out at 750l. and

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an estate, called Pett's farm, in Burham, containing thirty-two acres was purchased with the money. This estate is now let at 18l. per annum.

THOMAS MANLEY, esq. charged his farm of Waldeslade, with the annual payment of 10s. to this parish for ever, to be distri-

buted in bread to poor widows frequenting divine service.

For the reception of the numerous poor of this parish, a spacious building was erected for a poor house, near the east end of the High-street, in 1726, the expence of which was defrayed by voluntary subscription among the inhabitants.

CHATHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, stands on the chalk cliff, just above the Old Dock, more than a quarter of a mile north-westward from the High-street. The first building that was probably erected was destroyed by fire in the beginning of the fourteenth century, though by what means this calamity happened is not known. This church was rebuilding in the year 1316, for bishop Thomas de Woldham, by his will, dated that year bequeathed ten shillings towards this work; but it seems the inhabitants were not able to finish it, for the pope's letter of indulgence was published in 1352, for the remission of a year and forty days penance to all such as should contribute to so pious a work. The east end of of the church was all that remained lately of the above mentioned building; the north and south isles being of a more modern date, for the dock and navy establishments here having been so greatly enlarged, the inhabitants became so numerous, that the old church was by no means capable of holding them; on this account the commissioners of the navy, in 1635, repaired this church, rebuilt and enlarged the west end of it, and erected the steeple; and in 1707, commissioner St. Loe built a gallery over the south isle, for the use of the navy and ordinary. But notwithstanding these additions, those who resorted to it were much straitened for room, insomuch, that in 1788, the whole

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of the church was pulled down, excepting the steeple part, and rebuilt with brick on a much larger scale; the galleries are made spacious and uniform, insomuch that it is now capable of holding the parishioners without inconvenience. The expence of it being defrayed partly by a brief and partly by a parochial contributon.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following – In the chancel, a memorial for Wm. Nurse, gent. obt. 1702; and for Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Thomas Best, of this parish, brewer, and widow of William Nurse, gent. by whom she had only one son, obt. 1706. A monument for Jeremy Gregory, esq. clerk of the cheque, and son of major Jeremy Gregory, of London, obt. 1713; he married Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Gregory, and had six children by her; another for Edw. Yardley, gent. of Chatham, obt. 1655; and Dorothy his wife, 1657; had six sons and two daughters; arms, Argent on a chevron, azure, three garbs or. A monument, arms, a man between his two wives, impaled – his, Or, two bars in chief, a lion passant azure, for Sir Edward Gregory, commissioner of Chatham yard, obt. 1713; he married first, Mary, daughter of Wm. Coppin, esq. of Deal, by whom he left three daughters; secondly, Anne, relict of Sir John Godwin, commissioner of the navy, by whom he had no issue. In the nave, two brass plates, fixed in a stone, arms, a bend wavy between two fleurs de lis, and inscription for Steven Borough, who died in 1584, born at Northam, in Devon=

shire; he discovered Muscovia, by the northern sea passage to St. Nicholas, in 1553; at his setting forth from England, he was accompanied by two other ships, Sir Hugh Willlobie being admiral of the fleet, who, with all the two ships companies, were frozen to death in Lappia the same winter after his discovery of Russia, and the adjoining coasts of Lappia, Nova Zembla, and the country of Samoyeda, &c. he frequented the trade yearly to St. Nicholas, as chief pilot for the voyage, till he was chosen one of the masters in ordinary of the queen's royal navy, which he was employed in till his death. A monument for Sir John Cox, a captain and commander in the navy, slain in a sea engagement with the Dutch, in 1672. A memorial for the Fletchers, master carvers of the dock yard, and their families. A memorial for the Mawdistlys of this parish; and for Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Tho. Best, of this parish, brewer, obt. 1702. A monument for Robert Wilkinson, alias Edisbury, gent. of Denbighshire, obt. 1610. Near the west door, on a pedestal, the figure of a man to the middle, lying his right hand on a death's head, and holding a book in his left, arms, azure a unicorn passant, regardant or, for Kenrike Edisbury, esq. of Marchwell in Denbighshire, surveyor of the navy, ob.

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1638; he married Mary, daughter and heir of Edward Peters, alias Harding, gent. of Rochester. There are besides the above, in different parts of this church, as well as in the church yard, numbers of monuments and memorials for persons who have been principal officers in this dock-yard, and their families. In the belfry stands the figure of a man, in a praying posture, dressed in the habit of queen Elizabeth's time. When the church was rebuilt in 1788, the several monuments were refixed in the different parts of it; and the church yard being too small for the great number of burials required in it, the office of ordnance granted a large piece of ground, at no great distance from the church, for an additional burying ground.

Mr. John Pyham, late minister of this parish, gave to this church a silver flaggon and two silver plates, in 1636. Mr. Benjamin Ruffhead, anchormith of the dock, gave the branch and iron work, in 1689; he also gave a silver bason, in 1694.

Robert de Crevequer, the founder of Leeds abbey, in the reign of king Henry I. gave in free and perpetual alms, to the canons at Leeds, all the churches and advowsons belonging to his estates, and among them this of Chatham, with thirty acres of land in this parish; after which, John, bishop of Rochester, at his request, and with the consent of the archbishop, granted the appropriation of it to the canons there for ever, the gift of both church and appropriation being confirmed to that priory by the bishop and priors of Rochester, and by king Edward III. in his 41st year, by letters of inspeximus.

The cure of this parish, from the time of the grant of this church to the priory of Leeds, was constantly supplied by one of the canons of it, appointed by the prior, and removeable at his pleasure, who being approved of by the diocesan, professed canonical obedience to him; he was styled, Custos vel Guardianus Ecclesiae de Chatham, keeper or warden of the church of Chatham. This customary right in the prior, of

/c History of Rochester, p. 267. Reg. Roff. p. 209, 210.

/d Reg. Roff. p. 211, 212, 217. Dugd. Mon, vol. ii. p. 110.

appointing an incumbent was ratified by the bishop, and the prior and chapter of Rochester, in 1316.

Margery, daughter of Adelard de Suthleuetune, i. e. South Luton in this parish, granted to this church, in pure and perpetual alms, all her wood, with its appurtenances, at Punghurst in Chatham.

The church of Chatham continued part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands; who, by his dotation charter, under his great seal, in his 33d year, settled this church, with the advowson of it, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it remains at this time.

This church being esteemed as a curacy, is not valued in the king's books. The parsonage, or great tithes, are held under lease from the dean and chapter of Rochester. The cure is supplied by a curate, nominated by them, and licensed by the bishop, who enjoys by lease from that body, at the rent of one penny per annum, all the small tithes and vicarial dues of this parish.

On the intended abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. an ordinance of parliament passed for the sale of their lands, to supply the necessities of the state; for which purpose this parsonage was surveyed in 1649, when it appeared, that the parsonage consisted of a parsonage house, barn, yards, &c. and thirteen acres of glebe land, with the tithes, all which were let in 1638, to Edward Yardly and Dorothy his wife, and Robert Yardly, by the dean and chapter, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 18l. and two good capons; but were worth, over and above the same, 81l. 16s. per annum; that the vicarage of Chatham was a donative, worth 50l. per annum, and that there was 1d. paid annually by the minister of this parish to the dean and chapter, by way of acknowledgment; Mr. Walter Rosewell, the last incumbent, being then in prison.

CHURCH OF CHATHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented.

CURATES.

Prior and Convent of Leeds William de Bordene./e
Henry de Uppechurche.

Nicholas de Chartham.

Henry de Apeldrefelde.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester James Breadshaw, in 1601.

John Pikam, 1627./f

Thomas Vaughan, 1642./g

Walter Rosewell, sequestered in
1649./h

Thomas Carter, ejected in 1662./i

Walter Rosewell, rest. in 1662.

Charles Lowton, obt. 1723./k

J. Bromfield.

George Pratt, A. M. 1724, obt.

March 11, 1747./l

Walter Frank, A. M. 1747, obt.

April 1784./m
John Law, D. D. June, 1784./n

/e He and the three following cu=
rates were canons of the priory of
Leeds, and were living here in the
reign of Henry III. See Reg. Roff.
p. 216.

/f MSS. Twysden.

/g Walker's Sufferings of the Cler=
gy, part ii. p. 388.

/h He was sequestered and imprison=
ed. Lambeth Surveys, vol. xix.

/i Kennet's Chron.

/k He had been minister upwards of
fifty years.

/l Son of dean Pratt. He was also
vicar of Boughton Monchelsea, and
lies buried in Rochester cathedral.

/m He was vicar of Hartlip; he died
aged 82, being then minor canon of
Rochester.

/n Archd. and Preb. of Rochester.

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GILLINGHAM.

NORTH-EASTWARD from Chatham lies
Gillingham, called in Domesday, Gelingeham, which
is bounded by the river Medway towards the north.

THE PARISH extends from north to south, near
five miles, and two from east to west; the high Lon=
don road crosses the centre of it eastward from Chat=
ham hill, southward of which it is a hilly dreary
country, much covered with coppice woods of oak,
with small scrubby trees of the same sort among

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them; the soil a poor unfertile red earth, much in=
termixed with rotten flints; among these woods are
several small hamlets, as Darling-green, Capston, &c.
and at the southern boundary, next to Bredhurst, the
hamlet and chapel of Lidsing, full four miles distant
from the parish church. Below the London road the
ground descends northward, and at about a mile and
an half distance is the village of Gillingham, having
the church at the east side of it, and near it a hand=
some house, the residence of Mr. William Danne;
eastward from hence are the several estates of the
Grange, Eastcourt, and Twydall; at no great dis=
tance lower down are the marshes, which reach to the
river Medway, being the northern boundary of this
parish; where, on the shore, a fort was erected in
king Charles I.'s reign, for the defence of the dock=
yard and navy residing here. In the noted expedi=
tion of the Dutch up this river, in 1667, there were
in this fort scarce four guns, which could be used.
It is now called Gillingham castle; it never was a
place of much defence, and is now totally in ruins.
Westward of the village is Upberry and the ma=
nor house of Westcourt; beyond which the ground
ascends to the summit of the chalk hill, on which is
the town of Brompton, having a most beautiful pro=
spect over the river and the adjoining country; and

close to it the lines of fortification, both already noticed in the description of the adjoining parish of Chatham, in which part of them lie; and below these the dock yard, part of which likewise is within this parish. The lower part of this parish, not excepting the village, from its contiguity to the marshes, is exceedingly unhealthy; it is mostly inhabited by persons belonging to the dock yard and other departments of Government near it; or by those which have belonged to the royal navy, and have retired from the service. There is a fair held here on Easter Tuesday. By an order made by queen Elizabeth, in her 8th year,

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a survey was made of the several maritime places in this county, when it appeared that there were in Gillingham, four quays, called Twydall, Millfleet, Dean Mead end, and Beggar-hyde; ships and boats, 27; viz. seventeen of 1 ton; one of half; one of 2; two of 4; one of 5; one of 7; two of 8; one of 9; and one of 20 tons; and persons, occupied about fishing, forty. This parish, with that of Chatham, ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the second pier of Rochester bridge.

Upwards of one hundred years ago there was dug up in the salt marshes in this parish a large urn, holding the quantity of a bushel, in which were some fragments of burnt bones and ashes.

The annals of St. Austin mention a sharp battle having been fought at Gillingham, between Edmund, surnamed Ironside, and Canute the Danish king. William, surnamed Gillingham, from his birth in this parish, lived in the reign of king Richard II. he was a monk of Canterbury, of the Benedictine order, a learned man, who wrote the history of this nation, and of his own monastery, which was in great esteem at that time. William Adams, a famous seaman, was likewise born here. He was the first of any Englishman who discovered Japan effectually, to which remote island he began his voyage in 1598; he died about 1612. In the year 1695, the Royal Sovereign, a first rate man of war, being judged unfit for sea-service, was laid up in the river, close to this castle, but by negligence was soon afterwards set on fire, and burned.

THE MANOR of Gillingham, which extends over the isle of Graine, was part of the antient possessions of the church of Canterbury long before the Norman conquest. In the book of Domesday, taken about

/o MSS. Dering. /p Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 420.

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the year 1080, it is thus entered, under the general title of the lands of the archbishop of Canterbury:

In Ceteham hundred the archbishop himselfe holds Gillingham. It was taxed at three sulings. The arable land is 15 carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and 42 villeins, with 16 borderers, having 15 carucates. There is a church and three servants, and three fisheries of 42 shillings and eight pence, and one mill of 16 shillings and eight pence, and 14 acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 20 hogs. Of this manor a certain Frenchman

holds land sufficient for one plough, and has there two bor= derers. In the whole this manor was worth, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, 15 pounds, when he re= ceived it 12 pounds, and now 23 pounds, and yet it pays 26 pounds all but 12 pence, what the Frenchman holds 40 shillings.

The monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, farmed the fishery of Gillingham before this at five shillings per annum; this rent archbishop Lanfranc raised to forty shillings; but his successor, archbishop Anselm, remitted the above increase of thirty-five shillings, to the use of their rectory./q In the 10th year of king Edward III. John Ufford, archbishop of Canterbury, procured a grant for a weekly market on a Thursday, and a fair yearly on Holyrood-day, and seven days afterwards, at this his manor of Gillingham.

This manor seems to have continued a part of the possessions of the archbishopric till the 3d year of queen Elizabeth, when the queen took it, among other manors and lands, into her hands, and in the room of them granted to Mathew, archbishop of Can= terbury, and his successors, certain rectories and par= sonages impropriate, tithes, tenths, and such like./r After which, though the fee of this manor, and the premises belonging to it, rested in the crown, yet there

/q Text. Roff. p. 154, 158, 446. Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 31.
/r Folio Christ church MSS.

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were several grants made of different parts of it from time to time; particularly, queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her 11th year, granted the manor= place, with its appurtenances, and several parcels of the demesne lands to Thomas Heyborne, for a term of years, as did king James in his 3d year, to Thomas and William Short; and king Charles I. in his 5th year, to William Payneter, esq. the latter term then still subsisting, which at the death of that king, in 1648, was vested in Henry Goulding, gent. there be= ing seven years of it yet to come, after which, the re= version to William Payneter was to commence, in which situation this manor then remained after the king's death. The powers then in being seized on the royal estates, and vested them in trustees, to be surveyed and sold, to supply the necessities of the state, when it appeared, that there were quit-rents, holding of this manor in free soccage tenure in Gillingham, the isle of Graine, and within the tithings or hamlets, called the four dennis, viz. Haydherst, alias Haytherst in Marden, Winceherst in Goutherst, Trendherst in Yalding, and Baveden in Horsemonden parishes, that there was a piece of land, called Bedle-close in Marden, allowed to the beadle of the said four dennis, all which, with the court baron, court leets, fines, &c. coib. annis, were of the value of 55l. 9d. all which re= mained in the late king's possession, but that there were demised for a term of years by the crown, the ma= nor house with its appurtenances, and lands, marsh and woodlands, containing upwards of eight hundred and fifty acres, all which were worth, improved rents, 255l. and upwards; and that at the court baron one of the chiefest tenants was, by custom, to be chosen

beadle, to execute that office, by himself or deputy, for the next year, without allowance; and it appears, by roll 41, A. of the 28th of Edward III. that the

/s Parl. Surveys, Aug. Off. Rolls of Partic. Aug. Off. Z. Z. 2.
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homage of this manor was sued by the king in the vacancy of the see of Canterbury, for a debt due from their beadle, who was insolvent, and had been chosen according to the custom of the manor, and for whose solvency, according to the said custom, they were answerable.

The manor, with the lands above mentioned, were afterwards sold by the state to Robert Read, Robert Anderson, and others, who continued in possession of them till the restoration of king Charles II. when Alynton, son of William Payneter, took possession of them, under the above mentioned grant of king Charles I. as heir to his father. He afterwards obtained a grant of this manor as well as a further term in the above premises, in which he was succeeded by his son, Robert Payneter, esq. who alienated his interest in them about the year 1720, to Tho. Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke, on the death of whose son of the same name, within these few years, they are now become vested in his son, Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke.

There are hardly any remains of the ARCHIEPISCOPAL PALACE, which stood adjoining to the south side of the church-yard, at this time, excepting a large building of stone, now used as a barn; which, from its having been plaistered on the inside, and the remains of a chimney at each end, was either the great hall or kitchen of the palace; within the foundations of the old circuit walls stand the house and other buildings belonging to the court lodge of the manor. A coin of the emperor Antonius was lately dug up within these walls.

EAST and WEST COURT are two manors in this parish which were antiently but one, being held of the archbishop, as of his manor of Gillingham, in the

/t See a further account of this family, Vol. I. of this History, p. 390. Vol. III. p. 89.

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reign of king Henry III. by Sir Hugh de Gillingham. His descendant, Thomas Gillingham, died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs; Margaret, married to John Thorpe; and Isabel to William Greenstreet, commonly called Grensted, who divided this manor between them: the share which fell to the former being called West-court, and that to the latter East-court, from their respective situations from each other.

WEST-COURT MANOR was sold by John Thorpe to Thomas Bradbury, who died possessed of it in the 2d year of king Henry VII. and one of his descendants passed it away to Nicholas Leveson, alias Lewson, of Whorne's-place, in Cookstone; from which name it passed by sale to Duling, of Rochester, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Mr. Stephen Alcock, and he alienated it to Cæsar, who dying with

out male issue, his five daughters, Alice, married to John Higgons, gent. Irene, Margaret, Mary, and Alice Cæsar, became his coheirs, and entitled to their respective shares in this manor. They in the 9th and 10th year of king William III. having procured an act of parliament for that purpose, alienated it to Thomas Rogers, gent. whose daughter Anna carried it in marriage to Christopher Searles, gent. of Hackslaple in Sutton-at-Hone; on whose death, in 1741, his widow became entitled to it for her life, and since her death, in 1774, their three surviving daughters, Anna wife of John Strover, of Rochester; Jane Arabella, married to George Weekley, gent. of Ware, in Hertfordshire, since deceased; and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Poynton; are now become joint owners of this manor, and the lands belonging to it.

A court baron is held for this manor, which extends over that part of this parish called Brompton, which is built on the demesne land of it. The tenants are all freeholders in free soccage tenure.

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EAST-COURT manor was given by the will of William Greenstreet to his sister's son, and heir at law, Benedict Webb, whose grandson, John Webb, left issue two sons, Thomas, who bore for his arms, Gules, a fess between three owls, or; which coat was granted to him by Robert Cooke, clarencieux, and Christopher, who in the reign of queen Elizabeth joined in the sale of it to William Payneter, esq. clerk of the ordnance, in whose descendants it continued till Robert Payneter, in the 7th year of king George I. having procured an act of parliament for that purpose, alienated it to Thomas Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke, since the death of whose son of the same name, this manor is now become vested in his son, Multon Lambard, esq. of the same place.

There is a court baron held for this manor.

At the time that the general survey of Domesday was taken, Odo, bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half-brother, was possessed of an estate in this parish, which is thus described in it, under the title of that prelate's lands:

Odo holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Gellingeham. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate. In demesne there are two, and six borderers having half a carucate. There is one mill of sixteen shillings and seven pence, and thirteen acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth forty shillings, when he received it thirty shillings, now sixty shillings.

On the bishop's disgrace, in the year 1084, this estate, among the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown.

THE MANOR OF TWIDALL, with an estate called DANE-COURT in this parish, was certainly part of these possessions, and were both about the reign of king Henry I. held by a family, who assumed their surname

/u Guillim. p. 221. /w Philipott, p. 166.

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from the former of them. Adam de Twidall was then owner of this manor, as well as Dane-court, from whom they descended to Roger de Twidall, who in the 38th year of king Edward III. passed them away to Robert Beaufitz, of Acton, in Charing, whose father of the same name was before possessed of lands in this parish, by grant from Thomas de Gillingham. Robert Beaufitz, jun. resided at Twidall afterwards, and bore for his arms, Or, on a bend three bells, he married Joane, daughter of Roger de Twidall, and in their descendants these estates continued till the reign of king Henry VII. when by a daughter and coheir Joane, they went in marriage to Robert Arnold, of Sussex, whose grandson, William Arnold, in the 18th year of king Henry VIII's reign, passed them away to Thomas Benolt, clarenceux king of arms, and he, soon afterwards conveyed them to Sir Henry Wyatt, whose son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington-castle, in the 33d year of that reign, exchanged them, as well as all his other estates in this parish, with the king, for other lands, which bargain was in pursuance of an act of parliament passed the year before. The same year the king granted this manor of Twidall, with its appurtenances, and Dane-court likewise, to Christopher Sampson, to hold in capite by knight's service, and he in the 16th year of queen Elizabeth's reign levied a fine, and alienated the manor of Twidall, with its appurtenances, to William Payneter, who resided here, and was clerk of the ordnance to the queen, and bore for his arms, Gules, a chevron between three griffins heads erased or, on a chief of the second an helmet sable between two pellets; /x his descendant Robert, son of Alynton Payneter, /y and in the 7th year of king George I. having procured an act of parliament to enable him to sell the manors of Twydal and East-

/x Pedigree of Payneter, Visitt. of Kent, anno 1619.

/y See Westerham, vol. 3d of this History, p. 174.

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court, and to settle other lands of greater value to the like uses, alienated them both to Thomas Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke, on the decease of whose son of the same name, this manor is now become vested in his son, Multon Lambard, esq. of the same place.

BUT DANE-COURT, which was part of the estate which came by marriage of the daughter and coheir of Thomas de Gillingham, to John Thorpe, as has been already mentioned before, and from his possession of it for that time gained the name of Thorpe's farm, /z which however was soon again dropped for its present one of Dane-court, probably its original name was sold by one of his descendants, at the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign to Henry Harland, who passed it away by sale to William Short, and he died possessed of it in 1641. After which his heirs alienated it to May, of Rochester, and after some intermediate owners, it came into the possession of Thomas Fletcher, esq. of Chatham, who dying unmarried in 1776, gave it by his will to his brother John Fletcher, esq. of Rochester, who died unmarried likewise in 1788, and gave it by his will to Robert Parker, esq. of Maidstone, the present owner of it.

John Beaufits, owner of Twidall, by his will in 1433, founded and endowed a chauntry here, dedicated to St. John Baptist, for one priest to celebrate for the souls of himself, his wife, and ancestors. It was suppressed in the 1st year of king Edward VI. the priest, Philip Medcalfe, having a pension of six pounds assigned to him, he was surviving in 1553.

Philipott says, the seats in the chapel and other remains shew it to have been formerly a neat and elegant piece of architecture, and it even answered that description not many years ago. However its beauty served not to preserve it, for it was pulled down in 1756, with a part of the old house. The chapel which joined

/z See Philipott, p. 166.

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to the main building, was in that wing which runs northward, or north-west, and was handsomely wainscotted./a

THE GRANGE, antiently called Grench, is a manor in this parish, a part of which has been accounted from the earliest times a member of the antient cinque port of Hastings, in Sussex,/b whose civil as well as criminal jurisdiction extends over about one hundred and twenty acres of it. It appears from the certificate of Stephen de Pencester, constable of Dover castle, and warden of the cinque ports in the reign of king Edward III. that the Grench was bound to find one ship, and two able and well armed men to make up the quota of twenty-one ships, in each of which there were to be twenty-one able men well armed to continue in the king's service for forty days./c

This manor, in the reign of king Henry III. was held in sergeantry, by Manasser de Hasting, at which time it was valued at one hundred shillings. In the 5th year of king Edward I. Matthew de Hasting was found to die possessed of the manor of Grench, belonging to the port of Hastings, which he held of the king by the service of finding one oar, whenever the king should sail towards that port. From the name of Hasting it went by purchase to Richard Smelt, alderman of London, whose daughter and heir, Margaret, carried it in marriage to Richard Croydon, likewise an alderman of that city, and he dying without male issue, Margery, his sole daughter and heir, entitled her husband, John Philipott, esq. to the fee of it. He was at that time an alderman of London, and of the Grocers company, an active and worthy magistrate of that city, which he represented in the 1st, 5th, and 7th parliaments of king Richard II's reign. In the third

/a See Bibl. Topograph. Britan. No. 6, pt. 1.

/b Jeake's Charters of the Five Ports, p. 25, 26, 120.

/c Rot. 33 Edw. III. pt. 3, m. 6. Lib. Rubr. Scacc.

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year of it he served the office of lord-mayor, bearing then for his arms sable a bend ermine. Next year he was, among others, knighted by the king in Smithfield, as a reward for his service, and the assistance he gave to Sir William Walworth, lord-mayor, in the destruction of the rebel Wat Tyler; at the same time he had a coat of augmentation made to his own coat armour, viz.

gules, a cross between four swords argent, the pomels and hilts, or, for this and for the services he had before performed to the king and that city, in fitting out a fleet of ships to clear the seas of the pirates that then infested them, for he surprised and took John Mercer, a Scotch pirate, with all his companions, who had greatly destroyed the trade of the city, and fifteen sail of Spanish ships richly freighted with merchandize, which they had made prizes of; of which he made no other use than to give the king assistance in his war in France, which he did by maintaining one thousand men there. Notwithstanding which he was called before the council, for setting out this fleet without the king's licence, where he would have been dealt hardly with, had not Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, stood his friend, and brought him off with honor and reputation. He erected a chapel at his manor of Grange, which has been long since desecrated, and made use of only as a barn. It was valued at the dissolution at six pounds per annum. In this chapel the stone work round the great window was entirely covered with coats of arms, being his augmentation, each coat being joined to the next in one continued cross; which arms were likewise impaled with On a fess three mullets, on a chief a mullet between a leopard's face and a star of six points. He died in the 8th year of the above reign, and was buried with the lady Jane Stamford his wife, before the entrance into the choir of the Grey Friars church, in London, having bequeathed by his will

/d Strype's Stow's Survey, B. iii. p. 133.

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several charitable legacies to the poor, and this manor to his second son, whose son, Mr. John Philipott, in the 11th year of king Henry VI. exchanged it for Twiford, in Middlesex, with Richard Bamme, esq. the son of Adam Bamme, esq. of London, goldsmith, and lord-mayor in 1391; who bore for his arms, Ermine, on a chief indented sable a ring between two trefoils slipt. He resided here, and died in 1452, anno 31 king Henry VI./f whose grandson, John Bamme, esq. kept his shrievalty here in the 2d year of king Richard III. Thomas Bamme, esq. his grandson, possessed it in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth, who dying without male issue, his daughter Katherine became entitled to it. She alienated this manor to William Haward, gent. whose arms were Or, a bull's head cabboshed between three mullets sable,/g who afterwards resided here, and married Alice, sister of Sir Christopher Clive, of Copton, by whom he had two sons, Samuel and Thomas, he died in 1612; after his death, Thomas Haward, his second son, possessed this manor of Grange, as it came now to be called, and dying in 1637, was buried near his father in this church, in the Grange chapel belonging to the owners of it; he left an only daughter and heir Anne, who carried this estate in marriage to William Delaune, esq. afterwards knighted, and of Sharsted, in Doddington, in this county; after which this manor passed at length by the entail made in the will of his son, colonel William Delaune, in like manner as that of Sharsted above-mentioned, to his sister Mary, widow of Edward Thornicroft, esq. who

gave it to her two unmarried daughters, Dorcas and Anne Thornicroft, and they possessed it jointly till the death of Dorcas, unmarried in 1759, who by her will devised her moiety of it to her sister Elizabeth, then

/e Guillim's Heraldry, edit. 5th. p. 249.

/f Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 172.

/g Vistn. co. Kent, anno 1619, Pedigree Haward.

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lady dowager Abergavenny, for life; remainder to her daughter Jane, by her second husband, Alured Pincke, esq. and then the widow of the Rev. Henry Shove. Mrs. Jane Shove, her mother lady Abergavenny being deceased, became possessed of her moiety of this manor, which on her death in 1779, descended to her son, A. H. Shove, esq. barrister at law, and Mrs. Anne Thornicroft dying unmarried in 1791, her moiety of it passed by her will to her nephew Alured Pincke, esq. of Sharsted; and they joined in the sale of the whole of it in 1796, to the present possessor of it.

At this seat there was formerly a chapel, which was valued in the king's books at six pounds per annum, it was built by Sir John Philipott, great part of it still remains standing near the house at the west end; it is built of stone, and very fair, but is now covered with thatch. The east end becoming ruinous has been taken down.

There is a portion of tythes arising out of upwards of three hundred acres of land within this manor, which has from time to time had the same owners, and is held of the crown by the yearly fee-farm rent of 3l. 6s. 8d.

UPBERY is a manor lying on the western part of this parish, which antiently belonged to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Sexburg, in the Isle of Shepey, to which it was given, together with the rectory of Upbery, alias Gillingham, in the 22d year of Henry I. and it remained part of the possessions of that nunnery till the 27th year of king Henry VIII. when an act passing for the suppression of all such religious houses, which were not of the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, his nunnery was, with all its possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, who in his 31st year, demised for a term to Sir Thomas Cheney, trea-

/h See more of the possessors of this manor under Sharsted, in Doddington.

/i See an engraving of it in Biblia Top. Brit. No. vi. pt. 1.

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surer of his household, among other premises, this manor of Upbery, and the rectory of Upbery, alias called Gillingham, late belonging to the above monastery, with all their appurtenances, excepting the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Upbery; and afterwards in his 35th year he granted them, with all their rights, members, and appurtenances, to him, to hold in capite by knights service. His son, Sir Henry Cheney, was in the 14th year of queen Elizabeth created lord Cheney, of Tuddington, and two years afterwards alienated the reversion of this manor, and the rectory and advowson of Gillingham, to Dr. Alexander Nowell, dean of St. Paul's, and James Walton, which last name seems to have been made use of only in trust,

for Dr. Nowell, at his death, in 1602, by his will devised the fee of this manor and rectory for ever to the principal and scholars of Brazen Nose college, in Oxford, governors of queen Elizabeth's free school, in Middleton, in Lancashire, with a proviso, that if any one could claim alliance to him, he should hold it by lease from that society, paying a yearly rent of 66l. 13s. 4d. per annum. Dr. Nowell was the second son of Mr. John Nowell, of Great Meerly, in Lancashire, and was bred at Brazen Nose college, where he was first fellow and afterwards principal, and became greatly celebrated both for his religion and learning; after which, when he was created D. D. he had an allowance of seniority over all the doctors then in the university, not only in regard to his age, but dignity in the church. In 1560 he was made dean of St. Paul's. He was buried in his own cathedral, leaving behind him the character of a learned, good, and charitable man. After Dr. Nowell's death, the demesnes of this manor, and the rectory or parsonage of Gilling-

/k Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 5. /l Eastchurch, in Shepey.
/m Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 49. His life is among those in the Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3257.

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ham, for the manor itself, as well as the advowson of the vicarage of Gillingham, were excepted out of the lease, seem to have been held of the college by Edward Blunt, of Wricklesmarsh, in Charlton, second son of Thomas Blunt, by Elizabeth his wife, remarried secondly to Dr. Nowell, before-mentioned.

His eldest son, Thomas, possessed the lease of this estate after the restoration of king Charles II. at the latter end of whose reign it was sold to Adam Baynes, gent. who alienated it to John Kingsford, esq. of Canterbury, and his son, Zachariah Kingsford, gent. of Chartham, in 1706, passed away his interest in it to Mr. Augustine Simpson, of Southwark, who by his will gave it in 1720, to his kinsman, Thomas Simpson, of London, counsellor at law, and he in 1721 sold it to Mr. John Adlam, gent. of London, whose widow, Hester, alienated her interest in it in 1739, to Mr. John Proby, of Woldham, who died in 1758, intestate, leaving his widow surviving, and five children. Soon after which she became by agreement entitled to the entire interest of this lease, which at her death in 1771 she devised to Christopher Fullagar, of Cliff, yeoman, during the infancy of his children by her niece Anne, the interest and profits of it to be afterward divided among them. He afterwards lived in the manor-house, and occupied the estate of which he has had a new term granted to him, subject to Mrs. Proby's will.

There is a court-baron, which is excepted out of the lease granted by the college, held for this manor. The tenants are all freeholders in common socage tenure, holding by fealty and suit of court, from three weeks to three weeks.

LIDSING, usually called Lydging, is a manor and hamlet, lying at the southern extremity of this parish next to Bredhurst, part of it being in the parish of Chatham.

/n See Wricklesmarsh in Charlton, vol. i. of this History, p. 426.

This estate was formerly the inheritance of the ancient family of Sharsted; Simon de Sharsted held it at his death in the 25th year of king Edward I. Sir Henry de Leyborne was possessed of it in the next reign of king Edward II. in the 4th year of which he obtained charter of free-warren for his lands in Lydesing and elsewhere.

In king Edward III's reign, it was come into the family of Say; for Sir Roger de Say, in the 30th year of it, granted to his brother, Sir Jeffry de Say, his manor of Sharsted and Lydesing, with their appurtenances, to hold in perpetual inheritance. He seems to have alienated these premises to Robert Belknap, who in the 50th year of king Edward III. anno 1375, granted, among other premises, a moiety of this manor of Lidesing, lying in Chatham, to the prior and convent of Rochester, on certain conditions therein mentioned, the further account of which has already been given under that of Sharsted, in Chatham.

The other moiety of this manor continued longer in the name of Belknap. Robert Belknap above-mentioned was afterwards knighted, and chief justice of the common pleas; but favoring too much the designs of king Richard II. for the extending his prerogative, he was in the 11th year of that reign attainted, and banished to Ireland, by the parliament; and though he was by the same power permitted to return again in the 20th year of it, yet his attainder still continued, and his lands remained forfeited as before. Notwithstanding which the king, who considered him as a martyr to his interest, granted him several of his estates again, and among others this moiety of Lidesing in his 22d year. But it did not continue long with him; for by his deed in the 2d year of king Henry IV. he gave it to the priory of St Andrew, in Rochester, for one monk, being a priest, to celebrate mass in the ca-

/o Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 42. /p Reg. Roff. p. 217.

thedral there for ever, for the souls of himself, his predecessors, and successors. The priory of Rochester, becoming thus entitled to the whole fee of this manor, continued in the possession of it till the dissolution of the monastery in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with all its revenues, surrendered into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled this manor, with its appurtenances, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where it now remains; the lessee of it being the same as for the manor of Sharsted above-mentioned.

At this hamlet of Lydsing there has been of long time, and is now, a chapel of ease to the parish of Gillingham; in it divine service continues to be performed once a month, though there are but six houses within this district. The chancel, or east end of this chapel, was rebuilt a few years since with brick at the expence of the late vicar Mr. Jenkinson. It is endowed with all the tithes of this hamlet, and was valued in the year 1650, in a survey then taken by order of the ruling powers, at 251. per annum.

CHARITIES.

MRS. KATHERINE BAMME, by deed in 1572, devised 40s. per annum towards the relief of the poor of Gillingham; to be paid out of an estate called Darland, in this parish, since belonging to Bernard Hyde, esq. This rent was suffered to run in arrears until it amounted to the sum of 81l. which by a decree in chancery was recovered and paid to the parish, and 20l. of it was lent upon bond to William Manser, of Gillingham in 1629, and 60l. to Sir William Brooke in 1633.

RICHARD HOMER, in 1629, gave a pulpit cloth to this church.

THOMAS RANDALL gave by will, in 1631, 40s. per annum, to buy garments yearly for four widows, to be paid out of that part of his land at Bredgate, called Bostalls.

WILLIAM SHORT gave by his will, in 1641, 40s. per annum out of the tenement and its appurtenances in this parish, which

/q There is an engraving of it in Bibl. Top. Brit. No. 6, pt. 1.

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

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he had purchased of Henry Harland, provided his heirs were not assessed to the poor for the salt marsh, called Dane marsh.

THOMAS HAWARD, esq. in 1637, gave by will 50l. to be laid out on a purchase for the use of the poor; which was not effected till the year 1657, when in consideration of that sum, Henry Jowles, esq. made over a yearly rent of 4l. 5s. 4d. to be paid out of his farm at Lydsing in this parish, for the use of the poor of Gillingham.

EDMUND EDRIDGE, in 1669, gave by will 40s. per annum, out of the house and land in this parish, which he had purchased of Mr. Richard Head, of Rochester, to be divided equally between eight widows, or poorest inhabitants, if not so many widows, in this church, every 25th day of December.

WILLIAM ROACH, in 1670, gave by will 40s. per annum, out of the said house for the like purpose, which including the last-mentioned gift, is now of the annual produce of 5l.

JOHANNA ELIZABETH PETTY, in 1723, gave by will for keeping poor children to school in the parishes of Gillingham and Chatham, to learn to read, a yearly sum to be paid out of three houses vested in trust, and now of the annual produce of 14l. 10s.

PHILIP TIDD, by will in 1733, gave a messuage, garden, orchard, and appurtenances in this parish, for a widow woman, being a parishioner of it, to reside in, who should teach and instruct six poor children, born in this parish, and to be chosen by the parish officers, to read English, and instruct them in the church catechism.

MARY SMITH, by will, in 1739, gave 20l. to be distributed to six poor widows, at 10s. per year, till the whole sum should be expended. Mr. John Simmons, of this parish, appropriated this sum to the purchase of an annuity of 10s. for ever, to be distributed in bread among the most necessitous widows on St. Thomas's day, to be paid out of land, called Whitehouse-field, in this parish.

JOHN HOARE, in 1753, gave by will, to be distributed in bread to the poor of this parish and Chatham, 40s. on New-Year's day, and the like sum of 40s. on St. John's day, payable out of houses vested in Anne Moseley, widow, and now of that annual produce, deducting repairs, taxes, &c.

BESIDES the above there are some charities which seem once to have paid to this parish, but which have been many years discontinued.

It appears by depositions taken in 1588, before William Lambarde, esq. that the vicar and parish officers usually repaired upon the Friday next before Easter, to Upbery farm, and there received the value of 30s. in wheat and malt, and at their discretion distributed it afterwards to the poor. The donors of it being the nuns of St. Sexburg, in Shepey. Mr. Mansell, the tenant of the

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farm, first denied the payment of it in 1587; Sir Edward Hoby, his successor, paid it for some years, but it has never been paid since his time.

JOHN GRINSTEAD is reported to have given by his will, anno 3 Henry VII. four acres of land, called Bragg, to be continued in feoffees in trust, to pay 20d. out of the yearly rent of it to the poor of this parish, and the remainder towards the repair of the church.

There is a marsh, called Church marsh, which the sexton used to enjoy through custom, for keeping the church decent; but it has been detained by the rectors of this parish for several years.

GILLINGHAM 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 at the east end of the village, is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. It consists of three isles and three chancels, with a handsome tower steeple at the west end.

Among other monuments and memorials in this church are the following – In the chancel, are brasses for William Beaufitz, obt. 1433; John Bragge, vicar; in French, round the verge for John Beaufitz, obt. 1427, and Isabel his wife, arms remaining on a bend three bells. A memorial for Francis Philips, born in Herefordshire, afterwards of Brazen Nose college, and A. M. vicar of this church, obt. Sept. 22, 1679. – In the south chancel, called the Grange chancel, as belonging to that manor, are brasses for Joane, wife of Richard Bamme, esq. daughter of John Martyn, judge of the common pleas. and mother of John Bamme, who lies on the north side of this chapel, obt. 1431. Memorials for Chrisagon Towles, obt. 1648, arms, a tower triple-towered between three pheons impaling three fleurs de lis; for John Goulding, only son of Henry Goulding, gent. obt. 1625, arms, a cross voided between four lions passant, for Clare Goulding, mother of Henry Towles, esq. obt. 1631; for Thomas Hayward, lord of the manor of Granch, obt. 1637. An altar monument for William Haward, of Granch, gent. obt. 1612, and Alice his wife, daughter of Thomas Clybe, gent. obt. 1610. A monument for Anne, wife of Thomas Haward, esq. of Granch, daughter and coheir of Rowland Odell, left an only daughter, obt. 1628. – In the north chancel, belonging to the manor of Twydall, is a monument for Anthony Paynter, gent. of East-court, son and heir

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of William Paynter, esq. of Twydall, he married Katherine, eldest daughter and coheir of Robert Harris, esq. master in chancery, obt. 1653, leaving William his only son and heir, arms, Gules, a chevron between three griffins heads erased, or, on a chief of the last an helmet sable between two pellets. – In the nave, a brass for William Godfrey, Joane, and Marion, his wives, he died in 1420. In the Registrum Roffense, p. 826, is an account of the painted glass remaining in the windows of this church, as well as of the monuments and inscriptions then remaining in it

in the year 1621, collected by Baptist Tufton, parish clerk. By it the windows appear to have been most beautifully ornamented with scripture history, as well as with the arms and names of the family of Beaufitz, most probably the principal benefactors of it. Besides the historical parts in them, there was the portrait of Robert Beaufitz, who lies in the chancel, the coat of Gillingham quarterly, Ermine and gules; the portrait of John Beaufitz, esq. the younger, with a garland of roses on his head, he lies buried in the north chapel, the arms of Beaufitz and Gillingham as above impaled; the portrait of Sarah, wife of Robert Beaufitz; the arms of William Beaufitz, clerk, who glazed this third window on the north side at his own charge.

In the chancel were formerly many brasses, with figures, arms and inscriptions for the family of Beaufitz, all which have been, excepting the one above-mentioned, long since lost. – In the north chancel, besides scripture history, the portrait of John, son of John Beaufitz, esq. kneeling with his book before him, with the arms of Beaufitz and Gillingham quartered, and the portrait of Alice, wife of John Beaufitz before-mentioned, her arms impaled were, Argent, a chevron gules between three stars sable; the arms of William Beaufitz, clerk, Argent, or a fess between three lozenges Barry, a crescent of the field; in the niche over the porch, at the west end of the church, stood the image of the Virgin Mary, commonly stiled, our Lady of Gillingham, which was esteemed of such great sanctity, that pilgrimages were formerly made to it.

At the foot of one of the main beams of the church are the arms of Beaufitz, which shews perhaps that the roof was made at their charge, or at least that they were great benefactors to it.

King Henry I. in his 22d year, gave this church, by the name of the rectory of Upbery, alias Gillingham, with the chapels, tithes, and other appurtenances belonging to it, to the nunnery of Minster, in Shepey; which was confirmed by king Henry IV. in his first year. After which it continued part of the possessions of the nunnery till the 27th year of king Henry VIII.

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when that house was dissolved by act of parliament as not being able to dispend two hundred pounds per annum clear yearly income. The church of Gillingham coming thus into the king's hands, was granted by him in his 35th year, by the name of the rectory of Upbery, alias Gillingham, and the advowson of it, with all its rights, members and appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold in capite by knight's service. After which it passed in like manner as has been already mentioned in the description of the manor of Upbery to Brazen Nose college, in Oxford, since which it has had the same lessees.

In the lease this rectory is said to consist of all the tithe corn of this whole parish, excepting of that part which is within the liberty of the Five Ports, being about one hundred and twenty acres; of about one hundred and ninety-three acres, part of West-court; and also of those of the demesne lands of Upbery manor, and of the lands held of it, and paying a quit-rent to it; and those of the hamlet of Lidsing.

The presentation to the vicarage continues in the possession of the principal and scholars of Brazen Nose college.

The taxation of this church, i. e. the rectory, in the

reign of king Edward III. was, of the endowment of it, eight acres of arable and forty acres of pasture, worth yearly eleven marcs; rents of assise of the like endowment sixty shillings, and the rent of twenty hens of the like endowment 3s. 4d. and fifty acres of marsh of the like endowment 67s. and 6d./s In the 8th year of king Richard II. the church of Gillingham was valued at forty pounds./t

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 15l. 13s. 11 1/2d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 11s. 4 3/4d.

In a survey made of the ecclesiastical revenues in this diocese, in 1650, it was returned, that in Gillingham

/s Folio Christ Church MSS. /t Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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there was a vicarage, presentative by the college or Brazen Nose, in Oxford, worth forty-eight pounds per annum, Mr. John Trafford being then incumbent.

At present this vicarage is endowed, besides the vicarial or small tithes of this parish, with the great tithes of part of a farm called Brittons, being thirty acres; of part of White's farm, being seven acres; of part of Mill-farm, being five acres; of part of Westcourt-farm, being eight acres; and with the great tithes of the whole of Upbery manor and of the hamlet of Lidsing. The stile of the presentation being, to the vicarage of Gillingham and Upbery, with the chapel of Lidsing.

SOON AFTER the conquest Richard Brutin, of Gillingham, together with his wife and son, gave to the monks of St. Andrew, all his tithe in corn, lambs, pigs, cheese, and calves, and in all other things, for his brother, whom they had made a monk, and for the benefit of their society, which they had granted to him./u These tithes at the dissolution of that priory, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. came into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled them, by the description of all that PORTION OF TITHES of Upberrie-court, in Gillingham, late belonging to the dissolved priory of Rochester, on his new-founded dean and chapter there, with whom the inheritance of them now remains.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. these tithes were surveyed in 1649, when it appeared that this portion of tithes late belonging to the dean and chapter, issuing out of the manors of Upbery and West-court, in Gillingham, consisted in the tithes of all manner of grain issuing out of certain lands, fields, &c. belonging to the said manors, and containing one hundred and ninety-three acres and two roods, of the yearly value of twenty

/u Text. Roff. p. 181. Reg. Roff. p. 44, 46.

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pounds improved rent, and were let by the late dean and chapter, anno 12 Charles I. to Walter Blunt, esq. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of eighteen shillings per annum; but I am informed, that this portion of tithes at present consists of those arising only from ninety-three acres; fifteen of which are part of the above-mentioned farm, called Brittons, and the remainder of West-court farm.

The present lessee under the dean and chapter of Rochester is Mrs. Jane Bingle, widow.

CHURCH OF GILLINGHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prioress and Convent of Minster,

in Shepey Nicholas de Crainford, anno 6
Edward I.

VICARS.

Thomas de Hedyrsete, LL. D. ob.

1405./w

John Rafe, in 1476./x

John Bregge./y

Brazen Nose college, in Oxford James Dryer, in 1629.

John Trafford, in 1649./z

Ralph Twisse, in 1657.

Moses Pengry, B. D. obt. Oct.

4, 1678./a

Francis Philips, A. M. obt.

Sept. 22, 1679./b

John Williams, in 1692.

William Harrison, in 1720.

John Jenkinson, obt. May 27,

1780./c

Houstonne Radcliffe, A. M. ind.

Nov. 5, 1780, and is the present vicar./d

/w Also rector of Hayes.

/x Before rector of St. Mary's, Hoo.

See Reg. Roff. p. 406.

/y He lies buried in this church.

/z Lambeth Surveys, vol. xix.

/a He was an ingenious and learned man. He lies buried in Roch. cathed.

/b He lies buried in this church.

/c In 1767 he had a dispensation to hold Rucking with this vicarage.

/d Prebendary of Canterbury, and rector of Ickham in this county.

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THE ISLAND OF GRAINE.

THE island of Graine, though on the opposite side of the river Medway, and at some miles distance from the rest of this hundred, yet being within the manor of Gillingham, has always been esteemed as a part of it.

It is written in the Textus Roffensis, and other ancient manuscripts, Grean, Gryen, and Gren, and lies next to the hundred of Hoo, from which it is separated by a small stream; the south and east sides of it adjoin to the river Medway, the latter of them being opposite to Sheerness; the north side of it joins to the Thames, forming that land where those two rivers meet. It is in size about three miles and a half long, and two miles and a half wide, and contains only one parish, called St. James.

The water, which separates it from the hundred

of Hoo, is called the Stray; the northern mouth of which, next the Thames, is called the North Yenlet, as that next the Medway is called Colemouth, though the whole of it formerly went by the name of Yenlet, or Yenlade, and in very antient times was no doubt, as well as that of the same name between the isle of Thanet and the main land, of much larger size than it has been for a long time past; for even in the time of king Henry VIII. this island appears only to have been encompassed at flood. This water of Yenlet seems once to have been the usual passage for all vessels from and to London, which thereby avoided the more exposed and longer navigation round the outside of this island, as they did likewise that round the isle of Shepey, by going through the Swale between that and the main land, both which

/e Lamb. Peramb. p. 275. Leland's Itinerary, vol. vii. p. 128.

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waters are mentioned in several old writings as part of the river Thames. So late as the reign of king Edward III. this seems to have been the most accustomed passage, for in the 11th year of, the strict ward and watch being set, according to old custom, along the sea coast of this county, one of them appears to have been set at La Yenlade in Hoo, and to have consisted of twelve men at arms and six hobelers; which latter were a kind of light horse, who rode about from place to place in the night, to gain intelligence of the landing of boats, men, &c. and were probably so called from the hobbies, or small horses, on which they rode.

The island of Graine is in shape nearly an oblong square; it lies very flat and low; the greatest part of it consists of pasture and marshes, the vast tracts of the latter, in the neighbourhood of it, and the badness of the water, makes it as unwholesome as it is unpleasant; so that the inhabitants mostly consist of a few lookers or bailiffs, and of those who work at the salt works, and such like, who have not wherewithal to seek a residence elsewhere. The entrance into this island, from the hundred of Hoo, is on the south side of it, over a causeway across Stoke marshes. The church of St. James, the only one in it, is situated at the northern part of the island, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. There is no village, the few houses stand dispersed, the farthest not more than a mile's distance southward from the church. There are two sets of saltworks, or salt pans as they are called, the one situated close to the water, at the southern boundary of the island, the other on Mr. Davenport's estate of Wall-end, on the eastern boundary of the island close to the Medway. In short, I cannot give a better description of it than in Mr. Johnson's words, in his little book of Kentish plants, intitled, *Iter Plantarum Investigationis ergo susceptum*, where he gives an account of his journey, July 13,

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1629, in search of simples to this island. He says, 'Having left our small boat we walked five or six miles, seeing nothing which could afford us any plea=

sure; upon the walls we were tormented, for it was in the middle of the day, on account of the heat, with an intolerable thirst, Tantalus like, in the midst of waters (for they were salt); nor were we less oppressed with hunger in this barbarous country, where there was not a village near, nor the smoke of a chimney in sight, nor the barking of a dog within hearing, those usual signs of inhabitants, to raise our languid minds to any kind of hope.'

The commission of sewers, which extends from Gravesend to Sheerness, and up the river Medway to Penshurst, takes charge of the sea walls round this island, excepting those adjoining to Mr. Davenport's estate, which are repaired at no small expence by the proprietor; they are divided into two levels, called the South-west and North-west levels.

THE MANOR of Graine was antiently part of the possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, where it remained till the reign of king Henry VIII. in the 37th year of which archbishop Cranmer, conveyed all his estates in this parish, together with his right to wreck of the sea to that king./e

King Edward VI. in the 5th year of his reign, granted this manor of Graine to his beloved and faithful counsellor, Sir George Broke, lord Cobham, late belonging to the archbishop, to hold in capite, by knights service, his grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being convicted of high treason in the 1st year of king James I. it became forfeited to the crown, and was confirmed to it by an act passed in the 3d year of that reign,/f from which time it seems to have remained in the crown till the death of king Charles I.

/e Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, Augm. Off. Box D. 75.

/f See Cobham, vol. ii. of this History.

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when it appears to have been esteemed as part of the manor of Gillingham, the quit rents of which in this island then amounted to 24l. 10s. 10¹/₄. from the freeholders in free socage tenure; since the Restoration it has been granted as an appendage to that manor, in which state it continues at present, being as such now possessed by Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke.

THERE is another manor here, called the MANOR of GRAINE, alias ROSE-COURT, which in the reign of king Edward III. was the estate of the family of Cobham of Cobham, in this county. Sir John de Cobham died possessed of it in that reign, and his son of the same name having together, with Sir Robert Knolys, built the new bridge at Rochester, amortized his two manors of Graine and Tilbury, worth forty marcs yearly above all reprises, to the support of it for ever,/g and it continues at this time part of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of that bridge, for the purposes above mentioned.

THERE is a good estate in that part of this island next the river Medway, which consists of several farms, lands, and salt works, the principal of which is called, from its situation, WALL-END FARM.

This estate has, from the earliest accounts of time, had the same owners as the manor of Malmains in Stoke, in this neighbourhood. In the reign of king

Edward III. it was in the possession of the family of Malmains, from whom it passed into the name of Filiot, and thence into that of Carew, of Beddington, in Surrey; and from that family, in the reign of Henry V. to Iden; from which name it was alienated at the latter end of king Henry VIII. to John Parke, whose sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to John Roper, esq. of Linsted, in this county, who, in the 14th year of king James I. was created baron of Teynham, in this county. His son, Chris-

/g Archives in the Bridge chamber.

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topher Roper, lord Teynham, succeeded him in his estate here, which he increased by obtaining a grant of lands in this island, formerly belonging to the nunnery of Minster in Shepey, which were given to it by archbishop Corboil; all which continued in his descendants to Henry lord Teynham, who, on his marriage with the lady Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Lennard, earl of Sussex, and widow of Rich. Barrett Lennard, esq. of Belhouse, in Essex, afterwards baroness Dacre, settled this estate, after her life therein, on the issue of that marriage. Lady Dacre afterwards married the Hon. Robert Moore, and died possessed of it in 1755; on which the fee became vested in Trevor Charles Roper and Henry Roper, the infant sons and coheirs in gavelkind of the Hon. Charles Roper, her eldest son by lord Teynham; but by a decree of the court of chancery, for the sale of this estate to satisfy incumbrances, and an act having been obtained for that purpose, in 1765, it was conveyed to the Rev. Fr. H. Foote, of Charlton, in Bishopsbourne, whose eldest son, John Foote, esq. afterwards succeeding to it, passed it away by sale to Mr. Thomas Lovett, who at his decease devised it to his son of the same name, on whose death it descended to his sister, now the wife of Mr. Davenport, of London, who in her right is at this time entitled to it.

The priory of Rochester was in very early times possessed of lands in this island. In 1076, archbishop Lanfranc, in the solemn assembly of the whole county, held by the Conqueror's command at Pinenden heath, recovered from Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, sixty shillings rent of pasture in Grean, which had been taken from that church, and which he immediately restored to it. There were several gifts af-

/h See Malmains in Stoke, vol. iii. of this History.

/i See more of this branch of the Ropers, under Ashford.

/k Sexaginta solidatas terræ.

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terwards made to the priory of marshes in this island, as may be seen throughout the Textus and Registrum Roffense; and king Henry I. confirmed to it a fishery in Grean, afterwards called the Niwewere, for which they paid the archbishops five shillings yearly; which rent archbishop Ralf released to them for ever; and he likewise, by his charter, prohibited all persons from fishing in the Thames before the fishery of the monks of Niwewere, under pain of forfeiture to him if they should be found fishing beyond.

Archbishop Baldwin, in the 1st year of king Richard I. intending to erect a chapel and other buildings within the manor of Lambeth, which then belonged to the monks of Rochester, granted to them, in lieu of the land there belonging to the manor, on which the chapel was to be built, and the area lying round it, one bercary or sheep-cote in the isle of Gren, with all its appurtenances, in marsh, lands, wreck, and in all other matters belonging to it, to hold to them as the demesnes of the said manor, free from all service and demand; and he made a further addition, by granting to them the services yearly due to him and his successors for those bercaries or sheep-cotes, which the monks held of him in Gren, which their tenants at all times in future should pay and be answerable for to them. These premises in Gren were particularly excepted out of the exchange made between archbishop Hubert and the monks of Rochester, of the manors of Lambeth and Darent, in the 7th year of king Richard I. In the 21st year of king Edward I. upon a Quo warranto, the prior of Rochester claimed to have wreck of the sea in the above marsh, which was adjoining to it, for that archbishop Baldwin, at the time he possessed it, and the prior and his predecessors from the time of the said exchange, had beyond memory possessed that liberty without

/l Reg. Roff. p. 434. Rymer's Fœd, vol. i. p. 89, 90.

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interruption; and the same was allowed him by the jury.

All these marshes, lands, and rents, with their appurtenances, which had been given to the priory of Rochester, remained part of its possessions at the dissolution of it in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. when they were surrendered into the king's hands; who, by his dotation charter, in the 32d year of his reign settled them, together with other premises here, lately belonging to the dissolved priory of Leeds, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of them now continues.

THE ISLAND OF GRAINE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and being one of the archbishop's peculiars, is as such within the deanry of Shoreham. The church, which is dedicated to St. James, consists of three isles and a chancel.

In it are the following memorials and inscriptions – In the middle isle, a brass for William Hykks, and Joan his wife; another for Jonathan Hykks and Agnes his wife; he died in 1494. Memorial for the Godfreys. In the chancel, a brass for John Cardyf, who made the pavement, obt. 1452.

This church antiently belonged to the nunnery at Minster in Shepey, to which it was appropriated before the reign of king Edward I. It continued part of the possessions of that monastery till the dissolution of it, which happened soon after the act passed, in the 27th year of king Henry VIII. for the suppression of those religious houses which had not 200l. per annum clear income; of which number this was one. The church thus coming into the hands of the crown, king Henry VIII. in his 36th year, granted among

other premises the rectory of St. James, in the isle of

/m Regist. Priorat de Ledes, fol. 2, p. 2, l. i.

/n See the mon. and inscrip. in this church, in Reg. Roff. p. 963.

/o Leland's Coll. vol. i. p. 89. Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

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Graine, with the advowson, to John Fynch, to hold in capite by knight's service. He died possessed of them, together with five hundred acres of arable, pasture, and salt marsh, in this island; all which he held as above mentioned, in the 4th year of Edward VI. His son, Clement Finch, at length became possessed of the whole of this estate, which he, in the eighteenth year of queen Elizabeth, alienated to Wm. Brooke, lord Cobham; whose descendant, Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, being attainted of high treason, in the 1st year of king James I. forfeited this, among the rest of his estates, to the crown, to which they were confirmed by an act passed for that purpose two years afterwards; soon after which this rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage, was granted to Sir Edward Hales, bart. who died possessed of it in 1654.

How this rectory impropriate passed from his descendants I do not find; but Mr. John Page, of Rochester, possessed it for many years, and at his death, not long since, by his last will devised it to his kinsman, the Rev. Edmund Faunce, of Sutton-at-Hone, whose son of the same name is the present proprietor of it. This rectory is held of the crown, by the yearly fee farm rent of 1l. 2s. 10½d.

The advowson of the vicarage of this church passed with the rectory, through the same chain of ownership to Sir Edward Hales, bart. who died possessed of both in 1654; soon after which they seem to have had separate owners, and to have continued so till this time, the late proprietor of the advowson being Mr. Walter Nynn, since whose decease without issue, Mrs. Rachel Ray, widow, his sister and heir, is become intitled to it. It is valued in the king's books at 9l. 11s. 8d. per annum, and the yearly tenths at 19s. 2d.

In a taxation made in the reign of Edward III. it appears, that the church of Graine was then endowed

/p See Cobham, vol. ii. p. 412.

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with ten acres of arable and two of pasture, worth per annum, 4l. 3s. 4d. and of rents of assise to the amount of 48s. per annum./q

In the survey, taken after the death of Charles I. in 1650, of the several parsonages, vicarages, &c. in this diocese, it was returned, that there was in this parish a vicarage presentative, worth 50l. per annum, Sir Edward Hales, patron; incumbent, Mr. Edward Sparke; the parsonage an impropriation, worth 50l. per annum, Sir Edward Hales owner thereof./r

Dr. Plume, archdeacon of Rochester, who died in 1704, bequeathed five pounds per annum, towards teaching the poor children of this parish to read./s

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, IN GRAINE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Sir Edward Hales, bart. Edward Sparke, in 1650./t
Edward Turner, B.A. in 1710./u
Charles Soan, A. M. obt. Sep. 5,
1755./w

Francis Ireland, A. M.

John Dolman, A. M. ob. 1774./x

Mr. Nynn. Luke Philips, A. M. 1774. Pre=
sent vicar./y

/q Folio Christ church, MSS.

/r Lamb. Surv. vol. xix.

/s Harris's Hist. Kent, p. 160.

/t Lamb. Surv. vol. xix.

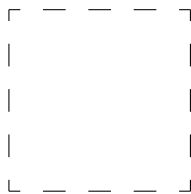
/u Also vicar of Stoke.

/w And vicar of Hartlip.

/x Also vicar of Chalk.

/y And lecturer of Gravesend.

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THE HUNDRED OF MAIDSTONE.

THE next hundred south-westward is that of
Maidstone, which contains within its bounds the pa=
rishes of

1. BOXLEY.
2. DETLING.
3. LOOSE.
4. LINTON.
5. EAST FARLEY; and
6. EAST and WEST BARMING.

With the churches of the same: And part of the parishes of
BERSTED, HUNTON, MARDEN, and STAPLEHURST.

IT formerly contained likewise, within its bounds,
the town and parish of Maidstone, which has long since
been made a separate jurisdiction, having a constable
of its own, the liberty of the corporation claiming
over it. This hundred is written, in the book of
Domesday, Meddestan, and in other records, Maydes=
tane. In the 8th year of king Edward II. the arch=
bishop was lord of this hundred; the Right Hon.
lord Romney is the present owner of it.

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THE TOWN AND PARISH OF MAIDSTONE.

SOUTH-WESTWARD from Gillingham, the
parish of Boxley only intervening, lies the parish and
town of Maidstone, concerning the antient name of
which writers have greatly differed.

Nennius, in his catalogue of the cities of Britain,
tells us, this place was called by the Britons, Caer
Meguiad, or as others have it, Megwad, no doubt
corruptly for Medwag. Camden,/a Burton,/b Gale,

and some few other historians, have supposed it to have been the Roman station, called by Antonine in his Itinerary, Vagniacæ; a name taken from the river here, at that time called Vaga; for this purpose they read the distances of the second iter of Antonine, A Vallo ad portum Ritupis, as follows: A Londinio, Noviomago, M. P. X. Vagniacis, M. P. XVIII. Durobrovis, M. P. IX. If this place was the Vagniacæ of the Romans, and the above numbers are right, it is situated much about the above distance from Keston, and not quite so much from Crayford, both which have been conjectured to have been the antient Noviomagus; the distance of it from Durobrovis, or Rochester, will answer tolerably well. The word Vagniacæ, is supposed, by a learned etymologist,^c to have been corruptly written in the Itinerary for Maduicæ, which is the same as Med-wæge in the Saxon, and Mad-Āijog-Āijisc in the British tongue; hence in process of time it came to be called Madis and ad Madum,^d the river being called Mada and Madus. The Saxons afterwards called it Medwegston and Medweaggeston; i. e. Maduicis oppidum, according to Baxter; in English, Medway's

^{/a} Camden, p. 37, 226. ^{/b} Comment. on Anton. p. 178.

^{/c} Baxter in his Gloss.

^{/d} Richard of Cirencester, p. 85; Peuting. Tables; See Horsl. Brit. p. 517.

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town, which name is written, by contraction, in Domesday, Meddestane, as it is at present Maidstone.

THE PARISH of Maidstone is most advantageously situated near the banks of the river Medway, which directs its course through it, being navigable by the contrivance of locks here and for many miles higher up, as far as Tunbridge town. Over the river here there is an unsightly ancient stone bridge of seven arches, supposed to have been first erected by some of the archbishops, lords of the manor. It was repaired in king James I.'s reign by an assessment on the town and parish, but it still remains both narrow and inconvenient. The town is built on the two opposite hills, rising immediately from the banks of the river, but the principal part is on the eastern one, beyond which the hill rises still further to Pinenden heath, part of which is within this parish, which there joins to those of Boxley and Detling. The soil is exceedingly fertile, being in general a loam, thinly spread over an entire bed of quarry stone, commonly called Kentish rag-stone, excepting towards the eastern parts of it, where it becomes a deep sand; in the south east part of it, about Sheppard's-street and Gould's, there is some coppice wood, beyond which are the hamlets of Broadway, Willington-street, and part of Maginford, within the bounds of this parish. The meadows, on the banks of the Medway, are much subject to be flooded by the sudden risings of it, after heavy rains, to the height of several feet perpendicular, but which as suddenly subside. Above the town the course of the river, though it narrows considerably above the lock, just above the bridge, is yet beautiful, and retains a depth of water of near from twelve to fourteen feet; about a mile above the town, near the hamlets

of Upper and Lower Tovil, the stream, which rises at Langley, having supplied a chain of mills, flows into the Medway; the former hamlet is situated on an eminence, commanding a pleasing view; the Ana=

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baptists have, in this romantic and rocky situation, made a burial place for their fraternity. At a small distance higher up the river, though on the opposite bank, is the hamlet of Fant, the principal house of which, called Fant house, is the property of Mr. Fowle, who resides in it; and near it a pleasant seat, close to the river, which belongs to Robert Salmon, esq. of Eyhorne-street. In all this vicinity the banks of the river continue highly ornamented with spreading oaks, while the country round wears an appearance equal to that of a garden, in its highest state of cultivation. The soil, not only adjoining the town, but throughout the neighbourhood of it, is remarkably kind for hops, orchards of fruit, and plantations of filberds, consequently those, especially of the former round it, are very large, and the crops of them abundant, owing to the peculiar nourishment and warmth afforded to the roots of the plants, from the fibres of them penetrating the crevices of the rock. Great part of the wealth and prosperity of Maidstone has arisen from the hop trade, most of the inhabitants of every degree having some hop ground, and many estates have been raised by them from this commodity, which is supposed to have been planted here about the time of the Reformation; sooner than in any other part of this county.

THE TOWN of Maidstone is pleasantly situated, about the middle of the county, thirty-five miles from London, and somewhat more from Dover. It is happily screened by the surrounding hills, arising from the beautiful vale, through which the Medway runs beneath. It is justly noticed for the dryness of its soil and its excellent water, and consequently for its healthiness, its ascent keeping it continually clean and dry. The state of this town, in queen Elizabeth's reign, may be known by the return made to her in the 8th year of it, of the several places in this county where there were any boats, shipping, &c. by which

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it appears, that there were then here a mayor and aldermen, houses inhabited, 294; landing places, 4; ships and hoys, 5; one of 30 tons, one of 32, one of 40, and one of 50; and persons wholly occupied in the trade of merchandize, 22; since which this town has been continually increasing in size, inhabitants, and wealth, owing to the introduction of the hop-plant, as has been already noticed, the several charters which have been granted to it, and the navigation of the river Medway; insomuch that the houses are now computed to be in number fifteen hundred, and the population of it is said to have increased at this time to upwards of six thousand inhabitants, near one half of which are non-conformists to the established church, both Presbyterians and Anabaptists, each of whom have their respective meeting houses of worship in the town, which dissension in matters of

religion unhappily extends to politics, and from the heat of parties, destroys much of that social intercourse and harmony which would otherwise unite the inhabitants of this flourishing town. The principal parts of it stand on the side of a hill, declining towards the west and south; it extends about a mile from north to south, and not quite three quarters from east to west. It was new paved, lighted, and otherwise improved in 1792, in consequence of an act passed the year before for that purpose; though the buildings in it are in general antient, yet there are several handsome modern ones, inhabited by genteel families; and the spacious breadth of the High-street carries with it a grand and at the same time a lightsome and cheerful appearance. The town consists of four principal streets, which intersect each other at the market cross, having several smaller ones leading out of them. The cross, on the top of this building, which is an octagon, though the name still remains, has been some time since taken down. It is now used for a fish-market, and was formerly called the Corn cross, hav-

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ing been made use of as a corn market till the upper court-house was built for that purpose about the year 1608, by an assessment on the town.

On account of its convenient situation for transacting the public business of the county, it has long been reputed the county or shire town. Near the upper end of the High-street, which is remarkably spacious, leading down to the bridge, besides the upper court hall above mentioned, is a more modern one, a handsome building of stone and brick, built not many years ago at the joint expence of the corporation and the justices of the western division of the county; the former making use of it to transact their public business in, as the latter do whenever the public business of the county requires the use of it. In it are likewise held the assizes for the county, the general quarter sessions for the western parts of Kent, the county meetings for the choice of candidates, to represent the county in parliament, and every other public business relating to it; which right of the justices and inhabitants of the county, to hold their meetings, &c. in it, was settled at the building of it, by an indenture made between them and the corporation. The street, leading towards Coxheath and the Weald of Kent, is called Stone-street, a name which sufficiently proves the antiquity of this town, and its consequence in the time of the Romans. There are three principal conduits, which are supplied with excellent water, conveyed in pipes from a place called Rocky-hill, in the West Borough, on the opposite side of the Medway, at the charge of the corporation. These are placed very conveniently for the service of the inhabitants, one at the upper end of the High-street, near the market cross; a second lower down, being a high octagon stone building with a clock and dial, having a turret at the top of it, and what is called a fish-bell, which is always rung when any fish is brought to market; the third is placed at

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the lower end of the town. At a small distance from the south side of this street, about the middle of it, on an eminence close to the Medway, stands the church, the antient archiepiscopal palace, and the remains of the college, each forming conspicuous objects to the neighbouring country westward.

Adjoining to the last mentioned court-hall is the prison belonging to the corporation, formerly called the Brambles.^{/e} This prison appears to have belonged antiently to the archbishops of Canterbury, and continued so till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged the prison house of this town with that king.^{/f} In king Charles I.'s reign it remained in the king's hands; for by his letters patent, in 1631, he granted the office of keeper of it, and the custody of all prisoners there, to John Collins for his life; who, by his will, in 1644, gave his patent of the king's gaol in Maidstone, with all the irons, implements, fees, and appurtenances to his son of the same name.

The public gaol of the western division of the county of Kent was formerly placed most inconveniently in the very middle of the town, to its great annoyance, where it remained till 1736, when on a petition of its inconvenient situation, near the market place, of its being much decayed, and that there was no gaol for debtors, an act was obtained for erecting another in the room of it, together with a bridewell, in another part of the town. This, after some intermission, was accomplished, and a capacious strong building of stone, with large outlets and conveniences for this purpose, has been erected near the out parts of the town, in East-lane, which has been lately still further strengthened and enlarged at a large expence, at the charge of the western division of the county.

^{/e} History of Maidstone, p. 114.

^{/f} Augment. Off. Box A. 21. Rymer's Fœd. vol. xix. p. 345.

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THE MARKET, which was first granted to archbishop Boniface, by king Henry III. in his 45th year, to be held weekly at his manor here, has been confirmed by the several charters to this town, and is now held weekly on a Thursday, for the sale of all kind of provisions, corn, and hops, toll free, with which the town and its neighbourhood for miles round is most plentifully supplied at a very reasonable rate. The mayor is clerk of the market, and when admitted into his office, is sworn duly to execute that part of it. King George II. by letters patent in 1751, granted to the corporation a market, to be held the second Tuesday in every month yearly, for the buying and selling of all manner of sheep and other cattle whatsoever, which continues to be so held at this time; and there is another market held likewise for the sale of hops yearly, at the time of Michaelmas.

THE FAIRS of this town are held four times yearly, viz. Feb. 13, May 12, June 20, and Oct. 27, for horses, bullocks, and other cattle, as well as for wares, haberdashery, and pedlary; but the last is by far the greatest of them, being resorted to by the country for many miles round. The principal part of these

fairs is held on a piece of ground, on the bank of the Medway, called the meadow, though the High-street is covered with them likewise. The above piece of ground formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Boxley, and on the dissolution of that house, coming to the crown, was granted by king Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyatt, who in a great exchange of land, made by him with that king, in his 32d year, sold to him, among other estates in this parish, the piece of land called Caring, containing sixteen acres, and the profits of the fair yearly there, for standing upon it, in Maidstone. In the parliament of the 11th of king Henry VII. the custody of weights and measures, which were then renewed and appointed according to the standard in the exchequer, was com-

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mitted to this town for the county of Kent, and they have continued to be preserved here to the present time.

There are two considerable manufactories of linen thread carried on in this town, a trade introduced here by the Walloons in the 11th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, at the time they fled from the persecution of the duke d'Alva, and took refuge in England. The Walloon families here in 1634, were about fifty, they are now quite worn out, though there are some names remaining, which seem to have derived their origin from them, though the persons that bear them are ignorant whence they had them. The only remembrance of these Walloons now left is the term which the common people give to the flax spun for the threadmen, which at this day they call Dutch work.

Besides which there has been within these few years a Distillery, erected and carried on here to a very large extent, by Mr. George Bishop, from which is produced the well-known Maidstone Geneva, being of such a magnitude, that no less than seven hundred hogs are kept from the surplus of the grains from it.

There is a department of the customs and an office of excise in this town.

Besides the free grammar school, of which a particular account will be given hereafter, there are two boarding-schools for the education of young ladies, all of them of good repute.

The navigation of the river Medway is of the greatest advantage to this town, as a considerable traffic is carried on by it from hence to Rochester, Chatham, and so on to London, and from the several large corn-mills here abundance of meal and flour is shipped off for the use of those towns, the dock and navy there, as well as great quantities sent weekly to London. The fulling and paper mills in and near this town, of the latter of which, late Mr. Whatman's, at Boxley, is perhaps equal to any in the kingdom, send all their manufacture

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hither to be transported from hence by water to London. The vast quantities of timber brought hither from the Weald of Kent and its neighbourhood, by land carriage, as well as water, are conveyed from hence by the navigation of the Medway to the dock at Chatham, and other more distant parts. Besides which

there are several large hoys, of fifty tons burthen and upwards, which sail weekly to and from London, for the convenience of this town and the adjacent country.

THERE WAS a family of good account, called, as well from their residence as birth here, by the surname of Maidstone, whose arms, as appears by a monument in Ulcombe church, were, Sable, a chevron between three cups covered argent, crowned, or./g

Ralph de Maidestan, dean of Hereford, was consecrated bishop of that see in 1234. He was born here, and is celebrated by M. Paris as a man of excellent learning and holiness of life. Having resigned his bishopric in 1239, and taken the habit of a Franciscan at Oxford, he retired to the convent of that order at Gloucester, where he died in 1245, and was there buried.

John de Maidestan was made dean of Lincoln, in 1275./h

Walter de Maidestan had the king's licence in the 4th year of king Edward II. to embattle his mansion in the town of Maidenstan.

William de Maidenstane, the king's valet, being sent to the court of Rome, died on his journey thither in the 5th year of that reign.

Walter de Maydestan was consecrated bishop of Worcester in 1313, anno 7 Edward II. at which time Robert de Maidestone was canon of the church of Chichester.

/g Philipott, p. 230. Willis's Cathedrals, vol. i. p. 514.

/h Ibid. vol. ii. p. 76. Pat. ejus an. pt. 1. ma. Thomas's Worcester, p. 160, 164.

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Another Walter Maidston was made sub dean of Lincoln in 1329./i

John Maidston, gent. was principal agent in 1644 to the earl of Manchester, general of the parliamentary forces, and bore for his arms, as appears by his will, two battle axes in saltire.

Besides the above, William Maydeston was abbot of Faversham, and Walter de Maydestone was a monk of that abbey in 1367, and was afterwards admitted a monk of Christ-church, in Canterbury. Thomas de Maydestone was canon of Leeds in 1397, and Clement de Maydestone Priest was a transcriber of the Directorium Sacerdotum, as appears by his name at the end of it./k

In the heraldic visitation of the county of Kent, taken in 1619, is the pedigree of Fisher, of Maidstone, beginning with William Fisher, of this place, whose descendant and great grandson, Walter Fisher, was mayor of this town. They bore for their arms, Argent, on a chief gules, a dolphin argent.

Richard Lee, son of Richard Lee, of Delce, near Rochester, sheriff of Kent in 19th year of king Edward IV. son of Sir Richard Lee, lord-mayor of London, had a mansion in this town, where he resided./l Edward, his third son, was lord archbishop of York.

AMONG THE remarkable occurrences which have at times happened here, in the year 1648, during the time of the great rebellion, general Fairfax, with his whole strength, marched by order of the parliament

towards Maidstone, in which there were at that time about one thousand horse and foot of the royalists, commanded by Sir John Mayney, when the general, with a strong force of ten thousand men, assaulted the town, and began to storm it. As this was no more than was expected, the streets and houses had been all

/i Willis's Cath. v. ii. p. 97. /k Newton's Maidstone, p. 124.
/l MSS. Pedigree of Lee. See Great Delce.

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lined by the royalists, who by this time amounted to near two thousand, Sir William Brockman having brought into the town about eight hundred men to their assistance, Fairfax met with such resolute opposition on every side, that he gained every street inch by inch, and the engagement lasted near five hours, till almost twelve at night; when the royalists, being quite overpowered by the numerous reserves that kept continually advancing, were forced to retreat into the church, where they were obliged to surrender on the best terms they could obtain for their own safety. Scarce any action during the civil war was more bravely fought than this; Fairfax prevailed by his superior numbers over the gallant few. Lord Clarendon says, it was a sharp encounter, very bravely fought with the general's whole strength, and the veteran soldiers confessed, that they had never met with the like desperate service during the war./m

On Friday, August 19, 1763, a most violent storm of wind and hail, accompanied with thunder and lightning, spread a general desolation over this parish, and the adjacent neighbourhood. It arose at sea off the coast of Sussex, and entering this county at Tunbridge Wells, passed quite across it to Sheerness, being forty miles in length, and in breadth from two to four miles. Its line of direction was nearly from south-west-by-west to north-east-by-east.

The fury of it was such in those parishes over which it spread, about twenty-four in number, most of which were exceeding fertile, that almost the whole growth of hops, the plantation of which were very large, and contained in a great measure what is generally called the middle growth of Kent, the apples, filberts, corn, with whatever else was on the lands were entirely destroyed by it, insomuch that the farmer and the labourer were alike deprived of subsistence by this fatality. The

/m Newton's Hist. p. 145. Hist. Rebellion, vol. iii. p. 119.

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damage done to the trees and buildings was as great in proportion; many barns and even houses were blown down, and scarce a pane of glass to the southward was left unbroken; and on that side of the High-street in the town of Maidstone, not only the glass, but the lead and frames of the windows were broken, and drove in by the violence and largeness of the hail, which beat as loud against the shutters, as the strongest blow of a thick club would have done. The hail indeed might rather be deemed pieces of ice, from its different irregular shapes; at Barming one piece was taken up in the form of an oyster, measuring nine inches round the edges, and some were taken up ten days after the storm,

which then measured four inches and an half round. Great numbers of small birds were killed by it, as were several hares, pheasants and partridges, and the trees were every where stript of almost all their leaves. So general a desolation in this county had never been remembered, or ever related in history; and insupportable indeed would this calamity have been, had not the generosity of the gentry of this county in particular, and of the public in general relieved them in some measure from the ruin and misery they were by this fatality so deeply plunged in.

THE TOWN OF MAIDSTONE was antiently governed by a portreeve and twelve brethren, and continued so till king Edward VI. by his letters patent in his 3d year, newly INCORPORATED the town, by the stile and title of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent.

These privileges were not long afterwards forfeited by the rebellion, first began in this town by Sir Thomas Wyatt, and other principal gentlemen of it, in the 1st year of queen Mary, of whom Sir Henry and Thomas Isley, his brother, and Walter Mantle, esq. were executed here./n

/n History of Maidstone, p. 22, 24.

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In this state of disfranchisement the town remained till queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her 2d year, again incorporated it by the stile and title of mayor and aldermen, and granted some other additional privileges, among which was a confirmation of their antient prescriptive right of sending two burgesses to parliament, the granting to the mayor the authority of a justice of the peace, and the exempting the townsmen from foreign sessions.

Some years after which several doubts arising, concerning the validity and meaning of the different parts of the last-mentioned letters patent, a third charter of incorporation was granted to this town by James I. by letters patent, in his 2d year, anno 1604, by the name and stile of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, in which all the privileges of the former were confirmed, and new ones granted by it. After which a fourth charter was granted by the same king in his 17th year, anno 1619. King Charles II. by letters patent, in his 34th year, anno 1682, incorporated this town anew, by the like stile and title as the former; which charter was made use of in the government of this place till the revolution in 1688, after which it was entirely laid aside.

In the reign of king George II. this corporation being dissolved by the judgment of Ouster against its principal members, upon informations of quo warranto, a new charter was granted by the king by letters patent dated in his 21st year, anno 1748; in which it is recited, that divers disputes having arisen of late within this town and corporation, and informations in nature of quo warranto having been prosecuted in the king's bench, and judgment of ouster obtained against all the acting jurats, so that the corporation was then dissolved, and the town incapable of enjoying their liberties and franchises. Therefore the king, for divers causes

therein mentioned, upon the petition of the freemen, freeholders, and other inhabitants of the king's town

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and parish of Maidstone, granted, that the town and parish should be a free town and parish of itself; and that the inhabitants of it should be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, in the county of Kent, and by that name to have perpetual succession, and to acquire and hold lands, &c. and to alien them, and by the aforementioned name to plead and be impleaded; and that they and their successors might have a common seal, and might break, change, and new make the same at their liking; and that the town and parish, and the liberties and precincts thereof, should extend according to the former ancient boundaries; and that there should be thirteen inhabitants of the town and parish, who should be chosen jurats, one of whom should be chosen mayor of the king's town and parish of Maidstone, which jurats, not being in the office of mayor, should be assistants to him in every thing; and that there should be forty of the remaining principal inhabitants chosen common-councilmen, all of whom, viz. mayor, jurats, and common-councilmen, should have power, upon public summons, to make bye laws; and that the jurats should be elected by the mayor, jurats, and common-councilmen, duly assembled, and the common-councilmen in like manner, with a fine at the discretion of the mayor, &c. for their refusal of those offices, any of whom should be removed by the mayor, &c. duly assembled, for any sufficient crime or notorious offence; and that the jurats should assemble on the 2d day of November yearly, within the town, and then nominate two men, then being jurats, for the rest of the jurats and commonalty then present to elect one out of the two to be mayor; and that the person so chosen should take an oath before the then last mayor, or in his absence the two senior jurats then present, for the due execution of his office, and in case of his death, that a successor should be chosen in like manner; and that the mayor, in case of

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sickness or absence, should appoint one of the jurats a deputy mayor for the time aforesaid; and that the mayor and jurats should elect a recorder, to hold his office during their pleasure; and that he should have power to make a deputy recorder during his pleasure; and that the mayor, jurats, and common council should appoint one or two serjeants at mace, who should bear one or two gilt or silver maces, engraved with the king's arms, every where within the town and parish before the mayor. And whereas queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her 2d year, granted to the mayor, &c. one market within the town on a Thursday weekly, with all tolls, customs, and other profits; and also four fairs in the town, one from noon on April 30th to noon on May 2d, another at noon on the eve of the feast of St. Edmund the king and martyr to noon on the morrow after the said feast, another at noon on the eve of the feast of St. Faith until the noon on the morrow of the said feast, and the other on the noon of the

feast of the Purification until the noon of the morrow of the said feast, with all tolls, tributes, profits, &c. and a pye-powder court to be held in the same fairs and markets. And whereas king James, by his letters patent, in his 2d year, regranted and confirmed the markets and fairs, and other liberties and privileges granted as aforesaid; and by other letters patent in his 17th year, did ratify and confirm the said markets, fairs, courts of pye-powder, tributes, customs, tolls, &c. and further granted, that it should be lawful for the mayor to extend the market beyond the place called the Market-place, or to hold it in any other place within the town.

Therefore the king, being willing to shew further grace and favor to the mayor, &c. ratified and confirmed the said markets, fairs, courts, &c. and granted them to the mayor, &c. and their successors de novo; and that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty should nominate, elect, and admit any person or persons, being

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inhabitants of the town and parish, freemen of the same; and that the recorder, deputy recorder, jurats, common-councilmen, and freemen should severally make oath before the mayor and jurats for the due execution of their office, as had been accustomed.

And whereas queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, did grant to the mayor and jurats and commonalty, full power to hold a court before the mayor in the town, from fourteen days to fourteen days, on a Tuesday, for pleas, as well of assise of novel disseisin, as other pleas, actions, suits, &c. concerning lands, &c. in the town and parish, although they should or should not exceed the sum of forty shillings, and did grant that the town and parish, and the liberties of the same should extend themselves by the water of Medway from East Farleigh bridge unto Hawkwood (a piece of land in the parish of Burham) as in the said letters patent more fully appeared; and whereas the water of Medway, between the said bridge and Hawkwood flowed by and through the town and parish of Maidstone, and by and through the several towns of East Farleigh, Barming, Loze, Boxley, Allington, and by certain streets called Milhale, (a hamlet in the parish of Aylesford) and Newhythe, in the parish of East Malling, in the county of Kent; and the town and parish of Maidstone extending itself promiscuously in, by, and through the town of Loze and Linton, and beyond, and also by the said towns of East Farleigh, Barming, and Boxley, and by the town of Otham, according to certain information given.

The king, intending to put into certainty, and to limit into what parish, towns, hamlets, &c. and how far the liberties and jurisdictions of the mayor, &c. of the town and parish should reach and extend, as to the hearing and determining pleas in the said court, granted and declared, that the liberties of the same, and the jurisdiction of the mayor, &c. should extend, only as to the cognizance and determination of actions and reple-

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vins, and to no other intent and purpose, into, by, and through the said towns and parishes of East Barming,

Loze, Boxley, Allington, Milhale, Newhythe, Linton, and Otham; and that for the better executing the said actions, they might make and execute all attachments and legal processes into and through all the said parishes, streets, &c. And whereas queen Elizabeth granted that the inhabitants of the town and parish should be exempted from serving on juries and inquisitions, except in the town of Maidstone; the king therefore granted and confirmed, that the said inhabitants should not be impanelled on any juries or inquisitions whatsoever, without the town and parish; and that the mayor and recorder, and three senior jurats, during their offices, should be justices of the peace within the town and parish, and that no justice of the county should in any wise intermeddle within the said town and parish; which mayor, recorder, and three jurats aforesaid should take an oath before the rest of the jurats for the due execution of their office; and the mayor, recorder, and three jurats as aforesaid, or any three of them, of whom the mayor and recorder to be two, should hear and determine all trespasses and misdemeanors within the town and parish, as the justices of the county were used to do, or any two or more of them can or may do, as well in and out of their sessions, by the king's commission, so that they nevertheless in no wise pretended to the determining of any treason or felony, or any other offence touching the loss of life or member, without the king's special mandate in that behalf. And that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty should receive all fines, forfeitures, and issue of jurors for non-appearance, and the like for trespasses, &c. before the said justices within the town and parish; and that the mayor for the time being should be coroner within the town and parish, and should make oath before the last mayor, or on his death, &c. before two or more of the jurats, of the due execution of his office,

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and that no coroner for the county town enter within the town and parish, &c. And he granted to the mayor, &c. all waifs, estreats, fines, forfeitures, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, &c. before granted by the letters patent of queen Elizabeth, and to the mayor all return of writs, &c. within the town and parish; so that the sheriff, coroner, or escheator, or other the king's ministers in no wise intermeddle within the town and parish. And that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty should have and enjoy to their own proper use all wharfage, anchorage, and groundage of ships and vessels coming to the town and parish, and reasonable fees and wages for lading and unlading of merchandizes, goods, and chattels in the said ships and vessels there to be laded and unladed into or out of the same; and that they should have through the water as aforesaid, from East Farleigh bridge to Hawkwood, the privilege of keeping and preserving swans and signets, and a swan-mark, and the same to alter at their pleasure, and also all swans and signets through the waters, within the bounds and limits aforesaid, and the banks and ground of the same, building nests, breeding or frequenting, and not legally marked with the swan-mark aforesaid, and full power to pursue, retake, and bring back the swans and signets aforesaid, swimming or wandering by

water and land out of the limits aforesaid, without hindrance of the king, his officers or ministers, or other persons whatsoever. And that the mayor, &c. for the better support of the charges of the town and parish aforesaid, or for other reasonable causes, or for the public good and benefit of the said town and parish, and of the inhabitants thereof, should from time to time make and assess reasonable taxes and assessments upon themselves and every inhabitant there, and levy the same by distress, or any other legal manner, as they have heretofore been used and accustomed; and he likewise confirmed to them all lands, goods, liberties and franchises, as they had ever heretofore held, used and enjoyed the

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same, with a non obstante to all omissions, or other matter whatsoever; and that they should have the same sealed with the great seal, without fee or reward, &c.

By the above charter the corporation act at this time, their exclusive jurisdiction as such extending over the town and parish of Maidstone, and on the river Medway from East Farleigh bridge to Hawkwood in Burham, in all matters whatsoever as within the same; and for the cognizance and determination of actions and replevins to the further extent of the towns and parishes of East Farleigh, Barming, Lose, Boxley, Allington, Linton, and Otham, and the hamlets of Mithale, in Aylesford, and Newhythe, in the parish of East Malling.

The mayor and jurats, and the recorder as steward, annually hold a court leet, or law day, formerly called the portmote, at which, among other business, the peace officers are chosen, viz. a high constable for the town and parish, and a borsholder for each of the three boroughs of Week, West-street, and Stone, into which this town and parish are divided.

The mayor pays the annual fee ferm of three pounds to the crown, for the town of Maidstone.

The arms of the town of Maidstone are, Or, on a fess wavy azure between three torteauxes, on a chief gules a lion passant guardant, or.

This town and parish, with others in this neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge./o

King James I. by letters patent, dated July 8, in his 21st year, created lady Elizabeth Finch, widow of Sir Moile Finch, bart. VISCOUNTESS MAIDSTONE, with limitation to her heirs male; and king Charles I. by letters patent, July 12, in his 4th year, conferred on her the title of Countess of Winchelsea to her and her heirs male, Earls of Winchelsea. She died in 1633,

/o Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 422.

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and was succeeded by Sir Tho. Finch, the second, but eldest surviving son, in her titles before mentioned, being the first earl of Winchelsea and viscount Maidstone, in whose descendants the titles continued down to John, the fifth earl of Winchelsea, viscount Maidstone, &c. who dying without issue in 1729, those titles descended to Daniel, second earl of Nottingham, son and heir of Sir Heneage Finch, son and heir of Sir He-

neage, fourth son of Sir Moile Finch, bart. by Eliza= beth his wife, who was created countess of Winchelsea, and viscountess Maidstone as has been already mentioned.

Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, was constituted lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of this county, and afterwards was successively employed in different great offices of trust, being much esteemed for his learning and eminent abilities. He died in 1730, having been twice married; first, to Essex, daughter and coheir of Robert Rich, earl of Warwick, by whom he had one daughter; secondly, to Anne, only daughter of Christopher, viscount Hatton, by whom he had five sons and eight daughters, of whom the eldest son Daniel succeeded him in the titles of earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, viscount Maidstone, &c. and married first, Frances, daughter of Basil Fielding, earl of Denbigh, by whom he had one daughter, Charlotte, on whose death he married secondly, Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Palmer, bart. of Wingham, by whom he had four daughters, Heneage, Essex, Hatton, and Augusta, and dying in 1769, æt. 81, without male issue, was succeeded in honors by his nephew, George Finch, esq. only son of the right hon. William Finch, second and next brother to Daniel, earl of Winchelsea, last mentioned by his second wife, Charlotte, second daughter of Thomas, earl of Pomfret.

The right hon. George Finch, above-mentioned, is the present earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, viscount Maidstone, and baron Finch, of Daventry, and

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is at present unmarried./p He was in 1779 made lord-lieutenant of Rutland. He bears for his arms quarterly, 1st and 4th, Argent, a chevron between three griffins passant, sable, for Finch – 2d and 3d, Gules, three lions rampant, or, for Fitzherbert. For his crest: On a wreath a flying horse, argent, winged and ducally gorged, or. And for his supporters: on the right, a flying horse as the crest; and on the left, a griffin sable, ducally collared, or.

The FOLLOWING SCARCE PLANTS have been observed by our BOTANISTS in this parish.

Pimpinella saxifraga major degener seu foliis dissectis; great burnet saxifrage, with divided leaves.

Mentha angustifolia spicata, glabra, folio rugosiore, odore graviore; spearmint, with a rugged leaf and a stronger scent.

Mentha sylvestris candicans odore sativi; hairy mint.

Convolvulus flore minimo ad unguem fere secto.

Anblatum cordi sive aphyllon; toothwort, in the woods about this parish.

Geranium montanum fuscum; spotted mountain cranesbill, at Tovell, in the valley behind the mill.

Nidus avis, mishapen orchis, or birdsnest.

Lapathum sativum sanguineum; blood wort.

Aristolochia clematitis; climbing birthwort.

Fungus pæne albus, prona parte erinaceus; imbricatus hydnum./q

It has been already mentioned, that this town was AN ANTIENT BOROUGH BY PRESCRIPTION, which privilege has since been confirmed by the several charters granted to it. The first account extant of the

names of burgesses returned for it is in the 6th year of king Edward VI.

/p See a fuller account of the family of Finch, under Eastwell.
/q Raii Synopsis, p. 276, 288, 360, 382. Hudsoni Flo. Angl. p. 153, 394, 628.

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THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THOSE WHICH
HAVE BEEN CHOSEN SINCE THEN
TO THE PRESENT TIME.

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD VI.

Years of the Reign, &c. Names of the Burgesses in Parl.

Parliament at Westminster WILLIAM WOTTON,
John Salwyne,^r

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

5th. At Westminster Nicholas Berham, esq.
Henry Fisher, gent.

13th. Ditto Thomas Walsingham,
Nicholas St. Leger, esqrs.

14th. Ditto Nicholas St. Leger,
Thomas Danet, esqrs.

27th. Ditto Thomas Randolph, cham=
berlain of the exchequer,
Nicholas Sanders, esq.

28th. Ditto John Ashley,
Thomas Randolph, esqrs.

31st. Ditto The same.

35th. Ditto Thomas Fludde, knt.
Levin Bufkin, esq.

39th. Ditto Thomas Fludde,
John Leveson, knts.

43rd. Ditto The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES I.

1st. At Westminster Francis Fane, knt.
Laurence Washington, esq

12th. Ditto Francis Fane,
Francis Barnham, knts.

/r In the 7th Edward VI. the charter of Maidstone was ordered
to be viewed, to determine its right to send burgesses.

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18th. At Westminster Francis Fane,
Francis Barnham, knts.

21st. Ditto George Fane,
Francis Barnham, knts.

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES I.

1st. At Westminster Edward Maplesden,
Thomas Stanley, gents.

1st. Ditto George Fane,
Francis Barnham, knts.

3d. Ditto The same.

15th. Ditto The same.

16th. Ditto Francis Barnham,
Humphry Tufton, knts.

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES II.

12th. At Westminster 1660 Tho. Twysden, sergeant at
law,
Robert Barnham, esq.

13th. Ditto 1661 Sir Edmund Pierce, knt.
Robert Barnham, esq.

31st. Ditto 1678 Sir Thomas Tufton, bart.
Sir John Darell.

31st. Ditto 1679 Sir Thomas Tufton, bart.
Thomas Fane, esq.

32d. Ditto 1681 The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES II.

1st. At Westminster 1685 Archibald Clinkard,
Edwin Wiat, esqrs.

IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

1st. At Westminster 1688 Sir Thomas Taylor, bart.
Caleb Banks, esq.

2d. Ditto 1690 Sir Thomas Taylor, bart.
Thomas Ryder, esq.

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7th. At Westminster 1695 Sir Thomas Taylor, bart.
Sir John Banks, bart./s

10th. Ditto 1698 Sir Rob. Marsham, bart.
Thomas Blisse, esq.

12th. Ditto 1700 The same.

13th. Ditto 1701 Sir Rob. Marsham, bart.
Thomas Blisse, esq.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE.

1st. At Westminster 1702 Hon. Heneage Finch,
Thomas Blisse, esq./t

4th. Ditto 1705 Sir Tho. Colepepyr, bart.
Thomas Blisse, esq.

7th. Ditto 1708 Sir Thomas Colepepyr,
Sir Rob. Marsham, barts.

9th. Ditto 1710 The same.

12th. Ditto 1713 Sir Rob. Marsham, bart.
Sir Samuel Ongley, knt.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE I.

1st. At Westminster 1714 Sir Robert Marsham,/u
Sir Tho. Colepepyr, barts./w

7th. Ditto 1722 Sir Barnham Rider, knt.
Hon. John Finch.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE II.

1st. At Westminster 1727 Hon John Finch,
Thomas Hope, esq.

/s On Sir Thomas Taylor's decease, Thomas Rider, esq. was chosen in his room.

/t Sir Robert Marsham, bart. and Sir Thomas Roberts, bart. were returned, but declared unduly elected.

/u On his being created lord Romney, Sir Barnham Rider was chosen in his room.

/w On his decease John Finch, esq. was chosen in his room.

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7th. At Westminster 1734 Hon. John Finch.
William Horsmonden
Turner, esq.

14th. Ditto 1741 Lord Guernsey,/x
Hon. John Bligh,/y

21st. Ditto 1747 Hon. Robert Fairfax,
William Horsmonden
Turner, esq.

28th. Ditto 1754 Lord Guernsey,/z
Gabriel Hanger, esq.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE III.

1st. At Westminster 1761 William Northey,
Rose Fuller, esqrs.

7th. Ditto 1768 Hon. Charles Marsham,
Edward Gregory, esq.

14th. Ditto 1774 Lord Guernsey,/a
Sir Horace Mann.

20th. Ditto 1780 Sir Horace Mann,
Clement Taylor, esq.

24th. Ditto 1784 Gerard Noell Edwards,/b
Clement Taylor, esqrs.

30th. Ditto 1790 Matthew Bloxham,
Clement Taylor, esqrs.

36th. Ditto 1796 Matthew Bloxham, esq.
General Oliver Delancy.

/x Eldest son of the earl of Aylesford.

/y Afterwards earl of Darnley and baron Clifton.

/z On his succeeding his father as earl of Aylesford, Savile Finch, esq. was chosen in his room, anno 1757.

/a He succeeded his father was earl of Aylesford in 1777, and his next brother, the Hon. Charles Finch, was chosen in his room.

/b In his room, in 1789, Matthew Bloxam, esq. was chosen.

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THE RIGHT of electing burgesses is vested in the freemen, whether resident within the borough or not; and the house of commons, upon two several petitions, have by their votes, passed in 1701 and 1702, determined, that the right of election of burgesses for Maidstone is in the freemen, not receiving alms or charity.

The freedom of this corporation is obtained by birth, the eldest son being free of course, and the others on paying forty shillings fine. Strangers are likewise admitted by consent of the mayor and jurats, on payment of a fine.

MAIDSTONE was part of the antient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and remained so at the time

of the conquest; and it is accordingly thus entered in the general survey of Domesday, under the title of the lands of the archbishop.

In Meddestan hundred the archbishop himself holds Meddestane. It was taxed at 10 sulings. The arable land is 30 carucates. In demesne there are 3 carucates, and 25 villeins with 21 borderers, having 25 carucates. There is a church and 10 servants, and five mills of 36 shillings and eight pence. There are two fisheries of 270 eels. There are 10 acres of pasture, Wood for the pannage of 30 hogs.

Of this manor three knights hold of the archbishop four sulings, and there they have three carucates and an half in demesne, and 32 villeins, with 10 borderers, having six carucates and 10 servants, and they have one mill of five shillings, and 13 acres of meadow, and two fisheries and an half of 180 eels, and two salt pits. Wood for the pannage of 23 hogs.

In the whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, this manor was worth 14 pounds, when he received it 12 pounds, and now the demesne of the archbishop is worth 20 pounds. Of the knights 15 pounds 10 shillings. The monks of Canterbury have every year of two tenants of this manor 20 shillings.

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The archbishops do not seem to have had a house of any note here till the reign of king John, in the 7th year of which, William de Cornhill is said to have given his seat in Maidstone to archbishop Stephen Langton, for a residence for him and his successors.^{/c} Soon after which this manor, with its appurtenances, was valued at 83l. 16s. 11d. per annum.

John Ufford, who came to the see of Canterbury in 1348, began to rebuild this palace; but he died soon afterwards, before he had received his pall, or was even consecrated, that he might rather be said only to make a preparation for it. He seems to have pulled the greatest part, if not the whole of it, down for this purpose; in which situation it laid during the few weeks continuance of his successor, archbishop Tho. Bradwardine. After which, Simon Islip, succeeding in 1349, to the archbishopric on his death, he sued the administrator of archbishop Ufford for dilapidations, part of which most probably arose from the unfinished condition this house was left in, and he recovered upwards of 1100l. after which the archbishop pulled down the ruined palace at Wrotham in this neighbourhood, and conveying the materials hither, finished this at Maidstone with them.^{/d} Archbishop Courtney, who succeeded to the see in 1381, being the 5th year of king Richard II. built much at this palace, where he died in 1396, and was buried at Canterbury, though there is a cenotaph remaining for him in the great chancel of the church at Maidstone. From this time the palace of Maidstone, on account of its pleasant as well as convenient situation, became the consequent residence of the succeeding archbishops; and in the time of archbishop Chichele, king Henry VI. honoured this house with his presence, as appears by his writs, bearing date March 21, anno

^{/c} Philipott, p. 228. Battely's Somn. pt. ii. Append. p. 30.

regni 16 apud manerium de Maydeston./e In the 31st year of the above reign, archbishop John Stafford died at this palace, to which he had resorted for the benefit of the air.

Archbishop Morton, among the rest of the palaces which he repaired, greatly augmented and beautified this at Maidstone, in 1486, which was then become much decayed and dilapidated; after which this manor and palace underwent no material alteration till archbishop Cranmer, by that great deed of exchange made with king Henry VIII. in the 29th year of that reign, granted, among other premises, to that king all this manor or lordship, with its appurtenances, the advowson and patronage of the college and church of our Lady at Maydestone, and the advowson, donation, &c. of the chantry founded in Maydestone by archbishop Arundel, and his prison house in Maydestone, together with all liberties, &c. and all other estates whatsoever belonging to him in this parish, excepting all advowsons and presentations, &c. not particularly mentioned and excepted./f These premises continued in the crown till king Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted this manor, with its appurtenances, the rectory, and several messuages, lands, and tenements in Madenstone, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, to hold in capite by knights service; but he having in the 1st year of queen Mary, with other gentlemen of note in this county, raised a rebellion on their disgust to the queen's marriage, was taken prisoner; and being found guilty on his trial, was executed that year. On his attaint this manor, with the palace, rectory, and other premises, became confiscated to the crown, whence the palace, with

/e Rym. Fœd. vol. x. p. 684. Weever, p. 230.

/f Aug. Off. Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, Box A. 21. See a covenant concerning the above advowson, dated ult. June, anno 30 Henry VIII. Box A. 28.

other premises in this parish, was granted by queen Elizabeth to Sir John Astley, son of John Astley, esq. master of the queen's jewels; he resided here, and dying in 1639, was buried in this church. As he left no surviving issue, he bequeathed this mansion, with his other estates in this neighbourhood, to his kinsman, Sir Jacob Astley, who for his loyalty and eminent services to king Charles I. was in the 20th year of his reign, created baron Astley of Reading. He died at the palace at Maidstone in 1651, and was buried with his lady in this church, leaving by her one son, Isaac, who succeeded him in title and estate; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married her kinsman, Sir Edw. Astley, of Melton.

Isaac lord Astley died in 1662, and was buried in Maidstone church, leaving two sons, Jacob, who succeeded him as his heir, and Francis, who died without issue./g Jacob lord Astley, dying in 1688, was buried in this church, and leaving no issue the barony became extinct, and this mansion came, among the

rest of his entailed lands, to Sir Jacob Astley, bart. of Melton Constable, in Norfolk, son of Sir Edward above-mentioned, who continued owner of this seat till the 6th year of king George I. anno 1720, when he alienated it, with other estates in this neighbourhood, which descended to him on the death of Jacob lord Astley, to Sir Robert Marsham, bart. lord Romney, for which purpose an act passed that year; whose grandson, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, is the present possessor of them.

But the manor of Maidstone itself seems to have continued in the hands of the crown till Charles I. in his 4th year granted it in fee to the trustees of the lady Elizabeth Finch, viscountess Maidstone, whom he had that year created countess of Winchelsea, to be holden in soccage, and not in capite, and from her it

/g Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 273. Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 65.

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came down to her direct descendant, Heneage, fourth earl of Winchelsea, who, in 1720, alienated his interest in it, to Sir Robert Marsham, bart. lord Romney, whose grandson, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, is the present possessor of it.

The manor extends over the whole hundred, and is styled the hundred and manor of Maidstone. At the court leet and court baron, held annually for it, there are yearly chosen a constable for the hundred, and five borsholders, viz. one for each of the parishes or boroughs of Barming, Boxley, Detling, Linton, with the borough of Crockhurst, and one for the parishes of East Farleigh and Loose jointly.

THE MOTE was an antient seat in this parish, situated about a mile eastward from the town of Maidstone, and encircled with a pleasant park. It was formerly castellated, and in the reign of Henry III. was part of the possessions of the noted family of Leyborne. In the 51st year of which Roger de Leyborne obtained the grant of a market, to be held weekly at this place on a Tuesday, and a yearly fair for three days at the feast of St. Cross.

After the Leybornes were extinct here, it was become the property of John de Shofford, from whom it acquired the name of the manor of Shofford, alias Le Mote. Ralph de Ditton afterwards possessed it, and in the 20th year of king Edward III. Bartholomew de Burghersh held it as one quarter of a knight's fee, which Ralph de Ditton before held in Shofford of the archbishop. He was a man of great eminence, being lord warden of the cinque ports, governor of Dover castle, &c. and died possessed of it in the 28th year of that reign, leaving Bartholomew, his eldest son, his heir, who was much esteemed by Edward III. who, on the institution of the order of the Garter,

/h See more of the earls of Winchelsea, under Eastwell.

/i Pat. ejus an. memb. 10. Philipott, p. 230. Camden, p. 172.

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made choice of him as one of the knights companions of it. He resided here, after his father's death, in the 29th year of the above reign, and died in the 43d year of it; some years after which the Mote came

into the possession of the Widviles, or Woodvills, as they were vulgarly called, who removed from Grafton, in Northamptonshire, where they had been long settled, and resided here. John de Wydevill seems to have possessed this seat in the reign of Richard II. being sheriff of Northampton, and governor of the castle there. He died possessed of this estate, and is said to have been buried on the north side the chancel of Maidstone church, where his tomb still remains. His son, Richard de Wydevill succeeded him in those offices, and was afterwards made seneschall of Normandy, and constable of the tower of London, by king Henry VI. but having, without licence, married Jaquet de Luxembourg, daughter of Peter, earl of St. Paul, and widow of John duke of Bedford, he was fined one thousand pounds for that transgression, and for livery of her dower. Notwithstanding which, the king, in his 26th year, in recompence of his services, in the wars in France, created him a baron, by the title of lord of Rivers, Grafton, and De la Mote. / The former of which was not the name of any place, but of an antient family, once earls of Devonshire; in consequence of which this lord assumed, in an escutcheon of pretence, upon his own coat of arms, Argent, a fess and canton gules, the antient coat ascribed commonly to Baldwin Rivers, or de Ripariis, earl of Devonshire, in the reign of king Stephen, viz. Gules, a griffin segreant or.

Richard lord Rivers, continued firm to Henry VI. during the remainder of his reign; but after king

/k See more of him, under Chiddingstone, vol. iii. of this History, p. 217.

/l In summons to parliament, anno 27 Henry IV. he is styled Richard Wodvil, knt. lord Rivers. Cott. Rec. p. 637.

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Edward had obtained the crown, and had married Elizabeth his eldest daughter, widow of Sir John Grey of Groby, and made her his queen, he presently forgot all his former obligations to the house of Lancaster, and had great honours and trusts conferred on him by the king, who, in his 6th year, created him earl Rivers, and made him lord treasurer and high constable of England; two years after which, being at his seat at Grafton, in Northampton, he was there surprized by the people, who had tumultuously assembled in favour of king Henry, and being seized by them, was carried to Northampton, and beheaded without any form of law. Among other figures of the nobility of the time was that of this earl, painted in a window, in Ashford church, kneeling on a cushion with his surcoat of arms, viz. of four coats, 1st and 4th, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Rivers; 2d and 3d, a spread eagle; 2d and 3d, vaire, argent and azure. Behind him was the figure of his wife, the duchess of Bedford, likewise kneeling on a cushion, having on her gown, Gules, a lion rampant argent, and before him the figure of his son, the lord Scales, in a like posture, having on his surcoat, six escallops. /m

Anthony, his eldest son, succeeded him in titles and estates, having in his father's life time, through the king's favour, married Elizabeth, sole daughter

and heir of Thomas lord Scales, of Nucals; he was thereupon declared lord Scales, and as such, had, anno 3 Edward IV. summons to parliament, and in the 5th year of it was elected knight of the Garter; after which he had many honourable and lucrative posts conferred on him, being constituted governor of Calais, the tower of Ryesbank, and the castle of Guisnes, and captain general of the king's forces, both by sea and land; and in the 13th year of king Edward IV.

/m See an account of him in Biog. Brit. vol. ii. 1231. 1232. Cott. Rec. p. 674.

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upon the creation of prince Edward to be prince of Wales and earl of Chester, he was appointed his governor, and at the same time chief butler of England; but on the death of king Edward, in 1483, this earl attending the young king out of Wales towards London, was entrapped by the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham, at Northampton, and afterwards sent prisoner to the castle of sheriff Hutton; from whence they soon afterwards hurried him away to Pontefract, where he was beheaded as a traitor, not being suffered to speak to the people in his own vindication. Leaving no legitimate issue, Richard his brother succeeded him in honours and estates, the latter of which, however, king Richard did not suffer him to enjoy, but made a grant of this among the rest of the late earl's lands in this county, to Robert Brakenbury, esq. on whom he conferred the office of constable of the Tower, and other favours, for his good services to him. In this state the Mote remained till the accession of king Henry VII. when Richard earl Rivers was put in possession of it. Archbishop Morton, in the above reign of king Henry VII. appears to have been possessed of lands within the park here; for by a codicil to his last testament, in 1500, having willed to Tho. Morton, his nephew, all his manors and lands in the county of Kent, &c. he excepts certain lands within the park of the Mote, near Maidstone, and the mill, which he wills should remain to Christ church, and his successors, archbishops, for ever, on the conditions therein mentioned. The earl died possessed of it in the 7th of that reign, without issue, having by his will appointed lord Tho. Gray, marquis Dorset, his nephew, his heir, to whom he gave all his lands whatsoever. He soon afterwards alienated this estate to Sir Henry Wyatt, of Alington castle, privy counsellor, who in

/n Dugdale's Bar. vol. ii. p. 231.

/o Augm. Off. Inrolments. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 233.

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the 15th year of king Henry VIII. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by an act, passed particularly for that purpose; after which this estate descended at length to his grandson, Sir Tho. Wyatt, who in the 1st year of queen Mary, having with other gentlemen of note in this county, raised a rebellion, on the pretence of the queen's marriage, was taken prisoner, and being found guilty of high treason, was executed that year. On his attainder, the Mote, among the rest of his estates, became confiscated to

the crown, whence it was granted next year by queen Mary to Hugh Warham, of Southampton, probably only for a term, for in the next reign of queen Elizabeth it appears to have been again in the hands of the crown, and that princess, in her 31st year, granted it to John Nicholas and John Dixon. /q Soon after which it came into the possession of Sir William Rither, of London, who was third son of Edw. Rither, of Low Layton, in Essex, and served the office of lord-mayor in 1600. He repaired this seat, and bequeathed it to his daughter and coheir, the lady Susan, then the wife of Sir Thomas Cæsar, one of the barons of the exchequer. He was second son of Adelmare, an Italian, descended of the antient family of the Delmarii there, and was physician to queen Mary and queen Elizabeth; the latter of whom, for his great learning, gave him the name of Cæsar. He left three sons, Sir Julius Cæsar, master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas above-mentioned, and Henry dean of Ely. The Cæsars bore for their arms, Argent, three roses gules, on a chief gules, three roses argent. /r After the death of Sir Thomas Cæsar, his widow again carried this estate in marriage to Mr. Thomas Philipott, second son of Sir John Philipott, of Compton Wascelin, in Hampshire, whom she likewise survived, and afterwards, joining with her eldest son, by her first husband, Tho.

/p See more of the Wyatts, under Allington and Boxley.

/q Rolls for the sale of fee farm rents, temp. interregni.

/r See Chaun. Hist. p. 81. Visitation of the County of Kent.

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Cæsar, esq. sold it in the beginning of the reign of king Charles I. to Sir Humphry Tufton, who, in 1641, was created a baronet, being the second son of Sir John Tufton, bart. of Hothfield, and next brother to Nicholas, first earl of Thanet. He bore for his arms, Sable, an eagle displayed ermine, within a bordure argent, with due difference. /s He resided at times both here and at Bobbing place, at which latter seat he died in 1659, and was there buried, being succeeded by Sir John Tufton, bart. his eldest surviving son, who resided at the Mote; but though twice married, he left issue by neither of his wives, and dying in 1685, /t was buried in Maidstone church. By his will he gave this seat and estate to his neice, Tufton Wray, one of the daughters of Sir William Wray, bart. of Ashby, in Lincolnshire, by Olimpia, his sister, and she alienated it to Sir John Marsham, of Whorne's-place, in Cookstone, bart. who removing to this seat of the Mote, died here in 1692, in which year he was sheriff of this county. His son and heir, Sir John Marsham, bart. dying without issue, a few years after his father, the title, with this seat, and the rest of his estates in this county, came to his uncle, Sir Robert Marsham, of Bushey hall, in Hertfordshire, who removing his residence into Kent, died possessed of the Mote, in 1703. His only son, Sir Robert Marsham, bart. was on June 25th, 1716, created a peer, by the title of lord Romney; he resided at the Mote, and died in 1724, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, afterwards remarried to John lord Carmichael, on the

death of his father, earl of Hyndford, an only son and heir, Robert, and two daughters, Elizabeth, married in 1741, to Sir Jacob Bouverie, afterwards created viscount Folkestone; and Harriott, who died unmarried at Boxley, in 1796; Robert the son, succeeding his father as lord Romney, was F. R. S. and LL. D.

/s Guill. Herald. part. ii. 194. /t Coll. Peer. vol. iii. p. 280.

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president of the Society of Arts, and a lieut. colonel of the western regiment of the militia of this county. In 1724, he married Priscilla, daughter and sole heir of Charles Pym, esq. of the island of St. Christopher, by whom he had ten children, of whom only six survived him, viz. two sons, the Hon. Charles Marsham, now lord Romney, and Jacob, LL. D. in holy orders, now of Aldington, near Maidstone, who married the only daughter of John Bullock, esq. of Caversfield, in Buckinghamshire; the four daughters were, Priscilla, Elizabeth, Frances, and Charlotte, the latter of whom married John Coker, esq. and died at the Mote, in 1794. Robert lord Romney died at the Mote, in 1793, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, the Hon. Charles Marsham, member for this county in three successive parliaments; who in 1776, married lady Frances Wyndham, sister of the earl of Egremont, since deceased, by whom he has one son, Charles, and three daughters, Francis, Harriet, and Amelia Charlotte. Lord Romney has lately pulled down the antient seat of the Mote, and has rebuilt it, though at no great distance, yet in a much more eligible situation, in the park, which is richly ornamented with the foilage of spreading oaks, of a large size, and commanding a most pleasing view of the neighbouring county. He now resides in it, and is the present lord lieutenant of this county. He bears for his arms, Argent, a lion passant in bend, gules, between two bendlets, azure; for his crest, on a wreath a lion's head erased, gules; and for his supporters, two lions azure, semee of cross croslets, gorged, with naval crowns, or.

At a small distance southward from the Mote park lies the MANOR of GOULDS, and an estate called SHEPWAY-COURT, both which formerly belonged to a family named Vinter, who resided at Vinters, in the adjoining parish of Boxley. Roger Vinter was one of the conservators of the peace for this county, in the 18th year of king Edward III. and then pos=

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sessed these estates, and on his founding the chantry in Maidstone church, since called by the name of Gould's chantry, about the 40th year of king Edward III. he endowed it with the revenues of them, for the support of the priest performing divine offices there.

On the suppression of this chantry, in the reign of king Henry VIII. the manor of Goulds was granted to John Deuntley, to hold of the king in capite by knight's service. After which it passed into the name of Blague, and John Blague died possessed of it in the 5th year of king Edward VI. holding it by the like service. His descendant, Henry Blague, in the 20th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated the manor of Goulds, with

its appurtenances, in Maidstone and Shefford, to Thomas Hendsley, alias Hendlebery, and Anne his wife. Thomas Hendsley was at that time likewise possessed of Shepye-court, in Maidstone, which had been granted by king Henry VIII. at the suppression of the chantry, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allyngton, who in the 32d year of that reign, had again exchanged it with that king.

One of Thomas Hendley's descendants passed away both these estates to Andrews; from which name they were sold to Sir Humphry Tufton, bart. afterwards of the Mote, as above-mentioned, since which they have passed in like manner as that seat to the right hon. Charles, lord Romney, who is the present possessor of both Goulds and Shepye-court.

BIGONS, alias DIGONS, was once a seat of some note in this parish, and was the residence of a family of the name of Mapelysden; one of which, Edward Mape-lysden, of Digons, is mentioned in a deed of the 25th year of king Edward III's reign, and in his descendants it continued down to George Maplesden; and in the Visitation of Kent, anno 1619, is a pedigree of this family, which about this time separated into two

 /u Inrolled in the Augtn. off. July 20th following.

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branches, one of which settled at Rochester, and the other, being the younger, continued at Maidstone. A descendant of one of them remained at Shorne, near Rochester, within these few years, possessed of a good fortune, and was a justice of the peace for this county. They bore for their arms, Sable, a cross formee fitchee argent. But George Maplesden above-mentioned having engaged in the troubles stirred up by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, forfeited this seat to the crown, whence it was soon afterwards granted to Nicholas Barham, esq. afterwards serjeant-at-law, the son of Richard Barham, of Wadhurst, in Sussex, descended of a branch of those of Berham-court, in Teston. He bore for his arms, Argent, three bears sable, muzzled or; on a fess gules, a fleur de lis, between two martlets of the second. /w He much improved it with additional buildings. His son and heir, Arthur Barham, passed it away by sale to Henry Haule, descended from Thomas de Aula or Haule, of Wye, and bore for his arms, Or, on a saltier sable, five mullets, or. /x He resided here, and married Jane, the second daughter of Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley, by whom he had two sons, Henry and George; the former of whom possessed this seat on his father's death, and soon afterwards alienated it to Sir Francis Barnham, of Hollingbourne, /y who improved it much. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq. by whom he had several children; of whom Dacre, the eldest son, dying unmarried, Robert, his second son, became his heir, and alienated this house, soon after the death of king Charles I. to Walter Franklyn, who sold it to Mr. Beale, of London, as he did afterwards to Griffith Hatley, M. D. the fifth son of John Hatley, citizen of London, who was descended of a good family at Goldington, in Bedfordshire. His epitaph is

 /w Visitation of county Kent, 1619, pedigree of Barham.

remaining in the chancel of Maidstone church, and his arms, Azure, a sword in bend between two mullets pierced or. He died possessed of this house in 1710, since which it has continued in the same name and family to the present time, being now the property of James Hatley, esq. of Ipswich, in Suffolk.

The antient scite of Digons is in Knight-riders-street, it was lately a boarding school for young ladies.

JORDAN'S HALL, was once a seat of some note in this town, situated in Stone-street, and antiently afforded both name and residence to a family of that name. From the Jordan's it passed by sale to one of the family of Roper, of St. Dunstan's, near Canterbury, in which it continued till John Roper alienated it about the 36th year of king Henry VI. to Edward and William Brouch, of Bersted, who quickly after parted with their interest in it to Atwood, from which name it was sold to Peirce, and thence again to Cook, who soon afterwards conveyed it to Croke, where after it had staid some short time it was passed by sale to Potkin, descended from those of that name at Sevenoke. Their arms were, Argent, on a fess between three talbots gules, three lozenges or.

From the Potkins, by a daughter and coheir, this house was carried in marriage to Virgo, who about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, sold it to Laurence Washington, esq. a justice of the peace, and register of the court of chancery, descended from the Washingtons, antiently of Washington, in Durham. He alienated it to Godwin, from whence it came by purchase to be the inheritance of Crispe, who about the beginning of king Charles I's reign, sold it to Smith. /z One of which name, Jane Smith, in 1644, conveyed this house to Margaret Wood, by the description of a messuage, with outhouses, &c. called Jordan's-hall, with a garden in Maidstone, over against the dwelling-house

/z Philipott, p, 229. Newton's Hist. of Maidstone, p. 151.

of the lady Sackville, together with all the quit-rents belonging to it, out of certain tenements in Stone-street; since which this seat has not only lost its name, but from its being divided into small tenements of little account, has so dwindled into obscurity, that neither the scite of it, nor the proprietors can be traced at this time with any certainty.

SHALES-COURT is a manor in the southern part of this parish, which was antiently the inheritance of the noted family of Fremingham; one of whom, John de Fremingham, died possessed of it in the 23d year of king Edward III. His descendant John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, died in the 12th year of king Henry IV's reign, leaving no issue by Alice his wife, his feoffees assigned it over, according to the directions of his will, to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, who died possessed of Shales manor in the 9th year of king Henry V. and in his descendants it continued down to Reginald de Pimpe, who died in the 23d year of king Henry VIII's reign. His heirs

alienated it to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allyngton-castle, and privy-counsellor to king Henry VIII. who in the 32d year of that reign,/a exchanged the manor and lordship of Shales-court, with the king, which was granted by king Edward VI. in his first year, to Sir Walter Hendley, serjeant-at-law, together with the manor of Oldborough, and other premises, situated in Oldborough and Maidstone, late parcel of the possessions of Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold in capite by knight's service./b He died in the 6th year of that reign, leaving three daughters his coheirs, and on the division made between them of their inheritance, the manor of Shales-court seems to have been allotted to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, widow of William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, but then the wife of George

/a Inrolled in the Augtn. off. July 20th following. Box A. 55.

/b Augtn. off. Inrolments, F. 49. Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 5.

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Fane, who died possessed of it in the 9th year of queen Elizabeth, and was buried at Brenchley, in this county.

On her death this manor descended to her son, by her first husband, Sir Walter Waller, who in the 17th year of the same reign, alienated it to Walter Hendley, of Coursehourne, in Cranbrooke, and Elizabeth his wife;/c in whose descendants it continued till the reign of king Charles II. when it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Hendley, of Coursehourne. Soon after which it was alienated to Sir John Banks, bart. of Aylesford, who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Elizabeth, marrying Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage, earl of Nottingham, he in her right, on the partition of her father's estates, became entitled to it, and was, in 1703, created baron of Guernsey, and in 1714, earl of Aylesford; and his great-grandson, the right hon. Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford, is the present owner of this manor. The manor-house is in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Pope, and stands at the southern extremity of the town of Maidstone, at the south-west corner of the lane leading from Maidstone to Tovil.

CHILLINGSTON is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which was situated near St. Faith's-green, in this town. It was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Cobham, of Cobham, in this county; one of which, John de Cobham, procured a charter of free-warren for this manor, among the rest of his lands in this county, in the 17th year of king Edward III. Soon after which it passed to the Maplesdens, of Digons, in this town, as appears by the court-rolls and deeds of this manor; in which name it continued till George Maplesden, having engaged in the rebellion stirred up by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, forfeited it, to the crown, whence it was soon afterwards granted to Sir Walter

/c Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. 2. Philipott, p. 229.

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Hendley, who not long after alienated his interest in it to Nicholas Barham, esq. afterwards serjeant-at-law, whose son and heir, Arthur Barham, passed it away by sale to Henry Haule, of Digons above-mentioned,

whose youngest grandson, George Haule, died about 1650, without issue, leaving his sister, Elizabeth, married to Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. his heir.

They joined in the sale of this estate of Chillington, for it had now lost the reputation of a manor, to Sir John Beale, bart. of Farningham, who left two daughters, his coheirs; and on the partition of their inheritance, this estate fell to the share of Elizabeth, the youngest, married to William Emerton, esq. of Chipsted, and they joined in the sale of it to Robert Southgate, fruiterer, whose son of the same name resided in it, and afterwards, about the year 1746, passed it away by sale to David Fuller, of Maidstone, attorney-at-law, and he dying without issue devised it by his will to his widow, who at her decease in 1775, gave it to her relation, William Stacy, esq. now of Canterbury, and he is the present proprietor of this mansion, which, as well in size and other respects, retains many marks of its antient state.

THE MANOR OF EAST-LANE, so called from its situation in this town, was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, and continued so till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when the priory being surrendered with all its possessions into the king's hands, who by his dotation charter under his great seal in his 33d year, settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it remains at this time.

A court baron is held for this manor, the jurisdiction of which extends over twenty five tenements in East-lane and Middle-row, in Maidstone, which pay quit-rents to it.

/d See Farningham, vol. 2d of this history, p. 517.

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THE PARK-HOUSE was a pleasant seat, situated near the east side of the road to Rochester, about half a mile northward from the town of Maidstone. The estate of it seems to have been formerly part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and to have been purchased of archbishop Cranmer, by king Henry VIII. at which time it was in the occupation of Sir Anthony Knevet, and afterwards by lease from the king, in his 34th year of William Smith, by the description of the land and pasture called Le Park, in this parish. When it was granted away from the crown I have not found, but in the reign of king Charles II. it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. who resided here, being descended from those of Willsborough, whose ancestor was John Taylor, of the Homestall, in Shadoxhurst, which was their original residence, bearing for their arms, Argent, on a chief sable, two boars heads coupé of the field. In 1664 he was created a baronet, and died next year, leaving one son, Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. who succeeded his father in this estate, and resided at Park-house. He married Alicia, sister and at length heir of Sir Thomas Colepepyr, bart. of Aylesford, but died without issue. His heirs sold it about the year 1735 to James Calder, esq. whose ancestor, James Calder, of Muertown, in Scotland, was created a baronet of that kingdom in 1686. He resided here, and on the death of his father took upon him the title of

baronet, and died in 1774, having married first, Alice, youngest daughter and coheir of admiral Hughes, by whom he left surviving Henry, the late baronet, of whom hereafter, and Robert, of the royal navy, who married the daughter of John Mitchell, esq. late M. P. for Boston, and a daughter Alithea, married to Robert Roddam, esq. admiral of the royal navy. He married secondly, Catherine, daughter of Wentworth Odiarne, esq. by whom he had no issue, she died in 1776. Sir

/e See more of this family under Shadoxhurst.

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Henry Calder, bart. the son, was a general in the army, He rebuilt this seat at no great distance, though within Boxley parish, in a much more eligible situation. He married first Elizabeth, youngest daughter and coheir of Augustine Earle, esq. of Heydon, in Norfolk, who died in 1786; and he married secondly the daughter of admiral Osborne, and died in 1792, leaving by his second wife an infant son, the present Sir Henry Calder, bart. to whom the inheritance of this seat now belongs.

GREAT BUCKLAND MANOR is situated on the other or western side of the river Medway, opposite the town of Maidstone, on the top of the hill. It is called so corruptly for Bocland, no doubt from the tenure of it. In the time of the Saxons such land was hereditary, and passed by deed, and was held by the Thanes, or nobler sort, and it has the addition of Great, to distinguish it from other parts of this estate, now in the possession of different owners; all which were antiently part of the demesnes of a family which took its name from hence.

Buckland was originally granted by Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of king John, to Alan de Bocland, by the description of one yoke, and ten acres of land, with its appurtenances in Maidstone, to hold in frank-fee, and not in gavelkind, as they had been held before. His grandson, Walter de Boclaunde, held this estate in the 55th year of king Henry III. anno 1270. A nuper obiit was brought in the above year before the justices itinerant, by Alan de Boclaund, against his elder brother Walter, above-mentioned, for a moiety of this estate, the tenure of the same having been changed by the archbishop, without the consent of the chapter of Canterbury. But this plea was over-ruled, and judgment passed for the defendant./f His descendant, John de Bocland, died pos=

/f Itin. Kanc. Rot. 61 in dorso. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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sessed of it in the 3d year of king Edward III. and was succeeded in it by his son, Sir John de Bocland, a person of some note in that reign. In the reign of king Henry IV. Buckland was become part of the possessions of the college of St. Mary and All Saints, of Maidstone, founded by archbishop Courtney in the 19th year of king Richard II. where it continued till the dissolution of this house by the act of the first year of king Edward VI. when it came into the hands of the crown, and that king, in his 3d year granted the scite of this college,/g and likewise certain lands and tenements, late parcel of the above college, called North

and South Buckland (in the tenure of Thomas Smith, who, as appears by the Visitation of Kent, anno 1619, where there is a pedigree of him, bore for his arms, Barry of six, or and sable, in chief, three crosses pattee, fitch of the second) to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, to hold in capite by knights service.

His grandson Henry, lord Cobham, being attainted for treason in the 1st year of king James I. forfeited all his estates to the crown; two years after which an act passed for establishing the same in the crown, with a confirmation of all grants made by the king. But this estate of Buckland being settled in jointure upon the lady Frances, wife of the lord Cobham, was upon his death granted to her, and the reversion to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, son of the famous William, lord Burleigh, by his second wife, who had married Elizabeth, sister of the above mentioned unfortunate lord Cobham.

Robert, earl of Salisbury, died in 1612, and was succeeded in titles and estate by William, his only son and heir, who, about the year 1618, alienated this estate to several persons; that part of it since called Great Buckland, with the manor, was sold to William Horsepoole, esq. descended from John Horsepoole, of Lei-

/g See Tan. Mon. p. 224. Rot. Esch, ejus an. pt. 4.

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estershire. They bore for their arms, Sable, on a chevron argent three lions heads erased./h He afterwards passed it away by sale to Thomas English, esq. of Sussex, who resided here, and bore for his arms, Sable, three lions passant, argent. His son, Thomas English, esq. possessed Great Buckland in the reign of king Charles II. about the latter end of which, he alienated it to Sir John Banks, bart. of Aylesford, who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs, viz. Elizabeth, married to Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage, earl of Nottingham; and Mary, married to John Savil, esq. of Methley, in Yorkshire.

On the division of the inheritance of whose two daughters and coheirs, this estate of Buckland, with others at Aylesford, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, was allotted to Elizabeth the eldest, married to Heneage Finch, esq. who was in 1703 created baron of Guernsey, and in 1714, earl of Aylesford, in this county; and his great grandson, the right hon. Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford,/i is the present possessor of this manor.

ANOTHER PART of Buckland since known by the name of LITTLE BUCKLAND seems, about the latter end of the reign of king James I. to have come into the possession of Elizabeth viscountess Maidstone, and countess of Winchelsea, in whose descendants it continued till Heneage Finch, fourth earl of Winchelsea,/k in 1720, alienated it to Sir Robert Marsham, bart. lord Romney, whose grandson, the right hon. Charles, lord Romney,/l is the present possessor of it.

THERE is still another part of Buckland known likewise by the same name of LITTLE BUCKLAND, which in the reign of king Charles II. was become the property of John Fletcher, gent. who sold it to Chris-

/h See Visitation county of Kent, 1619. Pedigree Horsepoole.

/i See the priory in Aylesford. /k See Eastwell.
/l See more of the family of Marsham, above.

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topher Vane, lord Barnard, who died in 1723, leaving two sons, Gilbert, who succeeded him in title, and in his estates in the north of England; and William, who possessed his father's seat of Fairlawn, and the rest of his estates in this county, and was in 1720, created viscount Vane, of the kingdom of Ireland. He died at his seat at Fairlawn, in 1734, leaving an only son William, viscount Vane, who at his death in 1789, s. p. devised this, among his other estates, to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, and he is the present owner of this estate.

At the western extremity of this parish, at no great distance from East Farleigh bridge, lies an estate, commonly called Halfway Oke, formerly accounted a manor, and known by the name of Half Yoke, which was antiently part of the possessions of the eminent family of Fremingham, and passed from thence, for want of heirs male, to the Pimpes, and from them to the Isleys, of Sundridge.

Sir Henry Isley possessed this manor in the reign of king Edward VI. and procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled by the act passed in the 2d and 3d year of it. Being concerned in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was attainted, and his lands became forfeited to the crown. In the reign of king Charles I. Andrew Videon, clerk of the papers of the king's bench, son of Andrew Videon, of Cliff, was possessed of Half Yoke, and resided at it. He was descended of a family of good antiquity and repute in this county, and was one among the many who suffered very much for his loyalty to king Charles I. and II. during the time of those troubles which he lived to survive, and Sir Edward Walker, knight of the garter, granted to him by patent, in 1664, the following coat of arms, Ermine, on a bend vert, three roses argent, barbed and seeded, /m or.

/m Guill. p. 120. Harl. MSS. No. 1172, 76.

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After this name was extinct here, this estate became of but little account, and was no longer reputed a manor, and it seems to have been alienated to different persons; part of it passed into the name of French, from which it was sold to Mr. Fowle, of Fant, the present owner of it; another part of it, after some intermediate time, became the property of the Harris's, of East Farleigh, the last of whom Thomas Harris, gent. afterwards of East Barming, died unmarried in 1769, and by his will gave his part of this estate to Mrs. Mary Dorman, who is the present possessor of it.

THE HAMLET OF LUDDINGTON, antiently called Lodingford, from the ford over the river at it, is esteemed to be within the parish of Maidstone, although two other parishes intervene, viz. Linton and Loose. It lies near Style-bridge, in the high road to Marden and Staplehurst. The manor of it was lately in the possession of owners of the name of Piggott, in which it remained till Mrs. Mary Piggott marrying William Fors-

ter, D. D. intitled him jointly to her interest in it, which manor they continue to hold at this time.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 5th year, granted to — Parker all that ruined house, called the Old Place, in Maidstone, with its appurtenances.

ARCHBISHOP BONIFACE, about the year 1260, anno 45 king Henry III. built a college, or hospital for poor travellers, in the West Borough, on the bank of the river Medway, opposite the town. It was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and was called THE HOSPITAL OF THE NEW WORK OF PRESTESHELLE, in Meydestane, and in process of time THE NEWERK.

Archbishop Walter Reynolds, about the year 1314, appropriated to this hospital the churches of Sutton by Dover, Lillington alias Linton, and East Farleigh, in this county.

/n Tan. Mon. p. 224. Somn. Cant. p. 128. Newton, p. 31.

/o Regist. Eccles. Christi Cant. Cart. 1589.

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In the 19th year of king Richard II. anno 1395, archbishop William de Courtney intending to make the parish church of St. Mary of Maidstone collegiate, obtained the king's licence, dated at his castle of Ledes, August 2, that year, to erect that church into a college, and to establish it as a college for ever, to consist of one master or keeper, and as many fellow chaplains, and other ministers in it, with licence to the archbishop, to assign to them the advowson and patronage of this parish church, and the chapels annexed to it, then held of the king in capite, to hold of the archbishop and his successors, in free, pure and perpetual alms appropriated to them, as part of their maintenance for ever. And he further granted, that the archbishop might assign the hospital of the apostles Peter and Paul of the New Work of Maidstone, and all the possessions of it, with their appurtenances, and also the advowsons of the churches of Suttone, Lillington, and Farleigh to the hospital appropriated, and then of the king's patronage, all which were held in like manner of the king in capite, to the said master and chaplains, to hold of the archbishop in free and perpetual alms for ever; and that the archbishop might unite, incorporate, and annex the hospital, and all the possessions of it, with their appurtenances, to the master and chaplains, to the better maintenance of them, provided, that the alms accustomed to be paid to the poor in the hospital, should be continued there for their maintenance in future times, &c.

To the above appropriations Adam Mottrum, archdeacon of Canterbury, gave his assent; and the next year the king granted to them by his letters patent, the advowson of the church of Crundale, together with the reversion of Tremworth and Fannes, in free, pure and perpetual alms for ever, and in his 21st year he granted them other lands and tenements, and king

/p Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 132. Batt. Somn. part ii. p. 156.

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Henry IV. in his 1st year, confirmed the last grant of king Richard II. of the above advowson and manors, by inspeximus; and in the 8th year of his reign, he

confirmed to them the licence granted by king Richard, to purchase lands and tenements, of the real yearly value of forty pounds, so that the same were not held in capite. And further, being willing that the said grant should have all due effect, he granted his licence to Richard Lentwardyn and John Harlegh, clerks, to give and assign to the said master and college, the manor of Wightresham, with other lands and tenements, and their appurtenances, in Maydestone, Lose, Boxele, and Hoo, which were not held of him, to hold to them and their successors, as the value of fifty marcs per annum, in full satisfaction of the said forty pounds of lands, tenements, &c.

Archbishop Courtney erected the college and buildings for the habitation of the master and other members, and for the other uses of it, on the bank of the river adjoining to the south side of the cemetery of his church, and as he died the year after he had obtained the king's licence for the founding his college, it is most probable the buildings of it had been begun some time before, for it seems to have been finished in his life-time, as were the alterations he made in the church for the convenience of the members of his new college, which, as well as the church, he dedicated anew to All Saints. To defray the charge of all which, the archbishop procured a bull to collect for that purpose fourpence in the pound of all ecclesiastical benefices within his province; but the bishop of Lincoln forbade the levying of it within his diocese, and appealed to the pope; but whilst the suit was depending the archbishop died.

The patronage of this college and church continued part of the possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury till archbishop Cranmer, in the 9th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged the advowson and patronage of

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the college and church of Our Lady of Maidstone, and the advowson, donation, &c. of the chantry founded in Maidstone by archbishop Arundel, with the king, for other premises therein mentioned.

The college of All Saints was dissolved by the act of parliament, passed for the suppression of all colleges, free chapels, and chantries, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. anno 1546, and was surrendered into the king's hands accordingly, with all its lands and possessions.

The first master of this college was John Wotton, rector of Staplehurst, and canon of Chichester, who dying in 1417, was buried in this church, on the south side of the great chancel or choir, where most of his successors were likewise buried, one of whom, William Grocyn, was admitted master in 1506. He was a famous learned man, educated in Wickham's colleges, and travelled into Italy, where he acquired a greater proficiency in the Latin and Greek tongues, which he taught at Oxford in a method unattempted before, at which time he was the tutor and familiar friend of Erasmus, and died in 1522 greatly esteemed for his profound learning, at the age of eighty, and was buried at the end of the stalls in the great chancel, called the high choir, in this church.

John Lease, LL. D. the last master, surrendered this college into king Edward VI's hands, in his first

year, anno 1546./s This college was valued at the suppression at 212l. 5s. 3½d. per annum, in its whole revenues, and 159l. 7s. 10d. clear annual income.

King Edward VI. by his letters patent, in his 3d year, granted this college, with lands and tenements in this parish, late belonging to it, all which were freed from any payment of tithes, in like manner as they were

/q Le Neve MSS. See Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 117.

/r Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 15. See Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 2970, A.

/s See Wood's Ath. vol. i. f. p. 29. See more of the masters of this college in Fuller's Worthys, p. 87. Additions to Tan. Mon. Willis's Cath. vol. i. p. 533. and Mitred Abbeys, vol. i. p. 102.

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before the suppression of the college, to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, whose grandson, Henry, lord Cobham, forfeited it, together with the rest of his estates, for high treason in the 1st year of James I.

In the reign of king Charles I. Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the exchequer, was in possession of it; after which it passed into the family of Marsham, in which it continues at this time, being part of the estate of the right hon. Charles Marsham, lord Romney.

There are great remains left of this college, which appears to have been large and handsome; it is built of stone, and of gothic architecture; the entrance or gateway is almost entire; the whole is now made use of as a dwelling-house.

THE FRATERNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, in Maidstone, was founded by several of the inhabitants of the town. The house in which the brethren inhabited stood at the lower end of Earl-street, alias Bullock-lane, at a small distance from the river. The chapel or refectory, and three sides of the cloyster are still remaining.

It appears from a MSS. preserved among the archives of this town, which contains the accounts of this brotherhood in the years 1480 and 1481, that besides the members of it residing in the above house, they admitted extra members into their fraternity, both men and women, to the number of one hundred and twenty persons and upwards. Among these are named many persons of distinction, as Sir Thomas Bouchier, of Leeds, Sir Henry Ferrers, John Wormsell, abbot of Boxley, John Munden, vicar there, Jacob Chirche, vicar of Thurnham, and others, inhabitants of this town.

They all paid an annual sum, for the most part eighteen pence or two shillings each; but those of a higher rank contributed more, as 3s. 4d. 6s. 8d. and the like. Besides which they had several gifts and legacies, and an estate both in lands and houses; out of which was

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maintained the fraternity, who dwelt in the mansion of it, who followed the rule of St. Benedict in many particulars, and their chaplain, who was allowed 6l. 13s. 4d. annual wages. In their own chapel it was their custom to celebrate solemn dirges and masses on the death of any of the brothers and sisters belonging to it, which brought them in no inconsiderable profit; besides which, they maintained out of their revenues one priest,

to celebrate within the church of All Saints.

At the suppression of this fraternity and chantry, by the act passed in the 1st year of king Edward VI. the revenues of it were valued at 40l. 0s. 8d. clear value; and the fraternity then possessed likewise several cottages and tenements, wherein the poor and impotent persons inhabited, without any payment whatsoever. After which the mansion called the Brotherhood-hall, the Fraternity, and the lands of Corpus Christi, with their appurtenances, were purchased of the crown by the corporation of Maidstone out of the monies received from the sale of some vestments, plate, &c. belonging to the church.

But a dispute arising among the inhabitants, concerning the making this purchase, and the settling part of the lands to this use, several endeavouring to obstruct the design of it, the duke of Somerset, then lord protector, sent a letter to them, exhorting them to unanimity in a matter which tended so much to the advancement of God's honor, and the common wealth; which appears to have had the desired effect.

ARCHBISHOP PARKER, in the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, in obedience to the queen's command, returned an account of the several schools and hospitals in this diocese, and among them, that there was A SCHOOL erected at Maidstone, by the charge of the mayor and commonalty of the town, who had purchased

/t Newton's History of Maidstone, p. 37 et seq.

/u Survey of chantry lands, &c. temp. Edw. VI. vol. ii.

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of the late king certain lands to that intent, amounting to 9l. 6s. 8d. per annum, and that it was not charged with tenths. /w

At present the master is chosen by the inhabitants of the town and parish of Maidstone, assembled in vestry. He is intitled to a very good house, with proper offices and conveniences, late the mansion and buildings of the fraternity above-mentioned, together with the rents and profits of a farm of eleven pounds per annum, and a salary of twenty pounds per annum paid by the corporation of Maidstone. It is said, the first payment made by the corporation was in 1660, and that the same was part of Mr. Lamb's gift.

By the charter granted by queen Elizabeth to this town, the corporation was empowered to make wholesome orders and statutes for the government of the masters and scholars; in consequence of which several rules and orders were made for that purpose.

Mr. Thomas Cole was the first schoolmaster. The Rev. Thomas Evans is the present master.

This school has had some considerable benefactors to it.

William Lamb, a gentleman of the chapel to king Henry VIII. and a freeman of the Cloth workers company, among his other charities, gave 10l. yearly to it, with this proviso, that the children of needy men only should be preferred to the enjoying this benefit.

Robert Gunsley, clerk, rector of Titsey, in Surry, by his will in 1618, gave the rectory and parsonage of Flamsted, in Hertfordshire, with its appurtenances, to the master and fellows of University college, in Ox=

ford, to the intent that they should make choice of four scholars, who should be chosen by the master and fellows, one half out of the grammar-school of Rochester, and the other half out of this of Maidstone, such only as were born in the county of Kent, and none other,

/w Strype's Life of Parker, p. 115.

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except such as should be of his kindred; and as often as these scholarships should become void, that they should be filled up by the master and fellows out of the schools before mentioned, within three months; and that the charges of the master and such fellows as should be sent and employed in the election, should be borne and deducted out of the allowance appointed to the scholar or scholars, who should be elected in the interim of the three months; all which scholars, as they or any of them should attain to their rooms or places, should be maintained by the master and fellows at some grammar school, until they were fit to go to University College, and then be placed there by them, with fit and convenient chambers, and that they should allow to each of the four scholars, yearly, fifteen pounds a piece; those of his name and kindred to be preferred before any other; and that the master and fellows should pay to the curate and curates of Flamsted the yearly sum of sixty pounds, as his or their salary; the election of which curate should be from time to time by the master and fellows, provided, nevertheless, that whenever the curate's place should be void, one of his own scholars should have the refusing of it before any other.

In pursuance of this benefaction, four scholars, chosen from this school and that at Rochester, are at this time allowed chambers at University college, and fifteen pounds per annum each of them. About one half of the scholars, which have been so chosen, appear to have been of the name or of kindred to the testator.

John Davy, M. D. of this town, in 1649, gave by his will all his lands in the parish of Newchurch in this country, containing sixteen acres of land, then let at eighteen pounds per annum, for the better maintenance of the master and usher of this school.

IT IS SAID, there was once a CONVENT of FRANCISCAN or GREY FRIARS, founded in this town by

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king Edward III. and his brother, John earl of Cornwall, about the year 1331. No further mention is made of it, either as to revenue or situation; so that probably they were soon afterwards removed perhaps to Walsingham, in Norfolk, to which place king Edward III. in the year 1345, procured leave of pope Clement VI. to remove some of these friars, and to build a convent there for them.

At the corner of East-lane next the high town, there was antiently a house, having several Gothic arches in it, and several rooms vaulted with stone, which in the old deeds of it was named the priory or friery.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM HEWITT, gent. in 1568, gave four marcs a year to the poor of this town.

SIR HENRY CUTTS, in 1602, gave 3l. per annum to the poor.

ROBERT GUNSLEY, rector of Titsey, in Surry, by his will, in 1618, gave in trust the rectory and parsonage of Broadhempston, in Devonshire, to the intent, a licence of mortmain should be procured, and the same conveyed and assured to such persons as should be thought adviseable, for the relief of the poor people inhabiting in the parishes of Maidstone and Rochester, by equal portions, to be bestowed in bread every sabbath day, and in cloaths to cover them, according as the rents of it would allow every year.

The licence was afterwards procured, and the rectory conveyed accordingly. The half part of the present rents and profits of it, amounting to 15l. 15s. is yearly distributed among the poor people of Maidstone, agreeable to the will of the donor.

SIR JOHN Astley gave a large silver flaggon to the use of the altar, in the reign of king Charles I.

ELIZABETH MASON, widow, in 1642, gave a part of two messuages towards the maintenance of two widows during their lives.

ALEXANDER FISHER, fourth and youngest son of Walter Fisher, formerly mayor of this town, died in 1671, and by his will gave 38l. per annum, in land, to this corporation, for binding out three freemen's sons to trades yearly, and in the payment of 40s. each per annum, to four poor widows during life.^z

ROBERT ROWLAND, a native of this town, and citizen, and armourer and brazier of London, gave to the parish church of Maidstone a large and elegant scone of brass; and by his will,

^{/x} Collect. Ang. Min. part ii. p. 39. ^{/y} Ibid. p. 19.

^{/z} Newton's History of Maidstone, p. 116. Guillim, p. 239.

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in 1707, devised to the corporation 120l. to be lent to twelve young men, newly out of their time, to forward their setting up in trade, at 10l. a piece, for which they should pay 6s. 8d. per annum interest each, amounting in the whole to 4l. which sum he willed should be annually disposed of to the minister of Maidstone, for preaching a sermon yearly on Feb. 1, by candle light; to the reader, clerk, churchwardens, and for candles, 1l. and to the poor under the cliff, upon the bridge and over the bridge, near which he was born, 2l.

SIR JOHN BANKS, bart. of Aylesford, a native of this town, and one of its representatives, by his will, in 1697, ordered six neat and convenient alms houses to be built; and endowed them with 60l. per annum, clear of all deductions, for the habitation and maintenance of six poor aged persons of both sexes, to be appointed by his heirs, and to keep the said buildings in repair. These houses were accordingly erected in the year 1700.

THOMAS BLISS, esq. a native of this town, and several times one of its representatives in parliament, in 1720, built a workhouse, on which he expended upwards of 700l. for the benefit of the poor of this town and parish, on a piece of ground on which several parish houses before stood. It is a large brick building, three stories high, and has a large kitchen behind it, suitable to the number of inhabitants the house contains.

By the care and influence of Dr. Josiah Woodward, curate of this parish, two charity schools were set up in 1711, in this town, to which several charitable persons at different times afterwards gave their benefactions of money; and Mrs. Martha Godden, in the year 1721, gave two pieces of land to it for ever, of the annual value of 50s.

MR. JOHN BARRINGTON, gentleman, who died in 1738, be=

sides being a good benefactor to the above mentioned charity-schools in his life time, directed his executors, by his will, after his debts, legacies, and funeral expences were paid, to dispose of the surplus of his estate, which was only personal, to the relief of so many poor families in this parish as they should think had most need of it, not exceeding 5l. in one family; accordingly there was distributed the sum of 184l. 3s. 6d. besides 8l. directed by him to be given to twelve poor widows, not receiving alms of the parish, in equal portions.

JOHN BELL, esq. gave 10l. the interest of it to be laid out in bread for the poor yearly, on Christmas day.

AN UNKNOWN PERSON gave a silver plate, for collecting the offerings made at the altar.

NICHOLAS TOKE, esq. in 1734, gave a large silver flaggon, for the use of the altar.

MRS. ELIZABETH BLECHENDEN, in 1734, gave a silver dish for the same use.

MR. EDWARD HUNTER, the first mayor after the grant of the new charter, in 1748, erected six alms houses in Maidstone, in

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the road leading from thence to the Mote, and during his life, permitted six persons to dwell in them rent free; and by his will devised 8l. per annum to each of the three men and three women who should inhabit therein rent free, to be nominated from time to time by the right hon. lord Romney, the perpetual curate of Maidstone, and the recorder of Maidstone for the time being, whom he appointed trustees of his said charity.

MAIDSTONE is within the diocese of Canterbury and deanry of Sutton, and is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon.

The church stands at the western part of the town, on the bank of the river Medway. It was at first dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but when archbishop Courtney had rebuilt the chancel, and refitted the rest of it, on his having obtained a licence in the 19th year of king Richard II. to make it collegiate, he dedicated it anew to All Saints.

The stalls for the master and fellows of the college are still remaining in the chancel, in which the arms of archbishop Courtney appear in several places, but no where in the body of the church, which makes it probable the latter was part of the old parish church of St. Mary, and not rebuilt by the archbishop. The church is a large handsome building, consisting of a nave, great chancel, and two side isles; the roof is lofty, and is covered throughout with lead. At the west end it has a handsome well built tower, on which there was a spire covered with lead, near eighty feet high, which was burnt down by lightning, on Nov. 2, 1730. In the tower were eight bells, a clock, and chimes; the bells, in 1784, were new cast into ten, by Chapman and Mears of London.

In the year 1700, the body of the church was neatly and regularly pewed; on each side is a commodious gallery, one of which was built at the expence of Sir Robert Marsham, bart. then one of the representatives for this town, and afterwards created lord Romney.

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There were antiently in this church numbers of in=

scriptions on brass plates, as well on the monuments as grave stones, which are now almost torn away. In the middle of the great chancel there is a tomb-stone, raised a little above the pavement, with the marks of the portraiture of a bishop, in his mitre and robes, and of an inscription round it, but the brass of the whole is torn away. This is supposed to be the cenotaph of archbishop Courtney, the founder of this church, for it was the custom in those times for persons of eminent rank and quality to have tombs erected to their memory in more places than one.

The archbishop was son of Hugh Courtney, earl of Devonshire, by Margaret, daughter of Humphry Bohun, earl of Essex and Hereford, accordingly the arms of Courtney and Bohun impaled, are in several parts of this chancel. The archbishop died at his palace in Maidstone, in 1396, and in the first part of his will directed his body to be buried in the cathedral church of Exeter, where he had formerly been a prebendary; afterwards, lying on his death bed, he changed his mind in this point, and holding his body unworthy of burial in his metropolitical, or any other cathedral or collegiate church, he wills to be buried in the church yard of his collegiate church at Maidstone, in the place designed for John Boteler, his esquire; but it appears by a leiger book of Christ church, Canterbury, that king Richard II. happening to be then at Canterbury, when the archbishop was to be buried, perhaps at the request of the monks, overruled the archbishops intention, and commanded his body to be there entombed, where he lies, under a fair monument of alabaster, with his portraiture on it, at the feet of the Black Prince. Thus Somner, Godwin, M. Parker, and Camden; but Weever thinks, notwithstanding the above, that he was buried under his tomb in this chancel of Maidstone.

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The rectory of this church, with the chapels of Loose and Detling annexed, was appropriated by archbishop Courtney, by the bull of pope Boniface IX. with the king's licence, in the 19th year of king Richard II. to his new founded college here, but the patronage of the advowson, it seems, he reserved to himself and his successors; in which state it remained till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged the advowson and patronage of the college and church with the king.

Upon the dissolution of the college, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. the rectory and advowson became both vested in the crown, and the church was left, through the king's favour, to the inhabitants of this town and parish, as it had been before it was made collegiate, the grant of it, together with the church yard being confirmed to them by the charter granted by king James I. in his 2d year, for their parish church and church yard, for the purpose of divine service, burying the dead, &c. as the same was then used.

Whilst the college remained, the parish found no ill effects from the appropriation of the rectory, as the master and fellows caused divine service to be constantly performed in the church, and the cure of the parish to be properly served; but when the college

was dissolved, and the great and small tithes appropriated to it were granted away by the crown, the parishioners suffered much from the scantiness of the provision remaining for a person properly qualified to undertake the cure of so large and populous a parish, a small stipend only with the oblations, obventions, &c. being all that was left for the officiating minister, under the title of perpetual curate. King Edward VI. in his 4th year, granted to Sir Thomas Wyatt, among other premises, this rectory of Maidstone, to/c hold in

/a Folio Christ church MSS. /b Augm. Off. Box A. 21.
/c Rot. Esch. ejus an. ps. 6.

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capite by knight's service; but he engaging in a rebellion in the 1st year of queen Mary, forfeited it, with the rest of his estates, to the crown, whence the patronage of the curacy was granted by that queen, in her 6th year, to archbishop cardinal Pool, and she demised the rectory of this church for a term of years to Christopher Roper, esq./d the same being then of the value of 81l./e

Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, granted the reversion of this rectory in exchange, among other premises, to Matthew, archbishop of Canterbury, at which time it was valued as follows:

The rectory of Maidstone, with the tenths of the chapels of Loose and Detling, the tenths of Lodington and in Estrey were worth yearly 74l. out of which there was paid to the chief priest of Maidstone, 20l. to his two assistants each, 6l. 13s. 4d. to the curates of Loose and Detling each, 2l. 13s. 4d. in all, 38l. 14s. 4d. notwithstanding these deductions, it does not appear that there was after this more than one appointed to officiate here, to whom the archbishop paid a salary of 10l. per annum.

Archbishop Whitgift, in 1583, augmented the curate's salary 10l. per annum./f Archbishop Juxon, in obedience to the directions of king Charles II. in 1660, for augmenting the maintenance of vicars and curates, made an addition of 37l. 6s. 8d. per annum./g Archbishop Sancroft, among other acts of pious beneficence, granted by lease, in 1677, to Humphry Lynd, curate and preacher of Maidstone, for augmentation of his maintenance, all the small tithes of the borough of Week/h and Stone within this parish, the commodities of the church-yard, and one moiety

/d Wilkins's Councils, vol. iv.
p. 117.

/e Folio Christ church MSS.

/f Newton's Hist. Maidstone,
p. 59. MSS. E. H.

/g Kennet's Imp. p. 256.

/h Among the Harleian MSS.
in the British mus. No. 2192-4,
there is a survey of the manor
of Week, near Maidstone.

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of all the small tithes within the town and borough of Maidstone;/h notwithstanding which he has a maintenance by no means proportionable to the great=

ness of his cure and labour.

Upon a trial in the exchequer in 1707, concerning the curate's right to the vicarage tithes of Lodington, it was suggested, that this curacy was worth three hundred pounds per annum; to which it was replied, that the legal dues were not more than one hundred and sixty pounds per ann./i Lodington is situated between three and four miles from Maidstone, and separated by other parishes intervening; it is said, there was once a chapel in it, situated in a spot now called Glover's garden, where of late years some stones and foundations have been dug up. I believe the curates have not enjoyed these tithes for some time.

The rectory is still part of the revenues of the archbishop, who nominates the perpetual curate of this town and parish.

The curacy is not in charge in the king's books.

In the 37th year of queen Elizabeth, Levin Bufkin was farmer of the rectory, under the archbishop. In 1643, Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the exchequer, was lessee of it. In 1741, Thomas Bliss, esq. held the lease of it of the archbishop. It afterwards came into the possession of William Horsmonden Turner, by virtue of the limitation of whose will his interest in it is now vested in William Baldwin, esq. of Harrietsham.

THERE WAS ANOTHER CHURCH, or rather a FREE CHAPEL, dedicated to St. Faith, situated in the northernmost part of the town from that above mentioned, being most probably erected for the use of those inhabitants of this parish, who lived at too great a distance to frequent the other. It seems to have been surrendered up into the king's hands, in conformity

/i Kennet's Imp. p. 306.

/k Newton's Hist. of Maidst. p. 61. Coke's Ent. p. 456.

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to the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI. and, with the church-yard, to have been purchased of the crown afterwards by the inhabitants; but whether then used for religious worship does not appear. Some time afterwards it became part of the estate of the Maplesdens, of whom it was purchased in the reign of king James I. by Arthur Barham, esq. who possessed the manor of Chillington, at which time he acknowledged the right of the corporation to use the chapel of St. Faith for divine service, and the chapel-yard for burials, if they thought fit; at present only the chancel is standing, which for many years was used for a place of public worship by the Walloons: upon the dispersing of this congregation, by archbishop Laud in 1634, this chapel was shut up for some small time, when it was again made use of by a congregation of Presbyterians, who continued to meet there till about 1735, when they built themselves a meeting house elsewhere. Part of it is now a dwelling house, and the rest of it was some years converted into an assembly room; it is now made use of as a boarding school for young ladies.

The scite and what remains of this fabric was lately the property of the heirs of Sir Tho. Taylor, bart. of the Park-house. It was afterwards purchased by Mr.

Samuel Fullager, gent. the heir of whose son, Mr. Christopher Fullager, of this town, is proprietor of it.

THERE were TWO CHANTRIES founded in this church, one by Robert Vinter, in the reign of king Edward III. who gave two estates in this parish, called Goulds and Shepway, for the support of a priest performing certain divine offices in the church of Maidstone, whence it acquired the name of GOULD'S CHANTRY, a full account of which, and of the possessors of those estates, after its suppression to the present owner of them, the Rt. Hon. Charles lord Romney, has already been given in the description of them.

The other chantry was founded by Thomas Arundell, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1405, be-

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ing the 7th of king Henry IV. who that year granted his licence to the archbishop, to found two chantries; one of which, of one chaplain, was in this collegiate church, at the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr, to celebrate daily service for his soul, &c. for which the archbishop granted, that he should have a yearly stipend of ten marcs out of Northfleet parsonage. The advowson or donation remained with the several archbishops of Canterbury till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. conveyed his right in it to the king, in exchange for other premises. This chantry was dissolved by the act of the 1st year of king Edward VI. at the same time the college itself was suppressed.

CHURCH OF MAIDSTONE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Archbishops of Canterbury. John Mansell, obt. in 1264./l
William de Tyrington, 1394./m
Guido de Mone, in the reign of
king Richard II. The last
rector.

PERPETUAL CURATES.

The Crown. Richard Augur, in the reign of
king Edward VI.
John Day, in 1553./n
Archbishop of Canterbury. Robert Carr, in 1559.
Robert Barrell, A. M. 1602./o
Samuel Smith, intruded in 1643./p
T. Wilson, A. M. 1643, ob. 1651.
John Crump, eject. Aug. 1662.

/l He was a noted pluralist, having ecclesiastical dignities and benefices to the amount of four thousand marcs per annum. He was also chief justice of England, of the privy council, chaplain to king Henry III. keeper of the great seal, ambassador to France, and a brave soldier.

/m He was made prebendary of Stow Longa, in the church of Lincoln, in 1370, and exchanged it, in 1394, for this rectory. Willis's Cath. vol. ii. p. 243. He was one of the executors ap-

pointed by archbishop Courtney, in his will. Batteley's Somner, part ii. Appendix, No. 13c. He was afterwards bishop of St. David's, had the custody of the privy seal, and was twice treasurer of England. He resigned this rectory on the foundation of the college, and died in 1407. See Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 105.

/n See Harleian MSS. No. 416-74.

/o He was ousted by the parliament, in 1643. Walker's Suff. of the Clergy, part ii. p. 202.

/p He exchanged this curacy with Mr. T. Wilson for the rectory of Harrietsham. Newton's History of Maidstone, p. 66.

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PATRONS, &c. PERPETUAL CURATES.

Archbishop of Canterbury John Davis, ob. July 3, 1677./q
Humphry Lynde, 1687./r

Edward Roman, obt. 1692.

Gilbert Innis, A. M. July 15,
1692, obt. May 5, 1711./s

Josiah Woodward, S. T. P. obt.

Aug. 6, 1712./t

Samuel Weller, LL. D. 1712, ob.
1753./u

John Denne, A. M. 1753. The
present curate./w

/q And rector of Otham. He was
buried in Maidstone church.

/r And vicar of Boxley.

/s He was before vicar of Chislet, and
then of St. John's, in Thanet, and lies
buried in this church.

/t He was before curate of Poplar in
Stepney, and held the rectory of New-
church with this curacy of Maidstone.
He was the author of a great number of
useful tracts, discourses, and sermons,
and lies buried in this church.

/u He succeeded his predecessor like-
wise in the rectory of Newchurch, and
was afterwards presented to the rectory
of Sundridge.

/w Eldest son of John Denne, S. T. P.
archdeacon of Rochester.

- - -

BOXLEY.

ADJOINING to Maidstone north-eastward lies
the parish of Boxley, written in Domesday, Boseleu,
and in the Textus Roffensis, Boxele and Boxle, a pa-
rish noted, as well for the famous assembly of the
whole county, held at Pinenden heath, within the
boundaries of it, in the reign of the Conqueror, as
for the abbey not long afterwards founded in it.

THE VILLAGE of Boxley situated at the foot of the
chalk hills, above which this parish extends among the

coppice woods, over a barren dreary country covered with flints, to Dun-street, at the northern boundaries of it. Southward it extends to the rivulet in the valley, at a very small distance from the town of Maidstone, a length of near four miles, the width of it is not more than three at its greatest extent, and in most parts much less; the soil from its extent is of course various, to the northward it is chalk; in the middle,

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and towards the west a deep sand; to the eastward a wet cludgy earth, and to the south and south-east for the most part a not unfertile loamy soil bounding upon the rock. It is a situation much more healthy than it is pleasant, owing to its chalky and sandy soils, and its bleak situation. The village is watered by a clear spring, which rises just below the church, and directs its course through the street; this spring, as well as another, which rises likewise at the foot of the chalk hill, just above Boxley abbey, are both very inviting to the sight, but the water is very hard and unfit for culinary uses, especially the latter, which in two months will petrify wood, the incrustation resembling brown and unpolished marble. These join just below the abbey, and flow together into the Medway, almost opposite to Allington castle.

The village lies on a descent from the hills, there are several genteel houses in it; at the upper or northern part of it is Boxley house, lord Romney's, inhabited by his three sisters and Mr. Coker; somewhat lower down is a house, which for many years was the property and residence of the family of Charlton, who bore for their arms, Or, a lion rampant gules, the last of them, John Charlton, esq. dying in 1770 unmarried, it came by his will, together with the chief of his other estates, to his eldest nephew, the Rev. George Burville, (son of the Rev. Henry Burville, by Anne his sister). The Burvilles bear for their arms, Argent, a chevron between three oak leaves erect, vert. Mr. Burville married Juliana, daughter of William Bowyer, esq. of Denham, in Buckinghamshire, by whom he has a son John, and daughter Frances, married to the Rev. Philip Rashleigh. He is the present possessor of this house, in which he resides; below this is the parsonage and vicarage, the latter a handsome genteel house, and just above it at a small distance from the east side of the street, the church; almost adjoining to Mr. Burville's house, is another more antient one,

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called Park-house, once part of the estate of Boxley abbey, and afterwards in like manner, the estate of Sir Thomas Wyatt, whose son forfeited it for treason in the 1st year of queen Mary. How it passed afterwards I have not found, though it seems never to have been restored to his descendants; in the beginning of the present century it was in the possession of the family of St. John, in which it remained till Mrs. St. John joining with her son, Paulet St. John, sold it in 1720 to Maudistley Best, esq. (son of Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham) who resided and kept his shrievalty here in 1730, bearing for his arms, sable, two cross croslets in chief, and a cinquefoil in base, or. He died in 1740,

leaving two sons, Thomas, late of Chilston, esq. and James, of Chatham, and a daughter, married to the hon. Robert, afterwards lord Fairfax, of Leeds castle, who died s. p. He gave by will this seat to his youngest son James, who served the office of sheriff in 1751, and resided here at times, and died in 1782, leaving by Frances his wife, one of the daughters of Richard Shelley, esq. four sons and four daughters, to the eldest of the former, Thomas Best, esq. he by will gave this house and his estate in this parish, and he now resides in it. There has been from time immemorial a warren for rabbits here, the lands of which lay close at the foot of the chalk hills, it formerly belonged to Boxley abbey, and was afterwards in the possession of the Wyatts, and is now from them the estate of lord Romney, and there was likewise another part of it used likewise as a warren, lying near Pinenden-heath, which was part of the Park-house estate, and as such, is now the property of Mr. Best, but the name only remains, the rabbits having been for some time destroyed, and the land made arable. About a mile eastward from the village in a low flat situation, at no great distance from the high road from Rochester to Maidstone, is Boxley abbey, with a small hamlet of houses near it, and nearer to the hills the abbey farm.

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The plantations of the estate called the Park-house, likewise, the old seat of which was situated in Maidstone parish, near the high road to Rochester, as has been already described, extend into the western part of this parish. The late Sir Henry Calder, whose property it was, pulled down the old house, and on a beautiful spot near adjoining, though within this parish, began a handsome stone mansion, which after his death was finished by his widow, who with her son Sir Henry, for some time resided in it; it is now inhabited by Mr. Osborne. At a small distance eastward from hence, in nearly the centre of this parish, excepting that Maidstone stretches itself with a point or nook over a part of it, is that noted plain Pinnenden, now usually called Pickenden heath, a place made famous in early times; the western part is in Maidstone parish, the remainder in this of Boxley. From its situation almost in the middle of the county or shire of Kent, this heath has been time out of mind used for all county meetings, and for the general business of it, the county house for this purpose, a poor low shed, is situated on the north side of it, where the sheriff continues to hold his county court monthly, and where he takes the poll for the members of the county, and for the coroners, the former of which, after a few suffrages is usually adjourned to Maidstone; on a conspicuous hill on the opposite side of the heath, though in Maidstone parish, is the gallows, for the public execution of criminals condemned at the assizes.

At the time of the conquest it was the noted place for the public meetings of the county; for in the book of Domesday there is mention made, that when the inhabitants of Kent were summoned to meet ad sciram, that is, in public assembly at the shyregemot or Sheriff's-tourn, for the trial of certain customs therein mentioned, they should go for that purpose as far as Pinnedenna,

but no further.

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In the year 1076, being the 11th of the Conqueror's reign, a famous assembly was held at this place on the following occasion.

Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, had by means of his great power, defrauded the church of Canterbury of many manors and lands, and of several liberties, and had kept possession of them; but upon Lanfranc's being made archbishop in the year 1070, he represented the whole of the injury done to his church to the king, who forthwith commanded that it should be enquired into and determined by the nobles, and other competent men, not only of this county, but of the other counties of England, assembled for this purpose at this heath.

There were present at this meeting Goisfrid, bishop of Constance, who sat as the king's representative on this occasion; archbishop Lanfranc, who pleaded his church's cause; Odo, earl of Kent, who defended himself against his accusers in what he had done; Ernest, bishop of Rochester; Agelric, bishop of Chester, an antient man, and well versed in the laws of the realm; who on account of his great age was, by the king's order, brought hither in a waggon, in una quadriga; Richard de Tunebrige, Hugh de Montfort, William de Arsic, Hamo Vicecomes or Sheriff, and many others, barons of the king and of the archbishop, many tenants of those bishops, and many others of good and great account, as well of this as of other counties, both French and English.

This trial lasted three days, at the end of which the archbishop recovered several of the antient possessions of his church, as well from Odo as from Hugh Montfort and Ralph de Curva Spina or Crookthorne, and established the liberties of it, in matters between the king and himself.^{/x}

^{/x} See Eadmer, p. 9, 197.

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On the south side of the heath the turnpike road from Maidstone through Detling to Key-street and Sittingbourn crosses this parish, and another branches off from hence to Bersted and Ashford; in the southern part of it are the hamlets of Grove green and Waverling-street, Newnham court, and the beautiful seat of Vinters, most pleasantly situated; below which in the vale is the stream which turns the paper mills, and separates this parish from Maidstone. At Grove, as has been already noticed, is a remarkable fine vein of fuller's earth, by the working of which Mr. John Watts, the owner of it, at the beginning of this century, became famous. But this earth was in working in 1630, at which time John Ray, merchant, of London, was sentenced to a severe fine and punishment in the Star Chamber, for transporting of it clandestinely to Holland.^{/y} This vein lies about thirty feet deep, and is about seven feet thick. There are two sorts of it, the blue and the dark grey, the latter of which lying under the former is most valuable; a great quantity of this earth is sent from hence by sea for the use of the clothiers in distant countries. For the manufacture

carried on in this parish for the making of paper there are four sets of mills, two of which are situated at the south-east extremity of it, on the stream called the Little River, which rises near Lenham, and runs by Leeds castle hither; the upper ones, belonging to lord Aylesford, and the lower ones to Messrs. Hollingworth's; the other two are situated on the western side of the parish, near Aylesford, on the rivulet which rises under the chalk hills, and are made use of for making an inferior kind of merchandize, one of these belongs to lord Romney. The lower mills above-mentioned belonging to Messrs. Hollingworth, stand at a small distance on the north side of the road leading from Maidstone to the Mote, and are called the Old Turkey

/y Rushworth, vol. ii. p. 348.

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Mills, they deserve a more particular notice in this place for their superiority, as well in the many extensive buildings, machines and conveniences erected for carrying on this large and curious manufacture, and the number of people continually employed in the different branches of it, as the easy and regular method, and the neatness with which the whole is conducted. They were formerly used as fulling mills, but on the decay of the cloathing trade in these parts, were, by Mr. Gill, the proprietor, converted into paper mills, and used by him as such for a few years; he sold them to Mr. James Whatman, who in 1739 pulled the whole of them down, and erected them on a much more curious and extensive plan, which was afterwards much more improved by his son James Whatman, esq. who with infinite pains and expence, brought his manufactory of writing paper, for no other sort is made here, to a degree of perfection, superior to most in the kingdom. In 1794 he sold these mills to Messrs. Hollingworth, and retired to Vintners, where he now resides, and they now carry on this manufacture here; under the buildings is a strong chalybeat spring, which however does not produce any great quantity of water. In 1711 a Roman urn was dug up at Grove, by the workmen, near the vein of Fuller's earth there, as several others have been since, with other relics of antiquity and coins, both there and at Vintners, most of the coins having the inscription of the emperor Adrian, and the like have been from time to time discovered at Goddard's hill, in this parish, where there are several stones set up similar to those about Horsted.

OUR BOTANISTS have observed the following scarce plants in this parish:

Borago minor silvestris, small white bugloss, or German madwort.

Scopyllum angustifolium glabrum, smooth narrow-leaved thyme.

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Buxus, the box tree, which grows plentifully in the woods here./z

Stellaria sanicula major, ladies mantle.

BOXLEY, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, was part of the vast estate of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's

half-brother; in which record it is thus described:

Robert Latin holds to ferm Boseleu. It was taxed at seven sulings in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now at five sulings. The arable land is twenty carucates. In demesne there are three carucates, and forty-seven villeins, with eleven borderers having sixteen carucates. There are three mills of thirty-six shillings and eight-pence, and sixteen servants, and twenty acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of thirty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth twenty-five pounds, now thirty pounds, and Robert yet pay fifty-five pounds. Alnod Cilt held it.

Four years after the taking of the above survey, about the year 1084, this estate, on the bishop of Baieux's disgrace, became forfeited to the crown, among the rest of his possessions.

In the year 1146,^{/a} William d'Ipre, earl of Kent, who afterwards became a monk himself at Laon, in Flanders,^{/b} founded an ABBEY at this place for monks of the Cistercian order, some of whom he brought from Claravalle, in Burgundy, for this purpose, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, as all the houses of this order were. The first monastery of this order in England was at Waverly, which was built in 1129, by Walter Gifford, bishop of Winchester. They were a branch of the Benedictines, called by the English, from their habit, White monks, and likewise Cis-

^{/z} Raii Synopsis, p. 228, 231, 445.

^{/a} Thus Chron. MSS. S. Werburgæ et de Parcoludo. Dugd. Mon. p. 827, places it in 1144. Leland, in his Collection, in 1143, and Camden, in 1145.

^{/b} See vol. i. of this History, p. lx.

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tertians; which last name they had from the town of Cistercium or Cisteaux, in the bishopric of Chalons, in Burgundy, where this order was first instituted by Robert, abbot of Molesme, in the year 1098. There were eighty-five houses of this order, at the time of the dissolution, in England.

King Richard I. in his 1st year, anno 1189, gave the MANOR of BOXELE^{/c} to this abbey, which king Henry III. in his 37th year, confirmed by his letters of inspeximus.^{/d}

King Henry III. in his 37th year, granted to the abbot and convent to hold a market weekly within their manor of Boxley.^{/e} The place where it was held appears to have been called Farthings.

In the 7th year of Edward I. the abbot claimed, before the justices itinerant, certain liberties, by the charters of king Henry and king Richard, and the confirmation of them by the charter of king Henry, the then king's father. And he claimed to have warren in all his demesne lands in Kent and Surry, which he had in the time of king Henry, the king's father; and that he and his predecessors had fully used those liberties, &c. and it was then found, that the abbot had in his manor of Boxley a free court, &c. and that the tenants of the manor ought to plead in the hundred of Maidstone, pleas of Withernam, &c. and that the abbot ought to allow pannage, &c, and that the

tenants of the manor owed pontage, and paid it to Rochester bridge./f

The abbot of Boxley was summoned to parliament twice in the 23d year of king Edward I. once in the 24th, and twice in the 28th years of that reign, but never afterwards, that I can find./g

/c Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 827. See this charter among the Harl. MSS. No. 6748-26. /d Dugd. ibid.

/e Cart. ejus an. m. 11. Tan. Mon. p. 214.

/f Plac. Lib. ejus an. Rot. 56 dors. Reg. Roff. p. 180. Regist. Christ Church, Cant. Cart. 153.

/g Tan. Mon. pref. p. xxvi.

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In the reign of king Henry III. there were sixty-four abbots and thirty-six priors summoned to parliament; but this number being thought too great, king Edward III. reduced them to twenty-five abbots and two priors, to which were afterwards added two more abbots, so that there were no more than twenty-nine in all, who stately and constantly enjoyed this privilege, of which only St. Austen's, near Canterbury, was in this county./h

King Edward II. in his 15th year, honoured this abbey with his presence, where, on Oct. 25, he granted to the aldermen and citizens of London to nominate a mayor out of their own body, at his will./i King Edward III. in his 33d year, granted to the abbot, &c. free warren in their manor of Boxele, &c./k

In the reign of king Richard II. the revenues of this abbey were valued at 218l. 19s. 10d. of which 98l. 19s. 7d. was in the diocese of Canterbury./l

John Dobbes, the last abbot, and the convent of Boxley, surrendered it into the hands of Henry VIII. on January 29, in the 29th year of his reign,/m and it was, together with all the lands and possessions belonging to it, confirmed to the king and his heirs, by the general words of the act, passed in the 31st year of that reign for this purpose; after which there were pensions allowed to the abbot, 50l. and to eight of the canons, from 2l. 13s. 4d. to 4l. yearly, for their lives, or until the person was promoted to a benefice of equal or superior value; the five last of which pensions remained in charge in 1553./n

It was endowed, at its dissolution, with 204l. 4s. 11d. per annum, clear revenue, according to Dug=

/h Steven's Mon. vol. ii. Appendix, p. 12.

/i Rot. Pat. ejus an. ps. 1ma.

/k Cart. ejus an. N. 4. Tan. Mon. p. 214.

/l Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 32, 39.

/m Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 592.

/n Aug. Off. Inrolments. Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. p. 96.

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dale; or, according to Speed, with 218l. 9s. 10d. per annum, yearly income./o

The coat of arms belonging to it was, Argent, a dexter bend lozenge, gules; on a canton of the second, a

crozier or pastoral staff of the field./p This coat, without the crozier, as also another, being a pastoral staff, surmounted of a bend, are still remaining carved in stone on the capitals of two pillars, from which springs a small circular arch in the garden, at the back of this abbey.

There was a chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the apostle, founded hard by the outer gate of this monastery, which was served by a curate appointed for that purpose.

The lands of the abbey of Boxley, of the order of Cisterians, were as such, in particular circumstances, exempted from the payment of tithes. Pope Pascal II. exempted all the religious in general from the payment of tithes for lands in their own occupation, and this continued till the reign of Henry II. when pope Hadrian IV. restrained this exemption to the three religious orders of Cisterians, Templars, and Hospitallers, to which pope Innocent III. added a fourth, viz. the Præmonstratenses, from whence these were generally called the four privileged orders. After which the general council of Lateran, in 1215, further restrained this exemption to lands in their own occupation, and to those which they possessed before that time. After this the Cisterians procured bulls to exempt all their lands likewise which were letten to farm. To restrain which, the statute of the second of king Henry IV. cap. 4. was made, which enacted, that whoever, religious as well as secular, should put these bulls in execution, and purchase any others, and by colour of them should take any advantage in any shape, should be guilty of a præmunire. This restrained

/o Tan. Mon. p. 213. /p Ibid. Arms, No. LXVII.

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their privilege again to such lands only as they had before the Lateran council above mentioned; so that the lands they afterwards acquired are in no wise exempted, and this statute left them subject to the payment of such composition for tithes of their demesne lands as they had made with any particular rectors, &c. who contesting their privileges, even under that head, brought them to compound. This monastery of Boxley was one of those dissolved by the act of the 31st of king Henry VIII. the only ones which continued these privileges to their possessors afterwards; by which act, as well the king, his heirs and successors, as all others who should have any of those monasteries, their lands or possessions, were to hold and enjoy them, according to their estates and titles, discharged and acquitted of payment of tithes, as freely, and in as large and ample a manner as the late abbots, priors, &c. of the same before held them./q

In the Registrum Roffense,/r are the names of the fields, woods, and other premises in the parish of Boxley, of which the abbot and convent here should in future be free and exempt from the payment of all tithes whilst they were in their own hands.

In the church of this abbey was the statue of St. Rumbald, usually called by the common people, St. Grumbald, which was held in great reverence for his sanctity by them, for the miracles it was said to per=

form.

King Henry VIII. in his 32d year, exchanged with Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allynton, for other premises, the house and scite of this monastery, lately dissolved, and the church, steeple, and church yard of it, with the buildings, lands, &c. as well nigh and adjoining to the scite and precinct of it, his lordship of Boxley, Hoo, and Newenham court, with their appurtenances and the farm and lands, called Upper Grange, and all

/q Burn's Eccl. Law, vol. iii. p. 381. /r Page 185.

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lands, tenements, and other premises late belonging to it, in the parishes, townships, or hamlets of Boxley, Boxley-street, Burley, Burthin, Sandelyng, Wilston, Wavering, Havurland, Oxefryth, Dunstreet upon the Hill, and elsewhere, in Kent, excepting to the king the parsonage of Boxley and the advowson of the parish church; all which were soon afterwards again vested in the crown, as appears by the Escheat rolls of the 38th year of that reign, when the king re-granted the whole of them to Sir Thomas Wyatt, son of Sir Thomas before mentioned, to hold in capite by knight's service, who having, in the 1st year of queen Mary, with other gentlemen of note in this county, raised a rebellion, was found guilty of high treason, and executed that year, and his estate was confiscated to the crown; but the queen, through her bounty, the next year, granted the manor of Boxly, with the Upper Grange, and some other lands adjoining, to his widow, the lady Jane Wyatt, (daughter and co-heir of Sir William Haut, of Bourne) and her heirs male, to hold in like manner. On her death, her son, George Wyatt, succeeded to them; but the abbey seems to have continued in the crown, for queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted the scite and mansion of it to John Astley for a term of years. In the 13th year of that reign, George Wyatt, esq. was restored in blood by act of parliament, after which he became possessed of this seat, and resided here, having the fee of it granted to him by the crown. He died in 1624, and was buried in the chancel of this church, as were his several descendants, who bore for their arms, Per fess azure and gules, a barnacle argent, the ring or; he left several sons and daughters, of whom the second son, Haute Wyatt, was vicar of this parish; and Francis, the eldest, succeeded him in the

/s Deeds of Purchase and Exch. Augtn. Off. Box A. 55. Inrolments, Augm. Off. /t Rot. Esch. ejus an. ps. 2.

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manor of Boxley, the mansion of the abbey, the Grange, and his other estates in this parish. He was afterwards knighted, and was twice governor of Virginia. He died in 1644, leaving two sons, Henry, his eldest son and heir, and Edwin, who afterwards became possessed of this manor, seat, and estates, above mentioned, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Bosvile, esq. of Littlemote in Eynsford, esq. whose daughter Margaret became the wife of Sir Robert Marsham, bart. great grandfather of the present lord Romney.

Henry Wyatt, esq. was of Boxley abbey, and left an only daughter and heir, Francis, who carried this manor, seat, with the Grange and other estates above mentioned, in marriage to Sir Thomas Selyard, bart. but Edwin Wiat, the younger brother of Henry above mentioned, disputing at law the lady Selyard's title to them, recovered the manor of Boxley, with other estates last mentioned, in this parish and elsewhere; but the abbey, with the lands belonging to it, remained in the possession of Sir Thomas Selyard, as will be mentioned hereafter.

Sir Thomas Selyard, or Seyliard, as the name was frequently spelt, was grandson of John Seyliard, of Delaware, in this county, whose eldest son, Sir John Selyard, of Chiddingstone, was father of Sir Thomas of Boxley abbey above mentioned. His second son, John Selyard, esq. was of Salmon's, in Penshurst, and was ancestor to those of that place, of Blechingley, and of London. They bore for their arms, Azure, a chief ermine; which coat, belonging to an ancestor of this family, is carved on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

Edwin Wiat, esq. above mentioned, was made a sergeant at law in 1684; he was a justice of the peace, recorder of Canterbury and Maidstone, and a burgess in parliament for the latter place, and chief justice of the grand sessions for the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan. At what time

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this family altered the antient spelling of their name from Wyatt to Wiat, I am not certain, though I believe Mr. Sergeant Wiat was the first who did so. He died in 1714, aged 85, and was buried, with his ancestors, in the chancel of this church, having had by Frances his wife, daughter and coheir of Tho. Crispe, esq. of Quekes, several sons and daughters; he was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Francis Wiat, esq. who resided at Quekes, in Thanet. He married the widow of William Buller, esq. of Cornwall; he, at his death, without issue, devised his estates here by will to his only surviving brother, Richard Wiat, esq. who died possessed of them in 1753, without issue, and by will gave them to his relation, Robert lord Romney (grandson of Sir Robert Marsham above mentioned) whose son, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, is the present possessor of them.

A court leet and court baron is regularly held for this manor, the tenants of which are freeholders in free socage tenure.

BOXLEY ABBEY remained with Sir Thomas Selyard above mentioned, whose son, of the same name, left two daughters and coheirs, viz. Margaret, married to Mr. Nicholas; and Elizabeth to Mr. Medlicott; and they sold it to Francis Austen, esq. of Sevenoke, who quickly afterwards passed it away to Edward Austen, esq. who afterwards, on the death of Sir Sheffield Austen, bart. succeeded to the title of baronet, being grandson of Robert, second son of Sir Robert Austen, who was created a baronet in 1660. He resided at Boxley abbey, and having married Susanna, daughter of Mr. Edward Walsingham, of Callicourt in Ryarsh, died without issue in 1760, and

was buried in Allington church, being succeeded in the title by his only brother, Robert Austen, esq. of Tenterden, who died in 1772, without issue, and the title became extinct. /u By his will he devised Boxley

/u See Bexley, vol. ii. p. 175.

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abbey, among the rest of his estates, to his wife's cousin John, son of Nicholas Amherst, of West Barming, in tail general, remainder to the late John Amherst, esq. of Rochester, and the two sons of Mr. James Allen, subject to lady Austen's life, and a power to her of devising the same. Lady Austen, by her will confirmed Sir Edward's disposition of his estate, and died about fifteen years ago, upon which John Amherst, esq. above mentioned, late of Bersted, succeeded to Boxley-abbey, with the rest of Sir Edward Austen's estates in this county, and is the present owner of it, and resides here. /w

NEWNHAM-COURT is a manor, situated at the south-east corner of this parish, which, as already has been mentioned, belonged to the abbey of Boxley, and being after the suppression of it granted by king Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyatt, became forfeited to the crown by the attaind of his son of the same name, in the 1st year of queen Mary, and remained there till queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted it for a term of years to John Astley, esq. master of her jewels; and afterwards, in her 26th year, granted the fee of it to his son, Sir John Astley, who alienated it to his nephew, Sir Norton Knatchbull, afterwards, anno 1641, created a baronet. He alienated this manor, in the reign of king Charles II. to Sir John Banks, bart. who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs; the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage earl of Nottingham; and on the division of their inheritance he became in her right entitled to it. He was afterwards created baron of Guernsey and earl of Aylesford, and from him it has descended down to his great grandson, the Right Hon. Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford, who, excepting about forty acres of the demesne lands of it, which together with an estate called POLL

/w See more of the Amhersts under both the Farleighs and Barmings.

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MILL, in this parish, which he exchanged for other lands elsewhere, with Mr. Whatman, to authorise which an act passed in 1785, continues the possessor of this manor and estate of Newnham court.

There is no court held for this manor, which is subordinate to that of Boxley.

WAVERING is a hamlet in the southern part of this parish, the manor and estate of which seems in the reign of Richard I. to have been part of the possessions of the family of Hougham, of Hougham, near Dover, tho' at that time, as appears by the letters patent of king Richard I. in his 1st year, by which he granted the manor of Boxley to the abbot and convent here, they then possessed some lands at Wevering, for the king confirmed in them certain agreements made

between them and John de Horspole, and his sons, for the land at this place; and king Henry III. in his 37th year, granted to them certain liberties within their demesne lands at Wavering, &c. what became of this part afterwards I do not find; but most probable it became esteemed as part of their manor of Boxley, and continues so at this time.

ANOTHER PART of Wavering seems about the same time to have been vested in the family of Bourne, of Bourne, near Barham; John de Bourne held lands in Wavering in the reign of king Henry III. and in the next reign had a charter of free warren for his lands here and elsewhere in this county.

But the greatest part of Wavering, as well as the manor itself, appears to have continued vested in the family of Hougham.

Robert de Hougham died possessed of it in the 2d year of king Edward I. when it was found, that he held of the king in capite in Weveringe, forty shillings rent, rendering this service from it, that whenever the king should march with his army towards Wales, /x he should find a horse of the price of 5s. with a wallet and

/x Rot. Esch. ejus ann. No. 14.

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a broche/y for forty days at the king's cost. His son of the same name, died possessed of it in the 29th year of that reign, holding it in capite by the like service. His daughter, Benedicta de Hougham, carried her interest in this place in marriage to John de Shelving, of Shelvingbourne, son of Waretius, whose father, John, by marriage with Helen, daughter and heir of John de Bourne, about the end of king Edward I. possessed likewise his property in Wavering.

John de Shelving, the grandson, died possessed of this manor in the 4th year of king Edward III. holding it by the service above mentioned; and his wife, Benedicta, died possessed of it in the 22d year of that reign, upon which it came to their daughter and heir Benedicta, the wife of Sir Edmund de Haute, of Haute's-court, in Petham, whose eldest son, Nicholas, leaving two sons, Nicholas of Petham, and William of Bishopsbourne, the latter of them possessed this manor of Wavering; from whom it descended down to Sir Wm. Haute, of Bishopsbourne, who lived in the time of Henry VIII. and left by his second wife, Mary, relict of Christopher Kempe, daughter of Sir Richard Guldeford, two daughters and coheirs. /z On the partition of their inheritance, the manor of Wavering was allotted to Sir Thomas Wyatt, in right of his wife, Jane, the youngest of them; and an act passed, anno 31 Henry VIII. for the assurance of it; but he being convicted of high treason, and attainted in the 1st year of queen Mary, it was, among the rest of his estates forfeited to the crown, where it remained till queen Elizabeth, in her 24th year, restored it to lady Jane Wyatt, his widow; and her son, George Wyatt, esq. for three lives; but the reversion remained in the crown till king Charles I. granted the fee of it to Stephen Alcock, esq. of Rochester, who

/y A broche is a large vessel of leather, to carry wine in.

/z MSS. pedig. Haute, Colepeper and Wyatt. Philipott, p. 89.

alienated it to Sir Francis Wyatt, son of Geo. Wyatt above mentioned, who then possessed the before mentioned term in this manor, and he died possessed of it in 1644; after which it passed with the manor of Boxley and his other estates to the Seyliard's, from whom it was recovered at law, in like manner as has been already mentioned above, in the account of that manor, by Mr. Sergeant Wiat, and was afterwards devised with them, by his youngest surviving son, Richard, in 1753, to his relation, Robert lord Romney, whose son, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney is the present proprietor of it.

The fee farm of this manor was purchased of the crown, by Sir Robert Marsham, in the reign of king Charles II. by virtue of the act passed for the sale of it.

There is no court held for this manor, which is now included in the paramount manor of Boxley.

VINTER'S, formerly called Vintner's, the manor of which is situated in the southern part of this parish, antiently afforded both seat and surname to the possessors of it.

Roger Vinter resided here, and was one of the conservators of the peace for this county in the 18th year of king Edward III. anno 1343, in the 40th year of which he founded a chantry in Maidstone church, called Gould's chantry, from the estate with which he endowed it. His son, John Vinter, in the 10th year of king Henry IV. sold it to John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, who dying two years afterwards, without issue, it came to Roger Isley, of Sundrish, as nearest of blood; and in his descendants, Vinter's continued down to Sir Henry Isley, who by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled.

Being concerned in the rebellion raised by Sir Tho. Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was attainted, and executed at Sevenoke, and his lands were confiscated to the crown. Soon after which queen Mary

granted this seat to Cutts, who in the next reign of queen Elizabeth alienated it to Sir Cavaliero Maycott, alias Mackworth, his name being so spelt in this parish register, who about the middle of James I.'s reign conveyed it by sale to William Covert, esq. who was great grandson of Richard Covert, esq. of Slaugham, in Sussex, by his third wife Joane, daughter of William Ashburnham. They bore for their arms, Gules, a fess ermine, between three martlets or. His son, Walter Covert, about the beginning of Charles I.'s reign alienated it to Sir William Tufton, the fourth son of Sir John Tufton, of Hothfield, bart. a younger brother of Nicholas, created baron Tufton and earl of Thanet. He resided at this seat of Vinter's, or Vintner's, as it was then commonly called, and was created a baronet of the kingdom of Ireland by king Charles I.

On his death his eldest son, Sir Benedict Tufton, bart. succeeded to this estate, who dying without issue, his next brother, Sir Charles Tufton, bart. became possessed of it, and in the reign of king Charles II.

alienated it to Daniel Whyte, esq. who resided here, and died possessed of it in 1689; his son of the same name, in the reign of queen Anne, passed it away by sale to Sir Samuel Ongley, one of the South Sea directors, who devised it to his nephew, Samuel Ongley, esq. of Old Warden, in Bedfordshire, in tail; on whose death, s. p. in 1747, this seat came, by virtue of the will of Sir Samuel Ongley, above mentioned, to Robert Henley, esq. barrister at law, who took upon himself the surname of Ongley, and was afterwards of Old Warden; and in 1776, was created baron Ongley of the kingdom of Ireland. In 1783, he obtained an act to vest this estate in trustees, to be sold, and they accordingly conveyed it to James

/a Visitation of the County of Kent. Pedigree, Covert.

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Whatman, esq. of this parish, who has since rebuilt this mansion, in an elegant manner, and now resides in it.

Mr. Whatman has been twice married, first, to Sarah, eldest daughter of Edward Stanley, esq. secretary of the customs, by whom he had two daughters; Camilla, married to Sir Charles Style, bart. and Lætitia; secondly to Susannah, eldest daughter of Jacob Bosanquet, of Essex, by whom he has one son, James. He served the office of sheriff in 1767, and bore for his arms, Party per pale or and sable, a pheon counterchanged.

This seat was for many years inhabited, as tenants, by the family of Champneis, many of whom are, from time to time, mentioned in the parish register of Boxley; the first of them, Walter Champneis, being mentioned in 1582. The last occupier of this name was Henry Champneis, esq. who died at it in 1781, unmarried./b

THE TITHES of this estate of Vinter's were part of the possessions of the priory of Ledes, and coming into the hands of the crown, at the suppression of that monastery, in the reign of king Henry VIII. were granted by the king, in his 33d year, by his dotation charter, to the dean and chapter of Rochester, then newly founded, by the description of all the tithes of corn, wool, hay, and other tithes whatsoever, of all those lands and tenements called Vintner's. This portion of tithes, in the parishes of Boxley and Bersted, of the yearly value of six pounds, was let by the late dean and chapter, 15 Charles I. at the yearly rent of twelve shillings. The present lessee is Mr. William Fowle.

OVENHELLE, now commonly called Overhill farm, from its situation on the chalk hills, in this parish, was once accounted a manor, and in the reign of king Edward I. was held in sergeantry by Sir Osbert

/b See more of this family under Westenhanger in Stanford.

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de Longocampo or Longchamp, by the service of attending the king in his army into Wales, c forty days at his own expence, with one horse of the price of five shillings, and with one wallet of the price of sixpence, and with a broche to the same wallet. d Soon after which it became the property of Stephen de

Pencestre, by one of whose daughters and coheirs, Joan, it went in marriage to Stephen de Cobham, of Rundell in Shorne,^e who possessed it in the reign of king Edward II. and was a baron of this realm; his son, John de Cobham of Rundell, died possessed of it in the 36th year of king Edward III. holding it by the like service.

He left two sons, Thomas and Reginald, of whom the eldest, Sir Thomas Cobham, succeeded him here, and died in the 17th year of king Richard II. being then possessed of this manor, situated in Ovenhell in Boxley, held of the king in capite by the above mentioned service. It continued in his descendants till it was alienated to Wyatt. Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Alington, died owner of the manor of Ovenhill in the 34th year of king Henry VIII. holding it in capite by knights service, leaving Sir Thomas Wyatt his son and heir, who in the 1st year of queen Mary forfeited this, among the rest of his estates, to the crown for high treason; but it was afterwards, with other estates in this parish, regranted to his family, in whom it continued till Richard Wiat, esq. dying in 1753, without issue, bequeathed it by his last will to Robert lord Romney,^f whose son, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney is the present possessor of it.

This manor, with others in this neighbourhood, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

^{/c} In Rot. Hund. anno 3 Edw. I. Rot. 7 Kanc.

^{/d} See Blount's Ten. p. 61.

^{/e} See more of him, under Randall in Shorne, vol. iii. of this History, p. 447. ^{/f} See above, p. 338.

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QUEEN MARY, in her 1st year, granted to George Clarke several parcels of land in Boxley, late belonging to the abbey of Boxley, and parcel of the estate of Sir Thomas Wyatt, attainted of high treason, and the GRANGE, called the NETHER GRANGE, (so called, to distinguish it from the Upper grange, mentioned above) in Boxley, and many other lands and tenements there, to hold in capite by knights service. On his death, in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth, his son, Geo. Clarke, succeeded to them, by the description of one messuage, three hundred and forty acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Boxley, to hold of the queen as above mentioned. In the 22d year of that reign, he alienated it to Robert Bruer, gent. whose son and heir, John Brewer, esq. for so the name was now spelt, in 1611, succeeded him in these premises, of which he appears to have been possessed in the reign of king Charles I. It was afterwards purchased by James Calder, esq. afterwards Sir James Calder, bart. whose son, brigadier General Sir Henry Calder, bart. died possessed of it in 1792, leaving his widow surviving, and an infant son, now Sir Henry Calder, bart. and in them the fee and possession of this estate is now vested.

THERE is a large farm here, called the COURT-LODGE, which was possessed by the family of Bartholomew; one of whom, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, dying without issue in 1757, bequeathed it by will to the second son of Francis Geary, esq. of

Polsden, in Surry, by Mary his half sister; which second son, now Sir William Geary, bart. of Oxenhoath, is the present owner of it./g

THE GROVE is an estate in the southern part of this parish, which in the reign of king Henry IV. was conveyed by Isabel de Wavering to Tho. Burbige, whose descendant, of the same name, possessed the Grove, with a dove house and other lands adjoining to it, in

/g See Oxenhoath, in Peckham.

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the reign of king Henry VII. after which great part of the land was from time to time sold off from it, but what remained with the house descended to Mr. Tho. Burbige, who dying without issue, and being the last heir male, gave it by will to his sister; and she, in 1702, conveyed it by sale to Mr. John Watts, who afterwards became famous for working the remarkable fine vein of fullers earth here. His heirs passed it away by sale to general William Belford, colonel commandant of the first battalion of the royal regiment of artillery, who died in 1780, leaving by the daughter of Mr. Schalch, of Woolwich, two sons and one daughter; the sons, Gustavus and William, were both officers in the army, and by their father's will became jointly possessed of this estate; the former colonel Gustavus Belford still possesses one moiety of this estate; the latter is since deceased, having left by his wife, one of the daughters of Thomas Jones, esq. of East Wickham, two daughters his coheirs, who are now entitled to the other moiety of it. They bear for their arms, Argent, a chevron, a rose in base gules.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM KEMBER, once a poor boy of this parish, afterwards a tanner of the town of Faversham, by will, in 1611, gave to the vicar of Boxley and his successors for ever, the yearly sum of 30s. out of his house and garden, in Court-street, in Faversham, for the use of the poor inhabiting and dwelling in this parish, to be paid to them yearly at the usual church porch on St. Thomas's day, with power of distress, &c.

THE SUM of 50l. due by bond from the commissioners of the Sandling turnpike, for the use of the poor of this parish, is vested in the Rev. Mr. Burville, and is of the annual product of 2l.

BOXLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, stands on the east side of the village; it is not large, but neat, and contains three isles and a chancel, with a handsome square tower at the west end, in which hang four small bells, which were cast in 1652, by M. Darby.

In this church, before the Reformation, was a famous rood, called the Rood of Grace, which was held

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in great esteem for the miracles it was supposed to work. It was broken to pieces by the king's command at St. Paul's cross, in London, on Sunday, February 24, 1538, in the presence of John Hilsey, bishop of Rochester, and a vast concourse of the populace./h

The church of Boxley was given by king Henry I.

in 1130, to the church of Rochester, with all its liberties and rights, in like manner as his chaplain, Jeffrey or Ansfred, the clerk, had ever held it; but that church and monastery, having been destroyed by fire, and the monks dispersed abroad, king Stephen, in 1137, dispossessed them of this church, which, however, on their return to their monastery, was on their remonstrance to the court of Rome, by the pope's bull, restored and confirmed to them; and Walter, bishop of Rochester, not only confirmed to them the appropriation of it, but granted to them the free disposal and presentation of the vicarage, saving the right of the bishop of the diocese; which grant was confirmed likewise by the several archbishops of Canterbury afterwards.

In the year 1180, there was an agreement made between the monks of Boxley and those of Rochester, concerning the parochial tithes of this church; by which the latter granted to the former a certain field belonging to the parish church of Boxley, above the hills, but by the consent of the former they retained out of it for ever half an acre of wood for fencing; and the monks of Rochester granted to those of Boxley all the tithes above the hills of all lands, as well of those free lands, which the latter had of the king's gift, as of those which they had acquired, to be held finally in villenage, or might acquire in future, at any time for their own use; and likewise certain land belonging to this parish church, under the hill, with the meadow

/h See Lambarde's Peramb. p. 238. Kilburne's Surv. p. 36.

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adjoining, between the abbey and village of Boxley; on the other hand, the monks of Boxley granted to those of Rochester all their tithes under the hills, without the bounds of the abbey and grange; that is to say, of all corn only and pulse, of all their lands under the hills, as well of those antiently as newly cultivated, and which they had from the foundation of the abbey, or might bring into culture at any time in future; and that the monks of Rochester should have all the tithes on the sides of the hills of all lands which at that time, or before were reduced to culture, excepting the field which the monks of Boxley bought of John de Horespole; which composition was confirmed by Richard, archbishop of Canterbury.

The confirmations of this church to the priory seem afterwards to have been but little regarded, and they were again dispossessed of it, with a reservation of 60s. annual pension only from it; and it appears, that the bishop of Rochester, together with the prior and convent, used to present to it on a vacancy, till the time of archbishop Islip, who at the petition of the monks, with the consent of the bishop, in 1363, restored this church to them, in as ample a manner as they had before held it; and he granted them full liberty to re-enter into the corporal possession of it, with all its rights and appurtenances, on the vacancy of the rector then incumbent on it; reserving, nevertheless, in the first place, a proper portion out of the fruits and profits, for the maintenance of a perpetual vicar, at the presentation of the bishop, to be instituted by him and

his successors, and for the due support of the episcopal and archidiaconal burthens, and others belonging to it; and a vicarage was afterwards accordingly endowed in it by archbishop Sudbury, in the year 1377.ⁱ

In 1403, a definitive sentence was passed concerning the tithes of this vicarage;^k at which time, and so

ⁱ Regist. Sudbury, f. 124. MSS. Lamb.

^k Aug. Off. Chart. Antiq. D. 101. Reg. Roff. p. 185.
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late as the year 1485, this church and advowson belonged to the priory of Rochester, for in the latter year, archbishop Bouchier, cardinal and apostolic legate, confirmed the appropriation of it to them; and a composition was entered into, anno 20 Richard II. between the prior and convent, and Adam Motrum, archdeacon of Canterbury; that as the archdeacon and his archdeaconry was detrimented in the yearly sum of 6s. 8d. the like sum should be yearly paid to the latter, out of the profits of it so long as they possessed it.

The appropriation, as well as the advowson of the vicarage, seems very soon afterwards to have passed into the hands of the prior and convent of Boxley, tho' by what means I do not find, before its dissolution, which happened in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. for that king, by his dotation charter, in his 32d year, settled his rectory and church of Boxley, late belonging to the dissolved monastery of Boxley, and the vicarage of it, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose possessions they now remain.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was valued at 32l. the vicarage is valued in the king's books at 12l. 19s. 2d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 11d.

King Henry VIII. in his 29th year, let to Thomas Vicary, one of his surgeons, the tithes of corn and the glebe lands of this rectory, and the capital messuage, houses, and buildings belonging to it, and ten pieces of land, late belonging to the monastery of Boxley and the advowson of the vicarage, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of forty pounds.

In the exchange of lands, made between Henry VIII. and Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 32d year of his reign, the parsonage of Boxley, and the advowson of the vicarage, with their appurtenances, were particularly excepted, to remain to the king's use.

By a survey of this parsonage, on the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. in 1649, by order of the state, it appears, that the par-

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sonage-house, a fair and goodly house, with its appurtenances, tithes, &c. late belonging to the late monastery there, and forty-eight acres, three roods, and two perches of land, in the improved rents, were the whole of them worth 140l. 3s. 6d. per annum; and were let by the dean and chapter, anno 15 Charles I. to Robert Parker for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 26l. 13s. 4d. and twelve couple of conies, or 16s. in money; that the lessee was bound to repair the chancel, and that the vicarage, which was excepted out of the lease, was worth sixty pounds per annum.

The present lessee of the parsonage is Mr. William Fowle; the vicarage is reserved out of the lease of it,

and is in the disposal of the dean and chapter.

The vicar of Boxley has belonging to him all tithes of wood, hops, hay, clover, cinquefoil, flax, wold, wool, lambs, milk, eggs, apples, cherries, and other fruit, and of pasture; his dues are, for burials, 2s. for marriages, 5s. for christenings in houses, 2s. 6d. and for churchings at church, 6d. at home, 1s. for Easter offerings he can demand of every person, above sixteen years old, 6d. so of a man and his wife, 1s.

He has a pension of 8l. per annum, payable out of the exchequer, as an augmentation; the fees for receiving of which are, if he receives it himself, 12s. if by another, 20s./l

The land the vicarage house, with its appurtenances, stands on, with the garden and court yard, is not above the third part of an acre; which, with the herbage of the church yard, is all the glebe the vicar has. The house, which is built of brick, and sashed, is handsome and commodious, and has proper offices adjoining to it. It was erected by Mr. archdeacon Spratt, whilst vicar of this parish; since which it has been considerably improved by Dr. Markham, vicar likewise, now arch=

/l This account is entered in the parish register, with the subscription of Jo. Wyvell, vicar, 1694.

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bishop of York, who sometimes resided in it, as did his successor, Dr. North, now bishop of Winchester.

In 1733, the vicarage was valued at 200l. it is now 300l. per annum.

Bishop Henry de Sandford, by his decree temp. Henry III. at the petition of the vicar and parishioners, changed the feast of the dedication of this church, from the 10th of February to the Monday next after the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

CHURCH OF BOXLEY.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and Convent of Rochester Galfridus, in the time of king
Stephen./m

Gregory de Romania, 1240./n

VICARS.

Robert Marre, in 1385./o

William Snelle, obt. March 10,
1451./p

John Munden, 1481./q

John Quene, 1557./r

David Jeffrie, obt. Mar. 1558./s

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Roger Jones, obt. Aug. 1566.

Philip Hilles, ind. Oct. 1566,
obt. June 1589.

George Case, A. M. 1589, obt.
June 1632.

Haute Wyatt, ind. Oct. 3, 1632,
obt. Aug. 1638.

John Balcanqual, S. T. P. induct.
1638, resig. 1640.

Walter Balcanqual, January 21,
1640, resig. 1646.

Thomas Heymes, obt. 1678.

Humphry Lynde, 1678, ob. 1686./t
John Wyvall, A. M. ind. Jan.
11, 1690, obt. 1704./u

/m Reg. Roff. p. 182.
/n Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 349.
/o Reg. Roff. p. 181.
/p Of All Souls college, Oxon. He
lies buried in this church.
/q Hist. of Maidstone, p. 39.
/r Reg. Roff. p. 588.
/s He lies buried in this church, as
do his four next successors.
/t And curate of Maidstone.
/u Prebendary of Rochester.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Thomas Spratt, A. M. obt. June
12, 1720./w
Edm. Barrell, A. M. obt. 1765./x
The King jure Reg. Wm. Markham, LL. D. 1765,
vacated 1770./y
Brownlow North, D. D. February
1771, vacated 1774./z
Wm. Nance, A. M. May 1775,
resig. Nov. 1780.
Dean and Chapter of Rochester John Benson, D. D. Nov. 1780.
Present vicar./a

/w He was rector of Stone by Dart=
ford, prebendary of Rochester and Win=
chester, and archdeacon of the former.
He was son of Thomas Spratt, bishop
of Rochester.

/x First a prebendary of Norwich, and
then of Rochester. See Sutton at Hone,
vol. ii. p. 367.

/y Prebendary of Durham, and dean
of Rochester, now archbishop of York.

/z Dean of Canterbury, which he
resigned that year, on being made bi=
shop of Litchfield. He held this vi=
carage in commendam till 1774, when
he was advanced to the see of Wor=
cester, now bishop of Winchester. He
was a younger son of Francis, earl of
Guildford.

/a Prebendary of Canterbury. He
exchanged the rectories of Great Chart
and St. Michael, Harbledown, for this
vicarage, with his predecessor.

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DETLING.

THE next parish eastward from Boxley is Detling,
written in antient records, Detlinges.

The VILLAGE of Detling is situated at the foot of
the chalk hills, the turnpike road from Maidstone,
over the hill here, to Key-street and Sittingborne,
leading through it; the manor of East and West
court are situated in it, the church stands near the
west side of it. This street seems antiently to have

been called Polley-street, from the family of that name, which had its original here, where they resided, and were antiently written Polley, alias Polhill, the direct descendant of them, being Charles Polhill, esq. of Chipsted, and there are yet lands in this parish called Polley fields. The soil of this parish, upon and below the hill, consists in general of chalk, and is very poor and unfertile; in the south west part of it there is much coppice wood; above the hill it is equally poor, con=

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sisting of a cold red unfertile earth, intermixed with quantities of flints. In the whole it is an unfrequented parish, and would be more so, and but little known, was it not for the turnpike road through it. The air is very healthy, but the chalky stony soil makes it exceedingly unpleasant either to dwell in or to pass through it.

THIS PLACE is said to have been part of the antient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, and to have continued so till the time of the conquest, when Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the king's half brother, by his great power, wrested it from the church; but archbishop Lanfranc, soon after his coming to the see, recovered this manor, among others, in that noted assembly of the whole county, at Pinenden-heath, in 1076, being the 11th of the Conqueror's reign.

It appears, by the inquisition taken throughout England, in the 12th and 13th years of king John, and delivered in by the several sheriffs to the king's treasurer, that Detling was then in the possession of a family who took their surname from it; and that William de Detling then held it of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, as half a knight's fee. In memory of this family, Philipott says, there was once, for there is not now even a report of its having been there, a massy lance, wreathed all over with a thin iron plate, preserved in this church, like that of William the Conqueror at Battle, in Sussex, of the Peches at Lullingstone, in this county, the Carewes at Beddington, in Surry, and several others, as the very spear by them used, and deposited here as a memorial of their achievements in arms, and an emblem of their extraordinary strength and abilities; and there is now in it the bust of a man on a piece of antient grave stone, which is reported to have belonged to the monument of Sir John Detling.

/b See more of him, under the Mote, in Maidstone. <refers to next page>

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The family of Detling afterwards assumed the surname likewise of Brampton, being written in old deeds, Brampton, alias Detling, of Detling court, where they resided till the beginning of king Henry IV's reign, when John Brampton, alias Detling, leaving an only daughter and heir, Benedicta, she carried this manor in marriage to Thomas-at-Towne, of Towne's-place, in Throwley, who died likewise without male issue, leaving three daughters his coheirs. On the partition of whose inheritance, about the 24th year of Henry VI. this manor was allotted to Eleanor, the eldest, wife of Rich. Lewknor, who in her right enjoyed it. He alien=

ated it not long after to Sir Richard de Wydevill, or Woodvill, as he was commonly called, who was created by Henry VI. in his 26th year, lord Rivers, &c. and afterwards knight of the Garter, and earl Rivers; four years after which, whilst at his seat at Grafton, near Northampton, he was seized by a tumultuous crowd of people, who had assembled themselves in favour of king Henry, and was put to death by them. His eldest son, Anthony lord Scales, after the death of Edward IV. was seized on by the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham as he was attending the young king towards London, and being hurried away to Pontefract, was there beheaded; leaving no legitimate issue, Richard his brother succeeded him in honours and estates, which king Richard however did not suffer him to enjoy, but made a grant of this manor, among the rest of this earl's lands in this county, in his 1st year, to Robert Brakenbury, esq. on whom he at the same time conferred the office of constable of the Tower, and other favours, for his good services to him. His pedigree, drawn from antient evidences in his custody, in 1594, is among the Harleian manuscripts. This family bore for their arms, Argent, three bends and a chief sable, on the chief a lion passant guardant or. On the accession of king Henry VII. he was attainted of high treason, and his estates became confiscated to the

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crown; soon after which this manor, which had been before alienated to Richard Lewknor, esq. who before had some estate here, was confirmed by the king to him, and his only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to George Hilles, on whose death, without male issue, his two daughters became his coheirs; one of whom married Martin, and the other Vincent; they divided this manor into separate moieties, each of which, from that time, became a distinct manor; one of which, called East-court, was allotted to Martin; and the other called West-court, to Vincent, in right of their respective wives.

The MANOR of EAST-COURT was alienated in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign to John Webbe, gent. who resided here; from which name it passed by sale in the reign of king James I. to Smith; and he, in the next reign of king Charles I. conveyed it to Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the exchequer, who devised it by his will to his nephew, Sir John Henden, of Biddenden; and he, in Charles II.'s reign, passed it away by sale to Sir John Beale, bart. of Farningham; who died in 1684, leaving two daughters his coheirs; on the partition of whose inheritance, this manor fell to the share of the youngest, married to William Emmerton, esq. of Chipsted, who sold it to Francis Foote, esq. of Veryan, in Cornwall, where his family had possessed lands for some generations. He left by Mary, daughter of Benjamin Hatley, esq. whose arms were, Azure, a sword in bend, between two mullets or, two sons, Benjamin Hatley and Francis Hender, and a daughter, since married to Mr. Pearson, and was succeeded in this manor by his eldest son, Benjamin Hatley Foote, esq. who married Mary, one of the daughters of Robert Mann, esq. of Linton, by whom he had two sons, Geo. Talbot

Hatley; and John Foote, now a banker in London,

/c Philipott, p. 131. Cole's Entries, p. 589. <refers to next page>

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who married the daughter of Mr. Joseph Martin, of London, banker, deceased. He bore for his arms, Vert, a chevron argent, between three doves or; on his death, in 1791, his son, Geo. Talbot Hatley Foote, became possessed of it, and is the present proprietor of it.

The MANOR of WEST-COURT, in the possession of Vincent, was alienated to Mr. William Moreton, of White-horse, in Croydon, who was possessed of it in the reign of Philip and Mary, in whose family it continued at the Restoration, /c in 1660; after which the manor and great part of this estate (for there was a share of it which came to and continued some time in the name of Price) passed through some intermediate owners till it came into the possession of Tho. Borrett, esq. of Shoreham, in this county; formerly one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas, who died in 1751; and his heirs, about the year 1766, passed it away by sale to Benjamin Hatley Foote, esq. owner likewise of East-court, as above mentioned; so that these two divided manors are now united in the same owner, his son, Geo. Talbot Hatley Foote, esq. being the present possessor of them both.

A court baron is regularly held for the manor of Detling, the jurisdiction of which extends over the manor of Henkhurst in Staplehurst.

CHARITIES.

ONE of the family of Polhill gave the sum of 3s. 4d. yearly to the minister, and the like to the clerk, and the same to the poor, chargeable on land, vested in William Stacey Coast, esq. now of the annual product of 10s.

DETLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple, and is situated at the south west end of the village. It was anciently esteemed but as a chapel of ease to the church

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of Maidstone, which was of the patronage of the see of Canterbury.

The rectory of the church of Maidstone, with the chapels of Loose and Detling annexed, was appropriated by archbishop Courtney, with the king's licence, in the 19th year of king Richard II. to his new founded college of All Saints, in Maidstone; but the patronage of the advowson of them, the archbishop reserved to himself and his successors; in which state they remained till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged the advowson and patronage of the church of Maidstone, and chapels annexed, with the king, among other premises. Upon the dissolution of the above college, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. the rectory, as well as the advowson of the said church and chapels, becoming vested in the crown, the church of Maidstone was

left, through the king's favour, to the inhabitants of that town and parish; and that, as well as the chapels of Detling and Loose, were served by curates nominated by the king, whose stipends were paid by the king's lessee of the great tithes or rectories of these parishes; at which time the barn, tenths, and glebe of the parish of Detling, were valued at 7l. 6s. 8d. per annum; and the stipend paid to the curate of this church, by the archbishop's lessee of the tithes, was 2l. 13s. 4d.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 6th year, granted the reversion of the rectory of the several parishes of Maidstone, Detling, and Loose, then in lease to Christopher Roper, esq. to Matthew archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange; since which it has continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to the present time.

The reader will observe, that the church of Detling was in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign esteemed as a curacy only; when it was first accounted a vicarage, as it is at this time, I do not find; but it was before the year 1643, when the sequestrators of arch-

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bishop Laud's revenue craved the allowance of 2l. 13s. 4d. being the yearly pension paid by the archbishop to the vicar of Detling.

Archbishop Juxon, in obedience to the king's directions, made an addition of 7l. 6s. 8d. to the vicar's former salary; since which, by the will of archbishop Tenison, in 1715, it has been augmented with the sum of 200l. and by queen Anne's bounty again, which produces the yearly sum of sixteen pounds.

This church is exempted from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of Canterbury. The vicarage is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 30l.

CHURCH OF DETLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Archbishops of Canterbury William Sutton, in 1643./d

..... Rayney.

..... Friday.

Charles German, obt. Aug. 1704.

John Martin, resig. 1718./e

Francis Muriell, A. M. 1718, ob.

July 1750./f

Christopher Thomas, 1750.

Thomas Baker, inst. February 20,

1764, obt. Feb. 1779./g

William Polhill, pres. Ap. 1779,

resigned./h

Denny Martin Fairfax, D. D. Present vicar.

/d MSS. E. H.

/e He resigned this on being made vicar of St. Clement's, in Sandwich.

/f And rector of Rucking.

/g And rector of Frinsted.

/h He was before vicar of Linton, which he resigned on taking this vi-

carage.

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LOOSE.

ADJOINING to the parish of Maidstone southward lies that of Loose, written in antient records, Hlose and Lose.

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It most probably takes its name from the stream here, losing itself for some space under ground, hlosan in Saxon, signifying to lose or be lost.

THE PARISH is situated both healthy and pleasant, the soil of it is in general very fertile, being a loam, covering the quarry rock at no great depth. It is exceedingly kindly for hops and fruit grounds, with both which it abounds, and there is a general neatness kept up here in the culture of them, which is particularly noticed in the green clipped hedges round them, which gives the whole the appearance of a well cultivated garden ground. Its length, from north to south, is about two miles; it is but narrow across, being not more than one at its greatest width. The high road from Maidstone towards the Weald, over Cocksheath, a small part of which is within this parish, runs along the eastern boundary of it, as does the stream, which rises at Langley, along the valley, at the western boundary of it. This stream, about a mile from its rise, loses itself at Brishing, under ground, running through a subterraneous passage for near half a mile, from which circumstance this parish is supposed to take its name; and here I shall observe, that there are many instances in this kingdom of rivers losing themselves in this manner, as the Lin, in Devonshire; Mole, in Surry; Deverill, in Wiltshire; Recall, in Yorkshire; Hamps and Manyfold, in Staffordshire; and Arien, in Denbigshire; and perhaps several more.

After this river has thus lost itself, it rises again at the quarries, at the eastern bounds of this parish, and running above ground, directs its course north west, to this village, situated on the Maidstone road, about half a mile from Cocksheath, romantically on the steep ascent of a hill, at the foot of which is the church in the middle of it. On the east side, though at a small distance, is Salt's place, a seat which was formerly possessed by the family of Bufkin, who owned considerable estates in this county, from whom it came,

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as their heir, to John Martin, esq. of Stanmer, in Sussex, and bore for his arms, Gules, a lion rampant, and eight cross crozlets or; whose son, Denny Martin, afterwards resided here, having married Frances, one of the daughters of Thomas lord Fairfax, by whom he had several sons and daughters; she died possessed of it in 1791, since which her eldest son, the Rev. Denny Martin, who has taken the name of Fairfax, and now of Leeds castle, and D. D. is become the present owner of it. At the village, the above mentioned stream receives another, which rises on the hill just above the church, and then having crossed the road, flows on northward, leaving Loose-court and

Hale-place a little to the right; the neatness and rural elegance of the grounds belonging to the former greatly contributing to the pleasantness of this place; the latter, situated on the side of a hill, having a pleasing view over the country northwestward. It was formerly called Le Hayle, and by the antient gateway seems to have been an habitation of some account in past times; it belonged to the family of Beale for several descents, and continued so till a female heir carried it in marriage to Mr. William Post, gent. of London; who, in 1763, new fronted the house, and now resides in it. After having passed this latter seat, the stream flows on, and joins the river Medway, between Upper and Lower Tovill, and though, in its course, through this parish, it does not run but little more than two miles, yet there are so many mills on it, for different manufacturers, within sight of each other, that it may be said to form a chain of them along the whole of it.

LOOSE was given by king Ethelwolf, son of king Egbert, about the year 832, to a widow, named Sueta, and her daughter and they made a donation of it to the monks of the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, who allotted it towards the expence of their cloathing./i

/i Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 29.

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This place is not mentioned in the record of Domesday; as it adjoined to East Farleigh, and was, as well as that, part of the possessions of the priory of Christ-church, it is most probably included in the description of that manor. In the reign of king Edward I. the manor of Lose, with its appurtenances, was valued at eighteen pounds./l King Edward II. by his charter, in his 10th year, confirmed to the prior free warren in all the demesne lands, acquired since the time of his grandfather; so that they were not within the bounds of his forest, &c./m This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory till its dissolution in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, where it did not remain long, for he settled it, by his dotation charter, in the 33d year of his reign, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose inheritance it now continues.

There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor, at which are chosen borsholders for the boroughs of Wanshurst, Falksheath, and Pattenden, in the Weald.

In the 33d year of king Henry VIII. the lessee of this manor was Stephen Astyn, who was succeeded in the 30th year of queen Elizabeth by John Smythe. In the year 1630 Robert Swinock was tenant of it, who held it till after the death of king Charles. In 1661 the lease of it was granted to Alabaster Fludd, esq. who in 1675 was succeeded by Benjamin Calamy, D. D. In 1669 Abraham Campion, D. D. was the lessee; but in 1724 William Barrowby, M. D. held it, and soon afterwards parted with his interest in it to John Hayes, as he did to Thomas Crispe, commonly called, as well as his descendants, Cripps, to whom the lease

of it was granted in 1734; in which name it continued

/k Madox's Firm. Burg. p. 17.

/l Battely's Som. part ii. Ap=

pendix, p. 50.

/m Reg. Eccl. Christi, Cant.

Cart. 134.

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down to Mr. Thomas Crispe, gent. who resided here, and by his continual improvements to the grounds and waters of it, rendered this place as delightful and pleasant a spot, as a ferme ornee, as any this part of Kent can boast of. His only son, John Crispe, succeeded him here, and died s. p. in 1792, upon which it came to his sister Elizabeth, whose husband, Mr. John Penfold, of Maidstone, became in her right entitled to the possession of the lease of this manor, where he now resides.

There seems to have been another manor in this parish, stiled likewise THE MANOR OF LOOSE, which was once the inheritance of the noted family of Fremingham, who from their being stiled of Lose, most probably had some mansion for their residence in this parish, and the owners of Pimp's-court, though it is situated in the adjoining parish of East Farleigh, having at this time a seat in this church, in some measure corroborates it, though that might perhaps be granted in regard to their contiguity to this church, and great distance from the other. John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died in the 12th year of king Henry IV. possessed of this manor of Lose, and leaving no issue, he by will devised it to feoffees, who next year assigned it over accordingly, to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, of Pimpe's court, in East-Farleigh, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being the nearest of blood to him. After which this manor, by unity of possession, became blended with that estate, and remains so at this time, as may be seen in the description of it below, under that of the parish of East Farleigh.

There are no parochial charities.

LOOSE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is a small building with a pointed steeple. It was antiently

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esteemed but a chapel of ease to the church of Maidstone, which was of the patronage of the see of Canterbury.

The rectory of the church of Maidstone, with the chapels of Loose and Detling annexed, was appropriated by archbishop Courtney, in the 19th year of king Richard II. to his new-founded college of All Saints, in Maidstone; but the patronage of the advowson of the church and chapels annexed, the archbishop reserved to himself and successors. In which state they remained till archbishop Cranmer, in the 29th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged the advowson and patronage of that church and the chapels annexed to it, with the king. Upon the dissolution of

the college, in the 1st year of king Edward VI. the rector, as well as the advowson of the church and chapels before-mentioned, became vested in the crown; after which the church of Maidstone was left, through the king's favor, to the inhabitants of that town and parish, and that, as well as the chapels of Loose and Detling, were served by curates nominated by the king, whose stipends were paid by the king's lessee of the great tithes of these parishes. At which time the barn, tenths, and glebe of the parish of Loose were valued at 5l. 13s. 4d. per annum; and the stipend paid to the curate of this church by the archbishop's lessee was 2l. 13s. 4d.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 6th year, granted the reversion of the rector of the several parishes of Maidstone, Loose, and Detling, then in lease to Christopher Roper, esq. to Mathew, archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange; since which it has continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury to the present time.

This church still continues under the denomination of a perpetual curacy, presented to by the archbishop, and is exempt from the archdeacon of Canterbury.

/n Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 132. Augtn. off. box A. 21.

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In 1640 the curacy was valued at thirty-six pounds per annum. In 1643 the sequestrators of archbishop Laud's revenue craved the allowance of 2l. 13s. 4d. being the yearly pension paid by the archbishop to the vicar of Loose, and in bishop Williams's map it is likewise noted as a vicarage. Archbishop Juxon, in 1661, in consequence of the king's letters mandatory, augmented the stipend of this curacy with the annual sum of 5l. 13s. 4d.

Mr. Richard Beale, a Hamburgh merchant, formerly a native of this parish, at his death in 1702, left five hundred pounds for an augmentation to this curacy; with which a farm in Smarden, of twenty pounds per annum, was purchased and appropriated to that use. It is not in charge in the king's books.

CHURCH OF LOOSE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. CURATES.

..... Chambers, obt. 1625./o

Archbishops of Canterbury. John Aymes, sequestered April
18, 1643./p

..... Lock, ejected 1662./q

Henry Walter, 1666.

Henry Briggs, D. D. 1712./r

Thomas Frank, A. M. 1722, obt.

1784./s

Denny Martin Fairfax, D. D.

1784, the present curate.

/o He is called late vicar, deceased
in 1625. Willis's Augtn. off.

/p White's Centuries, p. 2.

/q Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 2.

/r Blomfield's Hist. Norf. part ii.

p. 643.

/s He was in 1731 presented to the

church of Cranfield, in Bedfordshire.

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LINTON.

SOUTHWARD from Loose, on the opposite side of Cocks heath, lies the parish of Linton, antiently written LYLLYNGTON, and in Latin, Lilintuna, which

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probably took its name from the old English word, lytlan, signifying little or small, and stane, a stone, the upper part of this parish abounding with the quarry stone.

THIS PARISH lies adjoining to Cocks-heath, upon the ridge of quarry hills, the summit of which is the northern boundary of the weald of Kent, consequently almost the whole of it is within that district, only a small part of the heath being beyond it. Cocks-heath is a beautiful, and for this inclosed part of the country, an extensive plain, being about three miles in length, and in some places more than a mile in width. It is esteemed a most healthy spot, and being well watered, is generally preferred, as a situation for large encampments, it being equally commodious for the troops to march from it, on an emergency, either into the county of Sussex, or into Essex. In 1778 there were fifteen thousand men encamped on it, which did not occupy more than two thirds of the whole extent of it. Over this heath the high road from Maidstone goes through this parish and village into the Weald. The village is situated about half a mile from the heath, on the declivity of the hill, having the church and place-house on the east side of it, the prospect from which southward over the Weald, like the other situations on these hills, is very beautiful, and of great extent. The air is very healthy, the soil on the hill a loam, with the quarry stone close beneath, and below the hill a stiff strong clay, in a very miry country, and thick hedges interspersed with quantities of spreading oaks. About a mile below the hill the road crosses the river at Style-bridge.

ON COCKS-HEATH there grows THE PLANT, called Lunaria, or small moonwort.

The greatest part of this parish is within the bounds of the manor of East Farleigh, though the manor of Loose extends over some small part of it. The free-

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holders of the former holding their lands in free socage tenure.

This place is not mentioned in Domesday, being most probably included in the description there given of the manor of East Farleigh.

LINTON-PLACE, antiently called Capell's-court, is the only place of consequence in this parish. It took its name originally from the family of Capell, who were proprietaries of it. They were usually called according to the custom of the time at Capell, and in Latin, De Capella, their principal residence being at Capell's-court, in Ivechurch, in Romney-marsh, though they had large estates in several other parishes in this county. One of them, John de Capella, in the reign of king

Henry III. held lands in Boxley, as appears by the charter of inspeximus granted by that king to the abbey there.

Richard de Capell, his successor, died in the 15th year of king Richard II. in whose descendants this place remained till the reign of king Henry VI. when it was alienated by one of them to Richard Baysden, from which name in the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was sold to Sir Anthony Maney, of Biddenden, whose ancestors had resided there many generations. He removed his seat hither, and at his death was buried in this church, as was his son Walter Maney, esq. whose son, John Maney, was a person of great loyalty to king Charles I. in his troubles, in consideration of which he was first knighted, and afterwards created a baronet. After which he suffered much for his attachment to the king, having his estate plundered and sequestered. He bore for his arms, Party per pale, argent and sable; three chevronels between as many cinquefoils counterchanged. He passed away this seat and estate in the reign of king Charles II. to Sir Francis Withens, one of the justices of the king's bench, whose only daugh-

/t See Ivechurch and Warehorn.

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ter and heir Catherine, in 1710 carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, and he died in 1712, leaving by her two daughters his coheirs. On his death his widow became intitled to this estate, and soon afterwards again carried it in marriage to brigadier-general George Jocelyn, who was a younger son of Sir Robert Jocelyn, bart. of Hertfordshire, and died in 1727, leaving by lady Twysden, three sons. The family of Jocelyn bore for their arms, Azure, a wreath, argent and sable, with four hawks bells towards the corners of the escutcheon, or. He alienated it to Robert Mann, esq. who built a small but elegant seat here, partly on the scite of the old mansion of Capell's-court, which he pulled down, and resided in it till his death, in 1751. By his will he devised Linton-place, with the parsonage and the advowson of the vicarage of Linton, among his other estates in this county, to his eldest son Edward Louisa, in tail male, with divers remainders over. He resided here and died unmarried in 1775, on which, by the above entail, it came to his next brother, Sir Horatio Mann, K. B. and baronet, envoy extraordinary at Florence, where he died in 1786, and his body being next year brought over to England, was interred in this church. In his lifetime he made over this seat, with his other estates in this parish, to his nephew Sir Horace Mann, who succeeded him likewise in the title of baronet, and he is the present possessor of it, and at times resides here.

THERE were formerly some lands in this parish which belonged to a family named Welldish, who had a chapel in this church called Welldish's chapel. Their arms were, as appears by their seals to some antient deeds, Argent, three talbots passant azure on a chief, or, a fox passant gules, which coat they bore, as is reported by tradition, to perpetuate the memory of one of their ancestors having been huntsman to William the Conqueror. After this estate had been many generations

in this family, the greatest part of it was alienated to

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Walter Maney, esq. whose son, Sir John Maney, bart. of Linton, sold it, with the rest of his estate in this parish, in the reign of king Charles II. to Sir Francis Withins, since which it has passed in like manner as Linton-place, above-mentioned, to the Mann's, and is now in the possession of Sir Horace Mann, bart.

CHARITIES.

One of the family of MANEY, owners of Capell's-court, built and endowed an alms-house here for four poor families. Robert Mann, esq. of Linton-place, in 1749, rebuilt it, and increased the original stipends of 13s. 4d. to each family to 20s.

LINTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small building with a spire steeple, situated on the east side of the village. The patronage of it was part of the antient possessions of the crown, and remained so till it was given to the college or hospital for poor travellers, in the west borough at Maidstone, founded by archbishop Boniface in the reign of Henry III./u Archbishop Walter Reynolds, about 1314, appropriated it to the use and support of the above hospital.

In the 19th year of king Richard II. archbishop Courtney, on his making the parish church of Maidstone collegiate, with the king's licence, gave and assigned among other estates, the advowson and patronage of this church of Lyllyngton, to that hospital appropriated, and of the king's patronage, held of the king in capite, to the master and chaplains of the above-mentioned new collegiate church of Maidstone, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms for ever, for its better maintenance, to which appropriation Adam Motrum, archdeacon of Canterbury, gave his assent. The collegiate church of Maidstone was dissolved by the act

/u See Maidstone, p. 114, 120. Tan. Mon. p. 224.

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of the 1st year of king Edward VI. anno 1546, and was surrendered into the king's hands accordingly.

In the 8th year of king Richard II. this church was valued at 106s. 8d. per annum. In the year 1640, the vicarage of it was valued at thirty pounds per annum. In the year 1751, the clear yearly certified value of it was 61l. 7s. 8d. yearly income.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 7l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 15s. 4d. The parsonage, as well as the advowson of the vicarage, were held by grant from the crown in the reign of queen Elizabeth, by Alexander Grygsby, gent. in which name they continued in 1640. In 1681, Francis Martin, gent. held them. About the year 1710, they were held by Wallace, and afterwards by Oliver, who died possessed of them in 1728; soon after which they were purchased by Robert Mann, esq. of Linton-place. Since which they have passed in like manner as that seat to Sir Horace Mann, bart. the present owner of them.

CHURCH OF LINTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

..... Nicholls, ejected./w

..... Masters, obt.

Executors of Francis Martin,

gent. of Islington, deceased. Phineas Corbey, A. M. ind. Sept.
11, 1670, obt. Dec. 1676.

Andrew Reyney, 1676, deprived
1679.

Francis Martin, gent. of Langley. William Wing, A. B. ind. Feb.
17, 1679, deprived 1681.

Basil Richards, A. M. July 12,
1681, obt. May 15, 1729.

John Pattenden, gent. John Fuller, A. M. 1729, obt.
1751./x

Robert Mann, esq. Francis Hender Foote, B. L. 1751,
obt. Jan. 27, 1773./y

/w He was ejected by the Bartholo=
mew act. Cal. life of Baxter, p. 286.

/x And vicar of Yalding, by dispen=
sation, in 1738.

/y He took this degree from the
archbishop. He was also rector of
Boughton Malherbe.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Edward Louisa Mann, esq. William Polhill, A. M. 1773
resig. April 1779./z

Sir Horace Mann, Bart. Edward Beckingham Benson, Sept.
1779, resig. 1782.

Robert Foote, A. M. ind. 1782,
the present vicar./a

/z Late master of the grammar
school in Maidstone. He resigned this
vicarage on being presented to Detling.

/a And residentiary of Lichfield.

EAST FARLEIGH.

NORTH-WESTWARD from Linton, on the
opposite side of Cocks-heath, and on the southern bank
of the river Medway lies the parish of East Farleigh,
so called to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of
West Farleigh, in Twyford hundred. It is called by
Leland, in his Itinerary, Great Farleigh.

In the record of Domesday it is written Ferlaga, and
in the Textus Roffensis, FEARNLEGA, and most probably
took its name, as well as the parish of West Farleigh,
from the passage over the river Medway at one or both
of these places, fare in Saxon signifying a journey or
passage, and lega, a place, i. e. the place of the way
or passage.

THE PARISH of East Farleigh is situated about two
miles from Maidstone, it lies on high ground, the soil
a loam, covering but very slightly a bed of quarry
stone. It is exceeding fertile, especially for fruit trees
and the hop-plant, of which, especially about the vil=
lage, there are many plantations. Its extent is about

two miles each way; the river Medway is its northern boundary, over which here is an old gothic stone bridge of five arches, which is repaired at the county charge. The tide, in memory of some now living, flowed up as high as this bridge, but since the locks have been erected on this river to promote the navi=

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gation, it has stopped from flowing higher than that just above Maidstone bridge. From the river the ground rises suddenly and steep southward, forming a beautiful combination of objects to the sight, having the village and church on the height, intersected with large spreading oaks and plantations of fruit, and the luxuriant hop, whilst the river Medway gliding its silver stream below, reflects the varied landscape. The village, through which the road leads from Tovill to West Farleigh, stands on the knole of the hill, about a quarter of a mile from the river, having the church and vicarage in it; eastward lies the hamlet of Dane-street, and further on Pimpes-court, at the extremity of this parish next to Loose, in which part of the lands belonging to it lie. At a small distance westward of the village of East Farleigh, is a genteel house, formerly belonging to a family of the name of Darby, some of whom are mentioned in the parish register as inhabitants of it, as far back as the year 1653. Mr. John Darby, the last of them, died in 1755, and by will gave this house to his widow, (Mary, daughter of Captain Elmstone, of Egerton) who re-married Mr. James Drury, of Maidstone, by whom she had one daughter, Mary. Since his death in 1764, she again became possessed of it, and resides in it; from hence the ground keeps still rising southward to Cocksheath, between which and the village is the manor of Gallants, part of the heath is within this parish, which reaches within a quarter of a mile of the house called Boughton Cock, part of Loose parish intervening, and separating the eastern extremity of it entirely from the rest. In this part of the parish are some quarries of Kentish rag stone, commonly called the Boughton quarries, from their lying mostly in that parish, and on the banks of the Medway there are more of the same sort, wholly in this of Farleigh.

A younger branch of the clerks of Ford, in Wrot=ham, resided here in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and

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king James I. as appears by the parish register. Dr. Plot mentions in his natural history of Oxfordshire, some large teeth having been dug up here, one of which was seven inches round, and weighed five ounces and an eighth, but I can gain no further information of them.

THIS PLACE was given by queen Ediva, or as she is called by some Edgiva, the mother of king Edmund and Eadred, in the year 961, to Christ-church, in Canterbury, free from all secular service, excepting the repairing of bridges, and the building of castles; and it continued in the possession of that church at the time of the taking the general survey of Domesday, in the year 1080, being the 15th of the Conqueror's reign, in which it is thus described, under the general title of

Terra Monachorum Archiepi, or lands of Christ-church, in Canterbury.

The archbishop himself holds Ferlaga. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is 26 carucates. In demesne there are four, and 35 villeins, with 56 borderers, having 30 carucates. There is a church and three mills of twenty-seven shillings and eight pence. There are 8 servants, and 6 fisheries, of one thousand two hundred eels. There are 12 acres of pasture. Wood for the pannage of 115 hogs.

Of the land of this manor Godefrid held in fee half a suling, and has there two carucates, and seven villeins with 10 borderers having three carucates, and four servants, and one mill of twenty pence, and four acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of 30 hogs.

The whole manor, in the time of king Edward the Confessor was worth sixteen pounds, and afterwards as much, and now twenty-two pounds. What Abel now holds is worth six pounds, what Godefrid nine pounds, what Richard in his lowy, four pounds.

^b In Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 21. This gift is said to have been made in the year 960.

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In the time of king Edward I. the manor of East Farleigh, together with the estate belonging to Christ-church, in the neighbouring parish of Hunton, was valued at forty-two pounds per annum.

King Edward II. in his 10th year, confirmed to the prior of Christ-church free warren, in all the demesne lands which he possessed here in the time of his grandfather, or at any time since.^c This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory, till its dissolution in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who that year granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and his heirs male, to hold in capite by knight's service, but his son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, having raised a rebellion in the 1st year of queen Mary was attainted, and his estates became forfeited to the crown, and were together with the reversion of them, assured to the queen and her heirs, by an act passed for that purpose. After which, though the queen made a grant of the scite and capital messuage of this manor, to Sir John Baker, as will be further mentioned hereafter, yet the manor itself continued in the crown, and remained so at the death of king Charles I. in 1648. After which the powers then in being, passed an ordinance to vest the royal estates in trustees, in order for sale, to supply the necessities of the state, when on a survey taken of this manor it appeared, that there were quit-rents due to the lord from freeholders, in free socage tenure in this parish, and within the townships of Linton and East Peckham, and from several dens in the Weald; that there were common fines from the borsholders of Stokenburie, in East Peckham, and of Badmonden, Stoberfield and Rocden, the produce of all which yearly, with the fines, profits, &c. of courts, coibus annis, amounted in the total to 56l. 7s. 7½d. That there was a court ba=

^c Batteley's Somn. Appendix, part 2d, p. 50. Regist. of Christ-church, Cant. charter 134.

ron and court leet; that the freeholders paid a heriot on demise, or death of the best living thing of any such tenant, or in want of it, 3s. 4d./d

Soon after which this manor was sold by the state to colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom it continued till the restoration of king Charles II. when it again became part of the revenues of the crown.

The grant of it has been many years in the family of his Grace the duke of Leeds, who now holds it at the yearly fee farm rent of ten shillings.

BUT THE SCITE and capital messuage of the manor of East Farleigh, now called the COURT LODGE, with all the demesne lands of the manor, about two hundred acres, in East Farleigh and Linton, was granted, anno 1st and 2d Philip and Mary, to Sir John Baker, one of the queen's privy council,/e to hold in capite by knights service./f He died in the 5th and 6th years of that reign, and by will devised it to his second son, Mr. John Baker, of London; whose son, Sir Richard Baker, the chronicler, about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, alienated it to Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, in Hunton; who died in 1606, without issue, and bequeathed this among the rest of his estates to Sir George Fane, second son of Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, by Mary his wife, baroness le Despenser; he was succeeded in 1640, by his eldest son, colonel Thomas Fane, of Burston, who in the reign of king Charles II. alienated it to Mr. John Amhurst, who then resided at the court lodge as tenant under him.

He was the grandson of Nicholas Amerst, for so he spelt his name, who was of East Farleigh, in 1616, to whom William Camden, clarencieux, in 1607, assigned this coat of arms, Gules, three tilting spears, two and one, erected in pale or, headed argent, who dying

/d Parliamentary Surveys, Augmentation Off. Roll H. 8.

/e Coke's Entries, p. 78. Dyer's Reports, p. 115, 122.

/f Philipott, p. 150. Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619.

in 1692, was buried in this church, as were his several descendants. His eldest son, Nicholas Amherst, for so he wrote his name, became his heir, and resided as tenant at the Court lodge, and died in 1679.

John Amhurst, gent. his eldest son, resided at the Court lodge, which he afterwards purchased of Col. Fane above mentioned; he served the office of sheriff in 1699, and kept his shrievalty here; though married, he died in 1711, s. p. and by will gave this estate to his brother, captain Nicholas Amhurst, of Barnjet, who died in 1715.

He married Susannah Evering, by whom he had issue fifteen children; John, who resided at the Court lodge, and died in his life time, whose grandson, John Amhurst, esq. is now of Boxley abbey; and George, the second son, who was twice married, but left issue only by his second wife, Susan, the eldest of whose sons was John Amhurst, esq. late of Rochester. Nicholas, the next son, died in 1736, unmarried. Stephen, another of the sons, was of West Farleigh, and dying in 1760, was buried at West Farleigh, leaving three sons; John Amhurst, esq. now of Barnjet; Ed-

ward, who was of Barnjet, and died in 1762, aged 20, and was buried near his father; and Stephen Amhurst, esq. now of West Farleigh, and four daughters. Edward, another son, was of Barnjet, and died in 1756, without issue, and was buried at Barming.

Of the daughters, Susan married Edward Walsingham, of Callis court, in Ryarsh, who left by her two daughters; Susan, married to Sir Edw. Austen, bart. of Boxley abbey; and Mary, married to John Miller. Jane, married to James Allen, by whom she had two sons, James, now deceased; and William, devisees in the will of Sir Edward Austen; and a daughter, married to Nicholas Amhurst, father of John, of Boxley abbey.

George Amhurst, gent. above mentioned, the second but eldest surviving son of Nicholas, by Susan

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nah Evering, had the Court lodge by his father's will, who having neglected to cut off an entail of it, his three other sons, Nicholas, Stephen, and Edward, claimed their respective shares in it; the entire fee of which, after much dispute, partly by purchase, and partly by agreement, became vested in Edward Amhurst, gent. the youngest son, who died, s. p. in 1756, and devised it by will to his next elder brother, Stephen Amhurst, esq. gent. of West Farleigh; who, at his death, in 1760, gave it to his eldest son, John Amhurst, esq. now of Barnjet, the present possessor of the Court lodge, and the estate belonging to it.

The mansion of the court lodge is situated adjoining to the west side of the church yard; it has not been inhabited but by cottagers for many years; great part of it seems to have been pulled down, and the remains make but a very mean appearance.

GALLANT'S is a manor in this parish, which seems to have been in early times the estate of a branch of the eminent family of Colepeper, whose arms yet remain in the windows of this church, and in which there is an ancient arched tomb, under which one of them was buried.

By inquisition, taken after the death of Walter Colepeper, at Tunbridge, anno 1 Edward III. it was found that he held in gavelkind in fee, certain tenements in East Farleigh, of the prior of Christ church, by service, and making suit at the court of the prior of East Farleigh, that there were there one capital messuage, with lands, and rents in money and in hens, by which it appears to have been a manor, and that his sons, Thomas, Jeffry, and John, were his next heirs. The above premises seem very probably to have been what is now called the manor of Gallant's, which afterwards passed into the family of Roper, who held it for some length of time, this branch of them, who possessed this manor, being created by king James I. barons of Teynham, one of whom, John Roper, the

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third lord Teynham, died possessed of it in 1627, as appears by the inquisition then taken. His grandson, Christopher lord Teynham, gave it in marriage with his daughter Catharine, to Wm. Sheldon, esq. whose descendant, Richard Sheldon, esq. of Aldington, in

Thurnham, gave it by will to his widow, who soon afterwards, in 1738, carried it in marriage to Wm. Jones, M. D. who died in 1780, leaving his two daughters his coheirs; Mary, married to Lock Rolinson, esq. of Oxfordshire, and Anne to Tho. Russel, esq. and they, in right of their wives, are at this time respectively entitled to this manor.

The manor house has an antient appearance, both within and without, the doors being arched, and as well as the windows, cased with ashlar stone, and much of the walls built with flint.

PIMPE'S-COURT is a manor and antient seat in this parish, the mansion of which is situated at the southern extremity of it next to Loose. It was formerly part of the possessions of the family of Pimpe, being one of the seats of their residence, whence it acquired their name in process of time, among other of their possessions in this neighbourhood and elsewhere in this county. It appears to have been antiently held of the family of Clare, earls of Gloucester; of whom, as chief lords of the fee, it was again held by this eminent family of Pimpe, from whom though it acquired its name of Pimpe's-court, yet their principal habitation seems to have been in the parish of Nettlested, not far distant. Rich. de Pimpe of Nettlested held it in the reigns of Edward I. and III. as did his descendant, Sir Philip de Pimpe, in the beginning of that of Edward I. being at that time a man of great repute. His widow, Joane, married John de Coloigne, who together with her son, Thomas de Pimpe, paid aid for this manor in the 20th year of king Edward III. Philipott says, Margaret de Cobham, wife of Sir William de Pimpe, died in 1337, and was buried in this church. Her tomb is yet remaining, but the inscription, then visible, is gone. Wil-

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liam, son of Thomas de Pimpe, of Nettlested, died in the time of his shrievalty, anno 49 Edward III. and his son, Reginald, who then resided here at East Farleigh, served out the remainder of the year. His descendant of the same name resided here at the time of his shrievalty, in the 10th year of king Henry IV. to whose son, John, two years afterwards, John de Fremingham, of Loose, gave by will his estate there and elsewhere, in this county, in tail mail, remainder to Roger Isle, as being of the nearest blood to him. His descendant, John Pimpe, esq. kept his shrievalty here, in the 2d year of king Henry VII. whose only daughter and heir, Winifrid, carried this seat in marriage to Sir John Rainesford, who passed it away to Sir Henry Isley, who by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled.

Soon after which he seems to have settled this manor on his son, William Isley, esq. but being both concerned in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, they were then attainted, and Sir Henry was executed at Sevenoke, and the lands of both became forfeited to the crown; after which, queen Mary that year granted this manor, by the name of Lose, alias Pimpe's court, with its appurtenances, in Lose, East Farleigh, Linton, &c. to Sir John Baker, her attorney general, to hold in capite by knights service. In his descendants the manor of

Pimpe's court continued till Sir John Baker, bart. about the end of king Charles I.'s reign, alienated it to Thomas Floyd, esq. of Gore court in Otham; one of whose descendants alienated it to Browne, in which name it remained till, by the daughter and heir of Tho. Browne, esq. it went in marriage to Holden; and their son, Richard Holden, of Coptford hall, in Essex, died without issue, in 1772, and by will gave it to his widow, whose maiden name was Anne Blackenbury; and

/g Rot. Esch. ejus ann. See Loose, p. 139.

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after her decease, to his sister's daughter's son, a minor, by Mr. William Vechell, of Cambridgeshire.

The present house of this manor is a modern building; the ruins of the antient mansion are still to be seen about the present house; the south-west end is still remaining, and by tradition was called the Old chapel. Further towards the north is a room with a very large chimney, and an oven in it, no doubt the old kitchen. The gateway, with a room over it, was taken down within memory; by the remains, it seems as if the house and offices belonging to it, when intire, formed a quadrangle. There is a court baron held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

JOHN FRANCKELDEN, citizen of London, in 1610, left 100l. to build six cottages for poor people to live in, rent free, vested in the parish officers.

THE REV. ARTHUR HARRIS gave, by will, in 1727, 2l. 10s. per annum for ever, to be paid out of Half Yoke farm, to be distributed in linen.

THOMAS HARRIS, esq. who died in 1769, left 5l. per ann. for fifty years, to be given to the poor in bread, 2s. every Sunday, excepting Easter and Whitsunday, vested in the executors of John Mumford, esq.

Mr. THOMAS FOSTER, in 1776, gave by will 130l. the interest of it to be laid out in linen and woollen, and to be given to the poor who do not receive alms at Christmas; from which money, 225l. consol. 3 per cent. Bank ann. was bought in the name of trustees, now of the annual produce of 6l. 15s.

EAST FARLEIGH is within the ECCLESTASTICAL 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 a handsome building, with a spire steeple at the west end, stands at the east end of the village, and consists of two isles and two chancels; that on the south side belongs to Pimpe's-court. It was repaired in 1704, by Dr. Griffith Hatley, who had married the widow of Mr. Browne, and possessed that estate in her right. The whole was, through

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the laudable care of the late vicar, Mr. De la Douespe, new pewed and handsomely ornamented.

In the rector's chancel are several memorials of the family of Amhurst, and within the altar rails two of Goldsmith. On the north side of this chancel is a very antient altar tomb for one of the family of Colepeper, having their shield, a bend engrailed, at one corner of it, most probably for Sir T. Colepeper, who

lived in the reign of king Edward III. and is reputed to have been the founder of this church. His arms, quartered with those of Joane Hadrreshull, his mother, Argent, a chevron gules between nine martlets, are still remaining in the east window of the south chancel, called Pimpe's chancel, in which is an antient plain altar tomb, probably for one of either that or of the Pimpe family. There seems once to have been a chapel dependent on this church, called in the Textus Roffensis, Liuituna capella Anfridi.

The patronage of the church of East Farleigh was part of the antient possessions of the crown, and remained so till it was given to the college or hospital for poor travellers, in Maidstone, founded by archbishop Boniface. Archbishop Walter Reynolds, about 1314, appropriated this church to the use and support of the hospital. In the 19th year of king Richard II. archbishop Courtney, on his making the church of Maidstone collegiate, obtained the king's licence to give and assign that hospital and its revenues, among which was the advowson and patronage of the church of Farleigh, among others appropriated to it, and then of the king's patronage, and held of the king in capite, to the master and chaplains of his new collegiate church, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms for ever, for their better maintenance; to which appropriation Adam Mottrum, archdeacon of Canterbury, gave his consent.

/h Tan. Mon. p. 224. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. part ii. p. 132.

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The collegiate church of Maidstone was dissolved by the act of the 1st of king Edward VI. anno 1546, and was surrendered into the king's hand accordingly with all its lands, possessions, &c. Since which the patronage and advowson of the vicarage of East Farleigh has remained in the hands of the crown; but the parsonage or great tithes was granted to one of the family of Vane, or Fane, in whom it continued down to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, who at his death, in 1762, gave it by will, among the rest of his Kentish estates, to his nephew, Sir Francis Dashwood, lord Despencer; since which it has passed, in like manner as Mereworth and his other estates in this county, by the entail of the earl of Westmoreland's will, to Thomas Stapleton, lord Despencer, the present owner of it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the vicarage was valued at ten marcs; in the year 1589, it was estimated at 16l. 8s. yearly income. In the reign of king Richard II. the church of Ferleghe was valued at 13l. 16s. 8d. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 6l. 16s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 13s. 8d.

John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, 12 Henry IV. by his will gave certain lands therein mentioned to John Pympe, and his heirs male, to find a chaplain in this church, in the chapel of the Blessed Mary, newly built, to celebrate there, for twenty-four years, for the souls of himself, his wife, &c. and all of whom he then held lands, the said John Pympe, paying to the above chaplain the salary of ten marcs yearly, &c.

The vicar of East Farleigh is endowed with the tithes of corn growing on the lands belonging to the parsonage of East Farleigh, and of certain pieces of land, called garden spots, which lie dispersed in this parish. It is now of the clear yearly value of about one hundred and thirty guineas.

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CHURCH OF EAST FARLEIGH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Alexander de Munestock, parson
of Farleigh, anno 25 Edw. I./i

VICARS.

The Crown. John Holmes, obt. June 1580./k

William Holland, present. 1580,
resigned./l

Thomas Basden, presented Nov.
6, 1589, obt. Aug. 1638./m

Robert Boteler, A. B. August 21,
1638, obt. May 26, 1659./n

Francis Greene, 1661, obt. May
1685./o

Arthur Harris, ind. May 1685.
obt. Sept. 24, 1727./p

John Hedges, presented 1727, re=
signed 1752./q

Paul Ezekiel de la Douespe, A. M.
Feb. 1752, ob. Jan. 24, 1795./r

Henry Friend, present vicar.

/i Prynne's Rec. vol. iii. p. 714.

/k He lies buried in this church.

/l Parish Register.

/m He lies buried in this church.

/n Rym. Fœd. vol. xx. p. 314. He
lies buried here.

/o He lies buried here.

/p He was a man of exemplary life
and conversation, and of extensive cha=
rity. He lies buried here.

/q Afterwards vicar of Tudeley.

/r Commonly pronounced Duep. He
was a good benefactor to the vicarage,
having almost rebuilt the vicarage-
house; he died much esteemed and
regretted by his parishioners for his
attention, zeal, and piety, in his con=
scientious discharge of his duties du=
ring his long residence of forty years
with them.

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EAST BARMING.

CALLED in antient records, Bermelinge, lies the next parish to East Farleigh, on the opposite or north=
ern side of the river Medway.

THE PARISH of East Barming lies on high ground, declining southward to the valley, through which the river Medway flows, being its southern boundary. It is situated opposite to East Farleigh, than which it

has a far less rustic and more ornamented appearance.

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The soil like that is a fertile loam, slightly covering the quarry rock, from under which several small springs gush out, and run precipitately in tinkling rills into the Medway; it is enriched too with frequent hop and fruit plantations; the fields are in general larger, and surrounded with continued rows of lofty elms and large spreading oaks, which contribute greatly to the pleasantness of the place. The situation of it, as well as of the neighbouring parishes, from Maidstone as far as Mereworth, is exceedingly beautiful, the river Medway meandering its silver stream in the valley beneath, throughout the greatest part of the extent of them; the fertility of soil, the healthiness of air, the rich variety of prospect, adorned by a continued range of capital seats, with their parks and plantations, form altogether an assemblage of objects, in which nature and art appear to have lavished their choicest endeavours, to form a scene teeming with whatever can make it desirable both for pleasure and profit.

The high road from Maidstone to Tunbridge crosses the upper part of the parish of East Barming, over a beautiful, though small plain, called Barming-heath, part of which is in Maidstone parish, a little distance below which is a modern, and rather elegant seat, built by John Whitaker, gent. second son of Mr. Tho. Whitaker, of Trottesclive, since whose death it has come to his nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Watringbury; but Mr. William Rolfe resides in it. Farther on is the village of Barming, in which is a pleasant seat, called the Homestall, built about the year 1720, by Mr. James Allen, whose heirs are now entitled to the fee simple of it; but by the foreclosure of a mortgage term, the possession of it became vested in Arthur Harris, esq. who kept his shrievalty here in 1746; his brother Thomas resided likewise here, and dying unmarried in 1769, gave this seat to Mrs. Mary Dorman for life; remainder to Mr. John Mumford,

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of Sutton-at-Hone, whom he made heir to the bulk of his fortune; she now possesses and resides in it. A small distance from hence is the seat of Hall-place; hence the ground rises to the coppice woods, part of which lie within this parish, and adjoin to a much larger tract northward. About a quarter of a mile on the other side of the road is the church, standing by itself among a grove of elms, the slight delicate white spire of which rising above the foilage of the grove, affords a pleasing prospect to the neighbouring country. From the above road the village extends southward down the declivity of the hill, almost to the river, over which there is a wooden bridge, built at the expence of the commissioners of the navigation. It is called St. Helen's bridge, from its contiguity to that manor, situated at a very small distance from it; about a mile from the village, close to the eastern boundary of the parish, adjoining to that of Maidstone, on the declivity of the hill, leading down to East Farleigh bridge, is the parsonage, lately almost

rebuilt by the present rector, the Rev. Mark Noble, who resides in it, and by his judicious management and improvements has made this benefice, perhaps one of the most desirable in the diocese.

A few years ago several Roman urns, pieces of armour, and skeletons, were dug up within the bounds of this parish; the latter were no doubt belonging to those who fell in the skirmish between the Royalists and Oliverians at Farleigh bridge, in 1648; and the former serves to shew, that the Roman highway, a different one from the larger one of the Watling-street, and directing its course towards Oldborough, in Ight-ham, led near this place, of which more will be noticed hereafter.

THERE GROWS on Barming heath, the plant, *Chamaemelum odoratissimum repens flore simplici*, common camomile, in great plenty; and *verbascum album vulgare* five *thapsus barbatus communis*, great mul-

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lein, or hightaper, more plentifully, and of a larger size than I have met with elsewhere.

THE MANOR of East Barming was given by king William the conqueror to Richard de Tonebrege, the eldest son of Gislebert earl of Brion, in Normandy, the son of Geffry, natural son of Richard, the first of that name, duke of Normandy, whence he bore the name of Richard Fitz Gilbert at his coming hither; he was one of the principal persons who came into England with duke William, to whom he gave great assistance in that memorable battle, in which he obtained the crown of this realm. He had for that service, and in respect of his near alliance to him in blood, great advancements in honour, and large possessions both in Normandy and England, bestowed upon him; among the latter he possessed thirty-eight lordships in Surry, thirty-five in Essex, three in Cambridgeshire, three in Kent, one in Middlesex, one in Wiltshire, one in Devonshire, ninety-five in Suffolk, and thirteen burgages in Ipswich, of which Clare was one, besides others in other counties; accordingly, in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080, being the 15th of the Conqueror's reign, this estate is thus entered under the title of, Terra Ricardi F. Gisleb'ti, the land of Richard, the son of Gislebert.

In Medestan hundred the same Richard (de Tonebrige) holds Bermelinge. Alret held it of king Edward (the Confessor) and then and now it was and is taxed at one suling. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two carucates and five villeins, with eight borderers, having five carucates. There are thirteen servants, and one mill of five shillings, and four acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward it was worth four pounds, and afterwards 100 shillings, now four pounds.

/s Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 206, 207.

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This Richard Fitz Gilbert, at the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, was usually called Rich. de Tonebrige, as well from his possessing that town and castle, as from his residence there; and his descendants took

the name of Clare, from the like reason of their possessing that honour, and were afterwards earls of Clare, and of Gloucester and Hertford. Of this family, as chief lords of the fee, Barming was afterwards held in moieties by Fulk Peyforer and Roger de Kent, each of whom held their part of the honour of Clare.

In the reign of king Edward II. the heirs of Lora Peyforer and those of Roger de Kent, being Thomas de Barmeling and Wm. de Kent, held these moieties as above mentioned; and in the 20th year of the next reign of king Edward III. John Fitz Jacob, Thomas and John de Kent, held these moieties of this estate, in East Barmeling, of the earl of Gloucester.

THE FORMER OF THESE MOIETIES, held by the family of Peyforer, seems to have comprised the MANOR of EAST BARMING, and to have been given afterwards to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Helen's, in Bishopsgate street, London, whence it acquired the name of ST. HELEN'S, alias East Barming manor, by the former of which only it is now called; with the above priory this manor remained till its dissolution, in king Henry VIII.'s reign, when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who, in his 35th year, granted his manor, called St. Elen's, among other premises, to Richard Callohill, to hold in capite by knights service, who that year sold it to Gabriel Caldham, freemason, of London; and he next year sold it to Thomas Reve, whose grandson of the same name, in the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, levied a fine of it, and then passed it away by sale to Mr. Stephen Pearse, who some years afterwards alienated it to Sir Robert Brett,

Philippott, p. 67. Speed. Tan. Not. Mon. Rot. Esch. ejus ann. pt. 14. Mr. Petyt Fœdary of Kent his book.

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on whose death, without surviving issue, in 1620, this manor came by will to Robert Lynd, esq. who bore for his arms, Argent a cross ingrailed gules; and he sold it to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Teston, in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. who died in 1772, s. p. and by will gave one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton; and the other moiety to Elizabeth viscountess dowager Folkestone, and Wm. Bouverie, earl of Radnor; and on a partition afterwards made between them, this manor was allotted to lady Folkestone, who died in 1782, on which it came to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who has since taken the name of Pusey, and he is the present owner of it.

This manor extends its jurisdiction over the whole of this parish; the antient house of it, as well as the dove cote, stood nearly at the foot of the hill near St. Helen's bridge; both have been pulled down not many years since.

THE OTHER MOIETY of the estate of East Barming, held by John Fitz Jacob and John de Kent, seems to have passed afterwards into the family of Fremingham; for John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died possessed of it about the 12th year of king Henry IV. and leaving no issue, he by his will gave it to certain feoffees, who, in compliance with it, next year assigned it to John Pimpe, and his heirs

male, for the finding and maintaining of two chaplains, one in the monastery of Boxley, and the other in the church of East Farleigh, to celebrate for the souls of himself, his wife, and others their ancestors and relations therein mentioned. From the family of Pimpe this estate came, in king Henry VIII.'s reign, to Sir Henry Isley, who by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled.

/u See Town Malling.

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Being concerned in the rebellion raised by Sir Tho. Wyatt, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he was attainted, and his lands were confiscated to the crown, whence this estate was granted that year to Sir John Baker, the queen's attorney general, to hold in capite by knights service; w in whose descendants it continued down to Sir John Baker, bart. of Sissinghurst, of whom it seems to have been purchased in the reign of king Charles II. by Golding, who died possessed of it in 1674, and was buried in this church, bearing for his arms, A cross voided, between four lions passant guardant. His son, Mr. Henry Golding, gent. about the year 1700, alienated this estate to Nicholas Amhurst, gent. of West Barming, who died possessed of it in 1715; and his grandson, John Amhurst, esq. is the present possessor of it.

HALL-PLACE is a reputed manor in this parish, the antient mansion of which is situated at a small distance westward of the present seat, and is little more than an ordinary cottage, serving as a farm house to a small parcel of land. It formerly gave both residence and surname to a family, written in antient deeds, At-Hall, who before the end of the reign of king Edward III. had alienated their interest in the greatest part of it to one of the Colepepers, of Preston, in Aylesford, and the rest of it to Clive; and this part was by John Clive, about the 7th year of king Henry IV. likewise conveyed to Colepeper, who in the 10th year of that reign passed away the entire fee of it to Sampson Mascall, whose family was originally of Mascall's, in Brenchley, and in his descendants Hall-place continued till the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, when it was conveyed to Alchorne, whose ancestors were possessed of Alchorne in Rotherfield, in Sussex; in which name the fee of this estate remained at the time of king Charles II.'s restoration,

/w Rot. Esch. ejus an. pt. i. Philipott, p. 67.

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but the use and profits of it were made over, for a long series of years, to Mr. Cook, of Stepney; and he, in 1656, alienated his interest in it to Mr. Rich. Webb, rector of this parish, who in 1667, gave it to his grandson, Richard Webb, gent. who, in 1726, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Peter Smart, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three pheons sable; about which time Christopher Smart, the poet, is said to have been born in this parish; at length, Mr. Peter Smart's widow, and their children, in 1746, passed away their interest in it to John Cale, esq. who resided

here, and dying in 1777, was buried in this church-yard, having been a benefactor to the poor of this parish; and by his will he devised this, among the rest of his estates in this county, to the heirs of Tho. Prowse, esq. of Axbridge, in Somersetshire; in consequence of which his two daughters and coheirs became intitled to it; the youngest of whom married Sir John Mor-daunt, bart. of Walton, in Warwickshire, and they became possessed of this estate in undivided moieties, and in 1781, joined in the sale of it to John Amhurst, esq. of Barnjet, the present owner of it.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS HARRIS, esq. of this parish, in 1769, gave by will, 5l. per annum for fifty years, 2s. of it to be given to the poor of this parish in bread, on each Sunday in the year, excepting Easter and Whitsunday.

JOHN CALE, esq. of this parish, in 1777, gave by will the sum of 200l. in East India annuities, the interest of it to be given to the poor yearly at Christmas, in linen and bread, vested in trustees, of the annual produce of 6l.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small building, consisting of one isle and a chancel, with an elegant spire steeple. The present rector, Mr. Noble, about twelve years ago, at his own

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expence, entirely repaired and ornamented the chancel; he gave likewise a new altar and pulpit cloth, and cushion; and the parishioners, followed his example, in the repair and ornamenting of the church itself; so that from being one of the most neglected, it is become equal to most of the neighbouring churches in those respects.

Walter, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Stephen, confirmed to the prior and canon of Ledes the patronage of the church of Barmyng, as it was granted to them by the lords of the soil, and confirmed to them by their charters.

Gilbert, bishop of Rochester, in the reign of king Henry II. granted to the prior and canons two shillings, to be received by them yearly, as a pension from this church, saving the episcopal right of the bishop of Rochester, &c./x The patronage of the church of Barming, together with this pension, remained part of the possessions of the above mentioned priory till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it came into the king's hands. Since which, the patronage of this rectory has continued vested in the crown, but the above mentioned yearly pension of two shillings was, by the king's dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who are now intitled to it.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Barmelyng was valued at twelve marcs. It is valued in the king's books at 12l. 7s. 1d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 8½d./z The glebe land belonging to this rectory contains eighty-three acres.

/x See the confirmations of the above grants, Reg. Roff. p.

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CHURCH OF EAST BARMING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and canons of Leeds. Richard de St. Quintin, resigned./y

Bartholomew./z

The Crown John Sympson, ob. Ap. 1563./a

John Maplisdén, presented 1575,

obt. 1613./b

Richard Webb, 1624, obt. Oct.

20, 1667./c

Benjamin Denham, 1667, obt.

1670./d

John Styleman, 1670, ob. 1682./e

Thomas Harris, inducted 1682.

Theophilus Beck, obt. Oct. 1715./f

John Harris, A. M. obt. Sep. 7,

1719./g

James Mashbourne, A. M. obt.

Dec. 11, 1739./h

Thomas Pickering, A. M. Dec.

18, 1739, ob. Oct. 30, 1758./i

Thomas Marshall Jorden, A. M.

1758, obt. Feb. 26, 1786./k

Mark Noble, in 1786. Present

rector.

/y Before 1354 he resigned this, on an exchange with Bartholomew, for the rectory of Ofham. Reg. Roff. p. 512.

/z Reg. Roff. *ibid*.

/a He was buried here.

/b Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 743. And archdeacon of Suffolk in 1575. Vide Neve's Fasti, p. 222.

/c He seems to have been displaced by the fanatics, for one Nicholls held it at the Restoration, and was ejected by the Bartholomew act. Mr. Webb lies buried in this church.

/d Parish register.

/e Parish register.

/f Also vicar of Birling, where he was buried.

/g Afterwards D. D. He was minister of St. Mildred's, Milk-street, London, perpetual curate of Stroud, and prebendary of Rochester. He published the History of this county, in one volume, folio, and other learned works.

/h He was vicar of Lyghe, and lies buried in this church.

/i He lies buried in this church.

/k And rector of Iden, in Sussex, by dispensation.

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WEST BARMING.

ADJOINING to East Barming westward lies West Barming, commonly called Barnjet.

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It is written variously in antient deeds; in some, West Barming and Barmelinges, in others Baringjet, alias Paringet, /l which seems to be a corruption from Barmingjet, as it is spelt in the Registrum Roffense. In the Textus Roffensis it is called Bearmlingetes.

THE PARISH of West Barming is very small, it is much the same as to soil, and other particulars, as that of East Barming last described, the high road from Maidstone to Tunbridge continues through it, the woods in the upper part of it come down to within one field of the road, and the remainder is more open and free from trees than the former parish. At the western boundaries are the plantations and park of Teston-house; on the southern side of the road is the seat of Barnjet, most pleasantly situated on a spot capable of great improvement, below it is a bridge across the Medway, built not many years since by Mr. Amhurst, at a small distance below the antient ford over the river, before repaired by the commissioners of the navigation. From the high road there is a pretty steep descent of grass and meadow land to the river, its southern boundary, and a most beautiful prospect of the meandering river, Teston bridge, and the rich adjoining country.

AT THE TIME of taking the general survey of Domesday, this place was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, of whom it was held by Ralph de Columbels, as appears by the following entry in it, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

Ranulf de Columbels holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Bermelie. It was taxed at one yoke. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, with five servants and four acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of three hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth fifteen shillings, when he received twenty shillings, now forty shillings.

/l From deeds in the archives of Brazen Nose college, Oxford.

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On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux about four years afterwards, this, among the rest of his possessions, became confiscated to the crown, and seems soon afterwards to have been granted to the family of Crevequer, of which it was held about the latter end of king Richard I's reign by a family who took their surname from their possessions here.

Accordingly in the two scutages raised in the 2d and 3d years of king John's reign, William de Barmelinges is charged two marcs for one knight's fee, late of the fee of Robert de Crevequer, and then in the king's hands.

William de Barmelinges died in the 22d of king Edward I. possessed of the manor of West Barmelinges, with the hamlet of Pimpe and Ledhoc, holding them of the king in capite, as did his son Robert de Barming, in the 31st of that reign. In the 6th year of king Edward III. John de Fremingham possessed two parts of this manor, as he did in the 20th year of that reign,

the other part before possessed by the Barmelings being alienated elsewhere, as appears by the book for collecting the aid of that year, in which John de Fremingham and John de Huntingdon, alias Hunton, are charged for the knight's fee, which Robert de Barmelyng before held in West Barmelyng of the king; that part possessed by the latter extending into the parish of Yalding, as will be mentioned hereafter in the description of that parish.

John de Fremingham died in the 23d year of the above reign, possessed of his two parts of this manor, together with the advowson of the church held of the king in capite, which afterwards descended to John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, who died in the 12th year of king Henry IV. and leaving no issue by Alice his wife, by his will devised this manor and advowson to certain feoffees, who in compliance with it next year, assigned it over, to John de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as

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being the nearest of blood to him, and to the heirs male of his body, with divers remainders over.

From the family of Pimpe this estate came in king Henry the VIIIth's reign into the possession of Sir Henry Isley, who by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. procured his lands in this county to be disgavelled, who being attainted in the 1st year of queen Mary, his lands were confiscated to the crown, whence this manor was granted that year to Sir John Baker, the queen's attorney general, to hold in capite, whose descendant Sir John Baker, bart. of Sissinghurst, after the death of king Charles I. seems to have alienated it, together with the estate of East Barming, to Golding, who died in 1674, possessed of this manor.

His son, Mr. Henry Golding, gent. resided at the manor-house of West Barming, called Barnjet, and about the year 1700 alienated this estate to captain Nicholas Amhurst, who was afterwards of Barnjet, and dying in 1715, was buried in East Farleigh church, since which this manor and estate has continued in his descendants down to John Amhurst, esq. the present possessor of it, who has lately rebuilt the mansion-house of Barnjet, and now resides in it./m

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

The church of West Barming or Barmynget, seems antiently to have been reputed but as a chapel; for in the Textus Roffensis it is reckoned among those chapels which then paid chrism rent to the mother church of the diocese; notwithstanding which, it was afterwards esteemed as a parish church.

It was always accounted as an appendage to the manor, and was united to the church of Nettleston in the 2d year of king Henry VII. on the petition of John Pimpe, esq. lord of this manor and church of Barming=

/m See more of the Amhursts under East Farleigh.

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jett, by Edmund, bishop of Rochester; in which, having set forth, that the fruits, tithes, oblations, ob=

ventions, profits, and other emoluments of this church were become so small and slender, on account of the small number of parishioners, the sterility of the land, the want of culture, the scarcity of husbandmen, and other matters happening more than common, that there was not at that time, nor was there like to be in future, a sufficient maintenance for the rector of it; therefore he, for the above and other just and reasonable causes, decreed that this church should not be esteemed as such, but as a chapel, dependent, united, and annexed to that of Nettleston; the rectors of which should for the future have and enjoy all profits, tithes, emoluments, &c. belonging to this church of Barmingjett, and convert and freely dispose of them to their own proper uses for ever, provided, nevertheless, that the cure of souls of the parishioners of it should be supplied with a sufficient and fit priest; and he decreed, that the rectors of Nettleston should in future pay yearly to the bishops of Rochester, the sum of twenty pence, and to the archdeacon of the place twelve pence yearly, in lieu of such payments as belonged to them, as of antient custom, from this church, before the annexing and consolidating of it. From which time the rector of Nettleston has been presented, instituted and inducted to the rectory of Nettleston, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed. The rectors of Nettleston have not received any tithes of this parish for many years; the whole of them are now enjoyed by Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, as part of the estate of the late Sir Philip Boteler, bart. and she receives the sum of fourteen pounds and six loads of straw annually, by composition, of Mr. John Amhurst, for his estate of Barnjet, in this parish.

/n Registrum Roffense, p. 162.

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Soon after the above union, this chapel seems to have fallen into ruin; part of the wall of it remained in the next field westward of Barnjet, and a small distance southward from the high road till within these few years, when Mr. Amhurst removed every stone that was left of it.

CHURCH OF WEST BARMING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of West Barming Hugh, abbot of Stratford Longthorne, in 1486, who then resigned it, and it was that year united to the church of Nettleston.

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THE
HUNDRED OF LARKFIELD

LIES the next northward from that of Maidstone, adjoining on the opposite side to the liberty of Rochester. It is called in the survey of Domesday, Laverkefeld, and in some later records, Laverkefeld.

IT CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. WOLDHAM.
 2. BURHAM.
 3. AYLESFORD.
 4. ALLINGTON.
 5. DITTON.
 6. SNODLAND.
 7. PADLESWORTH.
 8. BIRLING.
 9. RYARSH.
 10. LEYBORNE.
 11. EAST MALLING.
 12. WEST MALLING.
 13. OFHAM.
 14. ADDINGTON.
- AND
15. TROTTECLIVE.

But part of AYLESFORD and WEST MALLING are exempt from the constables of this hundred; the former as being antient demesne, and the latter as having a constable and separate liberty of its own. A small part of Aylesford is likewise within the hundred and liberty of Maidstone. Part of the parishes of HUNTON and HORSMONDEN are likewise within this hundred

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WOLDHAM.

NEXT to the parish of St. Margaret and liberty of Rochester, southward, lies the parish of Woldham, written in the Saxon charters, Wuldaham, in the succeeding Latin ones, Vuldeham, and in the record of Domesday, Oldeham.

This place is supposed to take its name from the Saxon words wolde, a plain open down or hill, free from trees and wood, and ham, a village or dwelling; in the like manner as those large open downs in the north are still called wolds, in opposition to weald, a low woody region./a

It is likewise described in several later grants by the name of Woldeham Monachorum, from its belonging to the monks of Rochester.

THE PARISH of Woldham lies on the eastern bank of the river Medway, something more than two miles from the city of Rochester, in a situation of a very different aspect, and far less pleasant than that of the country last described, though so few miles distant from it. The village having the church in it, lies at the foot of the hills, very low, almost close to the river Medway (which is the western boundary of this parish) and from its contiguity to the marshes is accounted far from being healthy. In it there is a handsome sashed brick house, named Woldham house, built by Captain Robert Trevor, of the navy, since the residence of George Guy, esq. About a mile northward, in a situation equally low, and about the same distance from the river, is the house of Starkey's, which, though now only

a farm-house, has still a handsome appearance, being a strong building of stone, with gothic windows and door cases, of ashlar stone. Hence, as well as from the

/a Lamb. Peramb. p. 445. Camd. p. 405.

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back of the village, the hills rise to a great height eastward, as far as Nashenden, being mostly uninclosed, open downs, the soil of which is chalk, much covered with flints, being poor and unfertile, a dreary country.

About forty years ago, in digging a trench from Woldham house up to the open downs, there were found several instruments of an antique form like a wedge, or axe, usually called celts, which were chiefly of brass.

This parish ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge./b

ETHELBERT, king of Kent, in the year 751, first gave Vuldeham to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester; but sometime after it was taken from it, and several kings possessed it, one after the other, till the time of king Edmund, who began his reign in 941, of whom one Ælfstan Heahstanine bought it, at the price of one hundred and twelve marcs of gold, and thirty pounds in money, on whose death, Ælfege, his son, succeeded to it, who by will made in the presence of archbishop Dunstan, about the year 970, made a distribution of all his effects, and devised one part to Christ-church, in Canterbury, one part to the church of Rochester, and the remaining third part to his own wife. Notwithstanding which, one Leofsunu, who had married his nephew's widow, endeavoured to set aside this disposition, as well as the archbishop's testimony in relation to it, and entered on them, but they were recovered from him in a solemn trial held at Erhede by the archbishop, for this purpose. After which, on the division of these estates, Vuldeham seems to have been part of that share of them allotted to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester. King Ethelbert, in the year 995, confirmed Wuldaham, which then contained six mansæ, which the Kentish men called sulings, to St. Andrew's and bishop Godwin.

/b Lambarde's Perambulations, p. 421.

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In the book of Domesday, Woldham is thus described, under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Oldeham. It was taxed for six sulings in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and now for three. The arable land is five carucates. In demesne there are two, and eighteen villeins, with sixteen borderers having six carucates. There are six servants, and one fishery, and sixty acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. There is a church. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth eight pounds, now twelve pounds.

Bishop Gundulph, who was elected to the see of Rochester in the time of the Conqueror, on the division of the revenues of his church, allotted this manor,

with its appendages, to the monks, to the use of their refectory, in lieu of Freckenham, in Suffolk, which he took in exchange for it, chusing rather, as the latter lay at so remote a distance from Rochester, that himself and his successors should be put to the inconvenience of going there, than that the monks, or the poor of that parish, should be yearly harrassed in carrying their corn so far,^{/c} but bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, on his coming to the see of Rochester in 1185, claiming this manor with its appendages, among others, which had been allotted to them by bishop Gundulph, as belonging to the maintenance of his table, the monks were at last forced to submit. In consequence of which, though he took the church of Woldham from them, yet they continued in possession of the manor till the dissolution of the priory in the 32d year of king Henry VIII.

In the reigns of king Edward I. and II. the bishop of Rochester claimed several liberties, as belonging to all the lands and fees of his church, as did the

^{/c} See the confirmations of this manor to the monks of Rochester in Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 29, and vol. iii. p. 4.

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prior of Rochester in the 21st year of the former reign in this manor,^{/d} both equally the same as has been already more fully mentioned under Frindsbury.^{/e}

King Edward I. in his 23d year, granted to the prior and convent free warren in all their demesne lands of this manor; so that no one should hunt or take any thing on them which belonged to warren, without their licence, on forfeiture of ten pounds.^{/f}

The manor of Woldham, on the dissolution of the priory of Rochester in the 32d year of Henry VIII. was surrendered, with the other possessions of it, into the king's hands, who, in his 33d year settled it on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom the inheritance of it continues at this time.

There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor.

The lessee of it, under the dean and chapter of Rochester, is Mr. Iden Henham.

In the Customale Roffense there is frequent mention made of a water mill in Woldham, belonging to the above manor, and the custom was, that once a year every house was obliged to send one man for a day, to clear the passage, ditch, and mill-pond, that the water might come well to turn the mill; and there were two particular acres of land, the occupiers of which were to clean the ditch, which led from the river to the mill-pond.

There were several small parcels of land granted at several times to different persons by the prior and convent of Rochester, lying in Magna and Parva Woldham, being two divisions in this parish, a more particular account of which may be seen in the Registrum Roffense.

^{/d} See Registrum Roffense, p. 86, 110, 111, 112, 663.

^{/e} See Frindsbury, in the 3d vol. of this history, p. 530.

^{/f} Reg. Roff. p. 338. Rot. Cart. ejus an. N. 7.

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RINGS is a manor here, a small part of which ex=

tends itself into the adjoining parish of St. Margaret, in Rochester. It was formerly in the possession of Robert de Woldham, after which it became separated into moieties, one of which became part of the estate of the eminent family of Cosington, of Cosington, in Aylesford, and the other became the property of Carter. From the family of Cosington that moiety passed by sale in the reign of Henry VI. to William Whorne, afterwards knighted, and lord-mayor of London, who built Whorne's-place, in Cookstone, where he resided; and the other moiety passed about the same time to Laurence; they, by a mutual deed of conveyance, alienated their joint interest in this manor to William Hadde, of Meriam-court, in Frinsted, who in the 36th year of that reign, gave it to his second son, Mr. John Hadde, whose descendant sold it to Thomas Roydon, esq. of Roydon-hall, in East Peckham, who, among others, in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. procured his estates to be disgavelled by act of parliament. From Roydon this manor passed to Brockhull, of Aldington, in Thurnham, whose descendant, Henry Brockhull, alienated it to Sir John Leveson, alias Lewson, of Whorne's-place, in Cookstone; after which it passed, in like manner as that seat by sale to the family of Marsham, in which it has continued down to the right hon. Charles lord Romney, the present possessor of it.

STARKEYS is a manor here, lying in that district of this parish called Little Woldham, which was formerly known by the name of the manor of Lyttlyhall and Woldham.

In the reign of king Edward III. it seems to have been in the possession of Richard Bysset, who held it as one quarter of a knight's fee in Parva Woldham, and

/g Philipott, p. 375. See Cookstone, vol. iii. p. 393.

/h Book of Knight's Fees, in the Exchequer.

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afterwards passed it away to Henry de Bokeland, who alienated it to Henry Newman, and he held it in the 20th year of that reign of the bishop of Rochester as above-mentioned. His descendant, Henry Newman, conveyed it to Humphry Starkey, descended from the Starkeys, of Wrenbury, and Oulton, in Cheshire, and bore for his arms, Sable, a stork proper, who in the 12th year of king Edward IV. was made recorder of London, and in the 2d year of king Richard III. chief baron of the exchequer, having been knighted before.

He built a good house here, being a large strong edifice of stone, tho' much larger formerly than it is at present, together with a handsome chapel on this manor, a fragment of the latter only being now left at the east angle of the house, which, from that and his residence here acquired the name of Starkeys. He died possessed of this manor, and lies buried in St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, in London, leaving four daughters his coheirs; and on the division of their inheritance, this manor fell to the share of Sir John Rainsford, who had married Anne, the youngest of them. His son, of the same name, was a person much in favour with king Henry VIII. who made him a privy counsellor. He alienated this

estate to Lambe, who passed it away to Sir John Leveson, alias Lewson, from which name it was sold, together with the manor of Rings before mentioned, in the reign of king Charles I. to John Marsham, esq. whose descendant, the right hon. Charles lord Romney, is the present possessor of this manor and estate.

SELLERS is a manor, which lies partly in this parish and partly in Burham, which with the mansion of it, called the Hall, alias Woldham hall, was held in the

/i Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 160.

/k Philipott, p. 374. There is a view of this house in Biblioth. Topog. Brit. No. vi. pt. 1.

/l See Morant's Essex, vol. i. p. 461.

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reign of king John, as appears by the inquisitions returned into the treasury in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, by Robert de Woldham Magna, as one quarter of a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester. Soon after which the possessors of this manor were called, from it, At-Hall, and in Latin deeds, De Aula. Robert Le Neve was owner of it in the reign of king Edward I. and then held it by the above tenure. His heirs sold it to John Atte Celar, written also At Celere, in Edward III's reign, whose descendant Warine Atte Celar, or De Celario, held this manor in the 30th year of it, and continuing in his descendants, it at length acquired the name of Sellers, as they now began to spell themselves. They bore for their arms, Argent, a saltier between four mullets gules; which arms were painted in a window of this church, and remained very lately in a window of the mansion-house of this manor.

The manor of Sellers remained in this family, till a female heir, about the reign of king Henry VII. carried it in marriage to John Beuly, gent. who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three griffins heads erased, sable, and continuing in his descendants it gained the name of Beuly's-court, though the mansion-house itself retained that of Hall-place, alias Woldham hall. In this name of Beuly it continued till the year 1693, when it was alienated to Manley, who bore for their arms, Argent, a sinister hand coupé, sable, and were descended from Thomas Manley, of Chester, in which name it remained down to Mr. William Manley, who resided in it and died in 1779, and this manor became the property of his three sons and coheirs in gavelkind, from whom it was afterwards sold to Joseph Brooke, esq. on the death of whose widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Brooke, in 1796, it came by his will to the

/m Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 159. Several of this family lie buried in Alhallows Staining church, London.

/n See Herald's off. D. 18, fol. 63. b.

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Rev. John Kenward Shaw, now of Town Malling, who has taken the name of Brooke, and is the present possessor of this estate. There is a court baron held for this manor.

There are no parochial charities.

WOLDHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which is a small building, with a low

square tower, on which was formerly a spire steeple, is situated at the south-west extremity of the village, and is dedicated to All Saints. The steeple of this church, and much of the fabric, owe their original to the liberality of Stephen Slegge, of this parish, who was sheriff of Kent in the 20th year of king Henry VI. and gave by his will in the 36th year of it, one hundred marcs to be expended on it. It was formerly an appendage to the manor, and as such allotted by bishop Gundulph, in the division which he made of the possessions of his church, to the share of the monks of St. Andrew's; but bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, though he suffered them to retain the manor, yet he wrested this church out of their hands, and it has ever since remained in the possession of the bishops of Rochester, his successors.

Richard, bishop of Rochester, in the 9th year of king Edward I. at the instance of the prior and convent of Rochester, made enquiry by inquisition as to the method which the monks used in taking their portions of tithes within their manors, and what part of them was allowed to the several parish churches, by which it appeared, that in their manor of Woldham, the parish church, and the abbess of Malling took the whole of the tithes of sheaves only, but of other small tithes, it did not nor ever used to take any thing; and he decreed, that the parish church should be content with the tithes of the sheaves of every kind of corn only. All which was confirmed by John, archbishop of Canterbury, by inspeximus next year, anno 1281.

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THE PORTION OF TITHES belonging to the abbey of Malling, was given to it by Ralf de Woldham, being the third part of his tithe of corn, and two parts of the tithe of his demesne in this parish, and Robert de Woldham gave the whole of his tithe of Parva Woldham to it. In the 15th year of king Edward I. this portion of tithes was valued at eight marcs.

An inquisition was made by Thomas de Alkham, and the tenants of Woldham, concerning these tithes in this parish, belonging to the abbess in the 26th year of king Edward III.

In the Registrum Roffense, p. 694, is a particular account of the portions of sheaves, which the abbess took on the several lands in this parish, the names of which, of the owners and occupiers, and the measurement of them are therein mentioned, in which in some, the abbess had two sheaves, and the rector one; in others she had but one, and the rector two; in some she had the tenth sheaf with the rector, and in the rest therein mentioned, she had all the tenth of sheaves.

Much dispute having arisen between the rector of this parish and the rector of Snodland, the opposite parish on the other side of the Medway, concerning the tithe of fish, caught within the bounds of this parish by the parishioners of the latter, it was submitted to the final decree of John, bishop of Rochester, who by his instrument, anno 1402, decreed that for the future the parishioners of Snodland, being inhabitants of it at any time going out from thence to fish, with their boats, nets, and other instruments necessary for that purpose, might, either by themselves or by others, draw

their nets, and take fish beyond the stream of the main river to the shore of the water situated within the bounds and limits of this parish; that one moiety of the tithe of the fish so caught should belong to the rector

/o See the confirmations of this gift in Reg. Roff. p. 480, 481, 486.

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of Snodland for the time being, and the other moiety to the rector of Woldham, to be paid to them by the fishers, without any diminution whatsoever./p

The church of Woldham is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 30l. the yearly tenths of which are 1l. 8s. 7³/₄d. This rectory, in 1716, was augmented by queen Anne's bounty, the sum of 200l. having been contributed to it by different persons. In 1708, here were sixty-five communicants. The bishop of Rochester is patron of this rectory.

CHURCH OF WOLDHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Robert Estre, instituted anno 20

Edward I./q

Bishop of Rochester. John Brokholls, in 1402./r

Francis Cacot, A. M. 1630.

Isaac Goslin, resigned 1689./s

Thomas Stapeley, obt. Oct. 30,
1689./t

..... Alne, resigned 1690.

William Ward, obt. June 1722.

Abraham Birch, 1728.

Anthony Dennis, B. A. instituted

Feb. 14, 1728, obt. June 24,
1775.

Peter Rashleigh, A. M. 1775, re=
signed 1788./u

John Leach, A. M. 1788, obt.
June 16, 1791./w

Samuel Browne, A. M. ind. 1791.

Present rector.

/p Reg. Roff. p. 605, 609. Steven's Monast. vol. i. p. 455. Ect. Thes. p. 386.

/q He was king's chaplain, and before rector of Henley upon Thames, which he resigned. See Prynne's Rec. p. 481.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 605.

/s He refused taking the oaths to king William and queen Mary.

/t Also vicar of Burham.

/u In 1781, a dispensation passed for his holding this rectory with Barking vicarage, in Essex, with which he now holds the rectory of Southfleet.

/w And vicar of Halling.

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BURHAM

LIES the next parish southward from Woldham, on the eastern bank of the Medway. It is written in Domesday, Boreham, and in antient grants, Burgham.

THIS PARISH is in situation much the same as that of Woldham, last described, stretching itself along the eastern bank of the river Medway, whence, from the low land, the hills rise eastward to a great height, the soil of which is very poor, being mostly chalk, and covered with flints; great part of them are open and uninclosed pastures, much covered with low scrubby bushes, heath, and furze, being usually called Burham downs. The Court lodge, with the church, at some little distance from it, stands close to the river, a low, but rather a more healthy situation than Woldham, owing to the marshes being fewer and less offensive than those lower down on the river; about a mile distant from the church northward is the hamlet of Scaborough, equally near the river; and at the southern boundary of the parish, but on higher ground and at farther distance from it, on the road called the Lower road, leading from Rochester to Aylesford, the two hamlets of Great and Little Culing, near the former of which there are several pits of potters clay.

There was formerly in this parish, at a place called Haly-garden, a spring highly revered by the common people for the virtues and sanctity which they attributed to it, to which they made pilgrimages from all the neighbouring parts.^{/x} In the 17th year of king Richard II. the Friars Carmelites of the adjoining parish of Aylesford obtained the king's letters patent, granting this spring, and the land in which it was, to them, for the making of an aqueduct for the use of their house.

^{/x} Philipott, p. 92. Tan. Not. Mon. p. 223.

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The liberty of the corporation of Maidstone extends itself on the river as far as a piece of land called Hawkeswood, in this parish.^{/y}

This parish was antiently bound to contribute towards the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

THIS PLACE, before the conquest, was in the possession of earl Leofwine, who, as well as his brother, king Harold, lost their lives at the fatal battle of Hastings. After which, William the Conqueror gave it to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080.

The same Ralf (de Curbespine) holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Boreham. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is eight carucates. In demesne there are two, and 15 villeins, with 20 borderers, having six carucates. There is a church, and seven servants, and one mill of six shillings, and 10 acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of 20 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth ten pounds, and when he received it as much, now 12 pounds. The bishop of Rochester has the houses of this manor, and they are worth seven shillings. Earl Leuvin held this manor.

Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, as his name

was englished, resided at Comford park, in the neighbouring parish of Birling, which manor he likewise possessed; he bore for his arms, in imitation of Simon de Abrinces, or Averanches, of whom, as his chief lord, he held several estates, Azure, five chevrons or, a label of five points gules./z His descendants continued owners of Burham till the reign of king Henry II. when they were succeeded by the family of Magminot; one of whom, Walkeline de Magminot, dying without issue, his sister Alice carried this and other large possessions in this county to her husband, Geof=

/y Kilburne's Surveys, p. 361. Lambard's Peramb. p. 421.

/z Camden's Remains, p. 112. Philipott, p. 80.

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fry de Say; and his descendant, Geoffry de Say, in the 8th year of king Edward III. obtained a view of frank pledge and other liberties within all his demesne lands of this manor; and having been frequently summoned to parliament among the peers of this realm, he died in the 33d year of king Edward III. holding this manor in capite, and by the service of repairing a part of Rochester bridge and a certain house in Dover castle.

After which this manor passed in like manner as Cowdham, already described in the former part of this History, by a female coheir of this name into the family of Fienes, afterwards lords Dacre; and then again afterwards by another coheir of Fienes, Margaret, in marriage, to Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening;/a whose son and heir, Henry Lennard, in his mother's right, lord Dacre afterwards, suffered a common recovery of this manor, and died in the 14th year of king James I. leaving three sons and four daughters. Of the former, Richard, the eldest succeeded him as lord Dacre; Edward died young; and Fynes, the third son, had this manor given to him by his father's will. He left a son, Robert, who in king Charles I.'s reign alienated this manor of Burham to Francis Barnham, esq. of Hollingborne, and Mr. John Maplesden, gent. and they accordingly, as trustees, in the reign of Charles II. alienated it to Sir John Banks, bart. on whose death, in 1699, without male issue, Elizabeth his daughter and coheir, then married to the Hon. Heneage Finch, second son of Heneage earl of Nottingham, entitled her husband to it. He was afterwards created baron of Guernsey, and on the accession of king George I. earl of Aylesford; since which it has descended to his great grandson, the Rt. Hon. Heneage earl of Aylesford, who is the present proprietor of it./b

/a See Cowdham, vol. ii. p. 61; Chevening, vol. iii. p. 109.

/b See Aylesford.

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There is a court leet and a court baron held for this manor.

CHARITIES.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave land, one half of the produce of which to be yearly expended in the repairs of the church; the other half on the maintenance of the poor yearly, vested in the

churchwardens and overseers, and now of the ann. produce of 7l.

MR. BOGHURST gave the yearly sum of 1l. to be distributed to the poor yearly on Christmas day, by the churchwardens and overseers, chargable on land, vested in John Woolsey, and now of that annual product.

BURHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which is small, having a large tower at the west end of it, is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and stands near the banks of the Medway. There is some good painted glass in the windows of it.

The church of Burham was antiently part of the possessions of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

Pope Boniface VIII. who became pope in the year 1295, anno 24 Edward I. appropriated this church, the patronage of which belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, to that order, at the same time reserving a competent portion for a perpetual vicar in it; in consequence of which, Thomas de Wuldham, bishop of Rochester, with the consent of William de Tothale, prior, and the brethren of that hospital, in 1302, made and ordained a perpetual vicarage in this church, decreeing, that it should consist in the portions and profits therein mentioned; accordingly, he assigned to this vicarage, and the vicar serving in it, all small tithes, viz. of lambs, calves, pigs, geese, wool, milk, cheese, eggs, hay, flax, hemp, gardens, apples, and other fruit growing in gardens, and of land dug with the foot, and also all oblations and obventions of the altar whatsoever, howsoever, whencesoever, and howoftensoever arising, together with eighteen acres of arable land, called Fogherelesland, and eleven acres

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of arable land, called Benecrost and Stonhelle, two acres of meadow, of which one lay between Hakewode and Burham-court, called Ocacre, and the other in a place called Landmedediche; and he decreed, that the vicars should have those lands and meadows free from all tenths and every other service, in like manner as the rectors of this church held them free, before the said appropriation; and he likewise assigned to the vicarage and vicars, the tithes of sheaves arising from a certain tenement, called Totyntonesyok, of the fee of Burgham, and two quarters of wheat, to be paid yearly to the said vicars, on the feast of St. Michael, from the barns of this rectory; and also land and a house sufficient and decent, which should be built on the soil of this church, at the expence of the said prior and brethren; and he ordained and decreed, that the vicars, for the time being should, at their peril, keep and preserve all the vestments and ornaments of the altar of the church, and all the books, which, if they should be at any time lost, burnt or spoiled casually or negligently, should be made good at the vicar's expence, and the lights round the great altar, so far as belonged to the rector; and that they should find and provide bread, wine, and other necessaries, for the celebration of divine rites, and should pay the procurations to the archdeacon, when he visited, and sustain all other burthens, ordinary and

extraordinary. But the defects of the body of the chancel, as in the pavement, walls, and windows, in glass and iron, and the roof of it, should be repaired as often as occasion should require, at the expence of the said Hospitallers; and if any part of it should fall down, that they the said brethren should rebuild it, and support the same for ever. And that no doubt might arise concerning this endowment, the bishop caused a duplicate to be made of it, to be left with him, and the other with the prior and brethren. This decree was exhibited as the endowment of the vicar=

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age of Burgham, by John Bryddesdale, vicar of the same, at the visitation of the bishop of Rochester, in the cathedral church of Rochester, in the 22d year of king Richard II./c

Leonard de Tibert, prior general of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in the 7th year of king Edward III. with the consent of his chapter, granted the appropriation of this church, with all its appurtenances, excepting the advowson and presentation of the vicarage, and all the lands and tenements belonging to the hospital in this parish, to Nicholas de Hales, prior of the church of Clerkenwell, in London, to hold freely for ever.

There was an inquisition taken in 1445, that the prior of St. John of Jerusalem was the right patron of it, to whom the church was said to be appropriated; and that the vicar was endowed in certain arable lands, meadows, and pastures, in the tithes of the yoke of Totyngton, in two quarters of wheat from the rectory of this church, and also in the tithes of wool, hay, lambs, cows, calves, geese, pigs, eggs, fruits, wood, and in other small tithes, also in oblations and altarages, which amounted to the value of twelve marcs; and that the vicar was bound from thence to support the burthens of bread and wine, and lights, viz. two processional tapers, tenths to the king, when any should happen, episcopal procurations, when he should visit, and archidiaconal visitations yearly, the expences of the proctors of the clergy, and other contributions, according to the taxation of twenty marcs made of the said church, and that he should take on him the office of dean, whenever it should happen to him; and that thus the portion of the vicar, these burthens being borne by him, would be worth, coib. annis, by estimation, eight marcs yearly; and further, that ten pounds would not be enough for the sufficient repair of the buildings of the

/c Reg. Roff. p. 196, 197, 199.

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vicarage, which were every where ruinous, excepting one chamber; and that the vicarage was situated in a lonely place, and remote from neighbours, by reason of which no vicar without a family could inhabit it alone with safety; and that the vicar then presented was a priest of good fame, of sufficient age, and honest conversation, as more fully appeared in the inquisition.

Thomas Dowcra, prior of the hospital of St. John, and the brethren of it, in the 1st year of Henry VIII. let to ferm to Richard Ware, of Burgham, yeoman,

their rectory of Burgham, with the mansion, glebe lands, and all tithes, profits, and commodities belonging to it, excepting the advowson of the vicarage of the church, to hold for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 13l. 6s. 8d. he and his assigns delivering to the vicar of Burgham two quarters of wheat yearly, and supporting all the burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, and all reparations whatsoever of the rectory, with its appurtenances, excepting those of the chancel; and a like lease was granted of it by the crown, in 1567, to Dr. Cæsar, with the same payment to the vicar yearly./d This rectory and advowson remained part of the possessions of the hospital at the time of its dissolution, in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. this order being then suppressed by an act passed specially for that purpose, by which all their lands, revenues, &c. were given up to the king's use.

The vicarage is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 46l. the yearly tenths being 16s. In 1708, here were ninety-eight communicants.

In 1606, the patronage of this vicarage was in the king and lord Buckhurst by turns; and about 1630, it was in the king and lord Abergavenny by turns./e In 1760, it was the property of Mr. Franklyn; soon after which it was purchased by Mr. George Gordon, of

/d Augmentation office, Kent Roll 5, No. 22.

/e Ect. Thes. p. 385. MSS. Twysden.

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Rochester, wine merchant, whose heirs sold it to the Rev. Dr. Joseph Milner, of Preston-hall, in Aylesford, who died in 1784, and his widow is now entitled to it.

CHURCH OF BURHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Prior and Brethren of St. John's hospital. William Bryddesale, 1398./f

Richard Lynstere, removed in 1444./g

Robert Frodesham, 1445./h

Martin Hoggard, clerk, Ap. 27, 1553./i

Thomas Harry, about 1630./k

Thomas Fidge, about 1644.

Thomas Stapeley, A. M. 1685, ob. Oct. 30, 1689./l

Thomas Fidge, obt. Septem. 20, 1700./m

..... Pickering, 1715, 1724.

Richard Collins, A. B. obt. Dec. 1737./n

Peter Innis, A. M. 1740, obt. 1769./o

Joseph Butler Milner, S. T. P.

Ap. 1769, obt. July, 1784./p

Mrs. Sarah Milner. Robert Parsons, 1784. Present rector.

/f Reg. Roff. p. 197.

/g Ibid. p. 199. /h Ibid.
/i He had the queen's letters of presentation to it. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 544.
/k MSS. Twysden.
/l Also rector of Woldham, where he lies buried.
/m He lies buried in the churchyard of Rochester cathedral, of which church he was a minor canon.
/n And rector of Crayford.
/o Also rector of Kingston, in Kent.
/p Patron of this church, and rector of Ditton. See Preston hall, in Aylesford.

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AYLESFORD.

SOUTHWARD from Burham lies Aylesford, a name variously written by our antient historians. The Saxon Chronicle, supposed to be written about the time of Bede, names it Ægelesford; Nennius, the Bri-

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tish historian, who flourished about the year 620, says, the Saxons called it Episford, and the Britons, Sa=thenegabail, from the overthrow of the Saxons here; Asserius, who lived in the time of king Alfred, calls it Ægelsthrep, as does the Saxon historian, Æthelwerd. In the record of Domesday it is written, Elesford, by later writers, Aillesford, and now, most commonly, Aylesford.

THE PARISH of Aylesford is pleasantly situated, about thirty-two miles from London. It is far more healthy than those last described. The river Medway, which flows through it north-westward, having in its course upward, from Woldham and Burham, become a pellucid stream of fresh water, the tide becoming weak, and having lost its saltness, from the superior force of those from above; of course, instead of the noisome smells, arising from the salt marshes, on each side of it lower down, when left by the tide, the river here is encompassed with a range of pleasant fertile meadows, greatly conducing both to health and profit. The soil in this parish, from its size and extent, must be various. About the village, and on the southern side of the river, it is a loam, spread over the quarry stone; to the northward it is an unfertile chalk, and to the eastward a deep sand.

THE VILLAGE of Aylesford is situated on the northern bank of the Medway; at the back of it the ground rises suddenly very high, insomuch that the church and yard of it, close to which is the vicarage, stands higher even than the tops of the chimnies of the houses below it. About a quarter of a mile westward, close to the river, is the priory or friery, as it is now called, great part of which remains entire, as before its dissolution, being converted into the different apartments of the mansion and the offices belonging to it; the adjoining grounds were formerly imparked, and much of the paling is still visible, though they have been disparked some years ago, made arable, and

separated in different inclosures. At a small distance from hence northward is the manor house of Tottington, the moat round which is still visible; from hence the ground rises up to the high chalk hill, on the eminence of which is the noted monument, called Kit's Coty house; and about a mile eastward the house of Cosenton, which, though now only used as a farm house, is large, and has many apparent remains of its former state about it. In the grounds belonging to it, about two miles north-westward from the house, in a deep chalky loose soil, which is covered with coppice wood, there issue several springs of clear water, which change the flints, pebbles, and other stones, as well as the several pieces of wood which lie in them, to them, to the most beautiful carmine hue, which grow stronger after they are taken out and become dry. The water is very chilly, has a rough taste, and has no chalybeate qualities belonging to it.

From the village westward the road leads near the bank of the river, by Friers Coptry, and the stream, which rises at Boxley, runs into the river here, on which there is a paper mill; here the soil begins to be a deep sand, which continues up to the turnpike road at Sandling, leading from Rochester to Maidstone.

From the village of Aylesford to that part of the parish on the opposite side of the Medway, there is a handsome stone bridge of six arches, built many years ago, and now supported by the public charge of the county; from hence the grounds rise with a gentle ascent, beautifully picturesque, surrounding the seat of Preston hall, laid out so as to resemble a park well clothed at intervals with stately elms and other different plantations, through which the road leads, having a sunk fence on each side, at a proper distance from the house, which is of white stucco, having an elegant appearance, and making a beautiful contrast to the verdure of the adjoining lawns, up to the high turnpike road from London, through Wrotham, to Maidstone; on

the opposite side this road the parish stretches itself more than two miles southward, over a deeper soil, through a continued range of coppice woods; in the further part of which is the antient chapel of Longsole, now called the hermitage, beyond which it extends, and takes within its bounds a small part of the northern side of Barming heath.

About a quarter of a mile westward from Preston-hall, lower down, close on the bank of the river, lies the hamlet of Milhale, which place is within the civil jurisdiction of the corporation of Maidstone./q

There is a fair held in the village of Aylesford on June 29.

AYLESFORD is noted in antient history for the battle fought at it between the Britons and the Saxons, in the year 455, which was about five years after the first landing of the latter in Britain.

Vortimer, the British king, having assembled his forces, in order to give battle to the Saxons, first encountered them on the banks of the river Darent, in this county. In this conflict, it is most probable, the

Saxons were worsted, as they retreated from their enemy, who followed them to Aylesford, where they had passed the river Medway, on the eastern side of which a bloody battle was fought between them, the success of which remained for some time equal, tho' at last it appears that victory fell to the side of the Britons.

In this sharp conflict, Horsa, brother to Hengist, the Saxon general, and Catigern, brother to king Vortimer, fighting hand to hand, were both killed on the spot. The former is supposed to have been buried a little more than three miles northward from Aylesford, at the place which, from this circumstance, acquired

/q See Maidstone. <space> . Kilburne's Surveys, p. 17.

/r Chron. Sax. ad. an. 455. Nennius, cap. 46. Asserii Ann.

/s Math. Westm. eo an. Hen. Huntingdon. Camden, p. 230. Lamb. Peramb. p. 446.

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the name of Horsted, i. e. the place of Horsa; in the fields, near which there are numbers of large stones dispersed over the lands, some standing upright, and others thrown down by time, which might perhaps have been placed at first as memorials of those who were slain on the side of the Saxons in this memorable rencounter, and buried there. Catigern is supposed to have been buried still nearer the field of battle, on an eminence, about a mile northward from the village of Aylesford, and about a quarter of a mile westward from the high road, leading from Rochester to Maidstone. The field in which it stands formerly belonged to the demesnes of Tottington, but the late Mr. Best purchased it some years ago of Mr. T. Golding, where that rude monument, somewhat in the manner of Stone Henge, though in miniature, still remains, called Kit's Coty house, and more vulgarly the Kit's Cot house; which, as some interpret it, is Catigern's house.

KIT'S COTY HOUSE is composed of four large stones, which seem to be of the pebble kind, two of them are set in the ground, partly upright, forming two sides, and a third stands in the middle between them; the fourth, which is the largest, is laid transversely over, and serves as a covering. It fronts the north east, or rather north east by east. Some have imagined these stones were brought from the quarry on the other side the Medway, at six miles distance; but there could be no occasion for this trouble, when there were quarries both at Sandling and Allington, within two miles of this spot. Some have supposed them to be productions of neither, but rather to be of those large pebbles with which this part of this country abounds. The dimensions of these stones are nearly as follow; that on the south side is near eight feet high, and about seven and a half broad, and two thick; its weight is conjectured to be about eight tons. That on the north is near seven feet in height, and rather

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more in breadth, and about two thick; its weight is conjectured to be about eight tons and a half. The middle stone between these is very irregular; its me=

dium is more than five feet in length, as well as breadth, and in thickness fourteen inches, weighing about two tons. The transverse, or impost, is a very irregular hexagon; its greatest breadth, from north to south is more than eleven feet, and from east to west near eight feet, and thickness two feet, and its weight about ten tons and seven hundreds. None of these stones have the least mark of the chisel or any workmanship on them. There is a print of this monument, with a dissertation on it, by Mr. Colebrooke, published in the *Archæologia* of the Society of Antiquaries, vol. ii. page 107; and another by Mr. Grose, in his *Antiquities*, vol. ii. About seventy yards distance, towards the north west, there lies another stone of the same kind and form as those now standing.

At the distance of two fields southward from Kit's Coty house, in the bottom nearer to Aylesford, is a heap of the like kind of stones, some of which are partly upright, and others lying in a circle round them, in all to the number of nine or ten. Those that are partly upright, with a large one lying across over them, appear to have once formed a like kind of structure as that of Kit's Coty house, and to have fronted towards the same aspect; the whole is now intergrown with elms and other coppice shrubs.

Was I not deterred by the similarity of the name, and were there not so many respectable opinions that Horsted was the place where Horsa the Saxon general was buried, I should be much inclined to think that Kit's Coty house, and this last mentioned, were the monuments of the two chiefs who fell by each other's hand in this engagement; they were undoubtedly built for the same purposes, but like many others of the same appearance, in different parts of England, are of such high antiquity as to be spoken of by our

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earliest historians as of things beyond tradition, the use of which could be even in their time but barely conjectured.

This monument of antiquity is reported to have been demolished by some persons digging a trench underneath it, in expectation of finding either treasure or remains of antiquity, and the trench being left open, an elm tree grew up in it, and by degrees raised the stones, and threw them to the ground. Some years ago there was found in this field a spur of very antique form, with a remarkable long sprig and large rowel, and the handle and small part of the blade of a very antient sword.

About the year, 1016, king Edmund Ironside, having gained a great victory over the Danes at Otford, in this county, pursued them with great slaughter as far as Aylesford, and had he not desisted at this passage over the Medway, by the treacherous advice of his son in law, Edric, he would in all likelihood that day have entirely demolished the whole Danish army.

Dr. Plot was much inclined to think that Aylesford was the Roman station called Vagniacæ, but in this he has not been followed by any one else that I have seen.

THE MANOR of Aylesford was part of the antient demesnes of the crown of England. These demesnes

were afterwards granted out to different persons, from time to time, who were said to hold their lands in antient demesne, and those only were accounted so, which were actually in the hands of the crown in the time of king Edward the Confessor or William the Conqueror, and are mentioned as such in the survey of Domesday.

This tenure in antient demesne was a tenure in socage, the tenants of which, being in a great measure enfranchised by the royal favour, were only bound, in

/t Lambarde's Peramb. p. 449. Lambarde's Dict. p. 108.

/u Plott's MSS. papers.

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respect to their lands, to perform some of the better sort of villein services, but those determinate and certain; as to plough the king's lands, to supply his court with particular provisions, and the like, all which are now changed into pecuniary rents, and in consideration of this they had many immunities and privileges granted to them; as to try the right of their property in a peculiar court of their own, not to pay toll, or contribute to the expences of knights of the shire, to be put on juries, and the like.

That part of the parish which lies on the north east side of the river Medway, in which is the town and church of Aylesford, is in the manor of Aylesford, and is antient demesne, the jurisdiction of which extends likewise over the borough of Rugmerhill, in the parishes of Yalding, Hunton, and Horsmonden, and Brenchley.

In the survey of Domesday, taken about the 15th year of the Conqueror's reign, this place is thus entered, under the title of Terra Regis, under which the king's antient demesne is described throughout the whole of it.

In the lath of Elesford, in Laurochesfel hundred, king William holds Elesford. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is fifteen carucates. In demesne there are three carucates, and forty villeins, with five borderers, having five carucates. There are eight servants, and one mill of forty pence, and forty-three acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of seventy hogs. In the whole it was worth, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, fifteen pounds, and as much when Hamo the sheriff received it; it is now worth twenty pounds.

Yet it pays thirty-one pounds, and the sheriff has from thence three pounds. Of this manor, Ansgotus, near Rochester, holds as much land as is valued at seven pounds.

The bishop of Rochester also has, in exchange for the ground on which the castle is situated, as much of this land as is worth seventeen shillings and four-pence.

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In the 9th year of king John, Osbert Gipford held this manor, y after whose death it seems to have reverted to the crown; for his successor, Henry III. in his 14th year, granted it to Sir Richard de Grey, of Codnor, who was the youngest of the three sons of Sir John de Grey, whose ancestors have been already fully treated of, as well as the other branches of this family seated at Rotherfield, Wilton, Ruthin, &c. un-

der the description of Greys, earls of Kent, in the general history of this county. Sir Robert Grey, the eldest son, was of Rotherfield, and Walter, the second, was archbishop of York. Sir Richard de Grey, at the latter end of king John's reign, and afterwards, when the rebellious barons had taken arms, had kept firm to the king's interest, for which he had many grants and favors conferred on him, and was made constable of Dover-castle and warden of the cinque ports. In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. he went to the holy land, and returning from thence brought with him some Carmelites, and in the 25th year of it, anno 1240, he founded a priory of that order in his manor here, and next year another in London.

King Edward I. in his 21st year, brought a writ of right against his grandson Henry de Grey, for this manor; but the jury gave their verdict in his favor, as they did on a quo warranto, on his claim of pleas of withernam, assize of bread and ale, and gallows, within this manor.

Richard de Grey, of Codnor, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, and in the 4th year of king Edward III. obtained a charter for a market upon the Tuesday weekly, and a fair yearly on the eve and day of the Ascension, with free warren throughout all his demesne lands within his manor of Aylesford. In the

/y Kilburne's Surv. p. 17. Lambarde's Peramb. p. 451.
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9th year of which reign he died, holding this manor of the king in capite, by the service of one knight's fee.

John, his eldest son, was of Codnor, and inherited this manor. He behaved himself so bravely, and by his activity so greatly gained the king's esteem, that in the 14th year of his reign, he received at the royal hands, a hood of white cloth, embroidered with blue men dancing, buttoned before with great pearls, and being to perform certain military exercises in a tournament at Canterbury, had his accoutrements of Indian silk, on which the arms of Sir Stephen de Cosyngton, of Aylesford, were painted, bestowed on him. Being grown infirm, he obtained, in recompence of his valour and fidelity, a dispensation in the 45th year of king Edward III. to exempt him from coming to parliament and councils, and from being charged with setting forth any soldiers in the king's wars, or in those of his heirs and successors.

His descendant, Henry lord Grey, who much affecting the study of chemistry, obtained the king's licence in the 3d year of king Edward IV. to practise the transmutation of metals by his philosophical skill, died in the 11th year of king Henry VII. and was buried with his ancestors in the church of the priory here. Leaving no lawful issue, though he had two natural sons, from the youngest of whom, Henry, the Greys of Langley, in Leicestershire, were descended, The manor and castle of Codnor came to Elizabeth his aunt and heir, wife of Sir John Zouche, a younger son of William lord Zouch, of Haringworth; and this manor of Aylesford continued in the possession of his widow, the lady Catherine Grey, afterwards remarried

to Sir William de la Pole, for her life; after which it devolved to Sir John Zouche,^{/a} who was succeeded in it by Thomas Cornewall, and he possessed it at his

^{/z} Cott. Rec. p. 661, 708. ^{/a} Inquis. taken anno 1512.

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death, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. as appears by the inquisition then taken.

Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, was the next proprietor of it, whose son, Sir Thomas Wyatt,^b being attainted in the 1st year of queen Mary, forfeited this manor, as well as the rest of his estates, to the crown; upon which the queen, by her letters patent, anno 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, granted this manor, with its appurtenances, the demesne lands belonging to it in Yalding, and other premises mentioned in them, to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, for his good services in suppressing Wyatt's infurrection, he being at that time sheriff of this county, to hold to him, and Margaret his wife, in tail special, remainder to the heirs of his body, in capite, with a reservation to the queen of the priory of Aylesford, and other lands.^c On the surrender of which grant two years afterwards, he had another grant of this manor, to hold to him and their heirs, by the like service. He in the 40th year of queen Elizabeth, alienated this manor to Edward Randolph and Richard Argall, and they both joined in the sale of it, in the 2d year of James I. to Sir Thomas Colepepyr, of Preston-hall, in this parish, on whose death it descended to his eldest son, William Colepepyr, alias Culpeper, esq. who was created a baronet in 1627, and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Colepepyr, bart. of Preston hall, who died possessed of it in 1723, without issue, leaving Alicia his sister, then the widow of Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, his heir, and she afterwards remarrying with John Milner, of Yorkshire, M. D. settled this manor on him and his heirs. After which this manor passed in like manner as Preston-hall in this parish, as will be more fully mentioned hereafter, to Joseph Butler Milner, D. D. whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Milner, is the present possessor of it.

^{/b} See more of the Wyatts, under Allington and Boxley.

^{/c} Rot. Esch. ejus ann. pt. 4, 12.

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THE PRIORY, now commonly called the friars, is situated close to the river Medway, on the north-east side of it, and at a very small distance westward from the village of Aylesford.

It was founded in the 25th year of king Henry III. anno 1240, by Richard, lord Grey, of Codnor, for Friars Carmelites, being the first foundation of this order in England. Soon after which, the monasteries of this order increasing throughout Europe, they held the first general European chapter at this priory in the year 1245.

In the 11th year of king Edward II. Richard, lord Grey, of Codnor, great-grandson of the founder, granted to the prior, &c. of this convent, three acres of land to enlarge their mansion, and in the 17th year of king Richard II. the king granted to them a spring

of water, at a place called Haly-garden, in the adjoining parish of Burham, and the land in which it was, for the making of an aqueduct for the use of their house. In which reign Richard Maidstone, S. T. P. so called from his birth in that town, was a Carmelite friar, and wrote several books. He died in this priory in 1396, and was buried in the cloister of it./d

This priory was dissolved soon after the 27th year of king Henry VIII. and the possessions of it were surrendered up to the king, who in his 33d year, granted, in exchange, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, among other premises, the scite or house of the late priory of the White Friars, in Aylesford, then dissolved, and all houses, buildings, gardens, and lands within the scite and precinct of it; and other lands in Aylesford belonging to it; to hold by knight's service, at the yearly rent of 10s. 3d.

His son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, having raised a rebellion against queen Mary, was attainted in the 1st year of her reign, by which all his estates became forfeited to the crown, where this priory, and the lands belong=

/d Steven's Monast. vol. ii. p. 167.

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ing to it, remained till queen Elizabeth granted them to John Sedley, son of John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet, who resided at the priory, and dying without issue, gave it to his brother William, afterwards knighted, and anno 9 James I. created a baronet. He resided at the priory, then called the Fryars, and left one son, Sir John Sedley, bart. of Aylesford, who was sheriff in the 19th year of king James I. and had three sons, successors to each other in title and estate, viz. Sir Henry, who died unmarried; Sir William Sedley, who married Jane, eldest daughter of John Savage, earl Rivers, and widow of George, lord Chandois, by whom he had no issue; and Sir Charles Sedley, a posthumous son, who became noted for his wit and gallantry in the reign of king Charles II. who married Catherine, third daughter of John, earl Rivers, by whom he had an only daughter, Catharine, created by king James II. in his first year, Countess of Dorchester, and baroness of Darlington, for life. She afterwards married Sir David Colyar, ancestor of the present earl of Portmore. This branch of the Sedleys bore for their arms, Azure a fess wavy argent, between three goats heads erased of the second, and quartered with it the coats of Jenkes, Grove, and Darell./e

Sir William Sedley, bart. of the Fryars, above-mentioned, conveyed this estate by sale in the reign of king Charles I. to Sir Peter Ricaut, who with Mary his wife, lie buried in this church. They had ten sons, the youngest of whom, Sir Paul Rycout, was a great traveller, not only in Europe, but in Asia and Africa, and published the state of the Ottoman empire, and other books, and was greatly employed both in Ireland and abroad, in the reigns of king Charles II. James II. and William III. He died in 1700, æt. 72, and was buried near his father and mother, in the south chancel of this church. They bore for their arms, Argent, a

/e Visitation of the County of Kent, 1619. Philipott, p. 47.

fess counter-embattled, gules; in base, the bend of a limb of a tree, raguled and trunked, coupé at both ends proper, /f whose heir, in 1657, alienated it to Caleb Banks, esq. of Maidstone, and his son, John, resided here, and was created a baronet in 1661. He died in 1699, æt. 72, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, where a magnificent monument was erected, with his and his wife's effigies in marble. He bore for his arms, Sable, on a cross, between four fleurs de lis argent, five pheons heads azure. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Dethick, of Norfolk, by whom he had a son Caleb, who died s. p. in 1696, æt. 37; and two surviving daughters and coheirs, Elizabeth, married to Heneage Finch; and Mary, to John Saville, eldest son of John Saville, esq. of Methley, in Yorkshire

On the division of his estates between them, the former entitled her husband, Heneage Finch, to the possession of the priory, with the estate belonging to it, in Aylesford.

He was the second son of Heneage, earl of Nottingham, sometime lord chancellor, and being bred to the law, acquired great reputation in that profession, inasmuch, that queen Anne, in consideration of his merits and great abilities, created him, on March 15, 1703, Baron of the island of Guernsey, in Southampton, and made him of her privy council. On the accession of king George I. he was on Oct. 19, 1714, created Earl of Aylesford, and constituted chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and made a privy counsellor. He died in 1719, and was buried at Aylesford, having had nine children; of whom Heneage, earl of Aylesford, the eldest son, married Mary, daughter and heir of Sir Clement Fisher, of Packington, in Warwickshire, and had by her one son, Heneage, lord Guernsey, and four daughters. The earl died in 1757, and was succeeded

/f See account of him in Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3500.

by his only son, Heneage above-mentioned, who became the third earl of Aylesford, who married Charlotte, youngest daughter of Charles, duke of Somerset, and died in 1777, leaving his lady surviving, and thirteen children by her, of whom the eldest son, born in 1751, is the present right hon. Heneage, earl of Aylesford, who succeeded him in the inheritance of this seat, commonly called the Friars, but it is in the possession of the countess dowager of Aylesford, who makes it her chief residence in the country.

The earl of Aylesford married in 1781 Louisa, eldest daughter of the late marquis of Bath, by whom he has several sons and daughters. He bears for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three griffins passant, sable. For his crest, On a wreath, a griffin passant, sable. And for his supporters, on the dexter side, a griffin sable, gorged with a ducal collar, or; and on the sinister, a lion of the second, ducally gorged, azure. /g

The greatest part of the antient priory remains very fair, and by far the least demolished of any conventual edifice in these parts. The great gate from the road is yet entire. It opens to a large square court, in which

are seen all the door ways to the cells. The side where the high buttresses are left on the left hand within the gate was the great hall or refectory, now divided into rooms. The kitchen was likewise on the east side of the square, as appears by the large fire places in one part of it. The chapel was that part of the building which stands east and west; the north side of it fronts the garden, as the south does the river; the east window of it was where now is the dining room or gallery door, with the iron balcony facing the town. The principal part of this priory, as the hall, chapel, cloisters, &c. were converted into stately apartments by Sir John Banks, and the cloisters were by him inclosed and paved with white and black marble. There is a

/g Collins's Peer. vol. iv. edit. 1768, p. 340, et seq.

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fair high stone wall which fronts the road and incloses the garden, the same as when in its antient state. The large ponds at the mill above belong to this estate, and without doubt supplied the religious here with fish.

TOTTINGTON, or TOTTENDEN, as it is called in the rolls of Aylesford manor, lies about half a mile north-eastward from the priory of Aylesford. In the reign of William the Conqueror it was part of the possessions of Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, and half brother to the king; and accordingly it is thus entered under the general title of that prelate's lands, in the survey of Domesday, taken about 1080.

Robert Latin holds to ferm of the king Totintune, of the new gift of the bishop of Baieux. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land is one carucate and a half. In demesne there is one, and three villeins, with nine borderers, having half a carucate. There are four servants and five acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of two hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth 30 shillings, when he received it 20 shillings, now 40 shillings. Ulnod held it of king Edward

The same Robert holds in Totintune to ferm of the king one yoke, and that is of the new gift of the bishop of Baieux, and there is nothing except two acres of meadow. It is and was worth separately 10 shillings. Godnin held it of king Edward.

Soon after this the manor of Tottington was become the property of Malgerius de Rokesle, so called from his possessions at Rokesle, in this county, and his son Richard gave the whole tithe of his land, in Totintune to the monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, on condition, that he and his wife and son should receive the benefit of the prayers of that society; in whose descendants this manor continued the same as that of Rokesle before described, till at length it came into the possession of Robert de Poynings, who

/h See Rokesley, vol. ii. of this History, p. 151.

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died in the 25th year of king Henry VI. anno 1446, possessed likewise of the advowson of the free chapel of St. Stephen in it, founded by his father, Richard de Poynings, both being held of the king, as of his castle of Leeds, which was of the barony of Creve-

quer, by knight service./i He gave it to Tho. Palmer, esq. of the Court lodge, in Snodland, who had married his only daughter, and was grandson of Thomas, of Snodland, who married the daughter of Fitz Simon.

His son, John Palmer, was of Tottington, and left one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Catherine, married to John Rowe. Thomas Palmer died possessed of it in the 23d year of king Henry VII. anno 1507, holding it of the king, as of his honour of Lisle, by knights service, and his descendant of the same name alienated it, in the reign of king Henry VIII. to Richard Warcup, descended from those of Cumberland, and bore for their arms, Argent, on a fess gules, three cushions ermine; whose grandson, Henry, anno 17 Elizabeth, levied a fine of it, and soon afterwards alienated it to Madox; after which it came into the family of Sedley, and thence into the possession of William Hodgkins, esq. who sold it to Putcheon, from which name it was conveyed to Golding; and Mr. Thomas Golding, of Ryarsh, dying in 1769, left it to his daughter, Mrs. Frances Golding, who is the present owner of it.

It is held of the crown, by the yearly fee farm rent of 3l. 16s. 4d.

ECCLES was a manor in this parish, which was of some note in the time of the Conqueror, being then part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the king's half brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the book of Domesday:

/i Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 771. Philipott, p. 47. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

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Ralf Fitz Turoid holds Aiglessa of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at three yokes. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate and seven vil=leins, with 14 borderers, having one carucate. There is one servant and 11 acres of meadow. Wood for the panning of 10 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Con= fessor, and afterwards, it was worth three pounds, now four pounds.

Richard (de Tunbridge) receives for what is in his lowy 15 pence. The king eight shillings and five pence, for the new gift of the bishop, and in Rochester the bishop has three houses of three pence, which he took from this manor into his own hands. Alnod Cilt held this manor.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, soon after the taking of this survey, all his possessions were con= fiscated to the crown, and this manor was given to Malgerius de Rokesle, whose descendant, Richard de Rokesle, held it in the reign of king Edward I. as half a knight's fee of Margery Rivers, as she did of Wa= rine de Montchensie./k From him this manor passed in like manner as the above described manor of Tot= tington, to the families of Poynings, and of Palmer of Snodland; and thence again to Warcup, in which it continued till Henry Warcup alienated this manor to John Sedley, esq. from one of whose descendants part of it passed, in like manner as Aylesford priory, to Heneage earl of Aylesford, whose grandson, the Rt. Hon. the earl of Aylesford now owns it. Another part of this manor became vested in the same owners

as the manor of Tottington had, and as such is now owned by Mrs. Frances Golding above mentioned. Another part of it was lately held by Mr. John Corral; and another considerable part of it, which seems to have been made liable to the payment of castle guard rent for the whole of it to Rochester castle, was purchased by Mr. Tho. Best, of Chatham, whose grand-

/k Roll of Knights fees in the exchequer.

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son, Tho. Best, esq. of Chilston, died in 1795, s. p. and by his will gave it to his nephew, George Best, esq. now of Chilston, the present owner of it.

The scite of the manor of Eccles is at present unknown, but is supposed to be somewhere at the eastern extremity of this parish, near Boxley hill.

The manor of Eccles ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge./l

COSENTON, or COSINGTON, as it is usually spelt, is a manor in this parish, situated on the eastern side of it, adjoining to that of Boxley, near the high road from Rochester to Maidstone, the jurisdiction of the hundred of Maidstone claiming over it.

It was antiently a place of much note, as giving both residence and surname to the eminent family of Cosenton, or Cosington, who were seated here in the reign of king John, for that king, in his 18th year, absolved William de Cosenton by pardon, for having taken an oath to Louis the French dauphin. Sir Stephen de Cosenton was, with king Edward I. at the noted siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, and was there made a banneret by the king for his good services; at which time it appears there was a chapel at this seat, dedicated to St. Michael, with a chantry in it, founded by Sir Stephen de Cosenton. His son, Sir Wm. de Cosenton, was sheriff of this county in the 35th year of king Edward I. and was living here in the 8th year of king Edward II. His successor, Sir Stephen de Cosenton, in the 7th year of Edward III. anno 1332, obtained a charter of free warren for his lands in Cosyngtone, Acrise, and Suthbertone, in this county, held of the barony of Ros, as of the manor of Horton Kirkby.

The family of Cosenton having received this manor by antient feoffment from the Ros's, the former lords

/l Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 422. Philipott, p. 40, 41.

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of it, in imitation of whose arms, Or, three roses gules, the Consentons bore for their arms, Azure, three roses or. This coat, though the colours are now defaced, is carved on the roof of Canterbury cloisters.

At length his descendant, Thomas Cosenton, esq. dying in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. without male issue, his three daughters, married to Duke, Wood, and Hamon, became his coheirs, the eldest of whom, on the partition of their inheritance, entitled her husband, Duke, to the possession of this manor and seat,/m who bore for his arms, Per fess argent, and azure three chaplets, counterchanged. His descendants afterwards resided here; and in the reign of

king Charles I. it was in the possession of Geo. Duke, esq. at length, about the year 1696, it devolved, for want of male issue, to Mary Duke, spinster, who died unmarried about 1750, and by her will gave this manor to her nephew, Mr. Samuel White, of London, merchant; since whose death, in 1770, it became, by his will, the inheritance of Stacey; whence it was, in 1797, alienated to Mr. John Spong, of Milhale, the present owner of it.

There is no court held for this manor. It ought anciently to have contributed to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

ROWE'S-PLACE is an estate in the eastern part of this parish, which was once the seat of the antient family of Rowe, who had their original here, and afterwards branched off into the several families of this name at Dartford, Penshurst, and Pluckley, in this county. Robert Roe possessed this seat in the reign of king Edward III. from whom it descended down to Robert-a-Rowe, esq. who, in the 21st year of king Henry VII. anno 1495, settled it on the marriage of

/m See Acrise. Philipott, p. 47.

/n See more of this family, in vol. ii. of this History, p. 293; vol. iii. p. 250.

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Christian, his daughter and heir, with Robert Nayler, esq. the son of Richard Nayler, citizen of London, by the lady Elizabeth his wife, widow of Geo. Nevil, lord Abergavenny, the deed of which is sealed with his arms, being Gules, a quarter foil or. From the name of Nayler it passed by another female heir to Warcup, one of whose descendants alienated it to Sedley, from whence it passed in like manner as Aylesford priory to Banks, by whose female coheir it went in marriage to Heneage Finch, esq. afterwards created earl of Aylesford; whose descendant, the Right Hon. Heneage, earl of Aylesford, is the present possessor of this estate.

THE MANORS of PRESTON and ALLINGTON, in this parish, together with the seat, called PRESTON-HALL, which lies at a small distance from the river Medway, on the south-west side of it, opposite to the town of Aylesford, and to that part of this parish, called Antient Demesne, as has been already mentioned before, were possessed in very antient times by the eminent family of Colepeper, commonly called, and frequently written, Culpeper, who spread themselves in different branches over the whole face of the county; each of which produced men, who became eminent as warriors and statesmen in the different ages in which they flourished.

The first of this family noted in record is Thomas de Colepeper, who was one of the Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ, or, judges of the great assize, in the reign of king John, an office of no small account in those times; whose descendant, Sir John de Colepeper, was of Bayhall, in Pembury, as was his son, Sir Thomas Colepeper, afterwards.

Soon after which they separated into different branches, one of which remained at Bayhall above-mentioned, from which descended the several branches

of this family settled there, and at Bedgbury, Losenham, Wakehurst, Leed's-castle, Hollingborne, St.

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Stephen's, and the Charter-house, all which are now extinct, excepting the latter.

The other branch seated themselves at Preston-hall, in Aylesford, and at Oxenhoath, in West Peckham, both which I shall proceed to give some account of here, taken from a large manuscript pedigree of the several branches of it, from the Visitation of the County of Kent, anno 1619, and from other authentic evidences and manuscripts; and a further account of the early part of the pedigree of Colepeper, and the several branches of it, may be found under Bayhall, in Pembury.

Walter Colepeper died in the last year of king Edward II. seised, as appears by the inquisition, taken that year after his death, of estates in Langley, Bough-ton, East and West Farleigh, Yalding, Malling, Brenchley, Tunbridge, and Shipborne. He sealed with his coat of arms, A bend engrailed, the field of which appears to have been argent, and the bend, gules; which are carved more than once on the roof of Canterbury cloisters, and are once there impaled with a coat bearing a bend. By Joane his wife he left three sons, of whom Thomas, the eldest, was of Preston hall, and died without issue. Sir Jeffry, the second, succeeded his brother in that estate, being the ancestor of the Colepepers, baronets, of Preston-hall, and of the Colepepers of Oxenhoath, both now extinct, and John was the third son.

Sir Jeffry Colepeper resided at Preston hall, and was sheriff of this county in the 39th and 47th years of king Edward III. He left a son, William, who was likewise of Aylesford. His son, Sir John Colepeper, was a justice of the common-pleas in the reign of king Henry IV. and was of Oxenhoath in this county; he left by Catherine his wife, Sir William Culpeper, of the same place, sheriff of this county in the 5th year

/o See Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 601.

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of king Henry VI. the year after which he died, and was buried in West Peckham church, leaving a son, Sir John Colepeper, who lived in the reigns of king Henry V. and VI.

His son, Sir William Colepeper, was of Aylesford, and by a daughter of Ferrers, of Groby, had three sons, Sir Richard Colepeper, who was of Oxenhoath, and ended in three daughters and coheirs; William, who was of Aylesford; and Jeffry. Wm. Culpepyr, esq. the second, was of Preston hall, the lands of whose grandson, John Colepepyr, of Aylesford, and of Thomas his son, were disgavelled by the act of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. in whose descendants, resident at this seat, these manors, with Preston-hall, continued down to William Colepepyr, for so he appears to have spelt his name, who in 1627, anno 3d Charles I. was created a baronet. His great grandson, Sir Thomas Colepepyr, bart. was sheriff of this county in the 2d year of queen Anne, anno 1704, and

kept his shrievalty at Preston-hall; he died without issue in 1723, and was buried in the south chancel of this church, leaving his sister Alicia, who had been first married to Herbert Stapeley, esq. and secondly to Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, but then the widow of Thomas Culpeper, counsellor at law, second son of Sir Thomas, the third son of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingsborne, his sole heir; she afterwards married the same year John Milner, M. D. of Yorkshire, and then made a settlement of the fee of these among the rest of her estates (reserving a life estate to herself) on him and his heirs; she survived him likewise, and died in 1734, without issue by either of her four husbands.

Dr. Milner was descended of a good gentleman's family seated at Pudsey, in Yorkshire, who bore for their arms, Sable, three bridle bits or. He died before his wife, in 1724, having devised the inheritance of these manors, with Preston-hall, and his other estates in

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this county, to his brother, Charles Milner, M. D. who, on lady Taylor's death, for so she stiled herself, resided here, and dying unmarried, in 1771, gave the whole of them by will to his nephew, the Rev. Joseph Butler, who in pursuance of it, that year, procured the king's licence to take the surname and arms of Milner; and afterwards resided at Preston-hall, which he modernized and almost rebuilt, and laid out the grounds adjoining with much taste, at a very considerable expence. He married, in 1772, Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Stringer Belcher, rector of Ulcombe, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Justinian Champneis, esq. of Boxley, and died in 1784, s. p. leaving these manors, with Preston-hall, for life, to his surviving widow, who now resides here; and after her death, to his nephew, Cha. Milner, esq. now of Farningham.

On the window frame of a large antient barn, built of stone, belonging to Preston-hall, as well as on an outhouse near it, and on a chimney-piece, both likewise of stone, is carved the date of 1102, with the letters, T. C. on each of them; a representation of which window frame has been given above.

The date on the above window, as well as the others, has been the occasion of much altercation among the learned. Vossius, in his treatise, *De Scientiis Mathematicis*, says, that numeral figures came not in use in Europe till about the year 1300, or, at least, not earlier than the year 1250; and P. Mabilon, in his treatise, *De Re Diplomatica*, tells us, he had not found them any where sooner than the fourteenth century, which is somewhat later than the time mentioned by Vossius. Several dates have been produced, from different parts of England, to prove the much earlier use of numeral figures in this kingdom; viz. an inscription over a gateway at Worcester, anno 975; the date on a window of a cellar at Colchester, anno 1090; another on a window at Rumsey, in Hampshire, anno 1016; one on a chimney-piece at Widge-

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hall, in Hertfordshire, of the like date; and on a chimney piece, at the parsonage house at Helmdon,

in Northamptonshire, anno 1132; but all of them have been supposed by most to have been either misunderstood or altered, to serve this particular purpose.

David Casley, in his Catalogue of Manuscripts in the King's Library, has given a specimen of a manuscript from the Cottonian library, called Callendarium Rogeri Bacon, dated 1292; the figures in which book are Arabian, and the oldest he remembered to have met with in either of those libraries.

Besides the above mentioned opinions, that these Arabian figures did not come into use till long after the year 1102, there is another objection to the date above mentioned having been put up so early as that year; which is, that the quarterings of coats armour did not come into use till the time of Edward III. who began his reign in 1326; which, if a fact, will prove this date to have been put up at least subsequent to the year 1300; and a still more convincing proof of it is, that the arms quartered are those of Colepeper and Hardreshull. John Colepeper, about the middle of the above mentioned reign, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Hardreshull; so that his issue by her were the first who could use the arms of Hardreshull quartered with their own; their son was Thomas Colepeper. The T. C. on this stone must, no doubt, mean a Thomas Colepeper, owner of this estate; and none other, of those names, was so afterwards till the 16th century, when another Thomas Colepeper owned it, and died possessed of it in 1587. Many have supposed, that the 0 being so much higher in proportion to the other figures, there was some part adjoining to the bottom of it, now obliterated, and that the second figure was meant to ex=

/p See Philosophical Transactions, No. 154, 266, 439, 459.

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press the figure 5; but on a close inspection of the several figures, I do not see the least probability for this supposition, the figures being plainly meant for what they now appear to be. The most probable conjecture therefore is, that a Thomas Colepeper, a descendant of John Colepeper and Elizabeth Hardreshull, put up this date, with his own name and arms, and added the date of 1102, which was either the æra when his ancestors first came into this county, or perhaps to this seat of Preston.

ABOUT a quarter of a mile northward from Barming heath, on an eminence, near the eastern side of the road, which leads through the woods from Aylesford thither, and surrounded by them, stand the ruins of the ANTIENT FREE CHAPEL OF LONGSOLE, now made use of as a barn, and called the HERMITAGE from its lonely situation.

King Edward III. in his 24th year, granted licence to Stephen Fynamour, chaplain of the chapel of St. Lawrence of Longsole, to purchase lands and rents of the yearly value of one hundred shillings, for the maintenance of himself and his successors, celebrating in this chapel for ever; and next year accordingly, there were granted, with the king's licence, to him and his successors, chaplains here, by several persons, different messuages and lands, to the amount of twenty

six acres and upwards, lying in this parish, of the yearly value of sixteen shillings. After which, great disputes arising between the vicar of Aylesford and the rector of Allington, concerning the oblations offered in this chapel on the eve and festival of St. Lawrence, each claiming them as their right, as being within the bounds of their respective parishes, John, bishop of Rochester, issued his mandate in the last year of king Henry V. to ascertain, by inquisition, in which of those parishes this chapel was situated, and to whom these oblations of right belonged, and to certify the

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same to him; since which it has been esteemed to be within the bounds of the parish of Aylesford.

The remains of this chapel, now called the Hermitage, with the scite of it, is part of the possessions of the Rt. Hon. Charles lord Romney, having been purchased with the manor of Allington and other estates in the year 1732, of Sir Jacob Astley, bart. of Melston Constable, in Norfolk.

CHARITIES.

JOHN SEDLEY, esq. ordered by his will, that a house should be built for six poor aged and impotent persons, in the street of Aylesford, and that there should be bought lands and tenements for the poor persons, for their maintenance, 60l. per ann. and that his brother, William Sedley, and his heirs, should place the poor in it, from time to time. Sir William Sedley, bart. was sole executor to his brother, in pursuance of whose will he built a house of stone and other buildings for this hospital, or Maison de Dieu; and he purchased two farms, containing one hundred and eighty-four acres in Frittenden, and were of the clear yearly value of 76l. and Sir William, by his deed of foundation, dated in 1617, inrolled in chancery, added one poor person more to the former six poor persons, being four men and two women, to be as warden of the hospital; and he incorporated and made them a body politic, by the name of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, in the parish of Aylesford, appointed that they should have a common seal, engraved with a goat's head rache, and circumscribed, Siggillu's Hospital. Sce. Trinitatis in Aylesford in Co. Kanc. and that the hospital and poor in it should, from time to time, be visited, ordered, and upon just cause displaced, by such persons, bodies politic, or corporate, their heirs, assigns, or trustees, as should be nominated or assigned, according to such rules as should be set forth by him, his heirs, or assigns, in writing, under his or their hands and seals, &c. The earl of Portmore, the patron and present trustee, has omitted to appoint any person to this hospital for some years past.

SIR WILLIAM SEDLEY, bart. gave to the poor of this parish, 3l. 6s. 8d. per annum, issuing out of houses and land in Yalding, now belonging to Sir John Shaw, bart.

PATRIC SAVAGE, esq. of this parish, in the 1st year of king Charles I. gave two meadows in Ditton, called Great and Little Nicopitts, now of the annual produce of 5l.

SIR ROBERT FAUNCE, of Maidstone, gave 10s. per annum, to be distributed to the poor on St. Swithin's day, and 10s. more

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on that day to the clergyman for reading prayers, to be paid out of land in this parish, now vested in Mrs. Milner.

JAMES TAYLOR, yeoman, of this parish, gave 20s. per ann. to be paid from two tenements in the parish of Woldham, since

pulled down, and it has not been paid since 1774.

THE REV. MR. MILNER, in pursuance of his uncle, Dr. Charles Milner's will, settled 20l. per annum, payable out of part of his estate, towards the support of a charity school, for the benefit of the poor children of this parish.

AYLESFORD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a handsome building, with a square tower at the west end of it.

King Henry I. gave the church of Aylesford to St. Andrew and Gundulph, bishops of Rochester, and afterwards confirmed it to them. Bishop Gundulph, when he had separated his own maintenance from that of the monks of his priory, assigned this church to them, among others, for their maintenance; and he afterwards granted them the free disposition of the vicarage of it./q

This grant was set aside by bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, in the beginning of the reign of king Richard I. who, on the foundation of his hospital at Stroud, about that time, with their unanimous consent, which was however, without doubt, extorted from them, and that of his archdeacon, gave the appropriation of this church, in pure and perpetual alms, to the master and brethren of it, reserving only the pension of two marcs yearly from it, to be paid to the monks./r And he decreed, that the master should provide one of his brethren, being a priest, or other fit chaplain, to celebrate divine service at Aylesford, whom he should present to the bishop; all which was again confirmed by the prior and con=

/q Dugdale's Monast. vol. iii. p. 1; and Reg. Roff. p. 6, 9.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 53, 152, 153, 631.

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vent of Rochester, who granted, that the master of the hospital should, as parson, present the vicar of this church to the bishop./s

The monks by no means acquiesced in this gift, but seized every opportunity of asserting their right to this church; and after several appeals to the pope, from time to time, and confirmations and decrees made in favour of each party, the dispute seems to have been finally settled by pope Alexander IV./t who in 1255, adjudged that, in consideration of the church of St. Margaret, in Rochester, with its appurtenances, remaining to the prior and convent, the master and brethren of Stroud hospital should possess this church free from the pensions of eighteen marcs (which had been, in 1239, decreed to be paid from it) and of two marcs, which had likewise been before decreed, to be paid from it, as above mentioned. Bishop Thomas de Inglethorp, on account of several disputes having arisen between the master of Stroud hospital and the vicar of this parish, in right of his vicarage, in 1287, anno 16th Edward I. examined into it, with the consent of all parties, and he ordained and decreed, that the vicar, for the time being, should take all small tithes, obventions, and oblations, of the whole parish, together with the tithe of the hay of Luggenemedwe, and Breggenemedwe, Suffletonemedwe, and all the

tithe of hay on the eastern side of the bridge, and also of all mills, except the mill of the master and brethren aforesaid, and that he should likewise take the tithes of sheaves of the demesnes of the church, viz. of those lands which the rectors possessed at the time of this endowment, and the tithes of beans and peas of gardens, dug with the foot, but for other corn growing within the curtalage, he should take yearly from the

/s See the several confirmations of this church to the priory, in Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 434.

/t Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 349. Reg. Roff. p. 69.

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rectors one seam of wheat at Michaelmas; and further, that the vicar and his successors should be free and exempt from all due and accustomed burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, of the supplying and procuring books and ornaments, and also the repairing of the chancel.

In the year 1288, an agreement was entered into before the above mentioned bishop, between the master and brethren of the hospital, and the vicar of this church, that the later should provide daily one chaplain in the name of the former, who should celebrate mass, and say the canonical hours in the chapel of Sir Stephen de Cosington, for which the master and brethren should give him yearly a certain sum of money, and a portion of corn at stated times, of wheat and barley, and of the small tithes at the accustomed time, so that the vicar should not demand any thing of Sir Stephen; and also of three roods of free land. This was confirmed by bishop Thomas de Woldham, in 1293, who declared, that the three roods of free land, mentioned above, were within that area of ground, where the vicar had built houses, and erected other buildings for himself and successors, and in which he then dwelt, near the court of the rectory, and had inclosed the same; all which should remain to the vicars, his successors, for ever.

Some time after which, some disputes arising between the vicar of Aylesford, and the master and brethren, and Sir Stephen de Cosington, it was decreed, that Sir Stephen and his heirs ought to pay the great and small tithes of his manor to the master and brethren, together with thirty shillings of silver; and that according to the ordination of Thomas, bishop of Rochester, above mentioned, they ought to satisfy the vicar in thirty shillings and four seams of corn, one half of wheat and the other of barley, yearly, and that the vicar should provide for a chantry in the said chapel, but that the profits arising from the oblations and

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confessions of Sir Stephen and his family, should belong to him who served the cure of the parish of Aylesford. The decree of the bishop, so far as related to the small tithes of the manor of Cosington, nevertheless to remain in full force.

Sir Stephen de Cosyngtone, lord of the manor of Cosyngtone, in the 23d year of king Henry VI. released to the master and brethren of the hospital, their providing a chaplain in the chapel or chantry of St.

Michael, within his manor, &c. and they released to him their right of providing such chaplain, and all claims accruing to him and them on account of the same for ever, in the 34th year of the same reign.

The church of Aylesford remained in this situation till the reign of king Henry VIII. when the master of Stroud hospital and the brethren of it, in the 31st year of that reign, with the king's licence, surrendered their hospital, with all their lands and possessions in Aylesford and elsewhere, and this church among them, to the prior and convent of Rochester, to hold of the king by fealty, in lieu of all services.

A few months after which surrender, the priory of Rochester itself was likewise, together with all its estates and possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, who, by his dotation charter, in his 33d year, settled the parsonage of this church, with the advowson of the vicarage, as well as all other the possessions of the late priory of Rochester in this parish, among other premises, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where the inheritance of them now remains.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 10l. and the yearly tenths at 1l.

The dean and chapter of Rochester continue patrons of this vicarage.

The parsonage of Aylesford has a manor belonging to it, called the manor of the parsonage of Aylesford.

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On the intended abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of king Charles I. this manor and parsonage, with its appurtenances, and a wood, called Blaze wood, late belonging to the dean and chapter, were surveyed in 1694, when it appeared, that the two barns, yards, and other necessary buildings, and two acres of glebe land, were worth 3l. per ann. and the tithes 77l. per ann. all which were let by the dean and chapter, anno 15 Charles I. to Sir George Fane, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of 22l. and two weather sheep, or 26s. 8d. in money; out of which lease the vicarage was excepted, which was then valued at 60l. per annum./u

The present lessee, under the dean and chapter of Rochester, of this manor and parsonage, with Blaze wood, is the Right Hon. Thomas lord Despencer.

CHURCH OF AYLESFORD.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTOR.

..... Jordan, about the year
1145./w

VICARS.

Master and Brethren of Stroud

Hospital. Gregory de Elmham, 1287./x

John Stubbecroft, 1422./y

John Roche, 1501./z

Dean and Chapter of Rochester. George Smith, S. T. P. 1626./a

Thomas Tilson, 1691./b

Thomas Tilson, instit. Aug. 26,
1702./c

John Lawry, A. M. obt. Aug.

1773, resig. 1781./d

Charles Coldcall, A. M. presented

Nov. 1773./e

John Eveleigh, S. T. P. Present

vicar./f

/u Ect. Thes. p. 384. Parl. Surveys,
Lambeth lib. vol. xiv.

/w Reg. Roff p. 10. /y Ibid. p. 149.

/x Ibid. 156. /z Ibid. 426.

/a In 1626, a dispensation passed for
his holding this vicarage with Farn=
borough.

/b And rector of Ditton.

/c Also rector of Ditton, and son of
the former vicar.

/d He was also rector of Lee, and
prebendary of Rochester.

/e In 1773, a dispensation passed for
holding this vicarage with Ashburnham
in Sussex; he was likewise prebendary
of Rochester, and had been before vi=
car of Ashford; he resigned this vi=
carage for Kingsdown near Wrotham.

/f Provost of Oriel college, and vicar
of Lamberhurst.

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ALLINGTON.

ON the opposite side of the river Medway, though
about two miles higher up, from the town of Ayles=
ford, adjoining to the eastern part of that parish, lies
Allington, called in Domesday, Elentun,/g and in many
records Alynton.

THE PARISH of Allington is very small, the soil is a
loam, thinly covering the quarry rock, so prevalent in
these parts; the river Medway is its eastern boundary.
The castle is situated within a few yards of the river,
from which it is nearly excluded by the range of trees
on the bank of it. It is a venerable ruin, and though
now only used as a farm house, was, in Henry VIII.'s
reign, and afterwards, the habitation of the Knight's
family of Wyatt, who resided in it with much reputa=
tion and splendor till their forfeiture of it for treason,
in queen Mary's reign. The remains are of considera=
ble extent, and many of its external parts are in a good
state of preservation. The moat and ditch which sur=
rounded it still exists; hence the ground rises about
half a mile south-eastward up the London road, through
Wrotham to Maidstone, which is about two miles dis=
tant. On the other side the road the parish continues
southward about half a mile further among the coppice
woods, as far as the Hermitage, formerly the chapel
of St. Stephen of Longsole, mentioned before, under
Aylesford parish.

There is said to have been a castle erected at this
place in the time of the Saxons, which was afterwards
demolished by the Danes. It afterwards came into the
possession of Ulnoth, fourth son of earl Godwin, and
after the conquest was part of those vast possessions with

/g Leland, in his poem, *Næniæ in Mortem Tho. Viati Equitis (Senioris)* calls this place *Alaunodunum*, and *Alaunia*.

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which William the Conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, the great bishop of Baieux, under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in the survey of Domesday:

Anschild holds Elentun of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is three carucates. In demesne there are two, and 15 villeins, with two borderers, having one carucate and a half. There is a church, and two servants, and half a mill, and one den of 15 shillings. Wood for the pannage of eight hogs, and one acre of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth one hundred shillings, when he received it 60 shillings, now 100 shillings. Ulric held it of Alnod Cilt.

This Alnod Cilt was Ulnoth, fourth son of earl Godwin, and younger brother to king Harold, who from the royalty of his kindred, had the addition of Cilt, a similar denomination to the Latin word *Clito*, with which those of royal blood were always honoured in those times.

On the bishop's disgrace, which happened about four years afterwards, this, among the rest of his possessions, was confiscated to the crown, from whence it was soon afterwards granted by the Conqueror to his kinsman, William earl of Warren, in Normandy, who had greatly assisted him against the bishop, in the rebellion the latter had raised against him, being nephew to the countess Gunnora, the king's great grandmother, and was afterwards created, by king William Rufus, earl of Surry. He bore for his arms, Chequy, or and azure.^{/h}

Earl Warren rebuilt the castle here, and then transmitted his interest in this place to the lord Fitz Hugh, whose daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Sir Giles Allington,^{/i} one of whose descendants passed it

^{/h} Dugdale's *Baronetage*, vol. i. p. 73. Philipott, p. 41.

^{/i} See *History of Essex*, 8vo. vol. ii. p. 193.

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away, in the latter end of king Henry III.'s reign, to Sir Stephen de Penchester, constable of Dover castle, and warden of the cinque ports.^{/k} In the 8th year of king Edward I. he obtained a grant of a market weekly on the Tuesday at this manor, and a fair for three days yearly, on the vigil, the feast of St. Laurence, and the day after; and afterwards, that year, free warren in all his demesne lands within it; and next year he obtained the king's licence to erect a castle here, and to fortify and embattle it, by which it should seem, that he either rebuilt the castle here, or that it was before only some small building or fort, not esteemed of sufficient size to be called a castle; by which means this place came to be called, in several records of that time, Allington Penchester. He died without issue male, leaving two daughters his coheirs; on the partition of whose inheritance, this estate of Allington was allotted to Henry de Cobham, of Rundale, in Shorne,

second son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, in right of Joane his wife, the eldest of them; and in his descendants it continued till one of them, in the beginning of king Edward IV.'s reign, alienated this manor and castle, which had been for some time from them, called Allyngton Cobham, to Rob. Brent;/l and his grand son, William Brent, in the beginning of king Henry VII.'s reign, alienated them to Sir Henry Wyatt, privy counsellor to that prince, who was descended of a good family in Yorkshire./m He had been imprisoned in the Tower in the reign of Richard III. and was preserved by a cat, which fed him whilst prisoner there; for which reason he is always pictured with a cat in his arms, or beside him. On the accession of king Henry VII. he had great marks of favour shewn

/k Kilburne's Survey, p. 11. See more of him under Penshurst, vol. iii. p. 231.

/l Philipott, p. 41. Mr. Petit Fœdary of Kent his book.

/m See his pedigree in Visit. Co. Kent, anno 1619, and more of them under Boxley.

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him, being knighted, and made one of the privy council. In the 15th year of king Henry VIII. he procured his lands to be disgavelled, by an act passed particularly for that purpose; he resided at this castle, of which, and the manor, he died possessed in the 24th year of that reign, then held of Sir William Stoner, as of his manor of Horton Kirkby. He left an only son and heir, Sir Thomas Wyatt, born in this castle, who was accounted a most accomplished gentleman, and well esteemed both for his learning and poetry; soon after his father's death, he was knighted, made of the privy council, and sent ambassador to the emperor, where he acquitted himself greatly to the king's satisfaction./n In the 28th year of king Henry VIII.'s reign, he served the office of sheriff, and afterwards made a fair seat, as writers of that time term it, of this castle.

Anthony Wood calls him the delight of the muses and of mankind, and says, that being sent by the king towards Falmouth, in Cornwall, in the heat of summer, he was seized with a violent fever, and stopping at Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, he died and was buried there, being thirty-eight years old. Leland,/o in his poem, styles him incomparabilis, and highly celebrates his praises. He was a great favourite of Henry VIII. and by a bon mot raised the king's courage to go forwards with the Reformation, by telling him, it was a hard thing a man could not repent without the pope's leave.

On his death, which happened in the 34th year of that reign, leaving a son of his own name, who having in the 1st year of queen Mary, with other gentlemen of note in this county, raised a rebellion,/p on their disgust to the queen's marriage with king Philip of Spain,

/n See his instructions, and letters to and from him, whilst ambassador, in the British museum, Harleian MSS. No. 282.

/o Ath. Oxon. vol. i. p. 56.

/p An account of this rebellion was published in 1535, by John Proctor, in black letter. <STC 20407-8>

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he marched with his followers to London, but was

there deserted by them, upon which he surrendered himself to Sir Maurice Berkeley, who being on horseback, took Sir Thomas up behind him, and carried him to Whitehall, where he was made prisoner, and committed to the Tower; and being found guilty on his trial, was beheaded on Tower hill, his body quartered, and his head set up on a pole, which was afterwards stolen away./q

On his death this castle and manor, with the advowson, became forfeited to the crown, where they continued till queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted a lease of the house and manor of Allington to John Astley, esq. master of her jewels, and afterwards, by her letters patent, dated in her 26th year, granted the castle, manor, and advowson of this church, to his son, Sir John Astley, and his heirs male in tail in general, to hold by knights service, at the rent of 100l. 2s. 7d. per ann. and he having about the same time a grant of the palace at Maidstone, resided there. Soon after which the mansion of this castle, being uninhabited, fell to decay, and the park round it was disparked. Sir John Astley bore for his arms, Azure, a cinquefoil ermine; he was descended from Thomas de Astley, son and heir of Walter de Estley, who lived in the reign of king Henry III. and was baron of Astley castle, in Warwickshire. By his first wife he was ancestor of the Astleys of Pateshall, in Staffordshire, baronets; and by his second, who was heir of Constable, of Melton Constable in Norfolk; he was ancestor of those of Hill Morton and of Melton Constable, baronets, which latter bear for their arms the same coat as the elder branch of this family, of Pateshall, with the addition of a bordure ingrailed or; of this branch of Hill Morton and Melton Constable, was Thomas Astley, esq. who

/q See Rapin, vol. ii. p. 38. Fox's Martyrs, vol. iii. p. 24, 25, 79, 81, 855.

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had three wives; from the first of whom was descended Isaac, who was father of Thomas, of Melton Constable; and Jacob, created lord Astley; and from the second, John Astley, esq. master of the jewels to queen Elizabeth, who died before the middle of that reign, leaving a son, Sir John Astley, as before mentioned./r He was of the band of pensioners to queen Elizabeth, and master of the revels to kings James and Charles I. and of the privy chamber to the latter, and dying in 1639, was buried at Maidstone, without surviving issue;/s so that his three sisters became his coheirs, but this manor, castle, and advowson, with his other estates in this neighbourhood, he gave by will to his kinsman, Sir Jacob Astley, above mentioned, who was a man of great reputation for his bravery and conduct, acquired in the military service of foreign princes, and still more so for his faithful services to king Charles I. to whom he resorted in the beginning of the grand rebellion, and behaved with distinguished courage in the several battles and sharp encounters then fought, being a general of the king's forces, and governor of his garrisons of Oxford and Reading; and as a further reward, was, by letters patent, dated in the 20th year of that reign, created baron Astley, of Reading, in the

county of Berks. He died at Maidstone, in 1651, and was there buried, having had five sons; Isaac, who succeeded him, as lord Astley, and in this estate, and four others, who died, s. p. and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married her kinsman, Sir Edward Astley, of Melton, as will be mentioned hereafter. Isaac, lord Astley, dying in 1662, was buried near his father, leaving his son, Jacob lord Astley, his successor, who dying, s. p. in 1688, was buried at Maidstone, and the barony became extinct, but this castle, manor, and advowson, came, among the rest of his entailed lands, to Sir Jacob

/r Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 668. Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 63, iv. 369.

/s See Dugd. History of St. Paul's Cathedral, p. 123.

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Astley, bart. of Melton Constable, in Norfolk, descended from Thomas, the eldest brother of Jacob, the first lord Astley, and ancestor of the present baronets of that place, who, in the 6th year of George I. anno 1720, alienated them, with other estates in this neighbourhood, for which an act passed that year, to Sir Robert Marsham, bart. lord Romney, whose grandson, the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney is the present possessor of them.

There are no parochial charities.

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

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, is a small mean building. In the church yard lies buried Mr. Drayton, of Maidstone, a most ingenious person, and an excellent botanist.

This church has always been accounted an appendage to the manor, and as such is now in the patronage of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney. It is a rectory, and is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 35l. the yearly tenths of which are, 13s. 8d./u

CHURCH OF ALLINGTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Allington. Robert de Donam, anno 25 Edward I./w

Odo ibid./x

William Sprote, in 1422./y

Wm. Carr, A. M. about 1630./z

Edward Darby, in 1685.

John Richards, resig. in 1714.

Richard Spencer, A. M. instituted

Oct. 27, 1714.

Edward Weller, 1757.

Hon. Jacob Marsham, S. T. P.

1789. Present rector./a

/t Coll. Bar. vol. iii. p. 65.

/u Ect. Thes. p. 384.

/w Prynne's Records, vol. iii. p. 712.

/x Ibid. vol. iii. p. 571.

/y Reg. Roff. p. 156.

/z MSS. Twysden. He was presented by the crown.

/a And prebendary of Rochester.

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DITTON.

WESTWARD from Allington lies the parish of Ditton, called in antient records, Dictune. It takes its name from the Saxon words dic and tune, which signify the village situated on the dike, or trench of water.

THE SITUATION and soil of this parish is much the same as that of Allington, last described. The high road from London, through Wrotham, to Maidstone, crosses the middle of it, at the thirty-first mile stone; the village stands on it, and the church about a quarter of a mile further southward, on an ascent, beyond which, the parish reaches into the large tract of copice woods, which extends as far as Teston and Barming. The stream, from Bradborne park runs through this parish and village, across the above road, and having turned two mills, one above and the other below it, runs on to the river Medway, which is the northern boundary of this parish, near the north-west extremity of which, on the road leading from Larkfield to Newhith, and not far distant from that hamlet and the river, is Borough court. This parish is rather an obscure place, and has nothing further worthy of notice in it.

This parish, among others, was antiently bound to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

IN THE WOODS, at the southern part of this parish, are many trees of the mountain ash, with berries, called in Gerarde, *Sorbus silvestris*, sive *fraxinus bubula*, the quicken tree, wild ash, or service tree; and by Miller, *Sorbus aucuparea*, the wild service, or quicken tree.

THIS PLACE, at the time of the taking of the survey of Domesday, in the reign of the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the king's half brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in it.

/b Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 1473.

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Haimo the sheriff holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Dictune. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two, and 20 villeins, with five borderers, having three carucates. There is a church and 6 servants, and one mill of 10 shillings, and eight acres of meadow, and 35 acres of pasture. Wood for the pannage of six hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth 8 pounds, when he received it 100 shillings, now 8 pounds. Sbern held it of king Edward.

There was at the above time in this parish likewise another estate, called SIFLETONE, part of the possessions also of the bishop of Baieux, which is thus entered in the same book, immediately after that above described.

Vitalis holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Sifletone. It was taxed at three yokes. The arable land is one carucate. In demesne there is one carucate and an half, and six villeins, with one borderer, having half a carucate. There are six servants, and one mill of 10s. There are ten

acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 40 shillings, when he received it four pounds, now 100 shillings. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, two men, Leuuin and Uluuin, held this land in coparcenary, and could turn themselves over with this land to whomever they would.

The estate first described appears to have been what has since been known by the name of the MANOR of DITTON, with the appendant MANOR of BRAMPTON.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, Ditton became confiscated to the crown; after which it appears to have been held of the Clares, earls of Gloucester, by a family who assumed their surname from it.

In the reign of king Edward I. William de Ditton held the manor of Ditton of the earl of Gloucester, at which time the manor of Brampton, once part of it, was held by William de Brampton of the above Wm. de Ditton, and by him of the earl of Gloucester./c In the

/c Book of Knights Fees, in the exchequer.

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beginning of the next reign of king Edward II. Ralph de Ditton and Joan de Lewkenore were owners of these manors; after which they both passed into the name of Aldon, and Thomas de Aldon, in the 20th of king Edward III. paid aid for both of them, held in manner as above mentioned.

THE MANOR OF SIFLETONE came to the crown likewise on the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, and was afterwards held by a family who took their name from it. In the reign of king Henry III. and beginning of that of king Edward I. William de Sifleston held it of Wm. Ditton above mentioned, as he again did of the earl of Gloucester; from which name it passed into that of Burghersh, and Robert de Burghersh, constable of Dover-castle, warden of the five ports, and a baron of this realm, died possessed of this manor, in the 34th year of king Edward I. anno 1305,/d whose son and heir, Stephen, in the 1st year of Edward II. obtained a charter of free warren for all his demesne lands within it. He was succeeded, in the 3d year of king Edward II. by Bartholomew lord Burghersh, from whom this manor seems to have passed to Tho. de Aldon, who, in the 20th year of king Edward III. was likewise possessed of the manor of Ditton, with that of Brampton, as has been already mentioned. He died in the 35th year of that reign, anno 1360, and these manors came into the family of Paveley, from which they passed to that of Windlesor, or Windsor, in the 1st year of king Richard II. in which name they continued till the 15th year of that reign, when they were conveyed by sale to Sir Lewis Clifford, K. B. descended from the Cliffords, of Clifford castle, in Herefordshire, whose son, Wm. Clifford, of Bobbing, esq. in Kent, sold them in Henry V.'s reign to Sir Wm. Colepeper, whose son, Sir Rich. Colepeper,/e of Oxenhoath, sheriff

/d Dugdale's Bar. vol. ii. p. 34. Rot. Esch. ejus an.

/e Philipott, p. 132; and pedigree of Colepeper.

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in the 11th year of king Edward IV. died possessed of

these manors in the 2d year of king Richard III. and leaving no issue male, his three daughters, Margaret, married to William Cotton, of Oxenhoath; Joyce to Edmund lord Howard; and Elizabeth to Henry Barham, esq. became his coheirs. They, in the next reign of king Henry VII. joined in the sale of these manors to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Liminge, who left a son and heir, John Leigh, alias a Legh, esq. of Adington, in Surry;/f and he, in the 35th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged these manors with the king for other lands elsewhere,/g who next year granted, among other premises, his lordships or manors of Dytton, Syfflyngton, and Brampton, with all their appurtenances, in Dytton, Syfflyngton, Est Malling, Maidstone, and Brampton, to Sir Thomas Wriothesley, lord Wriothesley, or Wriseley, as the name was usually pronounced, to hold for his life, without any rent or account whatsoever; and the year afterwards he granted to him the fee of these manors and their appurtenances, to hold in capite by knights service, and the next year he had a grant of the tenths reserved by it.

This nobleman was descended from John Wrythesley, commonly called Wrythe, garter king at arms in the reigns of king Edward IV. and king Henry VII. who left issue two sons, Thomas, likewise garter on his father's death; and William, York herald, whose son was Thomas, lord Wriothesley, above mentioned. He had been, in the 35th year of that reign, created a baron, by the title of lord Wriothesley, of Titchfield, in the county of Southampton, and next year made lord chancellor, in the room of lord Audley, deceased, and a privy counsellor, and shortly afterwards knight of the Garter;/h and anno 1 Edward VI. being three days before the coronation, he was created earl of Southamp=

/f MSS. pedigree of Leigh. See East Wickham, vol. ii. p. 197.

/g Deeds of Purchase and Exchange. Augtn. Off. Box D. 8.

/h Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 383, 384.

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ton, bearing for his arms, Azure, a plain cross or, between four falcons closed, argent. Soon after which, that same year, he alienated these manors, with their appurtenances, to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, who in the 1st and 2d year of king Philip and queen Mary, conveyed them to Sir Tho. Pope, in which name they remained till the next reign of queen Elizabeth, when they were alienated to Wiseman; and in the 24th year of it, these manors were the joint property of William, George, and Philip, and John Wiseman, brothers, as I conjecture, which Philip, having purchased the shares of the others, appears the next year, to have been in the possession of the whole see of them./i

From the name of Wiseman these manors were conveyed, in the reign of king James I. to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Teston, knight, in this county, who died possessed of them in 1632. His eldest son, Sir John Boteler, of Teston, died without issue, upon which his next brother, Sir William Boteler, became his heir, and was created a baronet in 1640. His great grand son, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Teston, died in 1772, without surviving issue,/k and by will gave one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sut=

ton, and the other moiety to Elizabeth, viscountess dowager of Folkestone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, since deceased; and on a partition of these estates, the manor of Ditton, with Brampton and Syfleston, or Siffington, as it is now called, and the apurtenances belonging to them, was allotted to the Rt. Hon. lady dowager Folkestone, who died in 1782, and was succeeded by her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, the present possessor of them, who has since taken the name of Pusey, and is the present owner of this estate.

BOROUGH-COURT, the proper name of which is Brooke-court, is a manor which lies at the northern extremity of this parish, at no great distance from New=

/i Rot. Esch. anno 24 Eliz. pt. ii. Ibid. anno 25 Eliz. pt. 9.

/k MSS. pedigree of Boteler. See Teston. Philipot, p. 232.

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hith, and the river Medway. It was part of the possessions of the eminent family of Colepeper, so early as the reign of Edward III. in the first year of which, Walter Colepeper, esq. was found to die possessed of it; in whose descendants it afterwards continued down to Richard Colepeper, esq. afterwards knighted, who was of Oxenhoath, in this county; and died possessed of this manor in the 2d year of king Richard III. anno 1484, leaving his three daughters his coheirs; Margaret, married to William Cotton, of Oxenhoath; Joice to Edmund lord Howard; and Elizabeth to Henry Barham, of Teston.

After which it was alienated to Francis Shakerly, of Lancashire, the second son of Peter Shakerly, of Shakerly, in that county, who bore for his arms, Argent, a chevron, vert between three tufts, or mounts of grass of the second; who upon this removed into Kent, and resided at Brooke-court. He had six sons, of whom Richard, the eldest, was his heir; Thomas, the second son, was of Wrotham; the third son was of Otham; and by Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Darel, of Scotney, left a son Francis, who was elected fellow of All Souls college, in 1620.

Rich. Shakerley, esq. the eldest son, was of Brooke-court, and had issue a son John, born about the year 1600; and a daughter Mary, who was married to Mr. Peter Bewley, descended from those of Bewley-court, in Woldham; and she, on her brother's death, without issue, entitled her husband to this manor. They had two daughters, Elizabeth, who died unmarried, in 1638; and Mary, who became her father's heir, and carried this manor in marriage to Mr. Basse, of Suffolk, who, in the beginning of the reign of king Charles II. alienated it to Sir Thomas Twisden, one of the judges of the court of King's bench.

He was second son of Sir William Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, by Anne his second wife, daughter of the first countess of Winchelsea, and was created a baronet in 1666. He afterwards seated himself at

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Bradborne, in the adjoining parish of East Malling; and in his descendants it has continued down to Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. of Bradborne, the pre=

sent owner of it.

There is a court baron held for this manor.

DITTON-PLACE is a mansion in this parish, which was, in the beginning of king James I.'s reign, the residence of the family of Brewer, many of whom lie buried in this church, and it continued with them till the beginning of this century, when, by mortgage or purchase, it came into the possession of Thomas Golding, esq. of Leyborne, sheriff in 1703, who gave it by will to his nephew, Mr. Thomas Golding, of Ryarsh, who sold it to John Brewer, esq. counsellor at law, whose niece, Mrs. Carney, of West Farleigh, about 1735, reconveyed it back again to Mr. Tho. Golding, whose son, Mr. John Golding, is now in the possession of it.

CHARITIES.

THOMAS GOLDING, gent. by will in 1704, gave a rent charge of 10s. to be paid yearly out of a house vested in admiral Forbes, in St. Leonard's-street, in Town Malling, to be distributed to the poor on Easter and Christmas days, and now of that annual product.

THE REV. THOMAS TILSON, by will in 1750, gave 100l. in money; the yearly produce to be distributed annually on the feasts of All Saints and the Purification, in wood and wheat to the poor, vested in Sir John Twisden, and of the annual produce of 3l.

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

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, with a square tower at the west end.

The church of Ditton was given, in the reign of king Henry II. by William, whose surname is not mentioned, though it appears that he was lord of this parish, in free and perpetual alms, to the canons of the priory of Ledes, which was confirmed by Hamo his son, likewise lord of Ditton, and by Gualeran, at that time bishop of Rochester.

Gilbert de Glanvill, the successor of bishop Gualeran, further granted to the prior and canons, the par-

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sonage of this church, in perpetual alms, and assigned to them, in the name of the parsonage, one bezant. In Latin bezantus. This was a piece of money coined by the western emperors at Constantinople, or Byzantium; of this there were two sorts, gold and silver, both which passed in England; the latter was worth two shillings, of which kind was that above-mentioned. It was to be received yearly from this church for ever, by the hand of the vicar of it, to be presented by them, and instituted by the bishop. Bishop Richard de Wendover, in the reign of king Henry III. confirmed the same, and granted that the religious should possess the parsonage and two shillings per annum, as a pension to be paid by the vicar, who being by them presented to the bishop, should possess the residue of this church, in the name of the vicarage of it. By which it appears that this church was a vicarage endowed with the parsonage of it, held of the religious, by the yearly pension of two shillings, how it came since to be esteemed a rectory I know not.

It is valued in the king's books at 11l. 15s. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 3s. 6d.

The patronage of this rectory, (for such it seems to have been accounted at the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the reign of king Henry VIII.) was, together with the pension of two shillings, and the rest of the possessions of that house surrendered into the king's hands, and became part of the possessions of the crown.

In the reign of king James I. Richard Shakerley, esq. was patron of this church. The present patron is the right hon. Heneage, earl of Aylesford, in whose family it has been some time.

The pension of two shillings yearly, payable to the priory of Leeds, as above-mentioned, was settled by king Henry VIII. in his 33d year, by his dotation charter, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, who now enjoy it.

/l See the further confirmations of this church, Reg. Roff. p. 212.

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CHURCH OF DITTON.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Priory of Leeds Laurence Skoye, in 1501./m

The Queen William Clough, Oct. 10, 1553./n

Richard Shakerley, esq. William Prew, A. M. obt. Sept. 28, 1638./o

William Jole, A. M. obt. Sept. 19, 1678./p

Thomas Tilson./q

Thomas Tilson, inst. Oct. 29, 1702./r

Earl of Aylesford John Oare, 1750, obt. 1773.

Joseph Butler Milner, 1773, S.

T. P. obt. July, 1784./s

Samuel Bishop, A. M. 1784, ob.

Nov. 17, 1795./t

Richard Warde, A. M. 1796.

Present rector.

/m Reg. Roff. p. 426.

/n Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 348.

/o He lies buried in the chancel.

/p He lies buried in the chancel.

/q And vicar of Aylesford.

/r Son of the former, and vicar of Aylesford.

/s And vicar of Burham.

/t Head master of Merchant Taylor's school, and rector of St. Martin's.

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SNODLAND.

NORTHWARD from Ditton, on the western side of the Medway, a small part of Aylesford at New Hyth intervening, is Snodland, called in Domesday, ESNOILAND, and in the Textus Roffensis, SNODDINGLAND and SNODILAND.

SNODLAND lies on the western bank of the river, which is its eastern boundary opposite to Burham. The high road from Stroud to Larkfield goes through the village, which is situated about half a mile, and the church about midway from the river. It lies low, and

being near the salt marshes, is not either very pleasant or very wholesome. In the southern part of the parish the stream which flows from Birling turns a pa=

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per mill here, and thence flows into the Medway, not far from which is Snodland and New-Hyth common. In the northern part of the parish next to Lower Halling, is the hamlet of Holborough, usually called Holborow, no doubt for Old Borough, a name implying the antiquity of this place. Many are inclined to believe, that the usual passage across the river in the time of the Romans, was from hence to Scarborough on the opposite shore. However that may be, Holborow was certainly known to them, for in queen Elizabeth's reign, an urn filled with ashes was discovered in digging for chalk on the hill above this place, a sure token of the Romans having frequented it. /u In this hamlet Mr. John May resides in a handsome new-built house, near it there rises a small brook, which flows from hence into the Medway, at about half a mile distance. From this low and flat country, on the bank of the river, the ground rises westward up to the range of high chalk hills, where the land becomes poor and much covered with flints. Upon these hills among the woods is an estate, corruptly called Punish, for it takes its name from the family of Pouenesse, or Pevenashe, written by contraction Poneshe, who were possessed of it as high as king Henry the III'd's. reign, in queen Elizabeth's reign it was called Poynyshe, and was then in possession of the name of Brown, who held it of the bishop of Rochester as of his manor of Halling. /w About a mile eastward from the above is a farm called Lads, which in king Edward I's. reign, and some generations afterwards, was in the possession of a family of that name, written in deeds of those times, Lad, and Le Lad.

This parish ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

/u Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 192.

/w Rot. Esch. anno 4 and 5 Philip and Mary.

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Sir John Marsham, bart. and Sir Charles Bickerstaff, had a design of supplying the towns of Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham, with fresh water, by bringing it from the spring rising at the foot of Holborough hill, and others thereabouts, by a cut or channel through Halling and Cuxton thither, four miles of which was through Sir John Marsham's own lands, but after they had proceeded two miles, finding some obstructions, which could not be removed, but by an act, one was procured for the purpose in the 1st year of James II. but nothing further was afterwards done in it, for what reason does not appear.

In the year 838, king Egbert, with the consent of his son king Æthelwulf, gave to Beormod, bishop of Rochester, four plough lands at Snoddinglond and Holanbeorge, with the privilege of leaving them to whomever he pleased; and he granted that the lands should be free from all service, to which he added one mill on the stream, named Holanbeorges bourne, and

on the hill belonging to the king fifty loads of wood, and likewise four denberies in the Weald. And in the year 841, Ethelwulf, king of the West Saxons, with the advice of his bishops and great men, gave to the bishop two ploughlands at Holanbeorges, in perpetual inheritance, with the like privilege, and that they should be free from all regal service.

Whilst Ælfstane was bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 945, and died in 984, one Birtrick, a rich man, who lived at Meopham, with the consent of Elfswithe, his wife, made his testament, and gave, after their deaths, his lands at Snodland to St. Andrew's church at Rochester./x

The bishop of Rochester continued in the possession of this place at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, about the 15th year of the Conqueror's

/x See Meopham, vol i. of this History, p. 464.

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reign, anno 1080, in which record it is thus entered, under the general title of that bishop's lands:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Esnoiland. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at six sulings, and now at three. The arable land is six carucates. In demesne there are two carucates and ten villeins, with six borderers, having six carucates. There is a church and five servants, and three mills of forty shillings, and thirty acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of four hogs. In the time of king Edward and afterwards, it was worth six pounds, and now nine pounds.

When bishop Gundulph, soon after this, following archbishop Lanfranc's example, separated his revenue from that of his priory, this manor, together with Holborough, continued part of the bishop's possessions, and was confirmed to the church of Rochester by archbishops Anselm and Boniface.

On a taxation of the bishop's manors next year, it appeared that Holeberge was a member of the manor of Halling, and had in it one hundred and ninety-seven acres of arable land, valued at four-pence per acre at the most, as there was no marle there. That there were here fourteen acres of meadow, six acres of pasture, which were salt, and three lately made fresh, each acre at eight-pence, and the mill at twenty shillings per annum.

Hamo, bishop of Rochester, in the year 1323, new built the mill at Holbergh, with timber from Perstede, at the expence of ten pounds./r At which time the bishop seems to have had a park here.

The estate of Snodland with Holborow, still continue part of the possessions of the right reverend the lord bishop of Rochester. William Dalyson, esq. of West Peckham, is the present lessee of the bishop's estate in this parish.

/y Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 363. Reg. Roff. p. 604.

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THE FAMILY of Palmer, who bore for their arms, Argent, a chevron between three palmers scrips, sable, tasselled and buckled, or, resided for some time in this

parish, at a seat they possessed in it, called The court-
lodge. Several of them lie buried in the church of
Snodland, particularly Thomas Palmer, who married
the daughter of Fitzsimond, and died anno 1407.
Weaver recites his epitaph thus, now obliterated:

Palmers al our faders were
I, a Palmer, livyd here
And travylled till worne wythe age
I endyd this worlds pylgramage
On the blyst Assention day
In the cherful month of May
A thowsand wyth fowre hundryd seven
And took my jorney hense to Heuen

From him descended the Palmers, of Tottington,
in Aylesford, and of Howlets, in Bekesborne, now
extinct.

The Palmers were succeeded here by the Leeds's,
one of whom, William Leeds, lay interred in this
church, whose arms, A fess between three eagles, were
engraved in brass on his tomb, but they are now torn
away; to whom, in the reign of king Charles I. suc=
ceeded the Whitfields, of Canterbury. It afterwards
passed into the name of Crow, and from thence to the
Mays, and it is now the estate of Mr. John May, of
Holborough.

VELES, alias SNODLAND, is a manor in this parish,
which in the reign of king Edward I. was held as half
a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester, by John de
Pevenashe, John Harange, and Walter Lad, as copar=
ceners, and in the 20th year of king Edward III. Ri=
chard Pevenashe, John de Melford, John Lade, and
Richard le Veel, paid aid for it.

This manor seems afterwards to have been wholly
vested in the family of Veel, called in deeds likewise

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Le Vitele, and in Latin Vitulus. After they were ex=
tinct here, it passed into the name of Blunt, and from
that to Turvy, of whose heirs it was held in the latter
end of the reign of king Henry VIII. by Richard Har=
vey./z It passed, after some intermediate owners, by
sale to Crow, and from thence in like manner to Mr.
John May, whose two sons, Mr. John and William
May, of this parish, afterwards possessed it. The
latter died in 1777, on which the entire fee of it be=
came vested in his brother Mr. John May, of Holbo=
rough, the present possessor of it.

HOLLOWAY COURT is a seat in this parish, which
gave name to a family that resided at it. Henry de
Holeweye paid aid for it in the beginning of the reign
of king Henry III./a His descendant, William de
Holeweye possessed it in the 30th year of king Ed=
ward I. from which name it passed into that of Tilgh=
man, who were owners of it in the reign of king Ed=
ward III. Many of whom lie buried in this church,
bearing for their arms, Per fess sable and argent, a lion
rampant regardant, doubled queved counterchanged,
crowned, as they were painted in very old glass in the
windows of this house. Their pedigree is in Vistn. co.
of Kent, anno 1619.

Richard Tilghman possessed it in the reign of king
Henry IV. and in his descendants it continued down to

Edward Tilghman, esq. who was of Snodland, and was twice married; by his first wife he had a son, Francis, and by his second, two sons, the eldest of whom, Whetenhall Tilghman, had part of his father's lands in this parish, which continued in his descendants till about the year 1680, when they were alienated to Sir John Marsham, bart. whose descendant, the right honorable Charles, lord Romney, is the present possessor of them.

/z Mr. Petitt Fœdary of Kent his book.

/a Philipott, p. 322. Reg. Roff. p. 602.

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Francis Tilghman, only son of Edward, by his first wife, was of Snodland, and possessed Holoway-court, where he resided in the reign of king James I. but died without surviving issue. He passed away this estate by sale to Clotworthy, descended from those of that name in Devonshire, and he by will gave it to his sister's son, Mr. Thomas Williams, who alienated it to Richard Manley, esq. who resided here, and dying in 1684, was buried in this church, leaving by Martha, daughter of John Baynard, of Shorne, widow of Bonham Faunce, of St. Margaret's, Rochester one son, Charles, and a daughter, Frances, married to Dr. Robert Conny, hereafter-mentioned. He sold Holoway court to Mr. John Conny, of Rochester, surgeon, son of Robert Conny, gent. of Godmanchester, in Huntingdonshire, and bore for his arms, Sable, a fess argent, cotized or, between three conies of the second. On whose decease his eldest son, Robert Conny, of Rochester, M. D. succeeded to it, and he sold it to Thomas Pearce, esq. a commissioner of the navy, whose three sons and coheirs, Thomas, Best, and Vincent Pearce, conveyed it by sale to Mr. John May, and his eldest son, Mr John May, of Holborough, in this parish, now possesses it.

CHARITIES.

WILLIAM ALISANDER gave by will in 1469, the annual sum of 2l. 12s. to be paid out of land, and to be distributed to the poor in bread, but this has not been paid in the memory of any person now living.

EDWARD GODDEN, gent. gave by will in 1661, to put out poor children apprentices, land vested in the churchwardens and overseers, now of the annual produce of 10l.

SNODLAND is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese and deanry of Rochester.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. It is a small mean building with a low pointed steeple.

The church of Snodland has ever been appendant to the manor. It has never been appropriated, but con=

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tinues a rectory in the patronage of the right reverend the lord bishop of Rochester.

Much dispute having arisen between the rector of this parish, and the rector of Woldham, on the opposite side of the river Medway, concerning the tithe of fish caught within the bounds of the parish of Woldham by the parishioners of Snodland, the same was settled, with the consent of both parties, by the bishop of

Rochester, 1402, as may be seen more at large in the account of the rectory of Woldham./b

This rectory is valued in the king's books at twenty pounds, and the yearly tenths at two pounds.

CHURCH OF SNODLAND.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Bishop of Rochester Wynand de Dryland, in 1295./c

John de Denyngtone, in 1338./d

William de Meddeltone, in 1346./e

Roger at Cherche, in 1402./f

Thomas Dalby, obt. October 6,

1472./g

..... Medherst, S. T. P. about

1630./h

..... Thomas.

John Walyn, admitted in 1681,

obt. Jan. 8, 1712./i

Thomas Washer, 1723, obt.

1748.

Lewis Hughes, A. M. 1748, ob.

1793.

Henry Wollaston, 1793, the pre=

sent rector.

/b See above, p. 160, and Reg. Roff.
p. 605.

/c Reg. Roff. p. 260.

/d Ibid. p. 430.

/e Ibid. p. 128.

/f Ibid. p. 606.

/g He lies buried in the chancel of
this church.

/h MSS. Twysden.

/i He lies buried in the chancel of
this church; his son was minister of
Cowdham.

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PADLESWORTH NEAR SNODLAND.

PADLESWORTH, commonly called Paulsford, lies the next parish westward from Snodland. It is called in Domesday PELLESORDE, and in the Textus Roffensis PÆDLESWRTHA.

THIS PARISH is very small, it lies between Snodland and the foot of the chalk hills, north-westward, on a chalky soil, which is but poor, the court-lodge with the ruins of the church near it, stands near in the centre of the parish, which is very obscure, and but little known to any one. This parish ought antiently to have contributed towards the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge./k

AT THE TIME of taking the survey of Domesday, about the year 1080, this place was part of the vast possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in that record:

Hugo de Port holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Pellesorde. It was taxed at half a suling. The arable land

is In demesne there is one carucate, and one vil= lein, with four borderers, having three oxen. There is a church, and two servants, and five acres of meadow, and one acre of pasture. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth twenty shillings, when he received it thirty shillings, now forty shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

The property of this place seems antiently to have been divided and in the possession of different owners.

The greatest part of this manor in the reign of king Henry III. seems to have been in the possession of the family of Chetwode, one of whom, Robert de Chet= wode, exchanged it with Hamo de Gatton, of Throw=

/k Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 424.

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ley, for other lands in Bedfordshire,/l and he passed it away in the same reign to Sir Walter de Huntingfield, who was possessed of it in the 7th year of Edward I./m

In the 11th year of king Edward II. he had a de= mise in ferme from the prior and convent of Ber= mundesey, of their land of Padlesworth, which Roger de Leyborne had formerly given them, in considera= tion of eighty marcs. His son, Sir John de Hun= tingfield, owned it in the next reign of Edward III. when it was certified to have been held at the latter end of the reign of king Henry III. by Ralph de Padles= worth of William de Say, lord of Birling.

There was a remaining part of this manor, being esteemed as one third part of it, held in the reign of king Edward III. by the family of Basing, one of whom held it in the 11th year of that reign, from which name it went quickly after into that of Charles.

Richard Charles died possessed of this third part in the first year of king Richard II. leaving Richard and John, the two sons of his brother Roger Charles his next heirs. Alice, wife of Richard Charles, the elder first- above-mentioned, at the time of her death, in the 9th year of that reign, held of the inheritance of Richard Charles, his kinsman and heir, this third part of the manor of Padlesworth in dower, excepting certain lands which were of the tenure of gavelkind, of which she was not endowed, of the king in capite by knights service, and by homage and fealty, and by the annual castle guard rent of twenty-four shillings to Rochester castle.

Soon after the above time, the whole of this manor seems to have been vested in the name of Bele, from whence it passed to Bullock, and thence again by sale to Diggs, where after staying a very short time, it was alienated to Peckham, and he sold it to Vineley, who

/l Collins's Baronetage, vol. 5, p. 83.

/m Roll of Knights fees in the Remembrancer's office.

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passed it away to William Clifford, esq. of Bobbing= court, and he conveyed it to John Bamberg,/m who bore for his arms, Argent, on a chief, sable, a lion passant of the first. His daughter and heir Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to Nicholas Wotton, esq. and his descen= dant, Sir Edward Wotton, of Boughton Malherb, was,

by king James I. created lord Wotton, of Marley. His son and heir, Thomas, lord Wotton, died in the 6th year of king Charles I. leaving four daughters his coheirs, of whom, Catherine, the eldest, entitled her husband, Henry, lord Stanhope, to the possession of this manor. He died in his father's life-time, in the 10th year of king Charles I. upon which she became again possessed of it in her own right, and afterwards passed it away by sale to John Marsham, esq. of Whornes-place, in Cookstone, afterwards in 1663 created a baronet, and his descendant, the Right Hon. Charles, lord Romney, is the present proprietor of this manor.

It is now held of the manor of Swanscombe, by castle guard rent to the castle of Rochester.

PADLESWORTH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling

This church was antiently esteemed but as a chapel to the adjoining church of Birling. It has been long in ruins; that part of it which is left standing, is built of flint, with ashler quoins, &c. and has been many years made use of as a barn. It stands close to the north side of the farm-yard belonging to the manor-house. It is valued in the king's books at 3l. 6s. 8d.

This church seems always to have been accounted an appendage to the manor, as such the sine cure is now in the patronage of the Right Hon. Charles, lord Romney.

/n Philipott, p. 266. From original deeds in the hands of Mr. Marsham.

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BIRLING.

SOUTH-WESTWARD from Padlesworth lies Birling, so named from the plenty of pasture grounds in it.

THIS PARISH is about three miles square, it lies in rather an obscure unfrequented country, at the foot of the range of chalk hills called here Birling hills, over which it extends to Punish mentioned before in Snodland, and to an estate called BOGHURST, at which Walter, son of John de Bogehurst resided in king Edward the 1st.'s reign, and then held lands of the bishop of Rochester, near his park in Snodland; so there is no doubt but those of this name, now of Frindsbury, Stroud and Rochester, are descended from hence. The soil of this parish is various, in the southern parts sand, near and up the hills chalk and flints, and above them a heavy red earth, much covered with flints; in the low parts there is some tolerable fertile land. The village and church of Birling lies low on the southern side of the parish, having the church in it, between which and the foot of the hills is Birling-place, the antient residence of the Nevills; there are some remains of it yet left, particularly of a gateway of stone, reminding us of its former condition. It is now made use of as a farm-house, a mile from hence eastward is Comford, another seat of this family, adjoining to which they had a park. Henry, lord Bergavenny, re=

sided here, and died at it, anno 29 Elizabeth. It is now only a mean farm-house, and was it not for the mention of this noble family, this parish lies so obscurely that it would hardly be known to any one. In Oxfield, adjoining to the church-yard, many foundations have been from time to time turned up by the plough;

/o See Registrum Roffense, p. 604.

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whilst the Nevills resided here, probably, this place was in a much more flourishing state than it has been of later time. This parish ought antiently to have contributed with others to the repair of the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

THIS PLACE was part of the vast possessions of Odo the great bishop of Baieux, and half brother to the Conqueror, accordingly it is thus entered in the record of Domesday, under the general title of that prelate's lands:

Ralph de Curbespine holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Berlinge. It was taxed at six sulings. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and ten villeins, with fourteen borderers, having six carucates. There is a church and six servants, and one mill of ten shillings, and three hundred and thirty eels, and a fishery of sixty eels. There are twelve acres of meadow, and pasture for fifty cattle, wood for the pannage of forty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth twelve pounds, when he received it six pounds, now twelve pounds. Sbern biga held it of king Edward.

Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, as his name was Englished, resided at Comport, or Comford-park, in the north-east part of this parish, where this family continued till the reign of king Henry II. when they were succeeded in their possessions here by that of Magminot./p Walkelin de Magminot died without issue in the third year of king Richard I. anno 1191, and Alice, his sister became his heir, who carried this manor in marriage to her husband Geoffry, second son of William de Say, who in her right became likewise possessed of large estates at Deptford, Cowdham, and elsewhere in this county./q His descendant, William de Say, died possessed of the manor of Birling, in the 23d

/p Camd. p. 231. Rot. Esch. anno 15 Edward II. Reg. Roff. p. 169, 170. Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 641.

/q See Cowdham and Deptford, vol. i. p. 346. vol. ii. p. 60.

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year of king Edward I. holding it in capite by barony, and in some old deeds Birling is stiled caput baroniæ de Say, that is the capital seat of his barony. These baronies were of no determinate size, being more or less, according to the king's grant, each of which being held in capite by barons, was accounted a compleat barony, notwithstanding the difference in the number of fees contained in each. Those who held them were stiled barons, and as such were always summoned to parliament. But in the reign of king John and king Henry III. they were so greatly increased in numbers, and began to grow so powerful and turbulent, that king Henry, about the 50th year of his reign, summoned

only the best of them by writ to parliament, and king Edward I. as well as his successors, continued the same course; from which time those only were accounted barons, who had writs of summons to parliament, and it has been observed that prudent king constantly summoned the wisest men of the most ancient families, but after their deaths omitted their sons, who equalled not their parents in understanding./r

His son, Geoffry de Say, was summoned to parliament, among the barons of this realm in the 7th year of king Edward II. as were his several descendants afterwards. He died in the 15th year of that reign, being then possessed of this manor, which he held of the king in capite, as of the barony of Maminot./s At length John de Say dying in his minority, and in ward to the king in the 6th year of king Richard II. Elizabeth his sister, became his heir, and possessed of this manor. She married first Sir John de Fallesley, by whom she had no issue, and afterwards Sir William Heron, who possessed this manor and bore the title of lord Say in her right.

/r Madox's Exchequer, p. 220. Chauncy's Hertfordsh. p. 56.
/s Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. 511, 730.

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In the 19th year of king Richard II. he, together with her, by the name of Elizabeth lady Say, levied a fine of it to them and their heirs male, remainder to her own right heirs, four years after which she died, upon which he continued possessed of it till his death in the 6th year of king Henry the IVth. s. p. likewise, all which was found by inquisition then taken, and further that this manor was held in capite, and that there was here a capital messuage and garden adjoining, and different lands therein mentioned, several rents of assize, a park, and two leets in a year, and that after Sir William Heron's death, this manor came by the above fine to her heirs, and next of kin, being the three sisters of her father William de Say and their heirs,/t and upon the partition of their inheritance, this manor among other estates was allotted to Sir William de Clinton, grandson of Idonea, the eldest sister, who thereupon bore the title of lord Clinton and Say, and having been summoned to parliament till the 9th year of king Henry VI. he died the year afterwards, leaving one son, John lord Clinton, his next heir./u

Before which this manor had been for some time in feoffees for particular uses, as appears by an autograph in the Surrenden library, but on his death it became vested in Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester, and lord Bergavenny, son of Sir William, the fourth son of Thomas, earl of Warwick, then married to Sir Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph, the first earl of Westmoreland, by Joane his second wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

The ancestor of this family of Nevill was a Norman, who came into England with the Conqueror, whose grandson Geoffry left an only daughter and heir,

/t Rot. Esch. ejus an. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 730. See Cowdham, vol. ii. p. 60.

/u Dudale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 582.

who married Robert Fitzmaldred, of Raby, in the bishopric of Durham, whose son of the same name, in regard of his mother's great inheritance, assumed the surname of Nevill, and his descendants, from this principal seat of the family, were called Nevills, of Raby, and were summoned to parliament by that title. To trace this numerous and illustrious family, who became related, not only to most of the greatest nobility in this kingdom, but to the royal family likewise, would be much beyond the bounds of this volume, suffice it to notice here, that Ralph Nevill, earl of Westmoreland, by his first wife, was ancestor of the Nevills, earls of Westmoreland, and Nevill, lord Ousley, and by his second wife before-mentioned, he had five daughters and eight sons, most of whom became peers of the realm, and became men of great eminence and renown; for Richard the eldest became earl of Warwick and Salisbury, whose son Richard, the great earl of Warwick, surnamed Make King, ended in two daughters, married to George, duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward IV. and Edward, prince of Wales, son of king Henry VI. and secondly, to Richard, duke of Gloucester, afterwards king Richard III. John was created marquis Montacute, and George was archbishop of York; William was in his wife's right lord Fauconbridge, and was afterwards made earl of Kent; George was, by feoffment from his father, lord Latimer; Edward was baron of Bergavenny as before-mentioned, and Robert was bishop of Durham./w

The arms of Beauchamp are carved in several places on the roof of Canterbury cloysters, as are those of the family of Nevill, with several impalements, as they are on the church itself there, and on the stone gateway leading to it, built about king Henry VIIth's reign.

Sir Edward Nevill, doing his homage for the lands of his wife's inheritance in the 14th year of Henry VI.

/w Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 287 to p. 313.

anno 1435, had possession of them accordingly, excepting the castle and lordship of Bergavenny. Notwithstanding the want of possession of which, he had anno 19 king Henry VI. in his wife's right, the title of lord Bergavenny, according to the antient custom of the realm, though he was not summoned to parliament till ten years afterwards. He died anno 19 Edward IV. being then possessed as tenant by the courtesy of England, of the inheritance of Elizabeth his wife, of this manor, with Mereworth in this county, among others. This custom of being tenant by courtesy was never gainsaid till the reign of king Henry VIII. when Mr. Wimbishe took upon him the style of lord Talbois, in right of his wife, having had no issue by her; when, for avoiding great inconveniences which might arise from it, the king, assisted both by the civil and temporal lawyers, gave sentence – that no man, husband of a baroness, should in her right use the title of her dignity until he had a child by her, by which he should become tenant by courtesy of her barony, for then by the law of England, which gave him title to the barony, he had also title to the dignity, as parcel of the

same inheritance.

Edward Nevill, lord Bergavenny, left by his wife abovementioned, Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, who succeeded him in this manor, and, as his father had before done, attached himself strongly to the interest of the house of York. He died in the 7th year of king Henry VII. anno 1492, and was buried in the priory of Lewes, in Sussex, leaving several sons and daughters, of whom George became his heir; Edward was attainted and executed, whose descendants succeeded in process of time to the title of Bergavenny; Thomas, who was of the privy council, and secretary of state to king Henry VIII. whose only daughter and heir, Margaret, married Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth.

/x Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 500. Dug. Bar. vol. i. p. 309.

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Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, succeeded his father in this manor; and afterwards, on the castle and manor of Abergavenny becoming vested in the crown, by the death of Jasper duke of Bedford, Henry VIII. granted them to him, as unto the true and rightful heir upon a petition of right exhibited by him to the king.

In the 13th year of that reign, anno 1497, when the Cornish rebels encamped on Blackheath, he, with divers other lords, by their great credit and power, prevented this county from joining with them; and he had a share in the victory obtained over them soon afterwards. In the 2d year of king Henry VIII. he was made constable of Dover castle and warden of the cinque ports. In the 5th year of that reign he was elected knight of the Garter, and was afterwards with the king at the sieges of Terouenne and Tournay, and in the 12th year of it was present at the memorable interview between king Henry and Francis I. in the plain between Guisnes and Ardres. His arms, within the garter, are still remaining in the east window of Birling church, containing four quarterings; 1st. Nevill; 2d. Warren; 3d. Clare and Despencer quartered. 4th. Beauchamp. Having married Mary, daughter of Edw. duke of Buckingham, he was suspected of being privy to those treasonable attempts with which the duke was then charged, for which he was imprisoned, though he was, not long afterwards, received into favour. He died in the 27th year of king Henry VIII. possessed of this manor, which then consisted of the manor, with its appurtenances, seven messuages, and two thousand acres of land, in Birling, Ryarsh, and Addington, the advowson of Birling, and the rectory of the church of All Saints in it, and he possessed likewise a toft, pidgeon house, and five hundred acres of arable, meadow, pasture, and wood, in those parishes, which he had purchased of Reginald Peckham; having by his will entailed most of his lands, in failure of heirs male of his

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own body, to the heirs male of his brother, Sir Edward Nevill, the remainder in fee to his own right heirs, and ordered his body, to be buried in the church of Birling; he was three times married.

Henry Nevill, lord Bergavenny, his son and successor, by his second wife Mary, above mentioned, was summoned to parliament in the 3d and 4th year of king Edward VI.

On Sir Thomas Wyatt's insurrection in this county, in the 1st year of queen Mary, he raised a body of forces to oppose him, and overtaking a party of his adherents at Blacksoil-field, in the parish of Wrotham, engaged and routed them there, great numbers being killed; after which he pursued them near four miles, and took sixty of them prisoners. He died at his seat of Comford, in the 29th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, anno 1586, and was buried at Birling with great solemnity.

By the inquisition, taken that year, he was found to die possessed of the manor of Birling, and the manor and rectory of All Saints of Birling, and the advowson of the vicarage of it; and that his daughter, by Frances his wife, daughter of Thomas Manners, earl of Rutland, then aged thirty two, was his sole heir, and was married in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Fane. She challenged the title of baroness of Bergavenny against Edward Nevill, son of Sir Edward Nevill, a younger brother of George, lord Bergavenny, father of this last mentioned Henry, lord Bergavenny. This Sir Edward Nevill had been a great favourite of king Henry VIII. and was said to resemble the king much in person; but in the 29th year of that reign he was accused, and found guilty, with others, of maintaining a correspondence with cardinal Poole, and was thereupon attainted and beheaded, by which he forfeited to the king all his remainder in his brother's

/y Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 310. Coll. Peerage, vol. vi. p. 502.

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lands, entailed on him, who died possessed of the remainder, as did also king Edward VI. but queen Mary, anno 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, restored his son, Edw. Nevill, by act of parliament, to the remainder forfeited, so long as there should be any heir male; but the remainder to the heirs general, was reserved to the queen. He left two sons, Edward above-mentioned, who was restored to the title of lord Bergavenny; and Henry of Billingbear, in Berkshire, from whom the Nevills of that county are descended, on which Sir Edward Nevill the castle of Bergavenny had been settled, both by testament and act of parliament. The dispute was not determined till in the 1st year of king James I. anno 1602, when after great arguments on each side, the title of baron of Bergavenny was, both by judgment of the house of peers, and order of the lords commissioners for the office of earl marshal, decreed for the heirs male; and to give some satisfaction to the heir female, the king, by his letters patent, granted the dignity of baroness le Despencer to her and her heirs, from whom the present lord le Despencer is descended; which Edward Nevill, thus claiming the barony and honour of Bergavenny, died in the 31st year of queen Elizabeth, possessed of this manor and rectory of Birling, and the manors of Ryarsh, Yalding, and Luddesdon, in this county, and was succeeded by Edward Nevill, his eldest son, who, in the 1st year of

king James, had the title of baron of Bergavenny or Abergavenny, as it became now to be generally called, confirmed to him, as above mentioned; and the year after he claimed the title of the earl of Westmoreland, as heir male, but it was determined against him. He married Rachel, daughter of John Lennard, esq. of Knoll, in Sevenoke, by whom he had several sons and daughters; of the former, Sir Henry Nevill, the eldest son, succeeded him in title and estates; and Sir Christopher, the third son, will be mentioned hereafter. Edward lord Abergavenny died in 1622, and was buried with

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his ancestors at Birling, whose descendant, George lord Abergavenny, dying at length without issue, in 1695, was buried in the church of St. Giles in the Fields, in London; upon which the title of lord Abergavenny, as well as this manor and estate of Birling, descended to the heirs male of Sir Christopher Nevill, next surviving son of Edward lord Abergavenny, and Rachel his wife, daughter of John Lennard, esq. of Knoll./z

Sir Christopher Nevill was seated at Newton St. Low, in Somersetshire, and was made knight of the Bath at the coronation of king Charles I. and dying in 1649, was buried at Birling. His grandson, George Nevill, who was seated at Sheffield, in Sussex, had two sons, George, who succeeded as lord Abergavenny in 1695, as above mentioned; and Edward, who was father of William lord Abergavenny, and died in 1701. George lord Abergavenny, with the title, became possessed likewise of this manor of Birling, and had two sons, George and Edward, who succeeded each other in the title.

He died in 1721, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George lord Abergavenny, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Thornicroft, esq. of Westminster, and dying without issue, in 1723, was succeeded in title and this manor by his brother, Edward lord Abergavenny, who married Catherina, daughter of lieutenant general Tatton, and dying without issue, in 1724, in the 19th year of his age, was succeeded in title and this manor by William Nevill, son and heir of Edward Nevill, only brother of George lord Abergavenny, father of George and Edward, the last lords Abergavenny above mentioned.

William lord Abergavenny married Catharina, lady Abergavenny, widow of Edward, the late lord, and by her had a son, George. He married secondly, Rebecca, daughter of Thomas earl of Pembroke, and by her had three daughters and one son; he died at

/z Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 508. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 311.

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Bath, in 1744, and was buried at East Grinstead, and was succeeded in title and this estate by his only son by his first wife, George lord Abergavenny; a who was, by letters patent, dated May 1784, further advanced to the titles of viscount Neville of Birling, in Kent, and earl of Abergavenny in the county of Monmouth. He married Henrietta, widow of the Hon. Richard Temple, and daughter of Thomas Pelham, esq. of Stanmore, in Sussex, by whom he had several chil=

dren, and dying in 1785, was buried at East Grin=sted, being succeeded by his eldest son, the Rt. Hon. Henry earl of Abergavenny, the present possessor of this manor, the church of Birling, and the advowson of the vicarage of it. He married the daughter of John Robinson, esq. of Sion hall, in Middlesex, by whom he has several children. He bears for his arms, Gules, on a saltier argent, a rose of the first, barbed and seeded proper; for his crest, In a ducal coronet or, a bull's head argent, pied sable, armed of the first, and charged on the neck with a rose gules; and for his supporters, Two bulls argent, pied sable, armed, unguled, collared and chained or.

The original arms of Nevill were, Or, fretty gules, on a canton per pale, ermine and or, a ship with three tops sable; but in the reign of king Edward III. the heiress of this name marrying Robert Fitzmaldred, of Raby, though he assumed the name of Nevill, yet he retained his own arms, Gules, a saltier argent, as did all the Nevills, his posterity, with differences on the saltier, for distinction sake, except the eldest branch, earls of Westmoreland, who bore the saltier plain. He bears, including his own, one hundred and eight quarterings.

The old seat of the lords Abergavenny in this pa=rish has been long since neglected, and the park dis=parked; nor have this family resided here for many generations, their present seat being at Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead, in Sussex./b

CHARITIES.

EDWARD GODDIN, alias GODWIN, citizen and haberdasher of London, by will, in 1662, gave for the apprenticing of one or more poor children of this parish, land vested in the church=wardens and overseers, and now of the annual produce of 10l.

/a Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 509, 510. /b Lamb. Peramb. p. 424.

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BIRLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURIS=DICTION of the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Malling.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is a handsome building, consisting of a nave, south isle, and chancel. It has a good tower at the west end of it.

The church of Birling, with certain land in this parish, was given by Walkelin de Maminot, lord of this place, in the 15th year of king Henry II. anno 1168, to the priory of Bermondsey, in perpetual alms; which gift was confirmed by that king. Soon after which it seems to have been confirmed and appropri=ated to it by Walter, bishop of Rochester, at the king's request; and again more amply by the bishops Gua=leran and Gilbert, his successor; and again by the Says, as heirs to the Maminots; and by Geoffry de Say, who married Alice, sister and coheir of Wakelin Maminot. The prior and convent of Rochester, in 1270, John, prior of, and the convent of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, acknowledged an annual pension of 20s. due from this church to the bishop of Rochester, which pension continues to be paid to the bishops of that see.

Upon a writ in the 20th year of king Edward III. the bishop certified, that the prior and convent pos=sessed the appropriation of this church, which was

taxed at ten pounds, and that the religious were not resident upon it./c

Richard Mann, perpetual vicar of this church, about the year 1447, anno 26 Henry VI. made complaint to the archbishop of Canterbury, of the insufficiency of the revenue of the vicarage for his maintenance, and that the prior and convent of Bermondsey, proprietaries of this church, refused to augment the portion of it; and he set forth that the produce and income belonging to the vicar and vicarage, did

/c Registrum Roffense, p. 126, 127.

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not exceed the annual value or sum of 4l. 15s. 8d. in the tithes of calves, milk, and foals 8s. 9d. yearly; in the tithes of lambs, wool, pigs, geese, apples, hemp, and in the tithes of the oblations of the four days yearly; and for sheep and cows forty-one shillings and twelve-pence, in the pension paid to the vicar by the abbot and convent forty-four shillings and ten-pence. And further, that the portion of the vicar and vicarage had been for some time, and was then insufficient, incompetent, and too slender; and that he could not, out of it, be supported in a proper manner, nor undergo the rights and burthens incumbent on him, or his vicarage, nor use that hospitality which he ought and was bound to do. That the parish church had a large and extended parish, containing six miles in circuit, having some of the parishioners of both sexes two miles or thereabout distant from the church, which, when there was occasion, he was bound to visit, and to administer to them the church offices and sacraments. That the mansion of the vicar there, and the buildings belonging to it, were, through the negligence of the abbot and convent, in a ruinous state, and would very soon, fall to the ground; which if they should they could not be rebuilt again for twenty pounds. That he the vicar had exercised the no small cure of souls of the parish church, of one hundred parishioners, or thereabouts, although with great inconvenience, and in great misery and want during the whole time of his having been vicar, and had employed himself in every religious duty to the best of his abilities, and still continued so to do. That the portion of the fruits and profits of the parish church, belonging to the abbot and convent, proprietaries of it, had been from the time of the appropriation of it, and was then so rich and abundant, that, according to common estimation, the portion of the vicar might well be augmented out of it to the value of twenty marcs sterling, or

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thereabout; and that the abbot and convent, although they had been often requested, to augment the portion of the vicarage, out of the revenues of the church, in a competent manner, had, without alleging any reason, always refused it, or at least deferred it beyond reason, to the great damage, &c. Upon which it was decreed, that the prior and convent should augment the portion of the vicarage out of the fruits and profits of this church, or in money, to the

amount of eight marcs sterling, beyond the antient portion of it, within the space of one month; and they were condemned in all costs, &c. but on their neglecting to obey this decree, a further one was made, that in satisfaction of the payment of the said eight marcs, there should be set apart and assigned to the vicar, and his successors, (at his request) the tithes, as well great as small, yearly accruing and arising from the lands, fields, and places below the lane, vulgarly called Benetis-lane, westward, and from the north side of the said lane, according to the bounds and limits of this parish, to those of the parish of Snodland on the north side, and from thence to the bounds and limits of the parish of East Malling on the east side, to the common pasture of Hordo, and from thence to the south end of Benetis-lane aforesaid, &c.

When the church of Birling, and the advowson of the vicarage passed from the above mentioned monastery, I have not found, but it appears by an enrolment made in chancery, and now in the Augmentation-office, that in the 13th year of king Henry VIII. George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, was possessed of a barn, and one hundred and fifty acres of land late belonging to that monastery, and then inclosed in the park of Birling, and also of the rectory of Birling, and all tithes, tenths, &c. belonging to it, and the advowson of the vicarage late belonging to the abbot and convent. Since which, they have descended

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down to the Right Hon. Henry, earl of Abergavenny, the present owner and patron of them.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 6l. 9s. 4¹/₂d. and the yearly tenths at 12s. 11¹/₄d./d

CHURCH OF BIRLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Abbot and convent of Bermondsey. Richard Mann, in 1487./e

Nevill's Lords Abergavenny Philip Shatterthwaite, D. D. sequestered in 1642./f

Thomas Guns, ejected in 1662./g

Michael Rabbett, inst. 1659, ob.

March 25, 1692./h

Theophilus Beck, A. M. ob. Oct.

1715./i

Thomas Winterbottom, 1715, ob.

1717./k

Hugh Pugh, obit. May 19,

1718./l

Edward Holme, 1757, obt. Jan.

7, 1782./m

William Humphry, 1782, the

present vicar./n

/d Ect. Thes. p. 383.

/e Reg. Roff. p. 172.

/f Walker's Suff. of Clergy, pt. ii.

p. 366.

/g Ejected by the Barth. act. See

Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

/h He lies buried in this church.

/i He lies buried in the chancel of

this church. He was also rector of Barming, and formerly vicar of Re= culver and rector of Ashurst.

/k Likewise rector of Ashurst.

/l Also curate of Otford.

/m That year a dispensation passed for his holding Kemsing vicarage with Seal annexed, together with this vi= carage. See an account of his charity school before under Leyborne, p. 210.

/n Dispensation passed in 1782 for him to hold Kemsing with Seal an= nexed, together with this vicarage.

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RYARSH.

SOUTHWARD from Birling lies Ryarsh, com= monly called Rash. In Domesday it is called Riesce, and in the Textus Roffensis, REIERSCE.

THE PARISH of Ryarsh is rather an unfrequented place, more healthy than it is either pleasant or fer=

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tile. It is in length about two miles, but in breadth it is very narrow. The water, called Addington brook, crosses the center of the parish eastward, be= yond which it extends southward up to the high road from London through Wrotham to Maidstone, and beyond it about half a mile to Fartherwell, Mr. Oli= ver Golding's, situated at the boundary of the parish, within a very small distance from Ofham-street. The village stands close on the north side of the above brook, with the church about a quarter of a mile east= ward from it, almost adjoining to Leyborne parish, hence the ground rises northward, where, at near a mile's distance, is another hamlet, called Ryarsh like= wise, which is larger than the former village. The soil between the two villages is a deep unfertile sand, but on the rising ground southward of the turnpike road it borders much upon the quarry rock.

THIS MANOR in the time of the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, the king's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the book of Domesday.

The same Hugh (de Port) holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Riesce. It was taxed at two sulings and an half. The arable land is five carucates. In demesne there are two, and ten villeins, with two borderers, having three carucates. There is a church and ten ser= vants, and a mill of ten shillings, and nine acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of five hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth eight pounds, when he received it one hundred shillings, now six pounds. Alured held it of king Edward.

On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about the year 1084, his lands and possessions were seized on by the king, and confiscated to his use. Soon after which this manor seems to have been granted to the family of Crescie, one of whom is mentioned in the Battle Abbey Roll, as surviving after the battle of Hastings.

William de Crescie possessed this manor in the reign of king John, in the 5th year of which reign, he obtained a charter of liberties in Ryarsh and Birling; his descendant, Hugh de Crescie, died in the 47th year of king Henry III. without issue, and Stephen de Crescie, his brother, became as his heir entitled to this manor. At the latter end of the next reign of king Edward I. John de Mowbray held it, as appears by antient court rolls of the reign of king Edward II. as parcel of the barony of Bedford./o

Being afterwards discontented concerning some part of his wife's inheritance, (she was Aliva, daughter and coheir of William de Brewes) being kept from him, he, with other great men, took up arms, but being defeated at the battle of Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, in the 15th year of king Edward II. he was, there taken prisoner, and carried to York, where he was hanged, and his estates confiscated to the crown.

His descendants were summoned to parliament as lords Mowbray, of Axkolme,/p one of them John lord Mowbray, was created earl of Nottingham on the day of king Richard the IId.'s coronation, with this special clause in the charter of his creation. That all his lands and tenements, of which he was then possessed, or should afterwards purchase, should be held sub honore comitali, and as parcel of his earldom. He enjoyed this honor only till the 18th year of his age, and then died in the 6th year of that reign, and was buried in the church of the Carmelites, near Fleetstreet, London.

He was succeeded by Thomas, his brother, who two days afterwards was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Nottingham, per cincturam gladii, and by patent in the 9th year of the above reign, anno 1385.

/o See Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 121 et seq.

/p See Cotton's Records, p. 95, 96. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 127.

He had granted to him the title and office of earl marshal of England, being the first earl marshal of England, for before they were only marshals, and stood then in such favor with the king, that, acknowledging his just and hereditary title to bear for his crest, A golden leopard, with a white label, which of right belonged to the king's eldest son, he by his letters patent granted to him and his heirs, authority to bear The golden leopard for his crest, with a coronet of silver about his neck, instead of the label./q Of which office he had a confirmation in the 20th year of it, with a union of the office of marshal in the courts of king's bench and exchequer, with other privileges annexed to them, and that he and his heirs male, by reason of their office of earl marshal, should bear a golden truncheon enamelled with black at each end, having at the upper end of it the king's arms, and at the lower end their own arms. And next year the king advanced him to the title of duke of Norfolk, his grandmother Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas of Brotherton, being the same day created du chess of Norfolk for life.

Notwithstanding these favors, he was banished next year, for having brought accusations against Henry, duke of Hereford, and it being determined to try them by the laws of chivalry, a day was assigned for the trial by combat, every thing being prepared with great solemnity by the king's command, who, after they had entered the lists, forbade the combat by the advice of his council, and banished the duke of Hereford for ten years, and the duke of Norfolk for life; who never returned to England, but died at Venice in his way back from Jerusalem, in the 1st year of king Henry IV. as it is said by some, of the plague, but by others of grief, and was buried in the abbey of St. George, in that city; being at the time of his

/q Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 128. Sandf. Gen. Hist. p. 210.

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death possessed of vast possessions in different counties, and among them of this manor of Ryarsh, and in his descendants it continued down to John, duke of Norfolk, who died at his castle of Framingham, in Norfolk, in the 15th year of king Edward IV. and was buried in the abbey of Thetford, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Talbot, first earl of Shrewsbury, Anne, his sole daughter and heir, then an infant, afterwards married to Richard, duke of York, second son of king Edward IV. but she died without issue, by which means the inheritance of this family was divided between the Howards and Berkeleys, descended from Margaret and Isabel, daughters of Thomas Mowbray, the first duke of Norfolk; and a partition of their great estate was made between their heirs in the 14th year of king Henry VII. After which the manor of Ryarsh was alienated to one of the Nevills, lords Abergavenny; Henry, lord Abergavenny, was found to die possessed of it in the 29th year of queen Elizabeth. Since which it has, in like manner as the adjoining manor of Birling, continued in the same family, the present proprietor of it being the Right Hon. Henry Nevill, earl of Abergavenny./r

The manor of Ryarsh is held of the manor of Swanscombe, by castle-guard, to the castle of Rochester.

CAREWS COURT, now commonly called CALLIS COURT, is a manor in this parish, which was for many descents the inheritance of the family of that surname, who were seated at Beddington, in Surry; with whom it remained till the 12th year of king Henry VI. anno 1433, when Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, alienated it to Thomas Watton, who settled it on his nephew, William Watton, esq. of Addington, and his descendant of the same name, in the reign of king Charles II. sold it to Edward Wal-

/r See a further account of this family under Birling.

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singham, gent. who bore for his arms, A chevron between three cinquefoils. Several of them lie buried in Ryarsh church. His descendant, Mr. Edward Walshingham, of this place, dying without male issue, his daughter Elizabeth carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Austen, bart. of Boxley abbey, who died pos-

sessed of this manor in 1760, and by his will devised it to his wife's cousin, John, son of Nicholas Amhurst, in tail general, with several remainders, subject to the life and future devise of his wife lady Austen, who at her decease confirmed her husband's disposition of this manor; whereupon John Amhurst, esq. above-mentioned, late of Bersted, but now of Boxley Abbey, became entitled to it, and he is the present possessor of it.

Part of the bishop of Rochester's manor of Halling appears to have extended into Rershe, and that he had a grange here.

CHARITIES.

MR. MILLER, in 1786, gave by will a sum of money, to be distributed to the poor, vested in his executors, and of the annual produce of 10s.

MR. OLIVER GOLDING gave by will a sum of money, to be annually distributed in like manner, now vested in Mr. Oliver Golding, and of the annual produce of 6s. 8d.

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

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is a small building, with a tower steeple, having nothing remarkable in it.

This church was part of the possessions of the priory of Merton, in Surry, as early as the beginning of the reign of king Henry III. in the 22d year of which reign, anno 1237, an assise was taken before the king's justices, concerning the last presentation to this church of Reyers, at the instance of Henry, prior of Merton, against John de Curtenay, and Matilda

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his wife; when it appeared, that the prior and convent had presented in the time of peace, master Peter de Sausintone to this church, whom the bishop accordingly admitted and instituted. Upon which the prior recovered his seisin of it, &c. and he had his writ to the archdeacon of Rochester; the see being then vacant, for him to admit a fit parson, &c.

There is frequent expression made in antient records of *Tempore Pacis*, and *Tempore belli aut Guerræ*, which means thus: *Tempore Pacis* is when the courts of justice are open, and the judges and ministers of justice free to protect men from wrong and violence, and distribute justice. *Tempore Belli* is when by invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, &c. the peaceable course of justice is disturbed, and the courts of justice are, as it were, shut up, and military law of course takes place./s

Richard, bishop of Rochester, in the year 1242, appropriated this church to the church of St. Mary of Merton, and the canons there, to the building and maintaining of their church and buildings; and he decreed, that the canons should have appropriated to them all tithes late of sheaves, and the moiety of the tithe of hay, and the chief messuage of the church, together with the buildings, and the grove, the alder bed, and the meadow, and the rents of assise, except the annual rent of four-pence, from Hugh de Cates=

by, and his heirs, which the bishop assigned to the vicar.

And he decreed, that the vicar and his successors, should have the house usually assigned to the priest, with its territory, and the altarage, and all the arable land belonging to the church; so that the canons should not take, in the name of tithe, any thing arising from the produce of the land, or messuage aforesaid; and further, that the vicar should receive yearly of

/s Coke's Instit. pt. i. p. 249.

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the canons the sum of forty-eight shillings; and lastly, that he should sustain all ordinary burthens; this grant being made during the vacancy of the church, by the resignation of Andrew de Winton, rector of it, into the bishop's hands, &c.

The rector and vicar of this parish, in the year 1448, made their petition to the bishop of Rochester, that the feast of the dedication of this parish church on the feast of St. Lambert, frequently happening in the Ember days, and in the time of harvest, hindered it from being kept with due solemnity and reverence; therefore, in compliance with their request, he changed it to the feast of the Translation of St. Martin, in summer, to be kept on the 4th day of June; on which he decreed it to be celebrated yearly for the future.

The church of Ryarsh, and the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of the priory of Merton till the dissolution of it in the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was surrendered into the king's hands.

In the year 1608, the advowson of the vicarage belonged to Thomas Watton, esq. of Addington, whose descendant Edmund Watton, esq. of Addington, leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried it in marriage, first to Leonard, Bartholomew, esq. and secondly to Sir Roger Twisden, bart. both of whom she survived; and dying in 1775, it came to her son by her first husband, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Addington, who is the present patron of it.

The vicarage is a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of forty pounds, the yearly tenths of which are seventeen shillings./t

/t Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. Ect. Thes. p. 384.

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CHURCH OF RYARSH.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Prior and canons of Merton. Peter de Sausintone, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry III./u

Andrew de Wintone, resigned 1442./w

VICARS.

Richard Whyte, 1524./x

Family of Watton. Henry Levet, A. M. about 1630./y

Henry Burville, A. M. inst. June
5, 1730.
Sir Roger Twysden, bart, and his
lady. Thomas Buttonshaw, A. M. Dec.
1742, obt. 1768./z
James Thurston, A. M. Dec.
1768. Present vicar.

/u Reg. Roff. p. 596.
/w Ibid. p. 597.
/x In the archives of the bishop of
Rochester's Consistory court.
/y MSS. Twysden.
/z And rector of Addington by dis=
pensation.

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LEYBORNE.

EASTWARD from Ryarsh lies Leyborne, fre=
quently, though corruptly written Laborne. It is
called in old records, Leleburne, and Lilleborne,/a and
seems to have taken its name from the little brook or
bourne which runs through this parish; lytlan signi=
fying in old English, little or small, quasi Lytlanborne.

THE PARISH of Leyborne is situated both pleasant
and healthy, it is in extent about a mile square, it lies
low, the soil mostly fertile land. The Addington
brook runs along the south and east sides of it, and
near the latter turns a mill, called Leyborne mill; close
to the southern boundary is the high road from Lon=

/a Text. Roff. p. 229. Reg. Roff. p. 479.

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don through Wrotham to Maidstone, at the twenty=
ninth mile stone of it, nearly opposite to Town Mal=
ling. Leyborne castle, and the church close to it, are
situated in the eastern part of the parish, not far from
the Brook; and the pleasant mansion and paddock
grounds of the Grange about a mile from thence, at
the western bounds of it, between which and the Brook
southward there is some gentle hill and dale.

As an instance of the fertility of the soil of this pa=
rish for the hop-plant, a cottager who lived in Sir Henry
Hawley's rents in it, had half an acre of land belong=
ing to his cottage, which in the year 1784 produced
a crop of forty-five hundred of hops, which he sold
for one hundred and forty-five pounds, an extraordi=
nary crop, and a fortune to the poor man.

This parish, with others, ought antiently to have
contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester
bridge./b

THIS PLACE in the reign of the Conqueror was
part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux, and
earl of Kent, the king's half-brother, under the general
title of whose lands it is thus described in the record of
Domesday.

Adam holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Leleburne. It
was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is
In demesne there are three carucates, and sixteen villeins,
with two borderers having seven carucates. There is a
church and ten servants, and a mill of seven shillings,
and twelve acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage

of fifty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth eight pounds, when he received it seven pounds, now eight pounds. Richard de Tonebridge holds in his lowy what is worth twenty-four shillings. The king holds of the new gift of the bishop, what is worth twenty-four shillings and two-pence. Turgis held this manor of Earl Goduin.

/b Lambarde's Perambulations, p. 442.

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On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, and the confiscation of all his estates, this of Leybourne came into the hands of the crown, and was probably soon afterwards granted to Sir William de Arsick.

How long it staid in this name, I do not find; but in the reign of king Richard I. it was in the possession of the family of Leyborne, who bore for their arms, Azure, six lions rampant, argent, sometimes three, two and one, and at others three and three, as they were painted in the windows of Newington church, near Sittingborne. About this time they erected a castelated mansion here, the ruins of which are still remaining.

Sir Roger de Leyborne, with many other Kentish knights, accompanied king Richard I. to the siege of Acon in Palestine, in the 3d year of his reign, anno 1191. He died before the 10th year of it, leaving a son Roger de Leyborne.

In the 36th year of the next reign of Henry III. he slew Ernulf de Mounteney, at a meeting of the Round Table held at Walden, in Essex, his lance piercing his throat under his helmet, which wanted a collar; and as the lance had no socket on the point, it was supposed to be done purposely, in revenge of a broken leg Robert de Leyborne had received from Mounteney in a former tournament./c

On the king's recovery of his royal power by his victory at Evesham, in the 49th year of his reign, he had several important offices and lucrative grants conferred on him from time to time. Among others that of warden of the Five Ports. In the 50th year, having the guard of the sea-coasts in Kent against the inhabitants of the Cinque Ports, who then stood out against the king, he laid out large sums of his own money in that service; and the sheriff of this county was commanded to reimburse him out of the profits

/c Rot. pat. ejus an. pt. i. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 13.

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of it; and in the 52d year was once more sheriff of Kent for the first part of the year./d He died in the 56th year of that reign, leaving William de Leyborne his son and heir, who in the 14th year of the next reign had the honor of entertaining king Edward I. at his mansion here, on October 25, as appears by the patent rolls in the tower of that year. Next year he was stiled the king's admiral, and was made constable of the castle of Pevensey. After which he obtained a grant of the wardship and marriage of Geoffry, the son and heir of William de Say, deceased, who afterwards married Idonea his daughter./e In the 28th year of this reign Henry and Simon de Leyborne, two cadets of

this family, attended the king into Scotland, and assisted at the famous siege of Carlaverock, in that kingdom; for which service they, with many other of the gentry of this county, received the honor of knighthood; having been summoned to parliament from the 27th of king Edward I. till the 3d year of Edward II. He died that year, leaving Juliana his grand-daughter, his heir, and Juliana, his own wife, surviving. But it appears by the escheat-rolls, that he had enfeoffed his son, Thomas de Leyborne, in this manor, some time before his death, who died in his father's life-time, anno 35 Edward I. being possessed of it at the time of his death.

It appears by Cotton's Records, that there was an heir male left of this family; for John de Leyborne, received summons to parliament in the 14th, 17th, and 18th years of king Edward III. and he seems to have been the same John de Leyborne, who was appointed admiral of the northern seas in the 20th year of king Edward II.

/d Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 14. Rot. Pat. anno 49, pt. 5. Ibid. 39. Ibid. anno 52 a terg. 4.

/e Spelman's Glossary, p. 14. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 14.

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Juliana de Leyborne, daughter and heir of Thomas de Leyborne, as also heir to her grandfather as above-mentioned, became entitled to so large an inheritance in this county, that she was from thence usually stiled the Infanta of Kent; part of it was the manor and castle of Leyborne, which she carried in marriage, first to John, eldest son of John de Hastings, by Isabel, sister and at length coheir to Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke. He died in the 18th year of king Edward II. leaving no issue by his wife Juliana before-mentioned, who survived him, and afterwards married Thomas le Blount, who likewise died without issue by her; and she again remarried with Sir William de Clinton, a younger brother of John de Clinton, of Maxtoke, ancestor to the lords Clinton and Say, the earls of Lincoln, and the present duke of Newcastle.

This marriage, in all probability, was the means of all his future honors and advancement: for in the course of the next year, he was made governor of Dover-castle, and warden of the cinque ports, and had afterwards summons to parliament among the barons of this realm, and was constituted admiral of the seas from the mouth of the Thames westward; and advancing still further in the king's favor, he was, by patent, in the 11th year of king Edward III. created earl of Huntingdon, in consideration of his acceptable services. In the 12th year of the same reign, he had another patent constituting him constable of Dover-castle, and in the 15th year was again made the king's admiral from the Thames westward. He died possessed of this manor and castle, and was buried in the church of the priory of Maxtoke, which he had founded, leaving Juliana his wife, surviving, by whom he had no issue. She died possessed of this manor and castle in her own right, in the 41st year of the same reign, and was buried, according to her will, on the south side of the church of St. Augustine's monastery near Canterbury.

On her death it escheated to the crown for want of heirs; for it appears by inquisition taken after it, in the 43d year of king Edward III. that there was then no one, who could make claim to her estates, either by direct or even collateral alliance.

After which the king, by his charter, in the 50th year of his reign, granted this manor and castle, with their appurtenances, and the advowson of the church of Leyborne, among other premises, to feoffees for the endowment of 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 them to the abbot and monks there, and their successors, for a term of years, and they granted their interest in it at a certain yearly rent to Sir Simon de Burley, knight of the garter, and warden of the five ports, who having forfeited it, with his life, for high treason, in the 10th year of king Richard II. that prince, in his 22d year, granted it to them in pure and perpetual alms for ever, for the performance of certain religious purposes therein mentioned, and he gave licence to the surviving feoffees of king Edward III. to release these premises to them and their successors for ever.

The manor and castle of Leyborne, together with the advowson of the church, remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned monastery till the dissolution of it, in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. when it was, together with the lands and revenues of it, surrendered into the king's hands.

King Henry VIII. by his letters patent, in his 31st year, under his great seal, granted and sold in exchange, among other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, the manor of Leyborne, with its appurtenances, late parcel of the possessions of the abbey, excepting to the king all advowsons, presentations, &c. to the abbey belonging, and at any time past not appropriate, to hold by knight's service, and the

yearly rent therein mentioned; and whereas the king was entitled by an act of parliament, to the tenths of the manor, lands, tenements, &c. he discharged the archbishop of them, and all other outgoing whatsoever, except the rent therein mentioned. Which grant was in consequence of an indenture made before, between the king and the archbishop, which was inrolled in the Augmentation-office.

This estate did not remain long with the archbishop who within a few years afterwards was obliged to comply with the king's avaricious humour, and to pass it back again to him in the 37th year of his reign, who immediately afterwards granted the manor and castle, together with the advowson of the rectory, to Sir Edward North, chancellor of his court of Augmentation, and of his privy council, to hold in capite by knight's service.

In the 6th year of king Edward VI's reign, he alienated this manor, with its appurtenances, to Robert Gosnold, who in the 2d year of queen Elizabeth,

passed away the manor and castle, with the advowson of the rectory, to Robert Godden, to hold before-mentioned, and he by a fine levied in the 17th year of queen Elizabeth, settled them that year on Thomas Godden, his son and heir, who a few years afterwards passed them away by sale to Sir John Leveson, alias Lewson, of Whornes-place, in Cookstone, whose son, Sir Richard Leveson, knight of the bath, of Trent-ham, in Staffordshire, in the reign of king James I. alienated them, (as he did all his other lands in this county to different persons) to Henry Clerke, serjeant at law, and recorder of Rochester, who died possessed of them about the time of king Charles I.'s death, and was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir Francis Clerke, who devised them by his will to his kinsman, Gilbert Clerke, esq. of Derbyshire, and he sold them to Captain William Saxby, of the Grange, in this parish, whence they passed by sale in 1724, to Francis Whit-

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worth, esq. the youngest brother of Charles, lord Whitworth, and son of Richard Whitworth, esq. of Staffordshire, by Anne his wife, neice of Sir Oswald Moseley, of Cheshire, and bore for his arms, Argent, a bend sable in the sinister chief a garb gules. Lord Whitworth was the eldest of six sons. He was a very able statesman and negotiator, having been employed as ambassador, plenipotentiary and minister to the several courts of Europe, from the reign of king William to the time of his death, which happened in 1725. In consideration of his merits and services, he had been in 1720, created lord Whitworth, baron of Galway, in Ireland; but dying without male issue, the title became extinct. Francis Whitworth, esq. resided at the Grange, in this parish, and dying in 1742, was succeeded by his son and heir, Charles, afterwards Sir Cha. Whitworth, who was lieut. governor of Gravesend and Tilbury fort, and married Miss Shelley, by whom he had several children, of whom the eldest son, Sir Charles Whitworth, knight of the bath, is now envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the court of Russia,. In 1776 he, together with his eldest son, who was the next in the entail, conveyed it (an act of parliament having been obtained for the purpose) by sale to James Hawley, M. D. and F. R. S. who was descended of a family which was originally of Somersetshire, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Banks, esq. of Revesby, in Lincolnshire, by whom he had one son Henry, and a daughter Elizabeth, married to John Crawley, esq. of Bedfordshire. Dr. Hawley died in 1777, and was buried in a vault in Leyborne church, which he had built for himself and family; he bore for his arms, Vert, a saltier engrailed argent. He was succeeded in this estate by his son before-mentioned, Henry Hawley, esq. who on April 11, 1795, was created a baronet, and now resides at the Grange, in this parish, and is the present owner of the manor, castle, and advowson of the rectory of Leyborne. Sir

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Henry Hawley married first Dorothy, daughter and heir of John Ashwood, esq. of Salop, by whom he had a son Henry, and three daughters. She died in

1783, and was buried here, and he married secondly the eldest daughter of William Humffreys, esq. of Montgomery, by whom he has likewise one son and three daughters. The manor of Leyborne pays a fee farm to the crown of 1l. 19s. 8d. per annum. A court leet and court baron is held for it.

There are some remains of the antient buildings of Leyborne-castle existing at this time. The stone-work of the chief entrance, with great part of the circular towers on each side, and some other fragments of arches and walls are still in being; by the foundations remaining, and the traces of the ditch, this castle does not appear to have been very extensive. On the remains of it, many years ago, there has been built a dwelling-house, which seems to have been for some generations the habitation of a gentleman's family; one of whom, Thomas Golding, esq. kept his shrievalty for this county here in the year 1703, and bore for his arms, Argent, a cross voided between four lions passant, guardant gules; but it has for many years past been converted into a farm-house.

THE GRANGE is a seat in this parish, which in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, was the estate and residence of Robert Quintin, alias Oliver, who was descended from Anselinus, or Anselmus de Quintin, who lived in the reign of king Edward III. His descendant, William Quintin, was of Seale, in this county, where he purchased lands called Hilks, in the beginning of king Henry VI's reign. His son Thomas was frequently stiled Thomas Quintin, son of Oliver, by which means his son John acquired the name of Quintin alias Oliver, by which name he called himself in his will, dated anno 32 Henry VIII. His descendant, Robert, transposed his name, calling himself Robert Oliver, alias Quintin, and possessed this seat,

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where he resided, as did his grandson Robert, who used the name of Oliver only, though in deeds and writings, he wrote the name of Quintin likewise. He bore for his arms, Ermine, on a fess gules, three lions rampant, or, and died in the reign of king Charles II. leaving Juliana his sole daughter and heir, who carried this seat in marriage to Edward Covert, of Sussex, by whose only daughter and heir it went, in like manner, to Mr. Henry Saxby, whose son Captain William Saxby resided in it, and was possessed likewise of the manor and castle of Leyborne, as has been already mentioned, which were, together with this seat, alienated in 1724, to Francis Whitworth, esq. who rebuilt the Grange, and greatly improved the adjoining grounds, of which he died possessed in the year 1742, and his only son and heir, Sir Charles Whitworth, together with his eldest son Charles, who was the next in the entail of it, passed away this seat, in 1776, with the whole of his property in this parish, by a conveyance in manner as before-mentioned, to James Hawley, M. D. whose only son, Sir Henry Hawley, bart. is the present proprietor of this seat, and resides in it.

CHARITIES.

The REV. EDWARD HOLME, vicar of the adjoining parish of Birling, in 1775, conveyed to trustees a piece of land in this

parish, with the dwelling-house, school-room, and other buildings erected on it; and transferred 1000l. of four per cent. consolidated Bank annuities to them for the endowment of a school, for ten poor boys and as many girls of the parishes of Leyborne and Ryarsh, and five from each of the parishes of West and East Malling, to be recommended by the churchwardens of the respective parishes, and approved of by the trustees. The children to be instructed by the master of the school, in reading, writing, Latin, accounts, and other useful learning, and religious duties, according to the principles of the church of England, until they attained the age of fourteen years.

MR. JOHN PRICE was by the deed appointed master of the school, who was to be allowed thirty pounds per annum at the least; but if the revenue would allow of it, it is to be increased to a larger sum; and in case the scholars should be reduced to fifteen, the master is to be dismissed, unless it shall appear to the

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trustees, that such deficiency is not occasioned by his neglect or bad behaviour.

As often as one or more of the trustees should die, the survivors at their next general meeting were to appoint new ones in their room. The trustees were enjoined to meet in Birling church, on July the 1st yearly, to examine into the state of the school, and to make such rules and orders for the better government of it, as they should think proper.

THOMAS OLYVER gave in 1678 by will, for the benefit of the poor, payable out of houses and lands, the sum of six pounds yearly, vested in Sir Henry Hawley, bart. and now of that annual produce.

THOMAS GOLDING gave by will, year unknown, for the use of the poor on Christmas and Easter days, the annual sum of ten shillings, to be paid out of certain houses in St. Leonard's-street, in Malling, vested in Thomas Golding, and now of that annual produce.

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

The church, which is a small building, stands in the south-east part of the parish. It is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. the parson of Leyborne paid aid for a certain parcel of land, containing one hundred acres, belonging to this rectory, which Walter, parson of Leyborne, held in Leyborne of the earl of Huntingdon, and he of Margery Rivers, and she of the king.

The advowson of the church was antiently esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Leyborne, and as such was possessed by the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower, and was surrendered at the dissolution of that monastery, among the rest of the possessions of it, to king Henry VIII. in his 30th year.

After which the king granted the manor of Leyborne to the archbishop of Canterbury, but excepted the advowson of this church out of it, as has been already mentioned before, by which means it became separated from the manor, and became an advowson in gross, and though it afterwards was granted, with the

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manor, and possessed by the same owners from time to

time, yet having been once separated, it could never afterwards be appendant to it again. Through the same chain of ownership in like manner as the manor and castle of Leyborne, this advowson came to Sir Cha. Whitworth, who in 1776 conveyed it, with the rest of his property in this parish, to James Hawley, M. D. whose son, Sir Henry Hawley, bart. of the Grange, is the present proprietor of it.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 17l. 13s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 15s. 4d./g

The rector is entitled to the great and small tithes of this little parish without exception, the glebe belonging to the church is about two hundred acres, which together make the rectory of the value of about three hundred pounds per annum.

William, son and heir of Sir Roger de Leyborne, granted in perpetual alms to Peter, rector of this church, for the maintenance of one chaplain celebrating there for ever, all the land which Roger his father had of the gift of Ralph Ruffin, in Leyborne and Caumpes, with its appurtenances, excepting the meadow called Ruffins Mede, and he granted to this church, for the maintenance of the above-mentioned chaplains, five marcs annual rent, to be received out of his manor of Ridlehe, to hold to him for that purpose for ever.

At a place called Comp, lying mostly in Wrotham parish, there is a small house and barn-yard, with about one hundred and thirty acres of land, parcel of Leyborne rectory, esteemed to be within this parish, those of Ryarsh and Addington intervening; on part of it there are the ruins of an ancient building, supposed to have been a chapel of ease to the church of Leyborne.

/g There was a trial on this account, anno 26, 27 Car. II. in the Common Pleas, The king versus bishop of Rochester, and Sir Francis Clerke, related in Mod. Reports, vol. ii, p. 1.

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CHURCH OF LEYBORNE.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Family of Leyborne Peter, Temp. Edward I./h
Walter, in the 20th of king
Edward III./i

William Milles, in 1493./k

Sir John Leveson William Drury, S. T. P. 1624./l

Sir Francis Clerke Nathaniel Hardy, S. T. P. obt.
28 May, 1670./m

Meric Head, esq. S. T. P. 1685,
ob. 6 March, 1686./n

William Gotier.

Henry Ullock, S. T. P. obt. 20th
June, 1706./o

Samuel Spateman.

Robert Hall.

Francis Whitworth, esq. Gerard Whitworth, obt. March
1727./p

Francis Hooper, S. T. P. inst.
July 6, 1727.

Charles Whitworth, esq. George Burvill, A. M. 1758.
Present rector.

/h Reg. Roff. p. 474.

/i Book of Aid of that year.
/k Reg. Roff. p. 490. He died in
1497, and lies buried in the church of
Town Malling.

/l A dispensation passed in 1624, for
him to hold this rectory, with that of
Mestham in Surry. Rym. Fœd. vol.
xviii. p. 660.

/m Also dean of Rochester.

/n Likewise rector of Ulcombe. He
was eldest son of Sir Richard Head,
bart. and was buried in the chancel of
this church.

/o He was installed dean of Rochester
in 1689. He died, æt. 67, and lies
buried in the chancel of this church.

/p Fourth son of Richard Whit=
worth, esq. and brother to Charles,
lord Whitworth, and Francis Whit=
worth, esq. the patron of this rectory

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EAST MALLING.

EASTWARD from Leyborne lies East Malling,
called in the Textus Roffensis, MEALLINGES, and in
Domesday, METLINGES.

THIS PARISH is delightfully situated; it is both
pleasant and healthy; the soil is for the most part
sand, covering the quarry rock; to the southward it

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inclines more to a loam and red brick earth; but most
of it is very fertile, as well for corn as for plantations
of fruit and hops, which latter thrive here remarkably
well. The high road from London through Wrotham
to Maidstone, crosses this parish at the thirtieth mile
stone: the hamlet of Larkfield-street, which gives name
to this hundred, is situated on it, where there is a fair
held on St. James's day. Hence this parish extends
northward for more than a mile, to the river Med=
way, the bank of which is here beautifully shaded with
young oaks. Here is a hamlet called New Hythe,
situated close to the river, so called from the shipping
and relading of goods at it. The civil liberty of the
corporation of Maidstone claims over this place.. –
There once belonged a chapel to this district, called
New Hythe chapel, which was suppressed in king
Edward VI.th's time, when it was valued at eleven
shillings clear yearly value; the first founder of it was
not known. Daily mass was said in it. Hugh Cart=
wright, gent. of East Malling, had soon afterwards a
grant of it.

Adjoining to the southern side of the high road and
hamlet of Larkfield, is the small, but beautifully
situated, park of Bradborne, the plantations of which,
as well as the stream which flows through it, are so
judiciously and ornamentally disposed round the man=
sion, as to render it, for its size (its smallness being
by art wholly concealed from the sight) the most ele=
gant residence of any in these parts. Close to the
southern pale of the park, is the village of East Mal=
ling, at the north end of which is a handsome house,

the property of Sir John Twisden, the church, and parsonage. Hence there is a street called Mill-street, from a corn mill there, which is turned by the before-mentioned stream. Through the village, which has in it some tolerable good houses, one of which was lately the property of James Tomlyn, esq. the ground rises up to East Malling heath, on the entrance of

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which, near the direction post, there appears to be a Roman tumulus. On this heath are several kilns for making bricks and tile; it lies on high ground, and is a pleasant spot, though surrounded on the east and west sides by large tracts of coppice woods. The park of Teston bounds up to the south east corner of it, and the road from thence to Town Malling and Ofham leads along the southern part of it, through the woods.

AT THE TIME of taking the general survey of Domesday in the year 1080, being the fifteenth of the Conqueror's reign, this place was part of the possessions of the archbishop of Canterbury, under the title of whose lands it is thus entered in that record.

In the lath of Elesfort, in Laurochesfel hundred, the archbishop (of Canterbury) himself holds Metlinges in demesne. It was taxed at two sulings. The arable land is seven carucates. In demesne there are three carucates and thirty-eight villiens, with twelve borderers having five carucates. There is a church and five servants, and two mills of ten shillings, and twenty-one acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of sixty hogs. In the whole value, in the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth nine pounds, the like when he received it, and now as much, and yet it pays fifteen pounds.

The manor of East Malling was given not many years afterwards by Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury, by the name of Parvas Meallingas, to the nunnery of the adjoining parish of West Malling, founded by Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, his cotemporary. In the 7th year of king Edward I. the abbess of Malling claimed several liberties within this manor; and in the twenty-first year of that reign, she claimed to have in it view of frank pledge, assize of bread and ale, and gallows, which she found her church possessed of at the time of her coming to it; and it was allowed her by the jury.

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In the time of king Richard II. the temporalities of the abbess of Malling in this parish and Town Malling were valued at forty-five pounds.

This monastery being dissolved in the 30th year of Henry VIII. anno 1538, this manor was, with the rest of its possessions, surrendered into the kings hands. After which the king, in his 31st year, granted in exchange, among other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, this manor and parsonage, late belonging to the before-mentioned abbey, excepting all advowsons, presentations, &c. to hold by knight's service; and as the king was entitled to the tenths of them, he discharged the archbishop of them, and all other outgoings whatsoever, except the rent

therein mentioned. Which grant was in consequence of an indenture made before, between the king and the archbishop, inrolled in the Augmentation-office.

The manor of East Malling, and the premises before-mentioned, were again exchanged with the crown in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, in the 12th year of which the queen granted this manor in lease to Sir Henry Brook alias Cobham, knt. fifth son of George, lord Cobham; after which it was in like manner possessed by Pierpoint, who lies buried in Town Malling church, and afterwards by Hugh Cartwright, esq. who bore for his arms, Argent, on a fess engrailed, sable, three cinquefoils of the first. On whose decease his widow, Mrs. Jane Cartwright, one of the seventeen daughters of Sir John Newton, became entitled to it, and carried her interest in it to her second husband, Sir James Fitzjames, and he passed it away to Humphrey Delind, who soon afterwards alienated it to Sir Robert Brett, descended of the ancient family of the Bretts, in Somersetshire, who bore for his arms, Or, a lion rampant, gules, within an orle of cross-croslets fitchee of the second. He died in 1626, and was buried in Town Malling church, having had by Frances his wife, the only daughter of Sir

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Thomas Fane, by Mary, baroness Le Despencer his wife, who died in 1617, an only son Henry, who died in 1609, and both lie interred with him in that church. The next year after the death of Sir Robert Brett, king James granted this manor in fee to John Rayney, esq. which grant was farther confirmed to Sir John Rayney, his eldest son, in the second year of king Charles I. Sir John Rayney was of Wrotham place, and was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1641; and his son of the same name, about the year 1657, passed it away by sale to Thomas Twisden, serjeant at law, afterwards knighted, and made one of the judges of the King's Bench, and created a baronet.

He afterwards seated himself at Bradbourn, in this parish, and in his descendants, baronets, seated there likewise, it has continued down to Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, who is the present owner of it.

There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor.

BRADBOURN is a seat in this parish, which has long been the residence of a gentleman's family. It was formerly accounted a manor, and in the reign of king Henry VIII. was in the possession of the family of Isley, of Sundridge, in this county, in which it continued till Sir Henry Isley, in the 31st year of that reign, exchanged it with the king for other premises; which exchange was confirmed by letters patent under the great seal the next year.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was in the possession of the family of Manningham, descended out of Bedfordshire, who bore for their arms, Sable, a fess ermine, in chief three griffins heads erased or, langued gules. The last of this name here was Richard Manningham, esq. who about the year 1656 alienated Bradbourn to Thomas Twisden, esq. serjeant at law, who was the second son of Sir William Twisden, bart.

Anne Finch, his wife, daughter of the first countess of Winchelsea, and continued to bear the antient coat of arms of his family, being Gironny of four argent and gules, a saltier and four cross croslets, all counterchanged, with due difference; and for his crest, On a wreath, a cockatrice azure, with wings displayed or. On the year of king Charles's restoration, he was knighted by him, and made one of the judges of the king's bench, and on June 13, anno 19 Charles II. 1666, was created a baronet. He discharged his office of judge during the space of eighteen years, when he obtained his quietus, on account of his great age and infirmities. He altered the spelling of his name from Twysden, as it was spelt by his ancestors, and is still by the Twysdens of East Peckham, baronets, to Twisden, to distinguish the two branches of the family, and this alteration has been followed by his descendants, to the present time. He resided at this seat, the grounds of which he imparked in the year 1666, and dying in 1683, aged 81, was buried in East Malling church. He married Jane, daughter of John Tomlinson, esq. of Whitby, in Yorkshire, who survived him, died in 1702, by whom he had several sons and daughters. Of the former, Sir Roger Twisden, knight and baronet, the eldest son, succeeded him in title and estate, and resided at Bradbourn. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Marsham, knight and baronet, of Whornes-place, and died in 1703, leaving three sons and two daughters. He was succeeded in title and this estate by his eldest son, Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. who was likewise of Bradbourn, and served in parliament for this county in the second parliament of king George I. He married Anne, the daughter and heir of John Musters, esq. of Nottinghamshire, by whom he had four sons; Sir Thomas, his successor; Sir Roger, successor to his brother; and William, and John deceased. He died in 1728, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir

Thomas Twisden, before-mentioned, who going abroad died at Grenada, in Spain, in 1737, unmarried, and was succeeded in dignity and this estate by his brother, Sir Roger Twisden, bart. who resided at Bradbourn, which he so highly improved, that there are few seats of private gentlemen, that exceed it, either in convenience, beauty, or pleasantness.

He served in parliament for this county in the 5th and 6th parliament of king George II. and having resided here with the worthiest of characters, he died in 1772, and was buried with his ancestors in East Malling church. By Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and heir of Edmund Watton, esq. of Addington, and widow of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. who survived him, and died in 1775, he left three sons, Roger; William, who resided at Hythe, and married Miss Kirkman, and died s. p. and John Papillon. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Roger Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, who died in 1779, leaving his wife Rebecca, daughter of Isaac Wildash, esq. of Chatham,

big with child, which proved to be a daughter, on which his only surviving brother Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. succeeded him both in title and his estates in this parish, of which he is the present possessor. He resides at Bradbourn, and in 1782 married a daughter of admiral Sir Francis Geary, of Polsden, in Surry, bart. by whom he has a son, born in 1784.

CHARITIES.

Mr. RICHARD BURNET gave by will in 1578, four bushels of wheat, in money 20s. to be distributed yearly to the poor of this parish for ever, on Good Friday, vested in the churchwardens.

Mrs. MARY TURNER, in 1679, gave by will 20s. to be distributed to twenty poor widows of this parish on Lady-day for ever, vested in the same.

THE LADY JANE TWISDEN, relict of judge Twisden, gave by will in 1702, toward putting out poor children, born in this

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parish, apprentices, the sum of 100l. now vested in the same, and of the annual produce of 4l. 4s.

JAMES TOMLYN gave by will in 1752, to teach poor children to write, and the church catechism, and to read, 5l. yearly for ever, issuing out of land in this parish, called Crouch, vested in the churchwardens, and now of that annual produce.

EAST MALLING 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 of East Malling is dedicated to St. James. It is a handsome building, with a square tower at the west end of it.

Archbishop Anselm, who lived in the time of king William Rufus, gave the church of East Malling to the nunnery of the adjoining parish of West Malling, and granted, that the abbess and nuns there should hold it appropriated to them./q

Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, in 1363, on the complaint of Sir John Lorkyn, perpetual vicar of this church, that the portion of his vicarage, the church of which was held appropriated by the abbess and convent of Malling, was insufficient for his decent support and for the payment of episcopal dues, and the support of other burthens incumbent on him; and the abbess and convent being desirous of providing a proper support for the vicar and his successors, as far as was necessary, and agreeing, under their common seal, to assign to him and them the portions under-mentioned, which the archbishop approved of as sufficient, and the vicar likewise agreed to – decreed, and ordained, that the vicar and his successors, should have the mansion belonging to the vicarage, with the garden of it, and six acres and three roods of arable land, and two acres of meadow, which they used to have in past times, free

/q See the confirmations of this gift in Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 354. Reg. Roff. p. 480, 486.

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and discharged from the payment of tithes, together with the herbage of the cemetery of the church, and

the trees growing on it, and the tithes of silva cedua, lambs, wool, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, chicken, calves, cheese, and the produce of the dairy, pigeons, hemp, and flax, apples, pears, pasture, honey, wax, beans planted in gardens, and of all other seeds whatsoever sown in them, and also the tithes of sheaves arising from orchards or gardens, dug with the foot, together with the tithes as well of the cattle of the religious in their manors and lands wheresoever situated within the parish, either bred up, feeding, or lying there, and of all other matters above-mentioned, being within the said manors and lands, as of the cattle and matters of this sort of all others whatsoever, arising within the parish; and further, that the vicar and his successors, ministering in the church, should take at all future times all manner of oblations, as well in the parish church, as in the chapel of St. John, at Newhethel, in this parish, and all other places within it, then or in future, and the tithes of business of profit, of butchers, carpenters, brewers, and other artificers and tradesmen whatsoever, to this church in any wise belonging, and likewise the residue of the paschal wax, after the breaking of the same, and legacies then, or which might afterwards be left to the high altar, and the rest of the altars, or images; and he decreed, that only the tithes of the two mills in this parish belonging to the religious, and also the great tithes of sheaves, and of hay wheresoever arising within the parish, should in future belong to the abbess and convent. And he taxed this portion of the vicar at ten marcs sterling yearly value; according to which he decreed, that the vicar should pay the tenth, whenever the same ought to be paid in future; and that the vicar for the time being should undergo the burthen of officiating in this church, either by himself, or some other fit priest, in divine services, and in finding of bread and wine, for the cele-

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bration of the sacraments, and of the two processional tapers, as heretofore; and that he should receive and undergo all other profits and burthens, otherwise than as before-mentioned.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 10l. 8s. 4d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 0s. 10d.

Sir John Twisden is the present patron of this vicarage.

The vicar of East Malling is always intitled to be one of the ministers, who preach at the lecture founded in Town Malling church, that is, one sermon every fortnight, on a Saturday, being the market-day; and he receives ten shillings for each sermon he preaches.

CHURCH OF EAST MALLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Abbess and convent of Malling Richard Adams, obt. May 6,
1522./r

..... Throgmorton, 1633./s

The King Robert Whittle, A. M. March 1,
1627, obt. July 13, 1679./t

..... Barrow.

Thomas Hill, 1716.

Thomas Cockman, 1723./u
William Perfect, presented in
March 1745, obt. June 2,
1757.

Richard Jacob, A. M. 1757./w
Daniel Hill, A. M. 1764, the
present vicar./x

/r He was prebendary of the great
mass in the conventual church of
Town Malling, and lies buried in this
church.

/s See troubles of archbishop Laud,
p. 526.

/t Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 100l.
He lies buried in this church.

/u And rector of Trottesclive.

/w Also vicar of New Romney by
dispensation, passed in 1757.

/x He was before master of the
grammar school at Faversham, and
had been vicar of Yalding before that,
which he resigned. He holds the
rectory of Addington with this vi=
carage of East Malling by dispensa=
tion, passed in 1768.

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WEST OR TOWN MALLING.

WESTWARD from East Malling lies the town
and parish of West Malling, now most commonly called
Town Malling.

It is written in Domesday, MALLENGETIS, and in
the Textus Roffensis, MELLINGES. In many deeds
after the conquest, it is stiled MILLINGES PARVA, to
distinguish it from East Malling, then the larger and
more noted village of the two.

The town and parish of West Malling, excepting
the borough of St. Leonard, which is under the juris=
diction of the constables of the hundred of Larkfield,
is under the jurisdiction of its own constables, of which
there are two chosen yearly.

THE PARISH of Town Malling, as it is usually called,
is situated equally pleasant and healthy. It lies on
high ground, and though dry is well watered, the soil
of it being in the northern part a sand, the rest of it a
loam, covering the quarry rock, which is very fertile,
as has been frequently noticed before in the like
situations. The high road from London through
Wrotham to Maidstone, at the twenty-ninth mile stone
leads along the northern boundaries of the parish, be=
ing called in king Edmund's grant of this place to the
bishop of Rochester, the military way, no doubt from
its having been used as such by the Romans, southward
of it the ground gently rising; at less than a quarter of
a mile's distance is the town of Malling, which is well
built, having many genteel houses in it, the streets of a
handsome width, and well paved. At the east end of
it is the abbey, to which the approach is by a vena=
ble antient gateway. Although the house itself was
almost all of it pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. Hony=

wood, yet many of the antient buildings and offices be=

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longing to it are still remaining, and are made use of as such at present. A handsome tower of the church, the front of which is decorated with intersecting arches and zig-zag ornaments, similar to those on the west front of Rochester cathedral, built by the same founder, bishop Gundulph, is still remaining, as is an antient chapel or oratory, now made use of as a dwelling-house.

From the foundations discovered in levelling the ground by Mr. Honeywood, it appears, that this abbey consisted of two quadrangles or courts, with cloysters, and a spacious hall; and that the church had another tower, of the like size to that now standing. The burying-place seems to have been on the south side of the church, as in digging there, great quantities of human bones have been thrown up, and two stone coffins with skeletons in them, the lids of them had no inscriptions on them, but were ornamented each with a cross, having a quarterfoil pierced at the upper end, the stem of which was crossed more than once with foliage, several rings and trinkets, and some old coins have likewise been found at different times in cleaning away the rubbish.

Over the west end of the grand gateway, which stands at the entrance into the precinct of the abbey from the town, at the west end of the building, there is carved in stone, a heart distilling drops of blood, and on the other side, in a shield, Ermine, a crozier in bend sinister, on a chief three annulets.

In the meadows above the gardens, are large square excavations still visible, where the fish ponds of the nunnery formerly were.

The precinct of this monastery is washed by a rivulet of excellent clear water, which rising in the hamlet of St. Leonard, runs by the house, and through the gardens of it, whence gushing through the wall with a cascade, it crosses the road towards the Rev. Mr. Brooke's gardens. There is a view of this abbey in its present

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state published by Mr. Grose, in his Antiquities of England.

Near the abbey gate there is a good house, with a large garden, canal, and pleasure grounds, behind it, reaching down to the London road. It has been many years the residence of the Brooke's, from whom it passed by the will of Joseph Brooke, esq. who died in 1792, after the decease of his widow in 1796, to the Rev. John Kenward Shaw, brother of Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. who has since, in pursuance of the above will, and by the king's licence, taken the name of Brooke, and now resides in it. A little further westward there is a very antient stone building, called the Old Gaol, having narrow gothic windows, and the walls of great thickness. It is reported to have been the prison belonging to the abbey, and is now used as an oast for the drying of hops. About the middle of the street stands the church, and a little distance from it a good house, late the residence of Benjamin Hubble, esq. whose family have been inhabitants of this town for some length of time, several of them lying buried

in this church. He died in 1780, leaving his widow, sister of Richard Savage, esq. of Boughton Monchelsea, surviving, and two daughters, his coheirs, one of whom having married Thomas Augustus Douce, esq. he now resides in it; further southward is the hamlet of St. Leonard, now making part of the town, and called St. Leonard's-street, in which is an antient seat, some years ago the residence of Charles Stewart, esq. whose father admiral Stewart purchased it of judge Twisden. This district had once a cell in it, belonging to the abbey, with a chapel. It was given at the time the manor and church was to it, as has been already mentioned. The whole of it has been long since desecrated, and in ruins; the square tower of the chapel which stands in the next field south-west from the late Mr. Stewart's house, is all that remains of it. It was purchased by him some years ago, of Sir John

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Honywood, in exchange for other premises near the abbey, and is now made use of as a stowage for hops. Mr. Stewart died in 1780, and was buried near his father in this church, and he was succeeded here by the hon. admiral John Forbes, who lately died possessed of it. A market is held in the principal high-street every Saturday, which is plentifully supplied and well frequented. There are three fairs, which are held by the alteration of the stile on August 12, October 2, and November 17, yearly, for horses, cattle, toys, &c. The whole town is excellently well watered with fine springs, which having supplied the town and abbey, collect themselves into one stream, and passing northward through Mr. Brooke's grounds, cross the high Maidstone road, and runs from thence into the Addington brook, just above Leyborne mill.

About half a mile south-east from the abbey there is a good modern-built house, called New Barne, which formerly belonged to Mr. Alchin, from whom it passed to Graham, the present possessor, who resides in it.

Above St. Leonard's street is the high road from Teston over East-Malling-heath, and through this parish to Offham, southward of which this parish extends into the large tract of coppice woods which reach to West Peckham and Mereworth.

Dr. William Briggs, an eminent physician, resided at the latter end of the last century at Town Malling, where he died, Sept. 1704, æt. 64, and was buried in this church, He was a great traveller into foreign countries, and was greatly esteemed for his skill in his profession, as well as for his learning, of which the several writings he published are sufficient testimonies. He was physician in ordinary to king William, and to St. Thomas's hospital, and bore his arms, Gules, three bars gemelles, or, a canton sable./y

/y General Dictionary, vol. iii. p. 592.

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THIS PLACE was given, about the year 945, by Edmund, king of the Angles and of Mercia, to Burhric, bishop of Rochester, by the description of a small portion of his land, called Meallingas, containing three plough lands; and he granted it to him, for the good

of his soul, in perpetual inheritance, in augmentation of the revenues of his monastery of St. Andrew, with all its rights, liberties, members, and appurtenances, and this he did with the consent of his nobles and princes, whose names were subscribed to it. After the names of king Edmund, Edred his brother, and Eadgife his mother, are those of the archbishops and bishops, and then that of Ælgifu, the king's concubine, Ego Ælgifu Concubina Regis affui, and after her the dukes, &c. The bounds of this land are thus described in Saxon, viz. from the south part of it to the king's plaine, and from thence to the bounds of the parish of Offaham, and thence to the military way, and so along the said way over Lilleburne to the bounds of the parish of Est Meallinges, and so directly southward from the east of the cross or gallows to the broad way towards the south, in a direct line along the said way to the king's plaine. To which the king added certain denberies for the pannage of hogs.

This land did not continue long in the possession of the church of Rochester, being wrested from it in the time of the Danish wars; and when William the Conqueror had attained the crown, he gave it to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half brother, from whom it was recovered, together with the church of Mallinges, in the solemn assembly of the whole county held on this occasion, by the king's command, at Pinenden heath, in 1076, by archbishop Lanfrance, who afterward restored it to bishop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew; which gift was confirmed by archbishops Anselm and Boniface./z

/z Reg. Roff. p. 442. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 2.

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In the survey of Domesday, taken about four years afterwards, this manor is thus described, under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Mellingetes, it was taxed, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, at three sulings, and now at one and an half. The arable land is three carucates. In demesne there is one, and five villeins, with six borderers, having two carucates. There is a church, and one mill of two shillings, wood for the pannage of twenty hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth forty shillings, and now four pounds.

Bishop Gundulph, in the 4th year of the reign of king William Rufus, anno 1090, having founded an abbey of Benedictine nuns in this parish, to the honor of the Virgin Mary, gave this manor and church to it, with other possessions for the endowment of it; and although it was, about one hundred years after its being first erected, with the adjoining village, destroyed by fire, yet it was again soon afterwards re-edified, and continued to increase in a flourishing state.

In the 7th year of king Edward I. anno 1278, the abbess of Malling claimed sundry liberties in this parish, by grant from king Henry III. and a market weekly throughout the year on a Saturday and Wednesday; and she claimed by grant from king John to have warren in all her lands at Malling, by grant from

king Henry, from time beyond memory; and to have fairs in the parish on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Matthew the apostle, and the like on the eve, and day of St. Leonard, and the like on the eve, and day of St. Peter, ad vincula.

By which, and such like favours granted to it, this place, which at the first foundation of the monastery

/a Tan. Mon. p. 211. See the several confirmations of this gift of Mallinges Parva, with the market, the church of St. Leonard and of St. Mary of Mallinges, &c. in Reg. Roff. p 480 to 486.

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was plain fields, and almost without an inhabitant, became notwithstanding its former calamity mentioned before, exceedingly populous from the numbers who flocked to it from all parts, who building themselves houses here, increased the village to a large size, well suited for trade, to the no small emolument of the nuns; whence it soon lost its name of Malling Parva, which was for some time transferred to the neighbouring parish of East Malling, as appears by some grants, &c. of this time, and king Edward III./b

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the temporalities of the abbess of Malling in this parish and East Malling were valued at forty-five pounds.

There was an annual pension of ten pounds of wax, and one boar, paid by the abbess to the bishop of Rochester, as an acknowledgment of her subjection to that see.

In the year 1321, the bishop of Rochester, at the king's request, to whom the nuns had made a complaint, that their monastery was ruined by the bad management of their abbess, sister of Bartholomew de Baudesmere, visited it, and heard the complaints against her; in consequence of which she resigned, and the lady Agnes de Leyborne, was chosen in her room. Three years after which she died, and the bishop, at the unanimous request of the nuns, appointed Lora de Retling abbess here, though much against his will, knowing her to be very ignorant, and unfit for the office. However, he inhibited her giving a corrody to her maid servant, as had been the custom, and sequestered their common seal, inhibiting her from using it without his licence.

A great pestilence raging in the year 1348, the bishop made two abbesses here, who presently died; nor were there more than four nuns professed, and four not professed, remaining in this monastery; and he com=

/b Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. ii. p. 288.

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mitted the custody of the spirituals and temporals to two of them, as there was not a proper person for the office of abbess.

In the year 1493, anno 9 Henry VII. Joane Moone was abbess of this monastery./c

This abbey was surrendered into the king's hands, with all its possessions,/d among which were the manors of East and West Malling, with the precincts of Ewell and Parrock annexed to the latter, by Margaret Vernon, abbess, and the convent of it, in the 30th year

of king Henry VIII. at which time it was valued at 245l. 10s. 2½d. annual rent, according to Speed, and 218l. 4s. 2½d. clear value, according to Dugdale, and there was granted to the abbess a pension of forty pounds yearly, and to eleven nuns from 31. 6s. 8d. down to 2l. 13s. 4d. yearly pensions, each for their lives.

After which that king, by his letters patent, in his 31st year, granted and sold, in exchange, among other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, the scite of the abbey, with the precinct and circuit of it, and the manors of West Malling, Ewell, and Parocke, and the parsonage of West Malling, late appropriate to it, excepting to the king all advowsons, presentations, &c. to hold by knight's service, at the yearly rent therein mentioned; and as the king was entitled to the tenths of these premises, he discharged the archbishop of them, and all other outgoing whatsoever, except the rent therein mentioned. Which grant was in consequence of an indenture made between the king and the archbishop, inrolled in the Augmentation-office.

These manors and premises were again exchanged with the crown in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth, in the 12th year of which she granted them

/c Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 364. Reg. Roff. p. 489.

/d The surrendry is in the Augmentation-office.

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in lease to Sir Henry Brooke, alias Cobham, fifth son of Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham; after which they were held by the same possessors, as the manor of East Malling before described, till at length, after the death of Sir Robert Brett, anno 1621, king James granted the manor of West, alias Town Malling, with the precinct of Ewell annexed, the scite of the late monastery, with the house, buildings, and ground within the precinct of it with all their appurtenances, late parcel of the possessions of the late monastery, in fee, to John Rayney, esq. which was further confirmed to Sir John Rayney, his eldest son, in the 2d year of king Charles I. He was of Wrotham-place, in this neighbourhood, and was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, in 1641, and his son of the same name, about the time of the restoration, conveyed these premises to Isaac Honywood, gent. of Hampsted, Middlesex, who was the only son of Edward, third son of Sir Thomas Honywood, of Elmsted, ancestor likewise of the present Sir John Honywood, of Elmssted, baronet, and he continued to bear the same coat of arms; whose second son, Isaac Honywood, esq. of Hampsted, succeeded him in this manor and estate. Frazer Honywood, esq. of Hampsted and London, his only son and heir, rebuilt the abbey house of Malling in the antient gothic taste, at a very great expence, making it one of the seats of his residence, and having thus greatly improved it, he died possessed of this seat and manor, with the estate belonging to it, in 1764, leaving no issue by his wife, the daughter of Abraham Atkins, of Clapham. He gave them, as well as the rest of his estates here and elsewhere, by will, to his kinsman, Sir John Hony-

wood, bart. of Elmsted, and his heirs male, with divers remainders over to the family of Honywood. Sir John Honywood, bart. is since deceased, and his grandson of the same name is the present owner of this manor, with the precinct of Ewell annexed, and the seat

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of Malling abbey, with the lands and appurtenances in this parish belonging to it, but Mr. Foote resides in it.

The family of Say antiently possessed THE MANOR OF CLEMENTS IN EWELL, in this parish. Geoffry de Say held it in the 7th year of king Edward II. as half a knight's fee. His son, Geoffry de Say, paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as half a knight's fee, which John at Forde held before in Ewell, in Malling, of the bishop of Rochester. This manor was afterwards in the name of Coveney,^e and in the latter end of king Henry VIII. it was in the possession of Mr. William Fowle. Since which it has sunk into such obscurity, that neither the scite nor the owners of it can be traced out even by the most diligent enquiries.

CHARITIES.

THERE is a lecture founded in this church of a sermon every fortnight, on the Saturday; two of the preachers to be the ministers of East and West Malling, who are to be paid 10s. for every sermon they preach; the other preachers are appointed at the will of the trustees.

FRANCIS TRESSE, gent. of this town, who died in 1632, by his will gave a piece of land, and 40l. towards the building of a free school in this parish; and he charged one of his houses in Town Malling with the sum of 13s. 4d. per annum, for the keeping of it in repair; and appointed that four principal freeholders of this parish should be trustees for the execution of this part of his will for ever. This school was accordingly erected, and was made use of for the teaching of boys writing and arithmetic. The charity is vested in the minister and four substantial freehold inhabitants, and the estate out of which it is paid in Mr. Robert Sutton, of this parish, but there being no master, the school-house is at present let to the late master's widow at 2gs. per annum, which with the 13s. 4d. is applied towards the maintaining of the building. He also gave two silver cups for the use of the holy communion, and 6s. 8d. payable yearly out of a piece of land, called Cousin's Plat, now vested in Mary Brome, widow.

^e Mr. Petyt's Fœdary, his Book of Kent.

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SIR ROBERT BRETT, by will in 1620, gave land sufficient to pay yearly 10s. per week, to be bestowed in bread and meat to twenty poor persons, or else to be distributed in money to them. His executors accordingly conveyed lands in Tewksbury, in Gloucestershire, for this purpose, which is now vested in lord Romney, and twenty-three others, trustees, of the annual produce of 26l. but of late years the annual produce has been but 19l. 14s.

TOWN MALLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the diocese of Rochester, and gives name to the deanry of Malling, in which it is situated.

The church, which is a handsome building, with

an elegant spire steeple, is dedicated to St. Mary.

At the latter end of the year 1778, some of the main pillars of the body of it giving way, the whole roof of it fell in, leaving only the steeple and chancel at the two extremities of it standing. It has since been repaired, and thoroughly finished by a brief, which was obtained for that purpose.

The church of West Malling was given, with the manor, to the church of Rochester, by king Edmund, in 945; and having afterwards been taken from it, was again restored by archbishop Lanfranc to bishop Gundulph, in the time of the Conqueror, who gave it to the monastery here, at his foundation of it, and this gift was confirmed by several succeeding kings, archbishops of Canterbury, bishops of Rochester, &c. as has been already mentioned.

It was appropriated to the abbess and convent by bishop Gundulph, at the time it was given to them; which appropriation was specially confirmed by Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1351.

In the reign of king Edward III. great disputes arising between the abbess and nuns of this monastery, and Robert de Beulton, perpetual vicar of this church, especially concerning the receiving of the tithes of flax and hemp, and the payment of archidiaconal procurations, they were at last settled by Hamo, bishop of Rochester, who in the year 1339, decreed,

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that, saving the due and accustomed portion of the prebend of the great mass in the conventual church of Malling, and the portion of the vicar, as undermentioned, the religious should take all tithes of corn within the parish, and all oblations and obventions belonging to their conventual church, and the cell of St. Leonard; and that they should not be bound to pay to the vicar the tithes of their hay, woods, or mills. And whereas the bishop was informed, and it was allowed, that the above-mentioned prebendary, and other domestics, serving in the monastery, or in the houses of the prebendary, or perpetual chaplain, celebrating for the dead, as also the brothers and sisters, and other persons dwelling in the monastery, or house of the prebendary, who, when they were without the monastery and houses, were not housekeepers in the parish, were wont to receive the sacraments and sacramentals, in life and in death, and to be buried there, if they happened to die within the monastery or houses, unless by chance they chose to be buried elsewhere; in which case, the religious had the first mass for the body before them, in their monastery, and received all the oblations then and there made, so that no portion was left for the vicar of the parish church. And further, that the prebendary for the time being had been used to receive antiently, and to that time, in part of the portion due to him, all the great and small tithes of the demesne lands of the religious, and of the food of their cattle, and also the great tithes arising from many of the crofts of their tenants situated in the said parish, and also the small tithes of his house, and of the house and land of the perpetual chaplain aforesaid, and all the predial tithes arising from the houses or messuages, curti=

lages and gardens, late of Thomas atte Shoppe and William Cake, in the street, called Holirode-strete, of this parish of Malling, situated above the house of the prebendary; and of all the houses, messuages,

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curtilages, and gardens whatsoever, from thence towards the east and north in Holirode-street, and in the street, called Tan-street, as far as the end of the parish of Malling on that side; and that the religious and prebendary had possessed all and singular the premises aforesaid, in certain distinct portions, peaceably and without contradiction, from the time beyond memory./f

The bishop, therefore, that none of the premises should be altered, decreed, saving all and every matter as aforesaid, that the vicar should receive for his portion all other small tithes, oblations, obventions and profits belonging to the parish church more especially, viz. the tithe of herbage, silva cedua, apples, pears, flax, hemp, wool, milk, cheese, calves, lambs, pigs, pidgeons, geese, ducks, bees, eggs, merchandizings, fowlings, fishings, swans, pulse, and other fruits, and also of corn growing in orchards or gardens, as he had-been accustomed to receive them.

And that the vicar should also receive the personal tithes of the inhabitants of the houses or messuages of Thomas atte Shoppe and William Cake, and of others, inhabiting in the houses or messuages situated in the streets, called Holirode-strete and Tan-strete, and the oblations due and accustomed to the parish church, and should administer ecclesiastical rights to them, and should have the burial of them in the parish church; and that the vicar should have for his habitation, as assigned to him by the religious, the dwelling with its precinct, which the vicar then inhabited, and his predecessors used to inhabit, which he should repair at his own expence, and preserve in a decent state, and should pay the yearly rents and services, due and accustomed from thence; all which the bishop adjudged to be a sufficient portion for the vicar for the time being. And he further decreed,

/f Registrum Roffense, p. 489, 490.

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that the vicar should cause the books to be bound, the vestments to be washed; and the same, and the rest of the ornaments of the parish church, which belonged to the religious to find, as often as need should require, to be repaired, and should cause them to be safely and honestly kept; and that he should provide and find bread, wine, processional tapers, and other lights necessary and accustomed in the chancel, the necessary and accustomed ministers, rochets, surplices, napkins, unconsecrated vessels, basons, and also green rushes to strow the church, if they had been so accustomed, and did not belong to the parishioners to find; and that he should pay the dues to the bishop, and the archidiaconal procurations, and that the vicar should acknowledge and undergo, according to the rate of the taxation of his portion as under-mentioned, all ordinaries and extraordinaries, which, al=

though it might amount to five marcs, being near the moiety of the value of the whole church, according to the estimation then had, he decreed should remain according to the antient taxation of it, as often as burthens of this kind were to be borne, and paid from small benefices. And he decreed, that the religious should acknowledge and undergo all and singular other burthens happening to the parish church, by reason of their portion, which he estimated at twelve marcs, according to the antient taxation of it, notwithstanding this assignation, which was made with the consent of both parties, and which by his episcopal authority, he corroborated and confirmed, &c. and that it might not be called in doubt in future times, or be litigated, he had caused it to be entered in his register, and to be reduced into three different writings, of which he decreed one to remain in the hands of the religious, another in the hands of the vicar, and the third in the hands of the prebendary aforesaid, to perpetuate the memory of it, and had caused it to be authenticated with his seal, &c.

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This parsonage, prebend, and the advowson of the vicarage, were, on the dissolution of the abbey in the 30th year of king Henry VIII. surrendered into the king's hands. After which the king, next year, granted this parsonage, with the manor of West Malling, and other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold by knight's service, at the yearly rent therein mentioned. After which it passed, with the manor of West Malling, in a like succession of ownership, down to Sir John Rayney, bart. who sold these premises, about the time of the restoration, to judge Twisden, and his descendant, Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. is the present possessor of this parsonage, and the advowson of the vicarage of West or Town Malling.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at ten pounds, and the yearly tenths at one pound.

CHURCH OF WEST OR TOWN MALLING.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. VICARS.

Abbess and convent of Malling Robert Beultone, in 1339./g
John Rose, S. T. B. obt. Oct.

10, 1452./h

Robert Throgmorton, about 1630./i

Twisden's, of Bradbourn. Samuel French, ejected 1662./k

Joshua Allard.

Abraham Lord.

Thomas Pyke, 1716.

Robert Skudamore, obt. 1718.

Simon Babb, obt. Nov. 1730./l

Charles Brown, A. M. 1730./m

James Webb, A. M. 1748, ob.

1768./n

/g Reg. Roff. p. 484.

/h He lies buried in the vestry of this church.

/i No graduate. MSS. Twysden.

/k Calamy's Life of Baxter. Ken=

net's Register.

/l He was suspended for three years,
for incontinency.

/m He was also vicar of Cheshunt by
dispensation, in 1734.

/n And rector of Trottesclive.

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PATRONS, &c. VICARS.

Twisden's, of Bradbourn. Robert Style, A. M. resigned
1770./o

Richard Husband, 1770, the pre=
sent vicar./p

/o Third son of the late Sir Thomas
Style, bart. of Watringbury. He re=
signed this with the present vicar for
Watringbury.

/p And late minor canon of Ro=
chester.

- - -

OFHAM.

WESTWARD from Town Malling lies Ofham,
called by the Saxons, Offaham; which name it is sup=
posed to have taken from its having been once part of
the possessions of Offa, king of Mercia, the most famous
monarch of the Saxon heptarchy; ham in Saxon sig=
nifying a village or dwelling. Probably from this,
and the Roman military way having gone through, or
at least very near it, this place was then, and had been
for some time, a village of some note.

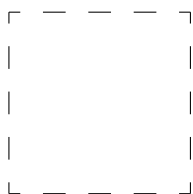
THIS PARISH seems to have been formerly of
much greater account than it is at present, the antient
military way passing through it, as has been already
noticed above; although the road from the Weald
of Kent through Wrotham to London leads through
the village, yet it is lonely, and otherwise a place but
little frequented or known; the whole, from its be=
ing so much enveloped with woods, has a very gloomy
appearance.

The village is situated on high ground round a
broad green, having the parsonage, a handsome sashed
house, on one side of it, and the church and court=
lodge at a small distance northward.

On Ofham green there stands a quintin, a thing
now rarely to be met with, being a machine much
used in former times by youth, as well to try their

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own activity as the swiftness of their horses in running
at it. The following is the figure of it.



The cross piece of it is broad at one end, and
pierced full of holes; and a bag of sand is hung at
the other, and swings round, on being moved with

any blow.

The pastime was for the youth on horseback to run at it as fast as possible, and hit the broad part in the career with much force. He that by chance hit it not at all, was treated with loud peals of derision; and he who did hit it, made the best use of his swiftness, lest he should have a sound blow on his neck from the bag of sand, which instantly swang round from the other end of the quintin. The great design of this sport was, to try the agility both of horse and man, and to break the board, which whoever did, he was accounted chief of the day's sport.

When queen Elizabeth was at the earl of Leicester's, at Kenelworth castle, among other sports for her

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entertainment, the running at the quintin was exhibited in the castle-yard by the country lads and lasses assembled on that day, to celebrate a rural wedding.

Dr. Plot, in his Natural History of Oxfordshire, says, this sport was used in his time at Deddington, in Oxfordshire; and Dr. Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, says, it was at Blackthorne. It is supposed to be a Roman exercise, left in this island at their departure from it./q

It stands opposite the dwelling-house of the estate, which is bound to keep it up. This estate has been for almost three centuries in the name of Tresse; the last of which, Mr. Thomas Tresse, died possessed of it, unmarried, in 1737. It is now the property of Mr. William Currant, who resides on it, and possesses it in right of his wife, a daughter of Mr. Thomas Coleman, descended from a sister of the above-mentioned Mr. Thomas Tresse. This name of Tress, or Tresse, is supposed to be the same as that of Tracy, and to have been altered by vulgar corruption and the succession of time; if so, the family of Tresse, so long settled at West Malling and this place, might very probably be a branch of the family of Tracie, possessors of the manor which still bears their name at Newington, near Sittingborne, in the reign of Henry III. They bore for their arms, Or, two bends between nine escallops, gules.

From the village, the ground descends for a mile down to the Maidstone road to London, which is at its northern boundary. Here the soil is a deep sand, which nearer the village approaches the quarry rock, adjoining the south side of it is the great tract of woods, called the Hurst woods, which extend from hence for near two miles, as far as West Peckham and Mereworth.

/q See Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 249.

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It is commonly said that Jack Straw, a principal companion with Wat Tyler in the rebellion, which they headed in the 5th year of king Richard II. was born at a small cottage at Pepingstraw, in this parish, whence he assumed his surname./r

This parish, among others, ought antiently to have contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester

bridge./s

ATHULF, or Ethelwulph, king of England, son of king Egbert, about the year 832, gave Ofnehamme, at the instance of archbishop Ceolnoth, to the church of Canterbury. At the close of the grant were added the three letters, L. S. A. that is, Libere Sicut Adisham, meaning, that the land given by this charter to the church should be endowed with the same franchises and liberties, that Adisham originally was; a clause, or one similar to it, which the archbishops procured to most of the Saxon grants made to their church, if the lands were in this county./t

This place was wrested from the church of Canterbury during the troublesome times that followed, and seems afterwards to have been divided in the hands of two different owners. However, the whole appears, by the record of Domesday, to have been at the taking that survey, in the year 1080, part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered there:

The same Hugh (de Port) holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Ofefham. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is three carucates. In demesne there is nothing. There are six villeins, with one borderer having two carucates. There is one mill of fifty pence and three servants, and four acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Con=

/r Philipott, p. 259. /s Lamb. Peramb. p. 422.

/t Somner's Cant. Appendix, p. 38.

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fessor, it was worth forty shillings, when he received it twenty shillings, now thirty shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

And a little lower thus:

Anschitil holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Ofefham. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is In demesne there is one carucate, and six villeins, with two borderers having one carucate. There are four servants, and one mill of ten shillings, and seven acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of ten hogs, and in the city of Rochester one house paying thirty pence. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, this manor was worth one hundred shillings, when he received it four pounds, and now four pounds and nine shillings. What Richard de Tonebridge holds is worth eleven shillings. Uluric held it of Alnod Cilt.

These estates, on the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, became confiscated to the crown. After which they were become the possessions of a family, which assumed its name of De Ofham, from their property here, who held it of the archbishop of Canterbury. William de Ofham held the manor of Ofham, with its appendages of Godwell, Snodbean, and Pepingstraw, and the advowson of the church of Ofham, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry III./u

In the reign of king Edward I. Stephen de Pencestre, who had married Christiana, sister of William

de Ofham above-mentioned, enfeoffed Richard de Courtone of an annual rent of assise, and the third part of the advowson of the church of Ofham. Richard de Courtone seems at that time to have been possessed of the other parts of this manor, a third part of which was claimed of him by Matilda, another sister of William de Ofham. Soon after which Robert, brother of Richard de Courtone, passed away

/u Harris's History of Kent, p. 224.

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that annual rent, and the third part of the advowson, to Ralph de Ditton, who together with the said Richard de Courtone, for he still remained owner of Godwell, were found to be possessed of Ofham manor, and its appendages, in the 7th year of king Edward II./w

Ralph de Ditton, senior, appears soon afterwards to have had the entire fee of this manor, and its appendages, excepting Godwell, and to have been possessed likewise of the entire advowson of Ofham; and in the 16th year of king Edward II. he granted to his daughter, Isabella, his manor of Ofham, together with the advowson of the church, in perpetual inheritance for ever, rendering yearly the due and accustomed services of the chief lords of the fee. In consideration of which he had paid him in hand one hundred marks sterling, as a fine. Isabella de Offeham afterwards enfeoffed Sir John Chidocke in this manor and advowson, but this was in trust, on her marriage with Thomas de Plumsted, called Guodchepe; and accordingly he again assigned this manor and advowson back again to the said Thomas and Isabella his wife.

This Thomas de Plumsted seems also to have been called Thomas de Ditton, in respect of his wife, and to be the same person who paid aid for this manor, in the book for the collecting of which it is thus entered, under the title of the manor of Offeham, and some time with Godwell annexed, as follows, viz.

Of Thomas de Ditton and John Melford, for one knight's fee, which Ralph de Ditton and Richard de Courtone held in Offeham of the archbishop of Canterbury; of which John de Melford holds one quarter of a knight's fee.

Thomas de Plumsted, alias Ditton, called likewise Thomas Guodchepe, survived his wife Isabella, by whom he had a son and heir, Theobald, and died in

/w Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.

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the 31st year of that reign, possessed of this manor and advowson, and leaving his second wife, Nichola, guardian to his son before mentioned, then under age.

How long this estate remained in this family I have not seen; but it was not long before the Colepepers, of Aylesford, were in possession of it.

Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, who was sheriff of this county in the 11th year of king Edward IV. died possessed of this manor, with its appendages, Snodbean and Pepingstraw, and the advowson of the church, in the 2d year of king Richard III. anno 1484. He left no issue male; so that his three daughters, Mar=

garet, married to William Cotton, of Oxenhoath; Joyce, the wife of Edmund, lord Howard, and Elizabeth, wife of Henry Barham, of Teston, became his coheirs. They, in the next reign of king Henry VII. joined in the sale of this manor, and its appendages above-mentioned, and the advowson of this church, to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Liminge, in this county. He left issue a son and heir, John Leigh, alias a-Legh, esq. who was of Addington, in the county of Surry, and in the 35th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged this manor and advowson with the appendant manors of Pepingstraw and Snodbeane, with that king, for other lands and premises. After which the king, in his 36th year, granted to William Wilford, John Benet, and George Briggs, citizens of London, his manors of Ofham, Snodbeane, and Pepingstraw, with their appurtenances, in Ofham, Ryarsh, Yalding, Brenchley, and elsewhere in the county of Kent, to hold in capite by knight's service.

They next year alienated the above premises to John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield, in whose descendants, earls of Thanet, the manor of Ofham, with its appendages of Snodbeane and Pepingstraw, have continued down to the Right Hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet, the present owner of them.

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The court is still held for this manor, which pays a fee-farm of 2l. 6s. 8d. yearly to the crown.

THE OTHER APPENDAGE of the manor of Ofham, called GODWELL, which in the 7th year of king Edward II. anno 1313, remained in the possession of Robert de Courtone, passed from that name soon afterwards to Melford, and John de Melford paid aid for it in the 20th year of king Edward III. as one quarter of a knight's fee, which Richard de Courtone before held of the archbishop of Canterbury.

His descendants continued owners of this manor of Godwell till the reign of king Henry VI. when it was conveyed to Browne, whose descendant, Sir Matthew Browne, of Beechworth-castle, in Surry, alienated it about the latter end of the reign of king Henry VIII. to Richard Nortop, alias Clerk, which name he acquired the addition of from his office of clerk of the forest of Sherwood, in Nottinghamshire, and it before long became the common name of this family, who soon afterwards wrote themselves Clerk, alias Nortop, who bore for their arms, Argent, a cross chequy argent, and azure. His descendant, George Clerk, alias Nortop, died possessed of this manor in the reign of king James I. leaving seven daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Frances, married Mr. Thomas Dowell, who purchased the other six parts of his wife's sisters, and so became entitled to the whole fee of this manor.

His son of the same name, passed it away by sale in the reign of king Charles II. to Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Chidingstone, whose descendant, Henry Streatfeild, esq. of Chidingstone, in 1781 sold it to Mr. John Smith, who resided at it. Since whose death it has become the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Knell, the present owner of it. There is a court baron held for this manor.

There are no parochial charities.

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

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, stands about a quarter of a mile northward from the village. It is a strong building of one isle and a chancel, having a tower steeple on the middle of the north side of it.

The patronage of the church of Ofham continued an appendage to the manor of Ofham from time to time, as has been already shewn; and John Leigh, esq. of Addington, in the 35th year of king Henry VIII. exchanged both manor and advowson with that king for other lands. Since which, though the manor was the next year alienated by the king, yet the advowson of this church continued in the hands of the crown, where it remains at this time.

It is now a discharged living, of the clear yearly certified value of forty pounds, the annual tenths of which are twelve shillings./z

CHURCH OF OFHAM.

PATRONS,

Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of Ofham manor. Master Bartholomew, temp. Edward II. resig./a

Isabella de Ditton. Richard de St. Quintin./b

Thomas de Plumsted. Robert Joye./c

Henry de Grofherst, for this turn only. Robert de la Chambre, temp. Edward III./d

William Spayne, in 1493./e

The King. Richard Kydde, Oct. 10, 1553./f

John Baxter, clerk, Nov. 8, 1572./g

John Cowper, A. B. 1630./h

/z Bacon's Lib. Regis.

/a Reg. Roff. p. 512.

/b Ibid. He was before rector of Barming, which he exchanged with master Bartholomew for this church.

/c Reg. Roff. ibid.

/d Ibid.

/e Ibid. p. 490.

/f Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 348.

/g Vacant by resignation. Rymer's Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 715.

/h MSS. Twysden. Vacant by death. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 438.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

The King. Robert Brownwell, A. M. Aug. 3, 1632.

Samuel Bickley, April 1714.

William Miles, A. M. March 7, 1741, obt. Oct. 16, 1746./i

Boxworth Liptrott, 1746, resig.

1777.

John Liptrott, 1777, the present rector.

/i He was also vicar of Holy Cross Westgate, and rector of St. Peter's, in Canterbury, and lies buried in the chancel of this church.

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ADDINGTON.

NORTHWARD from Ofham lies Addington, written in Domesday and antient charters, Eddingtune, signifying, as I imagine, the town or territory of Adda, or Edda, its antient Saxon owner; tun in Saxon being a town or territory inclosed with a hedge or fence.

THE PARISH of Addington is not unpleasantly situated, for the greatest part on high ground, adjoining to the northern side of the Maidstone road, at the twenty-seventh mile stone, at a small distance from which is the small rivulet which rises at Nepecker, in Wrotham, and flowing through this parish is here called Addington brook, whence the new-built house near it takes its name of St. Vincent's, alias Addington brook, built some years ago by admiral William Parry, who resided in it till his death in 1779, he left by Lucy his wife, daughter of Charles Brown, esq. commissioner of the navy at Chatham, an only daughter, who carried it in marriage to captain William Locker, the present lieutenant-governor of Greenwich hospital. It was lately inhabited by Mr. William Hunter, but is now unoccupied.

Hence the ground rises, and at a small distance above it is the mansion and garden of Addington place, pleasantly situated on the side of the hill, having a lawn and

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avenue down to the road, from which it is a conspicuous object, behind it still higher stands the church and village, built round Addington green, over which the road leads from Trottesclive, to which and Wrotham this parish joins towards the west. The soil is a sand covering the quarry rock, but the land is most of it but poor and unfertile, especially towards the north and west parts of it, where the sand is deepest; in the latter is a small green called Addington common.

Here is an eelbourn, or nailbourn, as they are commonly called, the stream of which breaks out with great impetuosity once in seven or eight years, which then directs its waters along a trench, dug for this purpose, till it flows into the Leyborne rivulet, the trout of which it makes of a red colour, which otherwise are white.

These nailbourns, or eruptions of water, are very common in the eastern part of Kent, where the reason of their breaking forth will be particularly mentioned.

In a place here, called the Warren, about five hundred paces north-eastward from the church, on a little eminence, there are the remains of several large stones, placed in an oval form; seventeen of them may be easily traced, though from the distances between the stones, which are nearly equal, there must have been at least twenty to complete the oval, which consisted

of only one row of stones. The sandiness of the soil has covered many of them, which can, only by guessing their distances, be found by thrusting of a stick into the ground. Such of the stones as have fallen down, have been carried away by the inhabitants for different uses. The stones are of the same kind as those of Stonehenge, and being placed in the same form, seem as if they were intended for the same use./k

About one hundred and thirty paces to the north-west of the above is another heap of large stones, tum=

/k See Mr. Colebrooke's *Archæologia*, vol. ii. p. 107.

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bled inwards one upon another. They originally consisted of six in number, and in circuit measure thirty-three paces.

SOON AFTER the conquest, this place was become part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the Conqueror's half-brother, under the general title of whose lands it is thus entered in the survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080.

Ralf (son of Turald) holds Eddintune of the bishop (of Baieux) for half a suling. The arable land is one carucate, and there is . . . with four borderers, and two servants, and there is one mill of twenty-three shillings. The whole manor was valued at four pounds. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth but little. Lestan held it of king Edward, and after his death turned himself over to Alnod Cilt, and now it is in dispute.

And a little further thus:

Ralf, son of Turald, holds Eddintune of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at two sulings and an half. The arable land is five carucates, in demesne there are two, and six villeins, with nine borderers, having one carucate. There is a church and ten servants, and two mills of eleven shillings and two-pence, and twelve acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was worth eight pounds, when he received it one hundred shillings, now six pounds. Agelred held it of king Edward.

These were plainly, by the descriptions, two separate estates, and both certainly, by their names, in this parish, and held by the same person. On the disgrace of the bishop of Baieux, about four years afterwards, they became, among the rest of his possessions, confiscated to the crown. Soon after which they seem to have been held as one manor, by William de Gurnay, and afterwards by Galiena de Gurnay, his grandchild; they were succeeded in the possession of this place by the family of Mandeville, or De Magna Villa,

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as the name was written in Latin, who held it of the family of Montchensie, as capital lords of the fee.

But this family was extinct here in the next reign of king Edward II. for Roger del Eschequer was owner of it in the 7th year of it, who assumed his name from his hereditary office of usher of the exchequer, whence he was called del Eschequer, de la Chekere, and

de Scaccario./m John de la Chekere possessed it in the first year of king Edward III. in which he was succeeded by Nicholas de Daggeworth,/n whose ancestor, John de Daggeworth, had married Maud, one of the sisters and coheirs of Simon del Exchequer. At the accession of king Richard II. he was made of his privy council, and afterwards steward of his household, keeper of the great seal, and treasurer of England./o He bore for his arms, Sable, a lion rampant, argent, crowned or, with proper difference.

In the 20th year of king Edward III. he paid aid for this manor, which Robert de Scaccario before held in Addington, of Warine de Montchensie, as of his manor of Swanscombe. He alienated it, before the end of that reign, to Sir Hugh de Segrave, knight batchelor, and he conveyed it to Richard Charles, who died in the 2d year of king Richard II. anno 1378, and lies buried in this church, leaving his brother's sons, Richard and John, his next heirs.

Richard Charles, the eldest brother, possessed this manor, whose son, Robert Charles, dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs, Alice, married to William Snayth, and Joane to Richard Orme=

/l Book of Knights fees in the Exchequer.

/m Madox's Exchequer, p. 718, et seq.

/n Lamb. Peramb. p. 600. He was so called from the manor of that name, which he possessed in Suffolk, and was a famous for his military valour. The other sister of Simon del Exchequer, Lora, married William Peyforer. Madox Exchequer, p. 721.

/o Rym. Fœd. vol. vii. p. 161, 310, 362.

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skirke; and upon the division of their inheritance, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, sheriff in the 9th year of king Henry IV. who kept his shrievalty at his manor-house of Addington, bearing for his arms, Argent, a chevron between three birds heads erased, sable; two years after which he died, and was buried, with Alice his wife, in this church. He left an only daughter and heir Alice, who carried this manor, with the rest of his estates, in marriage to Robert Watton, who thenceforward resided at Addington. He was descended from ancestors, who held lands in the parish of Ridley in the 20th year of king Edward III. and bore for his arms, Argent, a lion rampant, gules, debruised with a bend, sable, charged with three cross-crosetts fitchee, argent. He died possessed of the manor, and patronage of the church of Addington in the year 1444, anno 23 king Henry VI. and was buried in this church.

His descendant, Thomas Watton, esq. of Addington, procured his lands in this county to be disgauged by the act of 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. and in his descendants, residents at this place, who on their deaths were all buried in this church,/p and his manor, with the patronage of this church, continued down to Edmund Watton, esq. of Addington, who left an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who marrying Leonard Bartholomew, second son of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, entitled him to this

estate. He had by her two sons; Edmund, who died unmarried; and Leonard, who will be mentioned hereafter. On his death she again became possessed of this estate, which she carried in marriage to her second husband, Sir Roger Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, whom she likewise survived, and dying in

/p Vistn. co. Kent. 1619. MSS. pedigrees of Watton, and inscriptions in this church.

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1775, was succeeded in it by her only surviving son by her first husband, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. who resides at Addington-place, where he served the office of sheriff in 1790, bearing for his arms, Or, three goats erased sable. He married the daughter of Mr. Wildash, of Chatham, widow of Mr. Thornton, of East-Malling, by whom he has an only daughter, married in 1797 to the hon. captain John Wingfield, brother to the lord viscount Powerscourt, of the kingdom of Ireland.

There is a court leet and court baron held for this manor, which is held of the manor of Swanscombe by castle-guard to the castle of Rochester.

CHARITIES.

A PERSON UNKNOWN gave to the use of the poor the annual sum of 15s. arising from land vested in Leonard Bartholomew, esq. and now of that annual product.

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

The church has a handsome tower steeple at the west end. It is dedicated to St. Margaret. The present building was erected in 1403, as appears by the following inscription on the wall of it:

In fourteen hundred and none,
Here was neither stick nor stone;
In fourteen hundred and three,
The goodly building which you see.

The church of Addington has always been an appendage to the manor, and as such this rectory is now in the patronage of Leonard Bartholomew, esq.

It is endowed with all tithes whatsoever.

It is valued in the king's books at 6l. 6s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 12s. 8d.

William de Gurnay gave to the church and priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester, in pure and perpetual

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alms, certain tithes of the demesnes of his parish of Edintune; but they lying so dispersed, that they could not be conveniently gathered by the monks, though they could be easily collected by the parson of this church: therefore it was agreed, that the parson of it should pay the yearly sum of five shillings to the monks of Rochester, on St. Andrew's day, for them./q

This pension, after the dissolution of the priory in the 31st year of king Henry VIII. was surrendered into the king's hands, who granted it two years afterwards by his dotation charter, to his new-erected dean

and chapter of Rochester, to which it continues to be paid at this time.

It appears by the endowment of the vicarage of Hadlow, in this county, in 1287, that the rector of that parish had been used, beyond memory, to pay yearly the sum of eighteen-pence to the rector of this church, which payment the vicar of Hadlow was enjoined to pay in future./r

CHURCH OF ADDINGTON.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Lords of the manor of Addington. Mr. Edward Drayner, A. B.
about 1630./s

John Boraston, A. M. instituted
August 6, 1702, obt. June 9,
1741./t

Thomas Buttonshaw, A. M. presented July 1741, obt. 1768./u

Daniel Hill, A. M. 1768, the
present rector./w

/q See the confirmations of it in
Reg. Roff. p. 145, 47, 59, 138, 528.

/r Reg. Roff. p. 382.

/s MSS. Twysden.

/t He died æt. 78, and was buried in
this church.

/u He held the vicarage of Ryarsh by
dispensation with this.

/w And vicar of East Malling by
dispensation.

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TROTTESECLIVE.

NORTH-WESTWARD from Addington lies Trottesclive, vulgarly called Trosley; so named, as I imagine, from its situation, quasi Trodes-clif, i e. the hilly tract, this place being close at the foot of the great chalk hills, which extend themselves across the county.

THE PARISH of Trottesclive is of no great extent, containing not more than one thousand acres of land, and thirty-two houses and cottages. The situation of it is, though healthy, far from being pleasant or even desirable; the soil is but poor and hungry. The great ridge of chalks hills cross it, near the foot of which, though yet on high ground, is the village, having the church and antient palace in another part of it, about a quarter of a mile distance eastward. The high road from Dartford by Longfield, Hartley bottom, and Berry's Maple, leads through it towards Ofham and Malling; below the village the soil is a sand, and above it chalk. Above the hills it reaches for more than a mile along a dreary country, but thinly inhabited, and much covered with coppice woods, the soil of which is a heavy tillage land, consisting of an unfertile red earth, mixed with a quantity of flint stones, which make the narrow roads through it most disagreeable to travel through.

The parish ought antiently to have contributed to

the third pier of Rochester bridge.

In the year 788, Offa, king of the Mercians, gave a part of his land, containing six plough-lands, called Trottesclive, to the church of St. Andrew, and the bishopric of the castle, which was called Hrofescester, to hold for ever, together with all rights and appurtenances belonging to it. The bounds of it were on

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the east and south, Boerlingas; on the west, Wroteham; and on the north, Meapaham, and there belonged to it in different places, pannage of hogs, in the Wealdberies, as in the grant are particularly mentioned.

The church of Rochester did not continue long in the possession of this estate; for it was wrested from it in the time of the Danish wars, which quickly followed, and continued so till archbishop Lanfranc recovered it, in the solemn assembly of the whole county held at Pinenden-heath in 1076; and he immediately restored it to bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew.^x

In the general survey of Domesday, taken about the year 1080, this place is thus described, under the title of the bishop of Rochester's lands:

The same bishop (of Rochester) holds Trottesclive. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was taxed at three sulings, and now at one suling. The arable land is three carucates. In demesne there is one suling, and one carucate there, and ten villeins with two carucates. There is a church, and one servant, and two acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of ten hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth sixty shillings, and now seven pounds.

Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, who was elected to that see in the year 1077, divided the revenues of his church between himself and his monks, and in that division, the manor of Trottesclive was allotted to the bishop, and was by him appropriated to the support of his table, or *ad victum Episcopi*, as it was then stiled.

Soon after which there was an episcopal palace erected at this place, the buildings of which were grown so ruinous when bishop Gilbert de Glanvill

^x See the confirmations of it in Reg. Roff. p. 442. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 2.

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came to the see in 1185, that he was forced to rebuild them, which he did in a much more convenient manner.

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors in 1255, it appeared, that this manor had within it two hundred acres of arable land, each of which was estimated at four pence, and the pasture of the meadows and the out-woods at twenty shillings, that the annual rent amounted to the sum of seventy-three shillings and nine-pence farthing; the sum total of the whole manor being 8l. 0s. 5¹/₄d. and that the buildings required for the necessary repair of them thirty shillings yearly.

And again at the latter end of that reign, on a valuation of the manors appropriated to the bishop's table, of this manor it appeared that the rents of it, as well in money as in hens, eggs, and ploughshares, were yearly 4l. 0s. 7d. that there were in it two ploughs, and yet there were not in reality two plough lands, 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; that the yearly value of the same, together with the pasture, was seventy-six shillings and eightpence, and that there was one mill only here, which paid ten shillings per annum. The sum total of the value 8l. 7s. 3d. per annum.

In the 21st year of king Edward I. anno 1292, the bishop of Rochester was summoned to answer the king, before John de Berewyke and others, justices itinerants, at Canterbury, in a plea of quo warranto, by what right he claimed to hold pleas of withernam, and to have return of the king's writs, and assise of bread and ale, in this manor, and the bishop appeared, and claimed the above liberties in it, and view of frank-pledge within it; and as to the return of writs, &c. he said, that this manor was within the precinct of the liberty of the archbishop, and that the

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bishop's bailiffs received such returns by the hands of the archbishop's bailiffs; therefore he prayed judgment, &c. And as to the other liberties, that he and his predecessors, beyond the memory of man, had used them without interruption; on which it was found for the bishop, and the record of these pleas was, at the request of John de Shepey, bishop of Rochester, exemplified by inspeximus under the great seal, in the 30th year of Edward III. anno 1355.

Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, having resided during the Lent of 1322, at Halling, came from thence to Trottesclive, where he celebrated the feast of Easter; and caused some additions to be made to the buildings of this palace, and six years afterwards, coming hither a few days after the Purification, he resided here the whole year, during which he surrounded his court with high walls, and made a new chamber for the bishop, and another for his clerks, and a new kitchen; the whole of which expence amounted to one hundred marcs.

The bishops of Rochester continued to reside occasionally at this palace, till some years after the reformation; about which time this, as well as the rest of their antient manors and mansion houses in this county, excepting Bromley, were leased out by them for lives or years to different tenants; in which state the manor and mansion-house of Trottesclive continue at this time. The family of Whitaker have for some generations been lessees of it, under the bishop of Rochester, and have resided in the manor-house, during which time they have acquired the rank of gentlemen, bearing for their arms, Sable, a fess between three muscles argent. Thomas Whitaker, esq. of this place, was sheriff in 1743, as was his eldest son Thomas Whitaker, esq. in 1748, and both kept their shrievalties at this place, and his son of the same name now

resides here.

/y Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 363, 368.

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THERE WAS AN ESTATE in this parish, which was antiently accounted a manor, and was likewise called THE MANOR OF TROTTECLIVE. It was held of the bishop of Rochester in the 12th and 13th years of king John, as appears by the inquisitions then taken by Roger de Cressi, as half a knight's fee./z His descendant Stephen de Cressi, in the same reign, possessed this manor, and likewise a park here called Cressy park, and le west Park, and was soon afterwards succeeded in it by Roger de Leyborne, but this estate seems about this time to have been vested in the crown; for king Henry III. in his 48th year, granted the manor of Trottesclive to his niece Isabel, the illegitimate daughter of Richard, earl of Cornwall, a younger son of king John, who afterwards married Maurice, lord Berkeley./a If so, it could remain in the crown, or in Isabel above-mentioned, but a very few years before it passed to Roger de Leyborne, who having some claim to the manor of Ledes against Robert de Crevequer, it was settled by the interposition of friends, in consequence of which, Roger de Leyborne, in the 52d year of that reign, granted his manors of Trottesclive and Flete wholly to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, junior, and Yseude his wife, they performing to him the free service of one knight's fee, and to the bishop of Rochester all other services due and accustomed, in consideration of which, Robert had granted to him, by way of exchange, his manor of Ledes, with all its appurtenances, together with a moiety of all his fees, and as the above manors of Trottesclive and Flete were not of equal value to the manor of Ledes, he granted to them one hundred shillings rent in Redleghe.

Robert de Crevequer, anno 6th Edward I. released to John, bishop of Rochester, all his right in this

/z Lib. Rubr. Scacc. Dugd. Bar. vol i. p. 708.

/a Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 765.

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manor of Trottesclive, with its appurtenances in Malling, Wroteham, and elsewhere, to hold to him as in right of his church for ever. In consideration of which, the bishop had given him fifty marcs, and one palfrey, as a fine./b This estate which is now called West-court, alias Wrotham-water, and lies in the parishes of Trottesclive and Wrotham, still continues part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester, the present lessee of it under the bishop, being Mr. Whitaker.

CHARITIES.

THE REV. PAUL BARISTON and MARY GODWIN gave by will in 1711, for the purpose of a charity school, land vested in trustees, and now of the annual produce of 9l.

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

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.
The church of Trottesclive has always been ac-
counted an appendage to the manor, and as such is at
this time in the patronage of the right reverend the
lord bishop of Rochester.

It is valued in the king's books at 10l. 2s. 11d. and
the yearly tenths at 1l. 0s. 3¹/₂d./c

CHURCH OF TROTTESCLIVE.

PATRONS,
Or by whom presented. RECTORS.

Bishops of Rochester, lords of the
manor. John, in the reign of Henry
II./d

James, in the reign of Henry
III./e

Nicholas de Rokelunde, in the
same reign./f

John de Denyngtone, and 12th Ed-
ward III./g

/b About this time and afterwards,
several small parcels of lands and
rents, parcel of the above estate, were
conveyed to the bishops of Rochester,
as may be seen in Reg. Roff. p. 657,
658, 659.

/c Bacon's Lib. Regis.

/d Reg. Roff. p. 161.

/e Ibid. p. 664.

/f Ibid. p. 321.

/g Ibid. p. 682.

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PATRONS, &c. RECTORS.

Bishops of Rochester, lords of the
manor. Thomas Rither, clerk, in 1589./h
Edmund Jackson, S. T. P. in
1630./i

John Warren, about 1692./k
..... Wooldridge.

Thomas Cockman, A. M. inst.
July 28, 1704./l

Charles Lambe, in 1723.

Hugh Pugh, in 1724.

James Webb, A. M. obt. 1759./m

Francis Lloyd, A. M. in 1759,
resig. 1779.

Francis Taynton, A. M. 1779,
obt. 1794./n

..... Crawford, 1794, the pre-
sent rector.

/h Presented to by the chancellor, as
being vacant by lapse.

/i MSS. Twysden.

/k And vicar of St. John's, Margate.

/l Also vicar of East Malling.

/m In 1748 a dispensation passed for
his holding this with the vicarage of
West Malling.

/n Likewise vicar of West Farleigh.

APPENDIX.

CONTAINING
 ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
 TO THE
 THIRD AND FOURTH VOLUMES.

TO VOLUME III.

SHOREHAM.

PAGE 2.

THIS PARISH is supposed to be about twenty miles round, and to contain five thousand acres of land, of which seven hundred are woodland. The soil, though chalky on the side of the hills, is a strong clay otherwise on the summit of them; the valley is a hazely mould, the meadows rather wet and marshy; there are about one hundred houses. There are two mills, the one a corn mill belonging to Thomas Borrett, esq. the other a paper mill belonging to Mr. James Bedill, of Ruxley.

HALSTED.

PAGE 13. At the north end of this parish is Broke farm, the property of Mr. John Goodhew.

OTFORD.

PAGE 27. Two thirds of Serjeants Otford manor, late belonging to Sir Charles F. Radcliffe, bart. was sold, as to his life estate in them, to lord Amherst, who died in 1797, and his nephew and heir William Pitt Amherst, lord Amherst, now possesses them, but after Sir Charles's death, they will devolve by entail, to his brother John Farnaby, esq. of West Wickham.

KEMSING AND SEALE.

PAGE 45. For Porter read Potkyn, and the like page 58. The vicarage of Kemsing with Seal, consists of the small tithes of both parishes, with a portion of the great tithes in Seale, formerly called Bordirivere, now Under River, consisting of about eight hundred acres of land.

SEVENOKE.

PAGE 61. Ashgrove does not belong to Mrs. Smith, but to Mrs. Otway, widow of Francis Otway, esq.

Ibid. For Peter Nonaille read Nouaille.

PAGE 67. Panthurst, or Panters, belongs to Multon Lambard, esq.

PAGE 61. Northward of the plain is a seat, some few years since belonging to Sir Multon Lambard, whose widow afterwards resided in it, since which John Pratt, esq. late of Wilderness, occupied it and died here in 1797, the property of it belonged, and does now to Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoke.

PAGE 90. Britains adjoins to the estate of Kippington.

PAGE 95. Lord Amherst died in August, 1797, and his nephew and heir William Pitt Amherst now (by his uncle's second patent) lord Amherst, of Montreal, is the present

owner of this seat, and the rest of his estates in this county.

PAGE 104. Greatnesse. This is mentioned in the parish of Swanscombe, vol. ii. p. 400, as meaning Greenhyth; paying too implicit a respect to Mr. Thorpe's opinion, I placed it there, but wrong, for it certainly was meant for the chapel at Greatness, in Sevenoke church.

PAGE 137, line 9. For their read his.

WESTERHAM.

PAGE 159. Mariners belongs to Mr. Edward, son of Mr. Stafford Whitaker, who resides in it.

EATONBRIDGE.

PAGE 186. Brown's Court. Mr. Boddington sold it to Mr. Beecher Walter, the present owner.

PAGE 187, line 9. . . . read John Henniker Major, esq.

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HEVER.

PAGE 190. Poelbrooks is an antient seat now belonging to Mrs. Payne, daughter and sole heir of William Douglas, esq. who resides in it.

PAGE 199, line 5. For Lambarde read Lambard.

PAGE 202. Mr. New, the rector, died in 1796.

PAGE 203. The Bower is a new-built seat in this parish, erected by Mr. Spurling in the stile of an East-Indian villa.

PAGE 205, line 25. For Burgess read Burges, and next line for Harbroc read Harbroe.

PAGE 209, last line but 7. For Thomas Harvey, esq. read the Rev. Thomas Harvey, of Redleaf.

CHIDINGSTONE.

PAGE 211. Sharp's Place, with Idehill farm in this parish, and Sevenoke, belonged to Sir Charles F. Radcliffe, bart. who had a life estate in them, which was in 1796 purchased by his brother John Farnaby, esq. of Wickham, the next tenant in tail, who now possesses them.

PAGE 222. Bowzell is in Chevening parish.

PENSHURST.

PAGE 228, line 29. For part read particularly the north, alias Lyghe park and South park, lying, as their names import, at the different extremities of the present park.

Line 33. Instead of whence read the former of which.

PAGE 229. New House, alias Harts, was formerly the seat of the family of Combridge, a daughter and coheir of which married Gilbert Spencer, esq. of Redleafe.

PAGE 247, line 14. For Hawsbrooke read Hawden.

PAGE 252. For Harbroc read Harbroe.

PAGE 257. Mathew Nicholas, rector, died in 1796, and the Rev. John Hammond, was inducted in his room, and is the present rector of Penshurst.

LYGHE.

PAGE 263. For Harbroc read Harbroe. Mr. Harbroe resides at Hall-place.

PAGE 270. Mr. Harvey has since sold the advowson of Lyghe to the Rev. Mr. John Southam, the present patron of this church.

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PAGE 275. The Rev. Dr. Lillington died in 1786, and

the Rev. John Southam succeeded him, and is the present rector, as well as patron of this church.

SPELDHURST.

Ibid. In this parish is a seat called Ashurst-place, which was a few years since the estate of admiral Forbes, and is now the residence of Peter Lefevre, esq.

NORTHFLEET.

PAGE 303. Near this bridge there was an engagement between the Royalists and Oliverians, in which the latter were victorious.

In the hamlet of Northfleet Hythe is a modern genteel house, usually called the Orme, but Ormus is its proper name, being the residence of Charles Lefevre, esq.

PAGE 314. The present tower of the church was erected in the room of an old one, which had a spire on it. There are six bells in it, cast not many years since.

GRAVESEND.

PAGE 324. There are about seventy acres of public garden ground near this town in Gravesend parish and Milton.

PAGE 325. From the immense quantities of chalk which has been cut away from these pits in different directions, a scene is exhibited perfectly romantic, and to strangers not a little dreadful. In the digging numerous fossils are dug and discovered, principally of the Echinus species, as also the Glossa Petra, most curiously polished, and sharp as thorns. The strata of flints, usual among the chalk, are napped into gun flints, in the midst of which are found compleat cockle shells filled with chalk, and sometimes of so large a size as to be esteemed exceedingly curious by the naturalists.

IFIELD.

PAGE 347, last line. For rsiedes read resides.

This parish contains about three hundred acres of land. Shinglewell contains all the houses within this parish, ten in number.

PAGE 351. Francis Gibson Rector succeeded Creswell in 1735, and was succeeded by Landon.

There is no parish register to be found earlier than 1752.

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NUTSTED.

PAGE 351, line 5. For Northfleet read Nutsted.

Line 5, from the bottom. For Nursted read Nutsted.

MEOPHAM.

PAGE 356. This parish is estimated to contain about 5,700 acres of land; it contains one hundred and seventeen families, consisting of about six hundred and twelve persons, all of the church of England, and chiefly agricultural labourers and linen weavers, forty-eight houses, land from 5s. to 30s. per acre.

Harefield is a hamlet in the south-east part of this parish.

PAGE 358, line 3. For codocils read codicils.

PAGE 361, line 9, from the bottom. For an read and.

LUDES DON.

PAGE 368, line 3. Sall-street is more properly Sole-street. There is much coppice wood in this parish.

PAGE 371. Mrs. Walter married thirdly John Hilliam,

gent. whom she likewise survived. On her death lately, her son by her second husband, Mr. John Walter, is now become possessed of this manor.

COOKSTONE.

PAGE 389. The extent of this parish is not much more than a mile each way. The arable land is about 1100 acres, saltmarsh sixty-five, and woodland two hundred and forty. Knight's place farm is no part of it within this parish, and only Ranscombe-house, and about one hundred acres of land belonging to it within it. Upper and Lower Bush is one hamlet, the principal part of which is likewise within it. Near the church at the foot of the hill is the parsonage, and three other houses. The church stands nearly north and south.

PAGE 394. Whorne's-place was pulled down in 1783, and the present farm-house is part of the old granary and malt-house.

PAGE 398. The church consists of one isle and two chancels, one the rector's, the other belonging to the Marsham family, it has a square tower steeple, in which hang two bells.

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COBHAM.

PAGE 404. Cobham park contains eight hundred acres.

PAGE 405. For Outlets read Oulets, now usually called Owlie.

In one part, near the village of Shinglewell, this parish extends to the north of that road, down towards the dilapidated church of Denton.

PAGE 423. Cobhambury lies to the south of Cobham church, on the road to Luddesdon, which parish it joins.

PAGE 428. For Salton stall read Saltonstall.

PAGE 433. There is no vicarage house or glebe, the profits of the living arise from a composition, in lieu of tithes.

PAGE 441, line 11. The seals of this college are omitted in the next volume, as not of sufficient consequence to be inserted.

It was not Richard but Bonham Hayes, who repaired these water-works, and assigned the land on which they now stand, to the parish officiating minister and two churchwardens, reserving the interest of the money expended, to be levied by a small assessment on the houses, amounting in the whole to about six guineas per annum, they are situated in Cobham-street, which they supply with water.

PAGE 442, VICARS:

William Comben, 1662.

William Clarke, 1671.

John Priest, 1679 to 1704, after

which the duty was done by curates, till

William Pemble, who was vicar in 1720.

William Painter, 1729.

William Chapman, 1733, obt. 1762.

..... Dearsley, 1763, obt. 1766.

William Porter, obt. 1793.

James Jones, 1793, the present vicar.

SHORNE.

PAGE 443. This parish contains about one thousand acres of arable, four hundred of wood, three hundred and fifty of marsh, and about sixty houses. The soil is chalk, sand and gravel, in different parts. Jarvis Maplesden died in 1787. Mr. Thomas Hartridge left two daughters, who are the only children descendants of the Maplesden family now remaining. On Mrs. Maplesden's death, (widow of Jarvis) this house became the property of Mr. Thomas Pemble, but it has not been inhabited since her death.

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Mr. Ayerst's house was built by his mother. It stands opposite the church, commanding a most delightful prospect. It is now occupied by Mr. Comport. There is a good house late belonging to the Maplesden's, in Shorn Ifield; the last possessor of that name, Mr. James Maplesden, left two daughters, Anne married to Mr. Thomas Noakes, and Charlotte to Mr. Mason, who became jointly entitled to it. Thomas Noakes died in 1796, his wife before him in 1790, and his brother Mr. Jarvis Noakes now occupies it.

PAGE 443. At Shorne midway is a good house, with a tan-yard, formerly the property of Mr. George Holmes, now of his daughter Mrs. Bevan. In scouring a well lately belonging to this house, there was drawn up some sea mud, and a quantity of cockle shells, and in a chalk pit at the bottom of Gad's-hill, on a break of the chalk, the like sort of mud and shells were discovered.

PAGE 447. Mrs. Gordon's manor-house is pleasantly situated in Shorn-street, and is now occupied by captain Luard, of the Georgiana packet, in the East-India Company's service.

King's farm, in the north part of this parish, is the property of Mr. David Day.

PAGE 451. The church consists of three isles and three chancels; it has a tower steeple at the west end, in which are five bells.

PAGE 456. VICARS. Addition to

George Hammond, obt. 1601.

Edmund Balam.

William Franklin, 1630.

Richard Balam, ejected 1643,
but restored.

Charles Bowles, obt. 1671.

Thomas Ayerst, obt. 1688.

Tobias Swinden, resigned to his
son.

Tobias Swinden, exchanged it
for Lamberhurst.

Caleb Perfect, &c.

HIGHAM.

PAGE 482, line 9. For oach read back.

Mockbeggar farm belongs to Francis Barrow, esq.

Last line. For considered read conjectured.

PAGE 483. Gadshill in this parish, on the London road, is the spot described by Shakspeare, where Henry, prince of Wales, and his dissolute companions robbed the Kentish carriers and the auditors who were carrying money to his father's exchequer. At a small distance westward, on the knole of the hill, is a genteel house, built by Mr. alderman Stevens, of Rochester, who occasionally resides in it.

PAGE 484. For Fauresham read Faversham.

The village of Higham is called Church-street, and contains seven houses.

PAGE 489. Little Oakley, late Mr. George Gate's, now Mr. Taite's, by marriage of one of his sisters; Mr. Dudlow's, of Town-Malling, by marriage of a daughter of Mr. Edward Gates; and George Gunning's, esq. by purchase of a fifth part from Miss Catherine Gates.

CLIFFE.

PAGE 502. In 1796, a battery, mounting four guns, was erected in the marshes in this parish, towards that part of the river called the Lower Hope.

PAGE 505. Bury court. – On Samuel Clay Harvey's death in 1791, his brother Jacob became under settlement, possessed of it, on whose death it came to his son of the same name, who now owns it.

PAGE 506. Molland and Dean-fee. Since which it became the property of James Roper Head, esq. Campbell Elizabeth Lill, widow, and Frances Mary Head, spinster, who are now entitled to it.

PAGE 507. Priors-hall. This estate is now held by lease from the dean and chapter, by the chapter clerks, as trustees, under the will of dean Hardy, and a settlement made by dame Elizabeth Clarke, his widow, and the profits of it are applied in payments to the schoolmaster, chanter, and lay clerks of that church, in augmentation of their salaries; the surplus to be applied in putting forth the children of the minor canons, lay clerks and choristers in the first place after that; to the poor boys of the parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Margaret's, in Rochester, apprentices, but not more than 5l. to one boy. This trust will cease in about twelve years after the expiration of the lease.

PAGE 509, Cardons. Mr. John Prebble, of Higham, is the present lessee.

COWLING.

PAGE 521. Cowling lodge. On the decease of Mr. Thomas Smith, Samuel his youngest son had this estate as part of his share of the inheritance, since which he has sold it to his brother, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud, who now owns it.

New Barn. On Samuel Clay Harvey's death, it came to his brother Jacob, whose son of the same name now enjoys it.

FRINDSBURY.

PAGE 526. The Little Hermitage is now his son's, Mr. David Hermitage Day.

The Quarry-house. To this estate there belongs a dock, with a rope-yard and other conveniences situated below it on the bank of the Medway, at which men of war of a large size have been built with great ease and safety.

PAGE 544. The lessee of the parsonage is Mr. Leez, who lets it again to Mr. John Boghurst.

STROUD.

PAGE 552. The manor of Hawkins is reserved by the dean and chapter in their own hands; the demesne lands are now in lease to the Rev. Dr. Frederick Dodsworth, of Thornton Watness, in Yorkskire, in right of Catherine his wife.

PAGE 556. Mr. Thomas Hulkes, brother of James, deceased, is the present lessee of this scite of Stroud hospital.

PAGE 560. Mr. Beadon resigned the curacy in 1792.

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ADDITIONS, &c.
TO VOLUME IV.

HIGH HALSTOW.

PAGE 17.

SUBORDINATE to the paramount manor of Hoo is the reputed manor of High Halstow, which, with a messuage, called Duck's court, alias Bewell's, belonged to the family of Walpole, of Pinchbeck, in Lincolnshire, but Edward Walpole dying s. p. in 1725, Mary, his daughter, carried it in marriage to Dr. William Smithson, whose son, John Walpole Smithson, dying s. p. likewise in 1731, Catherine his daughter became his sole heir, and married Thomas Davers, esq. admiral of the royal navy, who died at Horringer-hall, in Suffolk, in 1746, whose son of the same name in 1759, conveyed it to his mother, and she in 1763 sold it to Susanna Hodgman, widow, of Rochester, who by her will in 1764 gave it to William Horn, of Rochester, and Eliza— both his wife, her niece, whose four sons and four daughters in 1783 joined in the sale of it to Samuel Smith, yeoman, of Hoo, who made a division of his estates in 1796, between his four sons, by Rose his second wife, and on a partition of them afterwards, this estate was conveyed by them to the eldest son, Mr. George Smith, who now resides at Duck's-court, alias Bewell's, of which he is the present owner. There is no court held for this manor.

PAGE 19. The Rev. Mr. Burt exchanged this rectory with Mr. Grimstone, for Twickenham, in Middlesex, in 1788, and did not die till 1791.

ST. MARIES.

PAGE 24. Combe, line 18. The Rev. Richard Hancorn Duppa, who afterwards quitted the clerical profession, and took the title of esquire, died in 1789, upon which the possession of it, as well as of his other estates, passed over to

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his brother Baldwin Hancorn, who was a lieutenant in the navy, and afterwards took the name of Duppa, and it became vested in his son Baldwin Duppa Hancorn, who was at the time of his uncle's death a lieutenant in the East-India company's service, and on his return to England took the surname likewise of Duppa, being the present Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. of Hollingborne-hill, at this time the owner of this estate.

PAGE 25. The present lessee of Combe Portion is not Richard, but Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq.

PAGE 27. Rectors. Robert Burt died in 1791, and George Gascoin, S. T. P. was inducted, who has since taken the name of Chandler, and is the present rector.

PAGE 31, line 14. For Francis read Frances.

ALLHALLOWS.

PAGE 34. VICARS. Richard Bathurst resigned this vi=

carage for West Peckham, and was succeeded by William Douthwaite, the present vicar.

STOKE.

PAGE 41. Malmains tithes. George and John Cop= pinger were lessees, at 13s. 4d. rent, and 5th Charles I. sold their interest to Thomas Tresse, of Hoo, and of Gray's-Inn, gent. He was afterwards knighted, and was of Battersea, he was gentleman pensioner to that king, being the son of Francis Tresse, gent. of Hoo, whose third sister Ellen married Peter Gunning, vicar of Hoo and Gravesend, father of Peter, bishop of Ely. She afterwards married Mr. Henshaw. He left two daughters his coheirs, Ellen married to Arthur Amherst, M. D. of Tunbridge; and Sarah. Lady Sarah Tresse survived her husband, and assigned her right in those tithes to John Lorimer.

CATHEDRAL.

PAGE 150. Samuel Horsley, the present bishop of Rochester, was confirmed Dec. 7, 1793.

ST. NICHOLAS, IN ROCHESTER.

PAGE 161. William Wrighte, the present vicar of St. Nicholas is A. M.

PAGE 162. Satis. Joseph Brooke in 1785 sold Satis to John Longley, esq. the present possessor of it.

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Mrs. Gordon's house is at present unoccupied, and is to be sold.

PAGE 164. The houses in this parish are about 377, and there are about the same number of houses in St. Nicholas.

ST. MARGARET.

PAGE 168. The present lessee of Nashenden manor is Benjamin Hubble, by an assignment of the lease from Mark Hubble.

PAGE 170. Lower Delce has been alienated to Thomas Raikes, esq. who now owns it.

PAGE 171. Great Delce, with King's farm, is still possessed by the descendants of the family of Waring. Mrs. Dorothy Waring, and some children of it are now entitled to this estate.

PAGE 173. Richard Boghurst, sen. is the present lessee of Little Delce.

PAGE 174. The portion of tithes is now charged in the parsonage.

PAGE 179. The present lessee of the parsonage is Mrs. Jemima Bridges, in trust for Mrs. Campbell, Elizabeth Lill, James Roper Head, esq. and Miss Frances Mary Head.

PAGE 180. There is besides the payment of 5l. 6s. 8d. a large augmentation of 29l. paid by the lessee of the parsonage.

CHATHAM.

PAGE 211. Sharsted. The present lessee is Elizabeth, daughter of John Boghurst, esq. of Stroud; her cousin Mr. John Boghurst is the occupier.

PAGE 213. Room house is now inhabited by Major Maw= bey, barrack master of Chatham.

PAGE 214, line 10 from bottom. For Mr. Lawrence, of Evans, read Mr. Lawrence Evans.

PAGE 222, line 7, from the bottom, for 1637 read 1737.

The church. The width of the present building is the same as before, and the only addition to its size is the lengthening the north and south isles, to the end of the former chancel; it now consists as before of a nave and two side isles, and the gallery extends quite round the south-west and north isles.

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GILLINGHAM.

PAGE 227. Brompton at present consists of near five hundred houses, the greatest part of which are in Gillingham, about 360 of them, and the town is continually increasing. The lines of fortification are at present in a very unfinished state, and make a very disreputable appearance.

PAGE 229. For John Ufford, read John Stratford.

PAGE 231. Notwithstanding Mr. Lambard is charged on the roll of fee-farm rents, and pays accordingly for the manor, scite, and demesne lands of the manor of Gillingham, yet the manor is held in the name of lord Somers, who inherits likewise the fee-farm rents of the manor granted by the crown to his ancestor the lord-chancellor Somers in 1697, and he receives besides the fee-farm rents, the reliefs and alienations due from time to time from it.

PAGE 232. Westcourt manor. Sir Richard Leveson, in 1627, conveyed it to John Duling, gent. who by will in 1638, gave it to his daughter Elizabeth Salmon, and she conveyed it in 1651 to George Bower, esq. the executors of whose widow, Anne Bower, passed it away in 1661 to Augustine Cæsar, M. D. of Rochester, who by will in 1677, gave it to Alice his wife for life, and afterwards to his nephew Augustine (son of his brother Joseph Cæsar) and Alice his wife, and the survivor of them; they left four daughters and coheirs, Joane, Margaret, Mary and Alice. Alice, wife of Augustine Cæsar, surviving him, remarried John Higgons, gent. and they, jointly with her four daughters and coheirs, of her former husband, in 1698 conveyed it to Thomas Rogers, gent. and anno 10 William III. an act passed for vesting the absolute fee and inheritance of this manor in him; he held it till 1733, when he sold it to Christopher Searle, gent. of Hackstaple, descended out of Devonshire, and who in 1721 had married Anna, one of his daughters, by his wife Sarah, daughter of John Paine, gent. of Darent. Mr. Searle left three surviving daughters his coheirs, Anna, now the wife of Mr. John Strover, of Gillingham; Jane-Arabella, widow of George Weekly, esq. of Town-Malling, and Elizabeth, who though twice married, died s. p. in 1786, so that the two elder sisters are now become the sole possessors of this manor. Mr. Strover has issue one son, John, a captain in the East-India Company's service, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Sally.

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PAGE 239. The Grange was sold in 1796 to John Taylor, gent. of Wrotham.

PAGE 236. The jurisdiction of the port of Hastings is become obsolete, nor have any dues been paid to it time out of mind.

MAIDSTONE.

PAGE 301, line 20. For William Stacey, read William Stacey Coast.

PAGE 322, line 27. The heirs of Christopher Fullagar

sold this chapel and estate to Mr. William Coleman, of Maidstone.

DETLING.

PAGE 359. I am informed Mr. Polhill has not resigned, but still continues vicar of Detling.

LOOSE.

PAGE 361. Salt's-place, since Mrs. Martin's death, continues uninhabited.

The mills in the parish of Loose are for the manufactories of paper, grinding of corn, and fulling, and there is much tanning work done in this parish.

LINTON.

PAGE 368, line 28. Linton-place is occupied by James Mann, esq.

PAGE 370. Begin the list of vicars of Linton thus:

Henry Ley, in 1560, obt. Feb. 1620.

Edward Master, obt. Oct. 2, 1658.

Repent Nichols, ejected by the Bartholomew Act, 1661.

Phineas Cosby, A. M. ind. 1676, obt. Dec. 1676.

Andrew Reyney, 1676, deprived 1679.

William Wing, A. B. inducted Feb. 17, 1679, deprived 1681.

James Idon, obt. 1681.
Basil Richards, &c.

EAST FARLEIGH.

PAGE 378, line 11. From the coheirs of Dr. Jones this estate passed by sale to Israel Lewis, of Hampsted, the present possessor of it.

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BARMING.

PAGE 384. Barming heath was, till within this century, usually known by the name of Longsole heath; a small part of the north-east part of it is within Aylesford parish.

Line 28. Thomas Whitaker has left Watringbury, and now resides at Trottescliffe.

PAGE 385. Soon after last Christmas, or the beginning of the spring 1796, there were found in the grubbing up of a hedge at a small distance westward from the parsonage, seven Roman urns. They were all placed near each other, and were entire when found, but were broken by the workmen; they contained a great quantity of bones. The urns were some of a dark lead colour, and others of a coarse red kind of brick earth, but both looked as if turned in a lathe. The workmen said that when entire, they were near two feet high, and indeed from the quantities of ashes they must have been very large. There was part of a man's skull found near them, and a little further a great quantity of bones without any urn, these instantly went to dust as soon as exposed to the air. In a hop-ground at a little distance, in digging for the quarry-stone vast numbers of bones, both of men and horses, were found regularly laid, some of them upon the bare rock.

However these seem to have had no relation to the former, to have been of a much later date, and to have been by mere chance placed near the others. The Roman remains surely point out that their military way led by this place, and the bones of the men and horses may be conjectured to have been of those, either of one side or the other, who fell in the skirmish between the Royalists and Oliverians, in 1648, as mentioned in the above page.

PAGE 389, line 11. Mr. Henry Golding, who purchased the estate of Barming in king Charles II's reign, left it to his son Henry, whose son of the same name sold it to Thomas Stringer, esq. and he passed it away to Mr. Spencer, who conveyed it to captain Nicholas Amhurst.

PAGE 392. The Rev. Mark Noble, rector of Barming, is fellow of the antiquarian society and author of several learned works, among others of a genealogical history of the present royal families of Europe, Memoirs of the Protectorate House of Cromwell, of the royal house of Stuart, of the illustrious house of Medici, and of two dissertations on the mint and coins of the episcopal palatine of Durham.

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PAGE 395, line 15. Mr. Henry Golding, grandson of the first Henry, sold this manor to Stringer, as he did to Spencer, and he again to Captain Nicholas Amhurst.

RYARSH.

PAGE 489. Describe the modern state of the parish thus: The parish is full three miles long from north to south, but not very narrow. The Addington brook crosses it, but much nearer the north than the south; about a mile from the northern bank of it lies the only village in the parish, which is not very large. The church is within a few rods of the brook, and adjoining to it is the court-lodge belonging to the earl of Abergavenny. About half a mile from it is Carew's court, close to the Maidstone road, a large house, the farm of which is the largest in the parish; from hence, about a mile southward, is Fartherwell, to the mansion of which there is an acre of garden ground walled round. The soil of this parish is rather fertile, being a sandy loam, producing good crops of corn as well as hops, of which latter there are near one hundred acres. The northern part of it is chiefly woodland.

PAGE 493, line 12. Carew's-court, by Sir Edward Austen's will, confirmed by lady Austen, his widow, now belongs to her relation Mr. Allen.

LEYBORNE.

PAGE 496. Addington brook does not bound this parish on the south, as there are many acres of land southward of it, some of which run up near to Town Malling. The soil in general is light, with a mixture of loam; to the northward towards Birling it is a black mould and richer, a moist land. Eastward of the castle and church it extends but a little way, the parish of East-Malling runs up here close to Leyborne glebe. The straggling houses, including cottages, are only thirty-nine.

EAST MALLING.

PAGE 508. This parish is about three miles long from north to south, and not quite a mile in breadth. The northern part is a deep wet soil, consisting chiefly of pasture, common to three parishes, principally in East-Malling next to this, the

land is sandy, the southern is near the rock, and near and on the heath partly gravel, and partly loam, fit for the making of

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bricks, for which there are two kilns on it. The chapel at New Hyth is now a cottage, belonging to Sir John P. Twisden, bart.

WEST, OR TOWN MALLING.

PAGE 518. The parish is bounded on the south by a detached piece of woodland, part of Aylesford parish; by other woods to Mereworth, and by Canon-heath to Watringbury. The town contains about one hundred and forty houses.

PAGE 521, line 5. The house and estate, late belonging to admiral Forbes, was after his death purchased by Thomas Augustus Douce, esq. but it is at present inhabited by Mrs. Wynch, widow of the late governor.

Line 20. Mr. Clement Taylor now resides at New Barne.

PAGE 532. There are two acres of glebe land, exclusive of the church-yard belonging to the vicarage, and there is an annual rent paid to the vicar of 40s. charged on an estate purchased a few years ago of admiral Forbes, by the late Mr. Thomas Palmer, of St. Leonard's-street, in this town.

PAGE 546, line 24. For and his read the.

PAGE 547, line 5. For Goats read Goats Heads.

<C.F. January 2012>