

Grose 1787 Francis Grose, *Supplement to <the new edition of> The antiquities of England and Wales* (London, 1787).

98

KENT.

MAIDSTONE BRIDGE.

PLATE I.

It is uncertain at what time this bridge was built. Newton, in his *Antiquities of Maidstone*, says, "At the bottom of the high street is a fair stone bridge, built across the Medway, of seven arches; it is supposed with great probability, that it was first built by some of the Archbishops of Canterbury, who, as we have seen, were lords of the manor: however, I do not find any evidence, at what time it was erected, or by whom. It was in the reign of King James I. repaired by an assessment on the town and parish." ---- This view, which shews the north side of the bridge, was drawn anno 1760.

MAIDSTONE BRIDGE.

PLATE II.

The south side of this bridge is here exhibited: over it is seen the roof of a building, situate on the western bank of the river, a small distance north of the bridge; which building, from a cross over its easternmost end, appears to have been a chapel or oratory. The river Medway rises in Ashdowne forest, in Sussex,

99

and passing through Kent discharges itself near the Isle of Sheppey, by which it is divided into two branches, one called the East, and the other the West Swale. It is navigable for barges of fifty or sixty tons, as high as Maidstone, and is crossed by several bridges: the chief are those of Maidstone, Aylsford, and Rochester. ---- This view was drawn anno 1760.

RUINED OFFICES IN ST. AUGUSTINE'S MONASTERY
CANTERBURY.

The buildings here represented, stand within the walls of the monastery, north of the church; the gate is of brick, and has over the center of its arch, two quatre feuilles, a fleur de lis, and a rose moulded in brick earth, before burning, and afterwards burned; these stand singly one above the other, with three small escutcheons of the same material and workmanship, beneath the whole. This gate, from its style and bricks, seems to have been

built about the time of Henry VIII. or Elizabeth.

Adjoining to its south side is a small neat building, probably before the dissolution a chapel, or some other office of the monastery; but when this drawing was taken, A. D. 1750, was converted to an ous or kiln for drying hops. Between two windows near its north end, was carved on a square stone tablet, the figure of a mitre and a ton, possibly a rebus of the name of the builder, founder, or some benefactor.

ST GREGORY'S PRIORY, CANTERBURY.

Mr. Gostling in his Walk, gives the following account of this priory: St. Gregory's was a large handsome house of stone, built by Archbishop Lanfranc, 1084, who added to it several dwellings, well contrived for the wants and conveniencies of those who

100

should live there, with a spacious court adjoining. This palace, for so Edmer calls it, he divided into two parts, one for men labouring under various distempers, the other for women who had ill health; providing them with food and cloathing at his own expence, appointing also officers and servants who should by all means take care that nothing should be wanting, and that the men and women should be kept from communication with each other. He built also on the opposite side of the way, a church to the honour of St. Gregory, where he placed canons regular, who should administer spiritual comfort and assistance to the infirm people above mentioned, and take the care of their funerals, for which he provided them with such an income as was thought sufficient.

Part of this priory is now standing, but not a great deal, only one large room, unless the buildings of the street may be looked upon as the lodging of the poor and sick, who were provided for there; the ground belonging to its precinct is almost entirely laid out in gardens for our market."

Tanner thus records the foundation of this house: In the north-gate street, (says he) over against the hospital of St. John, Archbishop Lanfranc also founded an house for secular Priests, A. D. 1084, to the honour of St. Gregory; but Archbishop William, temp. Hen. I. made it a priory of black canons. About the time of the dissolution here, were thirteen religious, who were endowed with the yearly revenue of 12l. 15s. 1d. Dug. 166l. 4s. 5d. Ob. Speed. The scite was granted 28 Hen. VIII. to the lord archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange for Wimbleton, &c. ---- This view was drawn, 1758.

101

SANDGATE CASTLE.

This is one of the castles built by King Henry VIII.; in construction it much resembles those of Deal, Sandown, Walmer,

and Camber, or Winchelsea, and indeed most of the castles erected in that reign; all which consist of a combination of round towers. These, from their form, are incapable of being completely flanked or defended by any adjacent work. It stands a small distance west of Folkstone, on the beach or sand, whence probably it derives its name. It is overlooked by a high cliff, within gun-shot of it, as may be seen in the drawing.

Here Queen Elizabeth lodged in the year 1588, in her progress into Kent, in order to put the coast in a state of defence against an invasion, with which this kingdom was at that time threatened by the Spaniards. ---- This view was drawn A. D. 1762.

THE WHITE FRIARS, CANTERBURY.

This plate shews part of the remains of the first house of the Franciscan, or Minorite Friars, established in England. Nine in number of these brethren first arrived here, from abroad, A. D. 1224, five of whom staid at Canterbury, by direction of King Henry III. and settled themselves on a piece of ground near the Poor Priests' Hospital; but about the year 1270, John Diggs, an alderman of that city, translated them to an island then called Bynnewith, on the west part of the city, where they continued till the dissolution, after which the friary was granted, 31 Henry VIII. to Thomas Spelman. At present scarce any thing of the

102

buildings, except the part here represented, are remaining, the outer walls and foundations excepted.

Speed and others, erroneously make Henry VII. the first founder of this friary, which was settled almost three hundred years before his time. He might (says Tanner) be a great benefactor, though Somner has not observed it, and might change the first conventual Franciscans into that reformed branch of their order, called Observants, but could not be the first founder. Weaver, p. 234, tells us this house was valued at 39l. 12s. 8d. ob. per ann.; but there is no valuation of it in either Dugdale or Speed. ---- This view was drawn anno 1758.