

Hasted 1782 Edward Hasted, The history and topographical survey of the county of Kent, vol. 2 (Canterbury, 1782), 1--64.

1

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 (a).

(a) see Reg. Roff. p. 49.

2

THE ANTIQUITY OF ROCHESTER.

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 (b).

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 written 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 contraction, Rochester (c).

It was accounted in the time of the Romans, one of their stipendiary cities, of which sort they had 12 in this island (d).

Most of our antiquaries agree in allowing it to

be the station mentioned by Antoninus in his Itinerary, under the name of Durobrivis, situated 27 miles from London (e). The remains of the antient Roman road, or Watling street way, leading from London hither, is very visible from Shinglewell, by Cobham-park pales, towards Rochester, till it comes to the north gate of the park, where it runs into the thick 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 (f).

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.

It was certainly walled in the time of Ethelbert, K. of Kent, soon after the year 597, when that Prince embraced the Christian religion, for in a grant of lands to the church, which he had built at Rochester, there is mention made both of the wall and gate; and in the reign of Sigered, who was a King of part of Kent, about the year 760, the city walls are also mentioned; and in numbers of grants before the conquest, there are frequent references to the walls and gates, for ascertaining the boundaries of lands and houses. The walls were built nearly according to the four cardinal points, and from west to east 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 (g).

The wall is still entire in some places, especially on the east side, 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 30 feet (h).

(b) Camd. Brit. p. 357. In this island there were more than one Durobrivæ; in Gaul there was Briva Isariæ, now Pontoise, where was the passage over the Isara, or Ysore; Briva Oderæ, over the Odera, and Samara briva (for that is the right name) over the Soame. Camd. ibid. Lambard, in his Perambulation, p. 400, says, it was called in British, Dourbryf, i.e. a swift stream.

(c) Camd. p. 231. Burt. Anton. p. 178. 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. Burt. Anton. p. 43. Hence the antient stations about the noted Roman wall, the ruins of many of which are still visible, are called chesters by the country people. Ibid. p 41.

(d) Richard of Cirencester, p. 23.

(e) In the second Iter of Antonine, the Roman stations from London, ad Portum Ritupis, are thus named; A Londinio, Noviomago, M. P. XII. -- Vagniacis M. P. VI. -- Durobrovis M. P. IX. -- Durolevo M. P. XVI. -- Duroverno M. P. XII. -- ad Portum Ritupis M. P. XII. Not only the identity of all these stations (excepting Durobrovis, Rochester, and Durovernum, Canterbury, of both which hardly any one has doubted) but likewise their distances from each other have been so altered and disputed among writers, that there is no asserting which of them is right. In short each has altered

the distances in the copies of Antonine, according to his own conjecture, therefore I have made use of the same privilege above, upon I trust, as good, if not better grounds, than they have.

(f) Though there is the strongest presumption, that the Roman way crossed the river at this city, yet Dr. Plot, and some others are inclined to think, that it bent its course to the point of land in Frindsbury marshes, where there was a shallow quite across the river, over which, according to tradition, people had passed formerly, there being not above three or four feet water upon a low ebb. But as this would leave Rochester more than a mile out of the direct road, and contradict the general authority of its having been a Roman station, there appears but small probability of truth in this conjecture, especially when we find <e> the burial-place of the Romans to have been just without the walls of the castle southward, next to Bully-hill, where, a few years ago, when the surface of the ground was lowered to fill up the castle-ditch, several Roman urns, lacrymatories, &c. were discovered; a still further proof of the Roman station having been at the place, where the castle is now situated. Hist. of Rochester, p. *281.

(g) Hist. Rochester, 12mo. 1772.

(h) On the south side, where being freed from buildings, it appears most conspicuous, the dimensions nearly correspond with the grant of K. Edward III, who, April 23, in

his 18th year, granted to the Prior and Convent of Rochester,

3

In the year 1225, the great ditch about the city is reported to have been begun (i); 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 (k).

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate (l), 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 K. Henry VIII. when Leland wrote, who calls it a marvellous strong gate, and adds, no more gates appeared here, that were commonly used (m).

South-gate was near Bully-hill, in the road to St. Margaret's (n), 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 (o).

In the Textus Roffensis there is likewise mention made of a gate beyond the bridge.

There were no streets of any account within the walls, except the High-street, and Cheldegate-lane, now called Pump-lane, mentioned above; Dodingherne, or Deadman's-lane, leading to Bully-hill; and St. Clement's street, near that church, now called Horsecwash-lane (p).

REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES.

We have no further mention of Rochester, tho' 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 K. 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, K. of Mercia, having invaded Kent, destroyed this city, and returned with great plunder to his own kingdom (q).

During the Danish wars in England, Rochester frequently suffered from the inhumanity of those barbarians. Particularly in the year 839, this city was sacked by them, the enemy committing unheard-of cruelties before they returned to their ships (r).

In 885, a large body of these pirates sailed up the Medway, and besieged Rochester, and in order to command the city, cast up a mount before it (s); but the besieged made a vigorous defence till K. Alfred came to their relief, and having obliged the enemy to raise the siege, drove them to their ships with great loss (t).

In 986, K. Ethelred having had some difference with the Bishop of Rochester, and thinking the Bishop had behaved too haughtily towards him, marched with his army, and laid siege to this city; but not being able to take it, he laid waste all the lands belonging to the church of St. Andrew (u).

However this siege was trivial, in comparison of what the inhabitants suffered 12 years afterwards from the Danes, who sailing up the Medway to Rochester, struck such terror into the citizens, on account of the barbarities they had just before exercised in various parts of England, that they fled, and left the city to their mercy; which the Danes having plundered, they departed into East Kent (v).

After this, it does not appear that this city ever made any further opposition against the Danes, 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, on the same terms that the rest of the county did.

This place has suffered several times dreadfully by fire. On May 7, anno 1130, when K. Henry I, the Archbishop, and many of the nobi-

lity were here, on account of the consecration of the church of St. Andrew, then just finished, a dreadful fire broke out, which laid the city in ashes, and much damaged the new church.

in pure and perpetual alms, his ditch without the wall of this city, from the east gate of it towards Canterbury, to the gate of the Prior towards the south, and to fill it up, and convert it to their own advantage; on condition, that they made a new ditch, and built a new stone wall, five rods and five feet from the former, 16 feet high, and well embattled, to stand on their own ground, and to be repaired by them; the ditch so to be filled up, containing in length 54 perches, 14 feet and an half of land, and in width five perches and five feet of land. Reg. Roff. p. 551.

(i) Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 347.

(k) Pat. anno 13 Edw. I. in turri.

(l) Text. Roff. p. 63.

(m) Lel. Itin. vol. vi, p. 10.

(n) The hooks, on which the gates were hang, are still to be seen in the wall at the north-east corner of the garden of Bully-hill-house.

(o) Reg. Roff. p. 535, 537, 538, and 540.

(p) Hist. Rochester, p. 5.

(q) Bede, lib. iv, chap. 12. Hunt. lib. ii, p. 318.

(r) Camd. p. 231. From which time the Danes infested the English coast almost without intermission.

(s) See the account of Bully-hill below.

(t) Camd. p. 231. Hoveden, and others mention this happening in 884.

(u) Florence of Worcester, p. 608.

(v) Ibid. p. 610.

4

On June 3, 1137, another fire happened, which almost consumed the city; from which calamity it had hardly recovered, when its ruin was nearly completed by another fire, which happened on April 3, 1177, in the reign of King Henry II. the marks of which deplorable calamity were visible some centuries afterwards.

The city recovered but slowly from these misfortunes, and the intestine commotions of the kingdom happening soon afterwards, Rochester suffered again considerably: but K. Henry III. getting possession of it, and knowing what advantage the preservation of this place would be to him, resolved to augment the strength of it. He therefore, in 1225, repaired and restored

the walls to their former condition, and began a large ditch round the city.

On Dec. 8, 1251, K. Henry III. held a solemn tournament here, which as is conjectured was in the fields to the south-east of the city.

In the civil wars, which happened afterwards between the Houses of York and Lancaster, Rochester, as well as the rest of this county, suffered much; but as those things, which were transacted here, relate chiefly to the castle, the account of them will be deferred till I come to treat of that fortress.

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 personages, who have continually visited this city, and its church, in their way to and from this kingdom. Our public histories are filled with instances of this sort.

However, it may be worth noticing, that Q. 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, viz. Sept. 19, she was present at divine service, and heard a sermon in the cathedral (w).

K. 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, for which the K. of Denmark presented him with a very rich ring (x).

K. Charles II, on his restoration, was received here with great demonstrations of joy, on May 28, 1660, and the Mayor and Corporation presented him with a silver bason and ewer, which was graciously accepted. After which he rested that night at the house of Col. Gibbons in this city (y).

K. James II, on his abdication of the throne, came to Rochester on Dec. 19, 1688, and was received here by sir Richard 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 (z).

On Saturday, Dec. 17, 1768, about 12 o'clock at night, a dreadful fire happened on the north side of the High-street, near the Town-hall, which threatened destruction to the greatest part of this city. However, it was, with much difficulty, put a stop to, after raging for three hours, and having laid 10 houses, fronting that street, in ruins.

THE CIVIL HISTORY OF ROCHESTER.

Rochester, in the time of K. 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:

Civitas Rovecestre T. R. E. valebat 100 solid.
Q'do eps' recep' similit' modo Val' 20. lib' tamen ille
qui ten' reddit 40. lib.

Which is: The city of Rochester, in the time of K. 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, <e> where 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 (a).

Of these, some 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. (b)

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 the same, 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 (c). And when the King granted a city or town in fee, or perpetual ferm, it was a certain proof, that he was before seised of the

(w) Hist. Rochester, p. 16.

(x) Wood's Ath. vol. i, p. 416.

(y) Hist. Rochester, p. 17.

(z) The master of it was one Browne, a citizen of this

place, who landed the King, and his company, at Ambli-teuse in Picardy. Rapin, vol. ii, p. 782 and 783.

(a) Madox's Firma Burgi, p. 4. (b) Ibid. p. 5.

(c) Ibid. p. 14.

5

whole of the same, its soil, profits, and appurtenances (d).

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).

K. Henry I, let this city to ferm at pleasure, to the townsmen, at the yearly rent of 20l. 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 this city for two whole days, viz. on the day of, and the day before the feast of St. Paulinus, with all toll arising from it, &c. (f)

K. Henry II, by his charter, dated Nov. 6, in the 12th year of his reign, granted to the citizens of Rochester, and their heirs, the city in fee (or perpetual) ferm, for 20l. 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 (g).

K. Richard I. directed his writ to the Bailiff, and whole Hundred of Rochester, whereby he granted to the church and Monks of St. Andrew, all tenures, which they held of his tenement in the city, saving the rent which was due from them to his Bailiff yearly; and he further granted, that the Bailiff, which belonged to their chamber, should have free ingress and egress through the middle of his fee, to distrain their tenants, when there should be need; and he commanded, that no one, unless his servants, should

buy any victuals in the city before the Monks had bought theirs within it, on the forfeiture of 10l. (h)

Before the city was granted to the Burgesses in fee-farm, they accounted for a certain pay-

ment called Maltolt, which they received from all persons passing through the city to embark for the Holy Land, viz. one penny for each horseman, and an halfpenny for every one on foot. K. Richard I. abolished this toll, and K. Henry III. acquitted them of 9s. in their fee-ferm yearly on that account, as he did of 6s. yearly for the Archbishop of Canterbury's liberties yearly in their town (i).

In the 28th year of K. Henry III, the city of Rochester was taken into the King's hands, on the Burgesses not paying their fee-ferm (k).

However, he afterwards, by his let. pat. dated Feb. 6, in the 50th year of his reign, not only confirmed the above-mentioned charter of K. Henry II; but in recompense for the faithful service which the citizens had done for him, 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, and their heirs, 8l. yearly of the annual fee-ferm of 20l. 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 again into the King's hands, where it remained in the 8th year of K. Edward I. who then committed it to John de Cobham, to hold of the King and his heirs in ferme, for the term of 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 (l).

K. Edward III. by charter of Inspeximus, Jan. 18, in his 4th year, confirmed to the citizens of Rochester the above-recited charter of K. Henry III.

(d) Madox's Firma Burgi, p. 15.

(e) Ibid. p. 21. The yearly profit which the King made of his cities, &c. was raised and paid to him in different ways. Some were included in the general ferm of the

county, and were then paid by the Sheriff; sometimes the Sheriff held it as custos or fermor of it, and answered for the ferm of it separately from his general ferm of the county; and sometimes the King let it to ferm to particular townsmen, or to the body of them, as he did his manors to the tenants of them. Madox ib. p. 18, 21.

(f) Reg. Roff. p. 527.

(g) Mss. E. H. In the 2d year of K. Henry II, when the county of Kent paid Danegeld, the Burgesses of Rochester paid an aid of 40 pounds, of which they paid into the Treasury 100 shillings; in payments to Wm. Cade, 33s. and 4d. and they had a discharge for 66s. and 8d. as in wasto. Madox's Excheq. p. 480.

In the 5th year of that reign, the Sheriff of Kent answered for 100s. de dono of the Burgesses of Rochester. Ibid. p. 437.

In the 14th year of the same reign, the Sheriff of Kent paid into the King's Exchequer 9l. 13s. 4d. for the city of Rochester, on the aid then levied on the King's demesnes and towns in this county. Ibid. p. 406 and 409.

And again in the 33d year of it, when a tallage was set upon the King's demesnes and lands in Kent, the town of

Rochester paid 7l. 16s. de dono, the same being assised by the Justiciars upon the townsmen severally; and also 20l. de dono of the city in common. Ibid. p. 507. These aids, &c. were assessed by the Justices Itinerant, or with their approbation. They were assessed upon the men of the towns, sometimes in communi in gross, sometimes by the poll per capita, or per singulos, at other times partly one and partly the other, as in the 33d of Hen. II. above-mentioned.

It had long before this time been the custom for the Chamberlain of the priory of Rochester to appoint a Præpositus, or Bailiff to receive the issues accruing from certain of the Bishop's tenants within the city; therefore Bishop Gilbert, who came to the see anno 31 Henry II, that this privilege might not be lost, or called in question for the future, directed the Chamberlain to appoint such a Bailiff for that purpose. Reg. Roff. p. 47.

(h) This privilege was confirmed by K. Richard I, who forbid even his own servants to buy before them. Reg. Roff. p. 44, 49. It was made use of by the Monks of this priory till its dissolution. It is exercised at this day by several of the great monasteries in France, to the great disgust, and inconvenience of every one else.

(i) Madox's Exch. p. 229 and 673. (k) Ibid. p. 702.

(l) Reg. Roff. p. 544.

6

In the 50th year of K. Edward III, the Commons of the city of Rochester, then in the King's

hands, prayed in Parliament, that the Clerk of the market might have nothing to do within the city: and they were answered, that he should make assay, and due punishment of such as made default, without taking any fines in gross of the town, where he did not his office (m).

On Dec. 15th next year, the King committed the custody of the city and castle of Rochester, with the castle-guards, to Simon de Burghley, for the term of his life. Notwithstanding which, K. Richard II, April 6, in his 1st year, confirmed to the Burgesses of Rochester the liberties and privileges granted to them by the charter of K. Henry III.

K. 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, viz. May 29; together with great liberties, &c. (n)

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 certain privileges of the city and precincts of the church, which were finally settled by indentures between them, dated 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 him and 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 said monastery and palace of the Bishop, unless the same should be specially required of the Bishop or Prior, whenever the same was made (o).

K. Edward IV, by his charter, dated Dec. 14,

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 that 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 Shereacre, and Lancelane unto Horsted-street, or farm, and from thence in circuit by the lane, that lieth between the messuage of Gilbert Striche and Wm. Horsted, unto Kenelings Crouch (p), alias Poules 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 (q); 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.

And, 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, assise of bread, and ale, and of all victuals and weights and measures, and all other things whatsoever, belonging to the office of 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 15 days to 15 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 mixt, within their limits, and re-

(m) Cotton's Records, p. 134.

(n) Rot. Cart, anno 1 Henry VI, N. 44. Cart de annis 21, 22, 23 and 24, N. 6. Cart de anno 21 ad 24, N. 6.

(o) Reg. Roff. p. 577.

(p) In the charter of K. Charles I, it is thus expressed: -- From Horsted unto a mark-stone in the highway leading from Rochester to Maidstone, formerly called Kenelingecrouch, 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.

(q) In K. Charles I.'s charter it is thus: -- In a cross way leading from Rochester to Gravesend, and from Cuxton to Frindsbury.

7

turn of all writs and precepts, and that the Sheriff of the city, and his officers, 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 (r).

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 20l. per annum, to them and their successors (s).

These charters and privileges were confirmed by K. Henry VIII, by let. pat. April 14, 1510; by K. Edward VI, May 30, 1547; by Q. Elizabeth, Nov. 15, 1558; by K. James I, Sept. 11, 1603; and by K. Charles I, Aug. 7, 1630: in which last charter, were ratified and confirmed

the above-mentioned charter of K. Edward IV, and all other charters whatsoever 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, 12 Aldermen, of which number the Mayor was to be one, 12 Assistants or Common-council, a Recorder, and Town-clerk, two Chamberlains, a principal Sergeant at Mace, a Water-bailiff, and other inferior officers.

The day of election for Mayor was to be on the Monday next before the feast of St. Mathew yearly; and the day of swearing him into his office on the Monday next after the feast of St. Michael.

The Recorder was to be chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen, and take an oath of office.

The Mayor and two Aldermen were to hold a Court of Portmote from 15 days to 15 days.

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 (t).

At the Synod held at Graetly by K. 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 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 (u). 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 (v).

K. John, in his 9th year, issued his writ patent, for all moneyors, assayers, and custodes cunecorum, 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 (w).

K. 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 K. Henry II, in 1156 (x); 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 (y).

(r) Thomas Skening was by his will, anno 1529, a benefactor to Eastgate bridge.

(s) 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.

(t) Hist. Rochester, p. 256 et seq.

(u) This ordinance was renewed by K. Edgar, by K. Ethelred II, and by K. Cnut. See Wilkins's Leges Anglo Sax. p. 59, 78, 118, 134.

(v) Wilkins's Councils, vol. i, p. 206. Ibid. Leges Ang. Sax. p. 59. Pegge's Assemblage of archiepiscopal coins, p. 51 et seq.

(w) Madox's Exchequer, p. 198.

(x) Wilkins's Leges Anglo Sax. p. 320.

(y) Before the Norman conquest the superintendency of the mint-masters, or moneyors seems by the law of K. Cnut to have belonged to the Portreeves of the several places which had the privilege of coining. After the Norman conquest they were put under the direction of the Chief Justicier, or the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, before whom the

PRESENT STATE OF ROCHESTER.

The city of Rochester 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.

The castle, the church of St. Nicholas, and the cathedral 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 at all times. 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 of Parliament, which passed in 1769, for the new paving, lighting and watching the city; all which has been some years since effectually carried into execution (z).

The intercourse of the inhabitants with the Royal Dock, Victualling-office, Navy, and other branches of the shipping, prove 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, make it a very populous and busy town (a).

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, when the assises are held in 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 a chief of the 2d a lion passant-guardant or.

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, at the sole charge of sir Cloudsley Shovel, knt. in 1706, and was given by him to the Mayor and Citizens for ever. At the same time he gave the clock, of most excellent workmanship; the original dial-plate of which being much decayed, a new one was put up in its room in 1771, and other improvements made to it (b).

A market is held weekly on a Friday, for poultry, butter, pigs, garden-stuff, earthen-ware, &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 Clock-house above-mentioned; but this last is now almost deserted, the market of the neighbouring town of Chatham supplying the place of it.

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 (c).

Some account has already been given in the General History of this county (d), 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 year of K. Henry III, and though there were several Parliaments in K. 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 following is a list of the Citizens returned for the city of Rochester, from the 23d year of

K. Edward I, anno 1289, to the present time.

chief officers of the several mints, as well the King's, as Bishops', Abbats', &c. took an oath for the just discharge of their office. One of these was an Assayer of the money, who assayed it, to see if it was up to the due and old standard, according to the pix of assay, which was constantly, as had been accustomed, made at the Exchequer. Madox's Excheq. p. 198. North's Remarks on the Eltham Coin, p. 14.

(z) To pay the expence of it, the inhabitants are by the act subjected to the annual rate of 1s. in the pound of their rack rents; two-thirds of which are paid by the landlord, and one-third by the tenant.

(a) The state of Rochester in the reign of Q. Elizabeth, may be partly seen by the return to an order made by that

Princess, in her 8th year, for a survey to be made of the several places in this county, where there were any boats, shipping, or the like: in which it is said, there were here, houses inhabited 144; ships and boats 7, one of 2 tons, one of 6, one of 10, two of 30, and one of 70; a Mayor, Aldermen, Customer, Comptroller, &c. and a Searcher of the Custom-house; four keys, the Town-key, the Watering-key, the Town-ditch and Strowde key, belonging to the Mayor and Aldermen; and that there were persons in the place occupied in merchandize and fishing 27. Mss. Dering.

(b) Hist. Rochester, p. 231. (c) Ibid. p 259.

(a) See vol. i, p. cvii.

9

In the time of K. EDWARD I.

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

23d. Parliament John de St. Dennis,
at Westminster. Benjamin Petyn.

26th. At York. Robert Bettescombe,
John de St. Dennis.

28th. At Westmin. John de St. Dennis,
Robert Bettescombe.

33d. At Westmin. Simon Potyn,
Robert de Bettescombe.

34th. Council at Simon Potyn,
Westminster. Robert de Bettescombe.

35th. At Carlisle, John Chese,
Adam Bryd.

In the time of K. EDWARD II.

1st. At Westminster. Simon Potyn,

Robert Bettescombe.
 2d. At Westmin. William Potyn,
 Robert de Bettescombe.
 4th. At Westmin. Simon Potyn,
 Robert de Bettescombe.
 5th. At London. Simon Potyn,
 Robert Bettescombe.
 6th. At Westmin. Simon Potyn,
 Robert Bettescombe.
 6th. At Westmin. Clement Chaundler,
 Gilbert Goodwin.
 7th. At Westmin. Simon Potyn,
 Robert Bettescombe.
 12th. At York. John Jarin,
 Adam Bryd.
 15th. At York. Thomas Gillingham,
 Edward Port.
 16th. At York. John Clark,
 Adam Bryd.
 19th. At Westmin. Samuel Potyn,
 Adam Gillingham.
 20th. At Westmin. Adam Bryd,
 Roger Chaundler.

In the time of K. EDWARD III.

1st. At Westminster. Adam Bride,
 Robert Chaundler.
 1st. At Westmin. Thomas Chaundler,
 Robert Say.
 2d. At Northton. Clement le Chaundler,
 Robert Say.
 4th. At Winchester. Gilbert Goodwyne,
 Adam Bryd.
 4th. At Westmin. Gilbert Goodwyn,
 Gilbert Goodwyne.
 6th. At Westmin. Gilbert Goodwyne,
 Henry Newman.
 7th. At Westmin. John de Hampton,
 Gilbert Goodwyne.
 9th. At Westmin. Richard Southwick,
 Henry Newman.
 10th. Council at Northton. Richard Southwyke,
 Soloman Potyn.

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

11th. At Westmin. Roger Southwyke,
 John Legh.

11th. At Westmin. Roger Southwyke,
 John St. Dennis.
 11th. Council at Gilbert Goodwyne,
 Westminster, Henry Newman,
 Robert Corby.
 12th. At York. John Jaryn,
 Adam Bird.
 12th. At Westmin. Roger Berewich,
 John Hudewic.
 12th. At Northton. John de Hampton,
 Henry Taylor.
 14th. At Westmin. Roger Goldwyne,
 John Hampton.
 14th. At Westmin. Simon Potyn,
 Robert Bettescombe.
 15th. At Westmin. John Potyn,
 John Mereworth.
 17th. At Westmin. Gilbert Goldwyne,
 Thomas Goldwyne.
 20th. At Westmin. John Potyn,
 Roger Berewich.
 21st. At Westmin. John Potyn,
 Henry Newman.
 22d. At Westmin. Adam Chaundler,
 Roger Berewich.
 26th. At Westmin. Nicholas Herring,
 John de Pinknye.
 31st. At Westmin. Andrew Clement,
 Nicholas Herring.
 34th. At Westmin. Adam Clement,
 Nicholas Herring.
 34th. At Westmin. Adam Clement,
 Nicholas Herring.
 36th. At Westmin. Nicholas Herring,
 Adam Clement.
 37th. At Westmin. Nicholas Herring,
 Adam Clement.
 38th. At Westmin. Nicholas Herring,
 Adam Clement.
 39th. At Westmin. Nicholas Herring,
 Adam Clement.
 42d. At Westmin. Adam Clement,
 Gilbert Goldewyne.
 43d. At Westmin. John Southgate,
 John Finchinfield.
 45th. At Westmin. John Finchingfield,
 Richard Bromyngfield.
 45th. Council at John Finchenfeld,
 Winchester. -----

46th. At Westmin. John Stonegate,
Robert Spicer.
47th. At Westmin. John Fleming,
Thomas Dodemore.
50th. At Westmin. Richard Poyfour,
William Brown.

10

In the time of K. RICHARD II.

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

1st. At Westminster. William Gillingham,
Thomas Godet.
2d. At Gloucester. Thomas White,
Thomas Ravene.
2d. At Westmin. William atte Ford,
Roger Chance.
3d. At Westmin. Thomas Dodmore,
Richard Pell.
5th. At Westmin. Thomas Godet,
John Southgate.
7th. At Westmin. John Chelmesford,
William atte Rutte.
7th. At New William Gillingham,
Sarum. Richard Bolour.
8th. At Westmin. Richard Pell,
William Browne.
9th. At Westmin. Richard Bolour,
John Lomb.
10th. At Westmin. Peter Pope,
John Flemyng,
11th. At Westmin. William Gillingham,
John Merchant.
12th. At Cam- Thomas White,
bridge. Richard Crowler.
13th. At Westmin. John Mateshale,
Richard Bolour.
15th. At Westmin. Thomas Dodemore,
William Gillingham.
18th. At Westmin. Thomas Taverner,
Richard Broke.
20th. At Westmin. John Presoy,
John Plommer.

In the time of K. HENRY IV.

1st. At Westminster. John Percy,

- William Frere.
- 2d. At Westmin. Richard Berde,
Reginald Shrewsbury.
- 4th. At Westmin. Thomas Dodemore,
Reginald Shrewsbury.
- 5th. At Westmin. William Frere,
Thomas Dunstan.
- 6th. At Coventry. Thomas Dodemore,
Richard Larkyn.
- 8th. At Gloucester. John Boson,
Edward Everard.
- 12th. At Westmin. Richard Langford,
John Everard.

In the time of K. HENRY V.

- 1st. At Westminster. John Boson,
John Everard.
- 2d. At Westmin. John Depnige,
Richard Larking.
- 3d. At Westmin. Robert Bury,
John Potaver.
- 5th. At Westmin. Thomas Bellom,
John Merchant.

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

- 7th. At Gloucester. Roger Stirewisby,
Thomas Chorleseby.
- 8th. At Westmin. John Draper,
Thomas Fernom.
- 9th. At Westmin. John Depyng,
John Merchant.

In the time of K. HENRY VI.

- 1st. At Westminster. Henry Hicks,
John Gillingham.
- 2d. At Westmin. John Deping,
Thomas Barbour.
- 3d. At Westmin. James Hoppwade,
William Beaufizt.
- 4th. At Leicester. William Renotte,
John Guezard.
- 6th. At Westmin. John Larell,
John Hickman.
- 8th. At Westmin. John Deping,
Hugh Barbour.
- 9th. At Westmin. John Potage,

Edward Everard.
 11th. At Westmin. John Deping,
 John Gillingham.
 13th. At Westmin. John Nicholl,
 Henry Bakere.
 20th. At Westmin. John Bore,
 Roger Doget.
 21st. At Gloucester. John Nicholl,
 John Soneman.
 28th. At Westmin. John Chester, al. Ricksworth
 Thomas Cotling.
 29th. At Westmin. Thomas Moore,
 Henry Hunt.
 31st. At Reading. Stephen Knight,
 John Nicholl.
 38th. At Westmin. Edmund Chersey,
 Rowland Sampson.

In the time of K. EDWARD IV.

7th. At Westmin. John Bamme,
 Thomas Peyntour.
 12th. At Westmin. John Kirton,
 William Rivers.
 17th. At Westmin. John Rogger,
 John May.

All the writs, indentures, and returns from the 17th year of K. Edward IV, to the 1st year of K. Edward VI, are lost; except one imperfect bundle, No. 33, Henry VIII, in which Colchester, Canterbury, and Rochester, are missing.

In the time of K. EDWARD VI.

1st. At Westminster. Missing.
 6th. At Westmin. John Norton, knt.
 Christopher Roper.

11

In the time of Q. MARY.

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

1st. At Westmin. Thomas Moyle, knt.
 Robert Dartnoll.
 1st. At Oxford. Thomas Moyle, knt.
 William Roper, esq;

In the time of K. PHILIP and Q. MARY.

1st and 2d. At William Roper,
Westminster. Edward Bashe.
2d and 3d. At George Howard (e), knt.
Westminster. William Cobham, knt.
4th and 5th. At Hugh Cartwright,
Westminster. Thomas Page, esqrs.

In the time of Q. ELIZABETH.

1st. At Westmin. Edward Bashe,
Thomas Brooke, al. Cobham
5th. At Westmin. Edward Bashe, esq;
Richard Watts, gent.
13th. At Westmin. William Holstock,
George Catlyn, esqrs.
14th. At Westmin. George Catlyn,
William Partrige, esqrs. (f)
27th. At Westmin. William Brook, al. Cobham
George Bing, gents.
28th. At Westmin. William Brook, esq;
William Lewin, L. L. D.
31st. At Westmin. John Stanhope, esq;
William Lewin, L. L. D.
35th. At Westmin. George Chowne, esq;
William Lewin, L. L. D.
39th. At Westmin. Edward Hobbye,
Thomas Walsingham, knts.
43d. At Westmin. The same.

In the time of K. JAMES I.

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

In the time of K. CHARLES I.

1st. At Westmin. Henry Clerk, esq;
Thomas Walsingham, knt.
1st. At Westmin. The same.
3d. At Westmin. Thomas Walsingham,
William Brook, knts.

15th. At Westmin. Thomas Walsingham, knt.
John Clerk, esq;

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

16th. At Westmin. Thomas Walsingham, knt.
Richard Lee, esq;

In the time of K. CHARLES II.

12th. At Westmin. John Marsham,
1660. Peter Pett, esqrs.
13th. At Westmin. Sir Francis Clerk, knt.
1661. Sir William Batten, knt. (g)
31st. At Westmin. Sir Richard Head,
1678. Sir John Banks, barts.
31st. At Westmin. Sir John Banks, bart.
1679. Francis Barrel, esq;
32d. At Oxford, Sir John Banks, bart.
1681. Sir Francis Clerk, knt.

In the time of K. JAMES II.

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

In the time of K. WILLIAM and Q. MARY.

1st. At Westmin. Sir John Banks,
1688. Sir Roger Twisden, barts.
2d. At Westmin. Sir Joseph Williamson, knt.
1690. Francis Clerk, esq; (h)
7th. At Westmin. Sir Joseph Williamson,
1695. Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knts.
10th. At Westmin. The same.
1698.
12th. At Westmin. The same.
1700.
13th. At Westmin. Francis Barrel,
1701. William Bokenham, esqrs.

In the time Q. ANNE.

1st. At Westmin. Edward Knatchbull,
1702. William Cage, esqrs.
4th. At Westmin. Sir Cloudesley Shovel, (i)
1705. Sir Stafford Fairborne, knts.
7th. At Westmin. Sir Stafford Fairborne,
1708. Sir John Leake, knts.

9th. At Westmin. Sir John Leake, knt.
1710. William Cage, esq;
12th. At Westmin. The same.
1713.

In the time of K. GEORGE I.

1st. At Westmin. Sir Thomas Palmer, bart.
1714. Sir John Jennings, knt.
7th. At Westmin. Sir Thomas Palmer, bart. (k)
1722. Sir John Jennings, knt.

In the time of K. GEORGE II.

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

(e) Browne Willis calls him Haywood.

(f) Samuel Cox, esq; was chosen in his room.

(g) In 1667, on his decease, Richard Head, esq; was chosen in his room.

(h) On his decease in 1691, Caleb Banks, esq; was chosen in his room.

(i) On his decease in 1707, Sir John Leake was chosen.

(k) On his decease in 1723, Sir Thomas Colby, knt. was chosen.

12

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

7th. At Westmin. David Polhill,
1734. Nicholas Haddock, esqrs.
14th. At Westmin. Nicholas Haddock, (l)
1741. Edward Vernon, esqrs. (m)
21st. At Westmin. Sir Chaloner Ogle, knt. (n)
1747. David Polhill, esq; (o)
28th. At Westmin. Hon. John Bing, esq; (p)
1754. Nicholas Haddock, esq;

In the time of K. GEORGE III.

1st. At Westmin. Hon. Thomas Parker, com-
1761. monly called Lord Parker, (q)
Isaac Townsend, esq; (r)
7th. At Westmin. John Calcraft, (s)
1768. William Gordon, esqrs. (t)
14th. At Westmin. George Finch Hatton,
1774. Robert Gregory, esqrs. <+>

The number of Freeman, who vote for Members, is at present about 630.

THE CASTLE.

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 (u).

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 (v), 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 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 500 soldiers (w).

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 was raised, belonged to the Bishop of Rochester; in lieu of which the King gave him in exchange certain land in the 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.

Eps' etiam de Rouecestre p excabio træ' in qua Castellu' sedet tantu' de hac tra' (scil Elesford) ten' qd' 17 Sol. & 4. den' Val.

Which is: 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 300 feet square within the walls, which were seven feet in thickness, and 20 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 below (x).

Odo, Bishop of Baieux, who had the custody of this castle, was an ambitious and turbulent prelate, of which his brother was but too sensible, nay he was so elated with the power and riches he had acquired by his tyranny and oppressions, that he aimed at nothing less than the Popedom. 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 surprised him just as he was setting sail, and sent him prisoner to the castle of

(l) On his death in 1746, Sir Chaloner Ogle, knt. was chosen.

(m) Edward Vernon made his option for Ipswich, and David Polhill was chosen in his room.

(n) On his decease in 1750, the Hon. John Bing was chosen.

(o) In 1754, Nicholas Haddock was chosen on his decease.

- (p) In 1757, Isaac Townsend was chosen on his decease.
- (q) On his succeeding his father, as Earl of Macclesfield, in 1764, Sir Charles Hardy, knt. was chosen in his room.
- (r) On his death in 1765, Grey Cooper was chosen in his room.
- (s) On his decease in 1772, George Finch Hatton was chosen.
- (t) He vacated his seat in 1771, and Vice Admiral Pye was chosen in his room.
- (u) Hist. of Roch. p. 21.
- (v) Text. Roff. p. 76, 86, 88, &c.
- (w) Mss. Cott. Libr. Vesp. A. 5, fol. 68, N. 22.
- (x) Hist. Rochester, p. 23, &c.

13

Roan in Normandy, where he continued the remaining four years of the Conqueror's reign.

Soon after his seizure, being convicted of numberless crimes and extortions, his castles and strongholds, as well as his lands and other effects were 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 coming 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 induced many others of the nobility to join with him, in order to advance Robert, the late King's eldest son, to whom he had left the dukedom of Normandy, to the throne.

Odo, having pillaged and destroyed many places in this county, particularly those belonging to the Archbishop, to whom he bore an implacable enmity, carried the whole of his plunder to Rochester; from whence he went to Pevensey castle in Sussex, where he held out a siege for six weeks, at the end of which he was forced, for want of food, to surrender it up to the King, and to bind himself, among other conditions, to deliver up Rochester castle, where many gallant men, and 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, and besieged it so vigorously (y), 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 honors; 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 Bp. 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 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 in the co. of Bucks, to the church of Rochester, unless he had 100l. 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 (z), should build for the King a tower of stone at his own expence, within the castle of Rochester; which the <e> prelates 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 60l. 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 (a).

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 building of upwards of 70 feet square at the base, the walls of which are 12 feet thick; adjoining to the east angle of this tower is a small one, about two thirds the height of the large tower, and about 28 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 ascends, 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 100 feet from the ground, and at each angle of it is another small tower, 12 feet square, and as many high, with floors, and battlements above them.

Considering how long this fabric has been neglected, there are few building 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 curious beholder (b).

K. Henry I, in his 27th year, granted, with the consent of his Barons, to the church of Can-

(y) The King issued a proclamation, declaring every one a Niding, who did not come to his assistance, by which means the people flocked to his army in great abundance. Malmsbury writes it Nidering; M. Paris, Nithing, from the Saxon word Nithe Nequitia; being a nick-name of reproach given to those who were guilty of the worst of crimes, such

as rifling the dead, robbing of churches, &c. See Somner's Gavelkind, p. 65.

(z) He is said by some to have built the Tower of London.

(a) Text. Roff. p. 145. Hist. Rochester, p. 26.

(b) Hist. Rochester, p. 29 et seq.

terbury, and to William, Archbishop of the same, 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 in it, and that the Knights, who were bound to the defence of the castle, should continue the

same to him, &c. (c)

In the next reign of K. Stephen, the Archbp. 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 of it; for when Robert, Earl of Gloucester, K. 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 (d).

It does not seem to have been afterwards restored to the see of Canterbury; for Archbishop Becket upbraided K. 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 K. Henry, William de Ipre, with the rest of the Flemings, was banished the kingdom, and Henry, son of K. 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 (e).

K. 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, dated Aug. 9th, required the Archbishop to give up the custody of it to him (f), and it seems never afterwards to have returned to the see of Canterbury. Notwithstanding the Archbishop's acquiescence in the King's demand of it, the discontented Barons contrived to get possession of it, and committed it to the custody of William de Albini, a most 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 adherents, finding no hope of relief, and that the outward walls were thrown down, and their provisions exhausted, surrendered themselves at discretion, on Nov. 30th that year (g).

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 K. 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 K. John and K. 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 of Rochester and Canterbury during life, with the fee of 1000 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 (h).

In all which trusts he was succeeded by Stephen de Segrave, who was displaced from them in the 20th year of that reign (i), and John de Cobham was appointed Constable of Rochester castle in his room.

In the 42d year of K. Henry III, 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 (k), and in the 44th year of that reign Wm. de Say was appointed Governor of them (l).

In the 45th year of K. Henry III, Robert Waleran was made Sheriff of Kent, and Governor of the castles of Rochester and Canterbury (m).

In the year 1264, anno 49 Henry III, 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 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 on Good Friday, April 20th, and spoiled the church, and what was left of the priory; for Roger de Leyburne had before burnt down all the

(c) Regist. Eccl. Christi. Cart. 31.

(d) Rapin, vol. i, p. 207.

(e) Camd. p. 259.

(f) Rot. Pat. in turr. intergo.

(g) Dugd. Bar. vol. i, p. 114. (h) Ibid. p. 694 et seq.

(i) Ibid. p. 672. (k) Ibid. p. 619. (l) Ibid. p. 511.

(m) Ibid. p. 671.

15

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 seven days laying close siege, when it was near being taken, the Earl suddenly raised the siege, and returned to London, to make head there against the King and his son, who, as he feared, were coming towards him (n).

K. 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.

The same King in his 48th year gave the custody of it to William de St. Clere, who died in his office that year (o).

In the 54th year of that reign Bertram de Criol was made governor of it (p).

In the 2d year of K. 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 (q).

Sir John de Cobeham was Constable of this castle in the middle of the above reign (r).

In the 33d year of the same 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, 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 (s).

In the 3d year of K. Edward III, anno 1328, William Skarlett was Constable, and then distrained one Simon Sharstede for lands in Watringbury for castle-guard_

In the 18th year of that reign, sir John de Cobeham, knt. Lord Cobham, was Constable of the castle and city of Rochester (t).

In the 33d year of K. Edward III, 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. (u).

In the 2d year of K. Henry V, Wm. Criol, or Kerial, as this name became now to be called, died Governor of it; in which office he was afterwards succeeded by sir Thomas Cobeham, knt. who held it at his death in the 11th year of K. Edward IV (v).

King Edward IV. 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 (w), and 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 K. Edward IV, rested among the manors of the crown, until K. James I, in his 10th year granted it, with all the services belonging to it, to sir Anth. Weldon, knt. since which it has continued down in the same tract of ownership that Swanscombe manor has, to Robert Child, esq; the present possessor of it. (x). <+>

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 antient-

ly 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 (y).

THE BRIDGE.

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.

Lambard in his perambulation has given us three extracts from MSS. concerning this bridge, one from an antient record in Christ church, Cant. and the others in the Saxon, and Latin tongues, from the Textus Roffensis, beforementioned.

(n) *Lel. Itin.* vol. vii, p. 134. *Lel. Coll.* vol. i, p. 267. and part 2, p. 457. *Hist. Rochester*, p. 38.

(o) *Hist. Rochester*, p. 39.

(p) *Dugd. Bar.* vol. i, p. 770.

(q) *Hist. Rochester*, p. 39. It appears by the Clause-Rolls of the 1st year of this reign, that there were two priests called the King's Chaplains officiating in the chapel of the King's castle here, whose stipends were 50s. a year each, and the Sheriff of Kent was commanded to pay them the arrears of the same, &c. *Reg. Roff.* p. 541.

(r) *Mss. Pedigree.*

(s) *Hist. Rochester*, p. 39.

(t) *Mss. pedigree of Cobeham.* *Reg. Roff.* p. 551, 552.

(u) *Rym. Fæd.* vol. vi, p. 567.

(v) *Weever*, p. 747, says Alexander Iden, esq; who took Jack Cade prisoner, anno 29 Henry VI, was in recompence made Governor or Keeper of this castle.

(w) *Hist. Rochester*, p. 40.

(x) See *Swanscombe*, vol. i, p. 261, 262.

(y) See vol. i, p. 262.

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. The following is a translation of the Latin one (z).

This description plainly shews how the bridge of Rochester ought to be repaired whenever it is broken.

Imprimis, the Bishop of the city shall begin the repair of the first land pere on the east side, and shall plank three virgates, and lay three sills (a), or great beams, and this he shall do from his lands (b) of Borchastalle (c), Cucklestane (d), Freondesbiri (e), and Stoche (f).

The second pier belongs to Gillingeham (g) and Cætham (h), to plank one virgate and lay three sills.

The third pier belongs again to the Bishop, who ought to plank two virgates and an half, and to lay three sills, and this he shall do from his lands of Heallinges (i), Trottesclive (k), Meallinges (l), Suthfleotes (m), Stanes (n), Pinnendene (o), and Falceham (p).

The fourth pier belongs to the King, and he ought to plank three virgates and an half, and to lay three sills, and to do this from his lands of Eilesford and the whole leet which belongs to the said manor, and the lands upon the hills (q), and of Acle (r), and Smalaland (*), and Cusintune (s), and Dudesland (*), and Gisleardesland (*), and Wuldeham (u), and Burham (v), and Acclesse (w), Horsted (x), Fearnlega (y), Terstane (z), Cealca (a), Henhursta (b), and Hathdune (c).

The fifth pier is the Archbishop's, and he ought to plank four virgates, and to lay three sills, and this he ought to do from his lands of Wrotham (d), Mædestana (e), Oteringberiga (f), Nettlesteda (g), the two Peckhams (h), Hæselholt (*), Mærewurtha (i), Lilleburna (k), Swanatuna (l), Offeham (m), Dictuna (n), and Westerham (o).

The sixth pier ought to be made by the tenants of the manor of Holingburna, and of all that leet belonging to the same, to plank four virgates, and to lay three sills (p).

The seventh and eighth pier the men of Hoo (pp) ought to do, and to plank four virgates and an

half, and lay six sills.

The ninth pier, which is the last on the western side, is again the Archbishop's, to plank four virgates, and lay three sills, and this ought to be done in respect of his lands of Northfleta (q), Cliva (r), Heahham (s), Denituna (t), Meletuna (u), Hludesduna (v), Meapeham (w), Snodilanda (x), Berlinges (y), Peadlesworth, and of all those men which dwell in that vale.

And it is to be understood, that all these sills which are laid in the bridge ought to be of such a size, that they may well sustain all the heavy weights of the planks, which lay on them, as well as of all things passing over them.

By the above account it appears, that this ancient bridge was made of wood, and that it consisted of nine piers, which made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, and from one end to the other was about 26 rods and an half, equal to 431 feet, which corresponds nearly to the present 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.

This 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 (a).

The owners of these manors and lands above-mentioned, chargeable with the repairs of this

(z) Lamb. Peramb. p. 416 to 426.

(a) In Latin suliva, in Saxon sylla.

(b) As possessor of those estates.

(c) Borstall manor in St. Margaret's, Rochester.

(d) Cookstone manor. (e) Frindsbury manor.

(f) Stoke manor.

(g) i. e. to the possessors of the lands in those parishes.

(h) Chatham. (i) Halling manor. (k) Trottesclive manor.

(l) East and West Malling manors. (m) Southfleet manor.

(n) Stone manor near Dartford.

(o) Land in the hamlet of Pinden, in the parish of Horton Kirkby.

(p) Fawkham manor.

(q) The manor of Ovenhill in Boxley, called in Saxon Ofufanhylle.

(r) Ockley manor in Higham.

(*) Unknown. (3) Cosinton manor in Aylesford.

(u) Woldham manor. (v) Burham manor. (w) Eccles manor in Aylesford. (x) Horsted manor in Chatham.

(y) East and West Farleigh manors. (z) Teston manor.

(a) Chalk manor. (b) A manor in Cobham.

(c) The Mount manor in Cobham. This 4th pere is very differently described in the Christ Church Mss. not only as to places, but in respect to the quantity of plowlands, according to which each place was bound to repair.

(d) The manor. (e) Maidstone manor. (f) Watringbury manor. (g) Nettledsted manor. (b) Great and Little Peckham manors. (i) Mereworth manor. (k) Leyburne manor.

(l) Swanton manor. (m) The manor. (n) Ditton manor.

(o) The manor.

(p) This pier is likewise very differently noted in the Christ Church Mss. as belonging to the men of the Hundred of Heyburne, and describes the number of plowlands, by which each manor and estate within the same is bound to the repair of this pier.

(pp) That is, of the Hundred of Hoo.

(q) Northfleet manor. (r) Cliff manor. (s) Higham manor.

(t) Denton manor by Gravesend. (4) Milton manor by Gravesend. (v) Luddesdon manor. (w) Meopham manor.

(x) Snodland manor. (y) Berling manor. (z) Padlesworth manor near Rochester.

(a) Lamb. Peramb. p. 426.

17

bridge, were used by antient custom to elect two men from among themselves to be Wardens, or Overseers of the repairs of it (b).

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

In the reign of K. Henry III, it suffered much in consequence of the civil commotions between that King and his discontented Barons, particularly in the year 1264, anno 29 Henry III; when Simon, Earl of Leicester, coming to the western banks of the river to besiege this castle and city, found his passage over the bridge disputed by the citizens, being twice repulsed by them; upon which, on the Good Friday, by means of some small vessels filled with combus-

tibles he set fire to, and consumed the bridge and tower on it, and so in the hurry and confusion of it, passed the river and entered the town.

In the year 1281, there was a long and severe frost, with a great quantity of snow, which being followed by a sudden thaw, swept several of the piers away, and considerably damaged the rest. In which 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 the wharf at Rochester was so bad, that all vessels used that of Stroud. The bridge seems to have lain much in the same condition in the 4th year of the next reign of K. Edward II, when it appears by the records in the Tower, that the King issued orders for the speedy repair of it.

This reparation seems to have been but slight; for K. 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, arising from the frequent journeying to and fro from thence. To remedy which, in the 17th year of his reign, he issued his writ, by virtue of which an inquisition was taken before John Vielstone, the King's Escheator, by the oaths of 12 men, concerning the reparation of it; who found that the bridge ought to be made good by the contributory lands, and in the proportions as has been already mentioned (c).

In this enquiry there is mention made of a draw-bridge, and a barbican, the work of which belonged to the King (d): 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 (e).

Again in the 29th year of the same reign, the King directed his writ to Jeffrey de Say, Thomas Colepeper, and others, to enquire into the defects and want of repair of this bridge, and what persons or places were obliged to make them good (f).

Notwithstanding all which care, after the taking of Calais in 1347, this wooden bridge (g) was found to be so 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 that it

was very unsafe for so considerable a traffic, as must necessarily pass over it. Therefore 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 K. Richard II.

For that year sir Robert Knolles, and sir John de Cobham de Kent, petitioned the Parliament, that the 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 500 marcs, and to be impleaded, all which was granted, saving that they should purchase but to the value of 300 marcs yearly (h).

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 (i).

Sir Robert Knolles (k), 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 whosever cost it was,

(b) Hist. Rochester, p. 45. 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.

(c) By this inquisition it was found, that the principal defects and want of repair were in the wharf and first pier, the cost of which would be 19l. and in the 3d pier, the cost of which would be 8l. 6s. 8d. to repair.

(d) This barbican, or burghkenning, was used both as a watch-tower and guardhouse to the city. The draw-bridge was most probably over the west arch of the bridge, to draw up on the approach of the enemy.

(e) Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 255. Hist. Rochester, p. 47.

(f) In this inquisition, the repair of each pier, as well as the wharfs, are noted; the whole repair of which was 534l. 6s. 8d.

(g) Kilburne, p. 229, says, this bridge in the 10th of Richard II, on the rumour of the coming of the French, was beaten down.

(h) Cott. Rec. p. 344. 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.

(i) Cott. Rec. p. 370.

(k) He was a valiant and successful Captain in K. Edward III.'s wars in France, and having acquired great riches there, returned to his country, laden with wealth and honor.

18

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, 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.

Piers or ft. in. qr. pts.
arches.

1. The manors of Borstall, Cokilstane, Frennesbury, and Stoke, from the east end of the bridge 64 0 3 0
2. The manors of Gillynham and Chatham 21 4 1 0
3. The manors and places of Hallynge, Trottesclyve, Malynge, Southflete, Stone, Pynyndene, and Faulham 53 4 2 2
4. The manors, places, and bounds of Eylford and its whole lathe, those upon the hills, and of Okle, Ufenhalle, Smalelande, Cosyntone, Dudeslande, Gislardeslande, Woldeham, Burgham, Acclesse, Herstede, Farleghe, Therstane, Chalke, Henhurste, and Hothdone 74 8 3 2
5. The manors of Wrotham, Maide-stane, Otteryngbery, Netilstede, the two Peckhams, Heselholte, Mereworth, Lillebourne, Swantone, Of-feham, Dittone, and Westerhame 85 6 0 0
6. The manors, places, and bounds

of Hollyngbourne, and the whole
lathe thereto belonging 85 6 0 0
7 and 8. The manors and places of
Hoo 96 0 2 2

9. The manors Northflete, Clyve,
Heyham, Dentone, Meltone, Lodes-
done, Mepeham, Snodelonde, Bier-
lize, Padelesworthe, and all dwel-
ling in those valleys 85 6 0 0

The whole length of the bridge 566 1 0 2

The bridge, for height and strength, is al-
lowed to be superior to any in England, except-
ing those at London and Westminster. The length
of it has been above described; the breadth is 14
feet; it has a stone parapet on each side, strong-
ly coped and surmounted with a railing of iron.
It has now eleven arches, supported by strong
and substantial piers, which are well secured on
each side with sterlings. The river has a consi-
derable fall through these arches.

The present bridge is about 40 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 chan-
nels, is frequently dry (1).

K. Richard II, by his writ under his privy
seal, Jan. 14, in his 22d year, confirmed all the
above privileges to this bridge; and further
granted, that the persons and landholders of the
contributory lands, should be reputed a commu-
nity 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, sup-
port and maintain the same from time to time in
the name of the whole; and further, that as he
had granted by his let. pat. that the Wardens
alone might acquire lands, &c. to the value of
200l. 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 feoff-
ment 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, for all rents, profits, &c. arising from the said lands and tenements, and for all other profits whatsoever anyways given to them, towards the support of the new bridge. 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 contained in these let. pat. was confirmed by statute anno 9 Henry V; and further, that the Wardens and Commonalty, and their successors, might be persons able and capable to purchase and receive lands, &c. of any persons whatsoever, to hold to them and their successors for ever, in aid of the support and reparation of this bridge, and might have a Common Seal to serve for the businesses of the bridge for ever.

In the reign of K. Henry VI, little more than 50 years after the building of this bridge, it seems to have been much out of repair; for in the year 1445, the Prior and Convent of Rochester gave towards the bridge then broken 40s. which was toll-money due to them from the Wardens; and in the next year 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 and town of Stroud, and from the town of Stroud to the said city, the King's bridge on the other side <e> the water being broken; and also the

(1) Hist. of Rochester, p. 50.

19

space (m) of the bridge, together with the house called the Barbican (n).

In this state Rochester-bridge seems to have continued till the reign of K. 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 40 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 (o), and iron railing; the former by the bounty of one John Warner, a Merchant of Rochester, and the latter by Archbishop Warham (p). 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 Q. Elizabeth, as will be mentioned below (q).

The following is a list of 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 K. Henry VIII.

The manor of Langgeden was given and mortyzed in the 22d year of K. Richard II, by Nicholas Potyn, to the value of 10 marcs, above all reprises 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum.

The manor of Little Delce, beside Rochester, was given and mortyzed by Charles and William Snette, to the value of six marcs, above all reprises 4l.

The manors of Tilbury and of Greane, which was worth 40 marcs yearly, above all reprises, were given by sir John de Cobham, a founder of this bridge.

The manor of Nashenden was given and mortyzed in the 3d year of K. Henry IV. by James Peckham, the which was worth yearly 10l. and above all reprises 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum.

A messuage with its appurtenances, in the city of Rochester, called Potyn's Inn, alias King's Inn, alias the Crown, with three other rents, and a ground called Walches, were given and mortyzed in the 9th year of K. Henry V, by sir Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham, the which were worth 21 marcs 6s. and 8d.

The manor at Dartford at Heathe was given and mortyzed by John de Fremingham, to the value of 100s. above all reprises.

His place at London, in Cornhill at the Shafte, was given and mortyzed by William Wainford, to the value of 12 marcs above all reprises.

The manor of Sharnden in the Isle of Elmley, was confirmed to the bridge by Q. Elizabeth by

letters of Inspeximus (r).

This list is continued from other printed books as follows:

Land and tenements in Frindsbury, by John Double and others.

Lands and tenements in the Isle of Shepey by the King and others.

Lands in Halstow.

Lands in Hoo.

Forty marcs rent out of Sharynden and Nesse, in the Isle of Elmley, forfeited by John Cobham and others.

A rent of eight quarters of barley, out of Great Delce in Rochester.

Lands of Mr. Richard Lee belonging to the manor of Nashenden.

Seven acres of land at Little Delce.

Sixteen acres of lands at Dartford.

Thirty acres of salt marsh at Eastwick and Spurt near Hoo and Greane.

Five pounds per annum out of the Hundred of Blengate, granted by the King (s).

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 K. 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 mismanagement, 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 Q. Mary and Q. Elizabeth, and in the latter a fifteenth was gathered over the whole county, and yet the work

decayed more and more.

When Q. Elizabeth was at Rochester, in her return from a tour she had made round the counties of Sussex and Kent, in the 16th year of her reign, sir William Cecil, Secretary of State, afterwards Lord Burleigh, took that opportunity of acquainting her with the ruinous state of this bridge.

(m) Tractus in orig.

(n) Hist. Rochester, p. 53. Rot. Cart de Reg. Hen. VI.

(o) Lel. Itin. vol. vii, p. 128.

(p) Weever, p. 231, says, the iron work was made by Archbishop Deane, Warham's predecessor.

(q) Hist. Rochester, p. 54.

(r) This is extracted out of an old quarto volume, among the archives in the Bridge Chamber.

(s) Hist. Rochester, p. 52.

20

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 examine into these defects, and the causes of them, and to 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 (t) and endeavours, yet the laborious part which Sir Roger Manwood, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, took throughout the whole of it, deserves 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 fraudently 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 Q. 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 said place annually for ever.

The wardens to have power to appoint officers under them, with such stipends, or wages as they should think necessary; that every year on the Thursday in 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, who were to meet at the Crown Inn near the bridge, or some convenient place, 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, viz. anno 27 Eliz. the 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 10s. and that the Wardens, Assistants, and Inhabitants, should defray their own charges at such times.

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 repair, and greatly ornamented, without any further assistance from the contributory lands, but a fund has been accumulated against any sudden accident, or

damage that might happen to the <e> frabric (u).

Within these 20 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, particularly that between the bridge and the high-street of Rochester, where the approach to it has been laudably improved for the general accomodation of the public.

The yearly value of the lands proper are about 1000l. per ann.

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 at the Bridge-chamber in the Crown Inn yard, (where all the business relating to the bridge is transacted) to carry on the same, 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 always 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.

(t) The first opening of the commission was at London, Feb. 8, 1574.

(u) Hist. Rochester, p. 55. Harris's Hist. p. 257. Mss. Hist. Rochester, penes E. H. Lamb. Peramb. p. 429.

21

"Seals belonging to
the Wardens and
Commonalty of
Rochester Bridge."

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 (w), 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, knt. William Wangford, and Eleanor his wife, John Fremingham, and Alice his wife, William Makenade, Sir William Rykhull, knt. 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, above-mentioned, John Bukyngham, formerly Bishop of Lincoln, Sir William Waleworth, knt. 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 (x).

But in the reign of K. Henry VI, the revenues of the bridge were so diminished and wasted, 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 100s. which the convent and monastery of St. Augustine near Canterbury, and their successors, used to pay yearly at the Exchequer, from the ferme of the hundreds of Ryngleslowe, Dunhamford, and Blengate, in this county, to hold to them and their successors for ever (y).

What became of this chantry in the reigns of K. Henry VIII, and K. Edward VI, I have not learned, but in the year 1575, anno 18 Q. Elizabeth, there was an arrear of 500l. or more,

(w) There was a chantry on the Stroud side of the river, built for the same use. Hist. Rochester, note, p. 209.

(x) Reg. Roff. p. 555. Hist. Rochester, p. 50 and 208. John Schakel, esq; in 1396, anno 20 Richard II, gave in

alms to this chapel and bridge 100l. Strype's Stow's Sur-

vey, book vi, p. 38.

(y) Reg. Roff. p. 573.

22

depending in the Court of Exchequer, and probably due to the Crown from the Wardens and Commonalty of this 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 (z).

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 their weekly and annual meetings. On the front of this new building are the arms of the principal benefactors to the bridge (a).

THE OYSTER FISHERY.

An account of the river Medway has already been given in the General History of this county (b), it only remains therefore for me to give some account 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-dredgermen 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-dredgermen petitioned Parliament for relief in the 2d year of K. 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 oftner in every year to hold a Court of Admiralty, 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 (c) 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 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 (d).

THE PRIORY.

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 certain 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 (e). 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, Archbp. Lanfranc immediately restored all those lands, which he had recovered, formerly belonging to it.

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 60 (f). Besides which the Bishop, continuing his unwearied zeal

(z) Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 258.

(a) Hist. Rochester, p. 208, note *

(b) See vol. i, p. cxxvii.

(c) This is usually on St. James's day.

(d) Hist. of Rochester, p. 261.

(e) Reg. Roff. p. 1. Lamb. Peramb. p. 408. Hist. of Rochester, p. 74.

(f) The reason is plain, why of all the regulars, the Benedictines alone were placed in the cathedral churches; for all the bishopricks in England, before the dissolution, were erected and established long before the coming of any other regulars into the land.

23

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 (ff). 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 K. Henry VIII, almost every King granted some liberties and privileges, as well to the Bishop of Rochester, as to the Prior and 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.

A LIST OF THE PRIORS OF ROCHESTER.

Ordowinus was <e> the appointed Prior, and was witness to the charter of foundation, dated Sept. 20, 1089. He afterwards resigned (g).

Arnulph, originally a Monk of Christ Church, was constituted in his room, and continued here till he was elected Prior of Canterbury in 1096 (h). He was a good benefactor to this priory, and built the dormitory, chapter-house, and refectory (i).

Ralph succeeded him. He had been a Monk at Caen, and came over into England with Lanfranc in 1107. On his being chosen Abbat of Battle in the co. of 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. He obtained the confirmation of the possessions of his church from Pope Eugenius III. in 1146. He died on Dec. 5.

Reginald, who in 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 Bp. Walter. The next I find is

William de Borstalle, who was preferred

to the priorship from being Cellarer of this monastery.

Silvester, who was his successor, from being Cellarer was likewise made Prior. In his time, anno 1177, the church and the offices, as well within as without the walls, were burnt, on the 3d of the Ides of April. In 1178, he obtained a confirmation of the possessions of this church from Pope Alexander III. 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 Abbat of Burton in the co. of Stafford.

Alfred succeeded him as Prior, and quitted it on being made Abbat of Abingdon by K. Henry II, between the years 1185 and 1189 (k).

Osbert de Scapeia, 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 great church to be covered and most of it leaded (l).

Helias 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 cloysters next the dormitory, and made the laundry and door of the refectory (m).

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

Richard de Derente was elected Prior of Rochester in 1225, after the octave of Pentecoste. 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 June 29, 1239. He built the whole choir of this church, from the north and

(ff) Reg. Roff. p. 1. Dugd. Mon. vol. iii, p. 1. Hist. of Rochester, p. 75 and 116.

(g) Willis's Mitred Abbeys, voi. i, p. 290.
(h) From whence he was preferred to be Abbat of Peterborough, and in 1115 to the see of Rochester.

(i) Willis's Mitred Abbeys ibid.
(k) Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. i, p. 291. Stev. Mon. vol. i, p. 453.
(l) Reg. Roff. p. 122. (m) Ibid.

24

south wings, out of the oblations made at the shrine of St. William, and 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 Woburn in the co. of Bedford (n), and there died. In his time, on the 2d of the calends of March, anno 1240, the altar in the infirmary chapel was dedicated to St. Mary; and on the nones of Nov. following, the cathedral church itself being finished was dedicated by the Bishop, assisted by the Bishops of Bangor and St. Andrew (o).

Alexander de Glanville succeeded him, who dying suddenly of grief, March 5, 1252, was succeeded by

Simon de Clyve, Sacrist of this church, who growing infirm resigned this office of Prior in 1262, and was the same year 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 was elected in his room Dec. 24, 1283, and was promoted to the bishopric of Rochester at the latter end of the year 1291.

John de Renham or Rensham was again chosen Prior Jan. 7, 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 Feb. the same year; on whose resignation in 1314,

Hamo de Hethe was elected to this office on the 8th of May that year, as he was to the see of Rochester in 1317, though he was not conse-

crated 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 on Jan. 14, 1320. He died in Jan. 1321, and was succeeded by

John de Speldhurst, Cellarer of this convent, who was chosen by the monks and confirmed by the Bishop, then present on the Friday before the Purification next following. He resigned August 12, 1333 (p). His successor was

John de Shepey, S. T. P. In 1336 he built the new refectory, and received towards the expence of it 100 marcs. In his time also, viz. in 1344, the shrines of St. Michael, St. Paulinus and St. Ythamar, were new made with marble and

alabaster, which cost 200 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 dated October 22, preceding (q).

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 on August 6, 1361. He resigned on November 6, 1380, and was succeeded by

John de Shepey, S. T. P. the Subprior, who was elected Dec. 14, following. He governed the priory 39 years, and died August 2, 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) on Aug. 21, 1419. He presided in 1444, and was soon after succeeded by

John Clyfe, in 1447 (r). After him

John Cardone was Prior in 1448 (s).

William Wode was Prior in the reign of K. Edward IV. (t) and he was succeeded by

Thomas Bourne, who was Prior in the year 1480 (u), to whom

William Bishop probably succeeded. He occurs Prior in 1496, and seems to have been succeeded by

William Frysel, who was elected to this office Sept. 11, 1509 (v). His successor in it was probably

Laurence Mereworth, who occurs Prior in 1533 and 1534, when he with 18 monks subscribed to the King's supremacy (w).

Walter Boxley was the next, and last Prior (x) of this monastery, for K. 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 the 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

(n) Reg. Roff. p. 125.

(o) Willis's Mitred Abbeys, voi. i, p. 292. Stev. Mon. vol. i, p. 454.

(p) Willis ibid. p. 293. Stev. Mon. ibid.

(q) He was afterwards Lord Treasurer, and died in 1360.

(r) Reg. Roff. p. 575. (s) Ibid. p. 580. (t) Ibid. p. 143.

(u) Ibid. p. 138. (v) Ibid. p. 140.

(w) Rym. Fæd. vol. xiv, p. 497.

(x) Willis ibid. p. 294. Stev. Mon. ibid.

25

VIII, his heirs, successors and assigns, to his and their use for ever, with a general warrantry against all persons whatsoever (y).

This deed was executed in the presence of a Master in Chancery, and was afterwards inrolled in the Court of Augmentation.

The Prior abovementioned, 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 his monastery (z).

The Priory of Rochester was valued at the dissolution of it at 486l. 11s. 5d. yearly income (a), the whole of which came into the King's hands, as abovementioned, who, though he was empowered by Parliament to erect new sees, and ecclesiastical corporate bodies out of the estates belonging to these suppressed monasteries, yet more than two years passed before there was any new establishment founded by him here (b).

"The Seal of Rochester Priory"

THE FOUNDATION OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER.

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, and he decreed that this church should in future be called the Cathedral church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary of Rochester, and that it should be the episcopal seat of the Bishop of Rochester and his successors, and he gave and granted the same episcopal seat within the precincts of the said late monastery, to him and his successors for ever; and he appointed Walter Philippes, late Prior here, the first Dean of this church, and Hugh Aprice, John Wildbore, Robert Johnson, John Symkins, Robert Salisbury, and Richard Engest, the six Prebendaries

of the same, 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 him and his successors for ever, and that they should plead and be impleaded by the above name, and have a common seal; and he granted to the said

Dean and Chapter and their successors, the scite and precincts of the late monastery, the church there, and all matters and things whatsoever within the same; excepting and reserved to the King, his heirs and successors, a certain house there, called Le Porter's Lodge, Le Covent Hall, with two inner rooms, and a chamber adjoining to the said hall, Le Covent Kitchen, Le Covent Cellar, the cloister there, the refectory, the dormitory, the chapter-house, the Prior's house with a small garden adjoining, one orchard there called Le Covent Garden, with a stable adjoining, together with a certain barn lying to the south-west of the same, Le King's Chamber, the King's Chapel with a garden adjoining, a house there

(y) After this surrendry several of the Religious had pensions assigned, from 40s. and upwards to 10l. the total of which amounted to 76l. 6s. 8d. per annum.

(z) After the dissolution, most of the religious throughout England changed their local names in like manner.

(a) Tan. Mon. p. 202.

(b) Hist. of Rochester, p. 85.

26

called Le Fermorie, with a garden adjoining, a house called Le Chamber's lodging, with a garden and a small orchard adjoining, and also all that ground there called Le Upp Ditch, with an orchard fenced in there (c); and also excepted always to the Bishop of Rochester and his successors all that great messuage called the Bishop's Palace, with all other his lands and tenements, in right of his bishopric, with all their appurtenances whatsoever.

To hold the said scite, precincts, church and appurts. to the said Dean and Chapter and their successors for ever, in pure and perpetual alms; and he granted them full power of making and admitting the inferior officers of the church, and afterwards of correcting and displacing them as they thought fit; saving to the King and his successors the full power of nominating the Dean and six Prebendaries, and also six Almsmen, by his letters patent, as often as the same 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, without any fine to him in his Hana-
per, or otherwise.

These letters patent were sealed with the great
seal, June 20th following.

The Dotation Charter, under the King's privy
seal, is likewise dated the same day; by which
he granted to the Dean and Chapter, and their
successors, sundry premises, manors, lands, te-
nements, rents, advowsons and appropriations,
part of the possessions of the late priory of Ro-
chester, of the late priory of Ledys, of the hospital
of Stroud and of the priory of Boxley lying 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 suc-
cessors, in lieu thereof, the yearly sum of 115l. (d)
and lastly, that they should have these his let.
pat. made and sealed with his great seal, without
any fee or reward, &c.

On the fourth 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 Choiristers, eight
Choiristers, one Teacher of the boys in gram-
mar, twenty scholars to be taught the same,
two Subsacrists, and six poor men, he gave
power and authority to them, or any two of
them, to repair to the said scite of the late pri-
ory, and then and there, according as they
thought fit, to allot the whole of it, and to as-
sign to the Dean and Canons separate and fit
stalls in the choir, and separate places in the
chapter there; and also to allot to the Dean the
new lodging, containing two parlours, a kit-
chen, four bedchambers, the gallery, the study
over the gate, with all other buildings leading to
the house of John Symkins, one of the residen-
tiaries, 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 said 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, viz. Minor Canons, Deacon and Subdeacon, Scholars, Choiristers, and upper and under Master, should have smaller houses, in which they and their families should inhabit, provided nevertheless, that they should not assign or divide the houses or buildings reserved and appointed for himself, by James Nedham, the particulars of which were expressed in a schedule to the said commission annexed; (e) and further, that they should put the said 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 the same.

About three years afterwards, viz. June 30, anno 36 K. Henry VIII, a body of statutes for the government of this church was delivered to it by three Commissioners (f) appointed by the

(c) These premises, or at least the greatest part of them, seem to have been afterwards granted to the Dean and Chapter.

(d) This rent is now increased to 124l. 6s. 0d. for King Henry VIII, in his 36th year, having exchanged the rectory impropriate and advowson of the vicarage of the church of Shorne, with the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, for the manor of Southfleet, and the former being estimated at 9l. 6s. yearly value more than the latter, that sum was added to the former rent paid by the Dean and Chapter. This rent is now

the property of the Governors of Guy's Hospital in Southwark, to whom it is annually paid.

(e) K. Henry VIII, March 8, in his 33d year of his especial favor, granted to sir George Broke, knt. Lord Cobham, the office of Keeper of his capital messuage or mansion in Rochester, and of his garden and orchard there, for his life, with the fee or wages of 4d. per day; being, I suppose, part

of these reserved premises. Augtn. off.

(f) Nicholas, Bishop of Worcester; George, Bishop of Chichester, and Richard Cox, Archdeacon of Ely.

27

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 Q. Anne, in the sixth year of whose reign, an act passed to make them 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 ever 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 5l. to be paid to four scholars, two at each university, (g) and 40l. was directed to be laid out yearly in charity, and the repairing of highways and bridges.

By the charter of foundation, K. Henry VIII. reserved to himself and his successors the right of nominating and appointing, by his let. pat. 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 let. pat. 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 let. pat. and confirmed by act of Parliament, anno 12 Q. Anne, to the provostship of Oriel College in Oxford, and confirmed by Parliament the same year, and another was by let. pat. an. 13 K. 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 (h).

A LIST OF THE DEANS OF ROCHESTER (i).

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 thereof. He died in 1570.

Edmund Freake, S. T. P. was installed April 10, 1570, and quitted this deanry on being consecrated Bishop of Rochester on March 9, 1571.

Thomas Willoughby, S. T. P. and Prebendary of Canterbury, was installed June 23, 1574, and died Aug. 19, 1585.

John Coldwell, M. D. of St. John's College, Cambridge, was installed Jan. 7, 1585, and vacated this preferment on his being consecrated Bishop of Salisbury, Dec. 26, 1591.

Thomas Blague, S. T. B. Master of Clare Hall and Rector of Bangor, was installed Feb. 1, 1591, and died in Oct. 1611.

Richard Milbourne, A. M. Rector of Cheam in Surry, and Vicar of Sevenoke, was installed Dec. 11, 1611, and quitted this deanry on being consecrated Bishop of St. David's, July 9, 1615 (k).

Robert Scott, S. T. P. and Master of Clare Hall, was installed July 13, 1615. He died in December 1620.

Godfrey Goodman, a native of Essex, and Fellow of Trinity College, then Master of Clare Hall, Cambridge, afterwards (l) Prebendary of Westminster, Rector of Kemmerton in the co. of Gloucester, and West Isley in the co. of Berks, and S. T. P. was installed Jan. 6, 1620, and vacated this preferment on his being consecrated Bishop of Gloucester, March 6, 1624.

Walter Belcanquall, a native of Scotland, and S. T. P. was installed March 12, 1624. He was first Fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, then Master of the Savoy (m). He resigned this deanry on being promoted to that of Durham in

1638 (n).

Henry King, S. T. P. of Christ Church, Oxford, Archdeacon of Colchester, Residentiary of St. Paul's, and Canon of Christ Church (o), was installed Feb. 6, 1638, and quitted this deanry on his being consecrated Bishop of Chichester, Feb. 16, 1641.

(g) By the statutes they were to be more than 15, and under 20 years of age, to be chosen from this school in preference, and if none such were here, then from any other, so that they were neither Fellow or Scholar in either university; the said pension of 5l. to continue till they commenced Batchelor, 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 6l. per ann. 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.

(h) Hist. of Rochester, p. 92.

(i) Le Neve's Fasti, p. 252. Hist. Rochester, printed in 1723, p. 102.

(k) He was afterwards translated to Carlisle.

(l) Lel. Coll. vol. v, p. 199.

(m) Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 255. Afterwards Rector of Adisham, and Vicar of Goudhurst, in this county. Rym. Fæd. vol. xiii, p. 663.

(n) Wood, in his Ath. vol. i, Fasti, p. 184, says, one John Richardson, D. D. succeeded Dr. Belcanquall, and died in 1636.

(o) Walker's Suff. of Clergy, part ii, p. 11.

28

Thomas Turner, S. T. P. Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, London, Rector of St. Olave's, Southwark, and of Fetcham in Surry (p), was installed Feb. 26, 1641, and resigned this preferment on being made Dean of Canterbury in 1643.

Benjamin Laney, S. T. P. Master of Pembroke Hall, Vicar of Soham in the co. of Cambridge, Rector of Buriton in Hants, and Prebendary of Westminster and Winchester, was installed July 24, 1660, and vacated this preferment on being consecrated Bishop of Peterborough at the latter end of that year (q).

Nathaniel Hardy, S. T. P. Rector of St. Dionis Backchurch, Archdeacon of Lewes, and Rector of Henley upon Thames, was installed Dec. 10, 1660. He died at Croyden, June

1, 1670, and was buried in the church of St. Martin's in the Fields, of which church he was Vicar (r).

Peter Mew, S. T. P. succeeded in 1670. He had been Canon of Windsor, Archdeacon of Berks, and President of St. John's College, Oxford. He quitted this deanry on being consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells at the end of the year 1672 (s).

Thomas Lamplugh, S. T. P. was installed March 6, 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 quitted this deanry on being consecrated Bishop of Exeter, Nov. 12, 1676 (t).

John Castilion, S. T. P. Prebendary of Canterbury, and Vicar of Minster in Thanet, was installed Nov. 15, 1676. He died Oct. 21, 1688, æt. 75, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral.

Henry Ullock, S. T. P. succeeded in 1689 (u), being at that time Prebendary of this church, and Rector of Leyborne in this county. He died June 20, 1706, æt. 67, and was buried in Leyborne church.

Samuel Pratt, S. T. P. Clerk of the Closet. succeeded to this deanry in 1706 (v). He was Canon of Windsor, Vicar of Twickenham, and Chaplain of the Savoy Chapel. He died Nov. 14, 1723, æt. 71.

Nicholas Claggett, S. T. P. Rector of Brington in the co. of Northampton, and of Overton sinecure in the co. of Hants, and Archdeacon of Buckingham, succeeded to this deanry (w) in Jan. 1724. He quitted it on being promoted to the bishopric of St. David's in Jan. 1731.

Thomas Herring, S. T. P. was first of Jesus College, Cambridge, and afterwards of Bennet College, where he became Fellow. 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 bishopric of Bangor till his translation to the archbishopric of York in 1743 (x).

William Bernard, S. T. P. Prebendary of Westminster (y), succeeded as Dean of this church in 1743, but resigned it next year, on being promoted to the see of Raphoe in Ireland (z).

John Newcome, S. T. P. Lady Margaret's Lecturer of Divinity, and Master of St. John's

College, Cambridge, was made the next Dean of this church 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 March 10, 1765 (a), and was succeeded in this deanry by

William Markham, LL. D. and Prebendary of Durham, who was appointed to it 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 Oct. 1767 (b).

Benjamin Newcombe, S. T. P. and Rector of St. Mildred's in the Poultry, succeeded him in Oct. 1767. He was afterwards Vicar of Lamberhurst, and died at Rochester in Aug. 1775.

Thomas Thurloe, D. D. and Master of the Temple, was installed Dean of Rochester Nov. 8, 1775, and is the present Dean of this cathedral.(*) <+>

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 even in their time.

(p) Walker's Suff. of Clergy, part ii, p. 6.

(q) Whence he was translated to Lincoln. Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 71.

(r) Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 331.

(s) He was afterwards translated to Winchester.

(t) He was afterwards translated to York. Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 60.

(u) On the death of Dr. Castilion, Simon Lowth, A. M. was nominated by K. 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.

(v) The docquet for the grant bears date July 26, 1706.
Harl. Mss. No. 2262-192.

(w) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 122.

(x) In 1747, He was promoted to the archbishopric of Canterbury and died at Croydon 10 years afterwards. Hist. of Rochester, p. 199.

(y) He kept his Prebend in commendam with his deanry.

(z) He was afterwards promoted to the bishopric of Derry.

(a) Hist. of Rochester, p. 199.

(b) He was in 1771 advanced to the see of Chester, and since to the archbishopric of York.

(*) Brother to Edward, Lord Thurloe, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

29

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 122 feet; from the steps of the choir to the east end of the church is 52 yards; at the upper end of the choir is another cross isle of the length of 90 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 156 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 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 24 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 550 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 plaister. 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 Wilcox.

The organ is over the entrance into the choir; it was erected early in the last century, and is but a very indifferent instrument.

At the north end of the upper cross isle, and near the pulpit, is a chapel, called St. William'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 (c).

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 (d).

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 painting of figures and history, but the whose is so obliterated, that nothing can be made of it.

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 22 yards. The west front extends 81 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

(c) Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. i, p. 286. Hist. of Rochester, p. 58 et seq.

(d) There is an excellent regulation made use of for the increase of this library, the same as was intended at Canterbury; by which every new Dean and Prebendary gives a certain sum at their admission towards the increase of books in the library, instead of 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 again 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 Custumale Roffense, thought by some to be more antient than the other. Great part of this Mss. is published in the Registrum Roffense.

30

flowers. The key-stone of the arch seems to have been designed to represent our Saviour sitting in a niche, with an angel on each side, but the head is broke off; under this figure are 12 others, re-

presenting the Apostles, few of which are entire.

In this front are 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, but it remains unfinished, at not half the height it was before, to the great disfigurement of the front of this church (e). <+>

The Royal Grammar School of this foundation, besides the exhibitions above-mentioned (f), has had a later benefactor, viz. Robert Gunsley, Clerk, Rector of Titsey in Surry, who by his will, dated Dec. 15, 1618, bequeathed to the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, 60l. per ann. 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 15l. per annum (g).

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 woful 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 K. 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 yard, several sawpits being dug, and frames for houses made by the city joiners in it (h).

After the restoration Dean Hardy took great pains to repair the whole of it, which was effec-

ted by means of the benefactions of the gentry of the county, and 7000l. added by the Dean and Chapter; notwithstanding which, time has so

corroded and weakened every part of this building, that the revenues of the Dean and Chapter are thought to be inadequate to the support of it; the immediate necessary repairs of this building amounting (according to the report of an eminent surveyor within these few years) to several thousand pounds more than the Dean and Chapter seem to think themselves capable of affording: so that this cathedral, in all probability, will not be long before it lies buried in its own ruins.

THE BISHOP'S PALACE.

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 80 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 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 Trottescliffe 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 (i).

(e) Dean Newcombe left 100l. towards the finishing of it. Against this tower was the figure of Bishop Gundulph, with his crozier in his hand; on the rebuilding of the tower it was replaced, and now remains there.

(f) See above, <e> p.

(g) See Maidstone.

(h) Merc. Rusticus, p. 135. Hist. of Rochester, p. 62.

(i) Hist. Rochester, p. 100.

31

The tenements which are now standing on this scite, viz. 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 situation, as appears by the return of the survey made by the parliamentary commissioners in 1647, when the extended rents were as follows:

£. s. d.

The scite of the palace, containing one

great messuage, called the Palace,

where the Bishop's court is held,

estimated at 12 perches 4 0 0

Four rooms in the tenure of Bathe 1 6 8

A gallery, divided into two rooms and

four chambers 1 6 8

The ward, a prison, wash house, kit-

chen, three rooms, an orchard, being

a rood of ground, and one garden of

10 poles, John Walter, Steward, with

the office of Bailiff and Beadle to all

the manors, except Bromley, and the

keeping of the gaol, granted by pa-

tent for life 6 0 0

12 13 4

The prison, which was formerly a part of these buildings at the west end of them, has been dis-used as such for more than 20 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 last 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 frustrated, by the Bishop's granting a lease of it soon afterwards, in which state it has continued ever since.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

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, if I am not mistaken, 99 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 Gundulph, had received from Archbishop Lanfranc, the manors and lands, part of the antient possessions of this see, which had been recovered from Odo, Bp. 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 300l. in the King's Books it is valued at 358l. 4s. 9½d (k) 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 207l. per annum, part of its possessions being then wrested from it (l); at present it is about 600l. 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 let. pat.

(k) Anno 26 Henry VIII, this bishopric was valued at 444l. 4s. 2d. per annum in the whole, and at 411l. 0s. 11d.

clear. Tan. Mon. p. 202.

(l) Strype's Annals, vol. i, p. 152.

in his 16th year restored it with all its appurts. to Archbishop Langton, as his right (m). King Henry III, in his 10th year confirmed to the Archbishop the possession of the temporalities of this see during the vacancy of it (n), so that the Archbishop at such times always seised on them, and on the consecration of the elect restored them to him, on his performing his fealty to him for the same, as the Archbishop in his turn did the like for this bishopric to the King.

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 dé lire, 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, tho' 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 100 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 K. 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 dé lire, with which a letter was to be sent containing the name of the person they should elect and chuse; in which method the election of the the Bishops of this see continue to be made at this time (o).

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.

One 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 Mellitus, he was translated to the see of Canterbury (p). 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, which happened October 10, 644, he was buried in the sacristy of his church, but being afterwards canonized about the year 1074, 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 people afterwards flocked, and many rich offerings were made at it (q). 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 on June 10, 655 (r), 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 (s).

Damianus, a South Saxon, succeeded Ithamar in 656, on whose demise, about the year 664, this see remained vacant for some time (t), 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

(m) Prynn's Antient Records, p. 24. (n) Ibid. p. 90.

(o) In former 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, his kennel of hounds was rendered to the Archbishop as a mortuary, so likewise was his palfrey, saddled and well caparisoned, and his silver cup; and to the King sede vacante, under the name of muta canum et mulctura. Spelman's Works, part ii, p. 110.

(p) Hist. Rochester, p. 109. Brit. Sanct. vol. ii, p. 263. Godwin, p. 519. Ang. Sacr. p. 329.

(q) Hist. of Rochester, p. 110. Godwin, p. 520. Brit. Sanct. vol. ii, p. 167. Weever, p. 310. Ang. Sacr. p. 329.

(r) Ang. Sacr. p. 329.

(s) Hist. of Rochester, p. 111. Godwin, p. 520. Weever, p. 311. Brit. Sanct. vol. i, p. 365.

(t) Hist. Rochester ibid. Godwin ibid. Ang. Sacr. p. 330.

33

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 (u).

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 abovementioned, 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

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 his see, after no long continuance in it (v). 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, Abbat 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 him 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 (z).

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 (a).

Dioran succeeded him, and was Bishop of Rochester in 778 (b).

Weremund, in English, Worre, was Bishop in 788, and died soon after the year 800 (c).

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).

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 (e). 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 parts 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 (h).

Cheolmund probably succeeded, and to him (i)

Chineferth, who died before the year 955 (k).

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 (l).

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 (m), and who is mentioned in a letter of K. Edward the

(u) Ang. Sacr. p. 330.

(v) Godwin, p. 521. Hist. Rochester, p. 112.

(z) Godwin, p. 522. Ang. Sacr. p. 330.

(a) Hist. Rochester, p. 113. Godwin, p. 522. Ang. Sacr. p. 331.

(b) Godwin, p. 522. Ang. Sacr. *ibid.*

(c) Or rather, according to Wharton, about 802. See Ang. Sacr. p. 331.

(d) Godwin, p. 522. Ang. Sacr. p. 331.

(e) Godwin *ibid.* Hist. Rochester, p. 114.

(h) Ang. Sacr. p. 332.

(i) Godwin, p. 524.

(k) *Ibid.* Hist. Rochester, p. 114. Ang. Sacr. *ibid.*

(l) Godwin, p. 524. Ang. Sacr. p. 332. Hist. Rochester, p. 115.

(m) Lel. Coll. vol. iii, p. 190, and Ang. Sacr. ibid.

34a

Confessor as Bishop of Rochester as late as the year 1044; he must therefore have sat in this see 33 years at the least, but how long he lived after this date does not appear.

Siward, Abbat 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 (n).

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 cloathed in a common lay habit (o).

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 Abp. 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 (p), on which

Gundulph, a Monk of the same monastery of Bec, was by Abp. Lanfranc's means advanced to this bishopric in 1077, who turned the secular priests out of this priory, and filled it with Monks of the Benedictine order (q). 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 Abp. 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.

He removed the bodies of his predecessors which had been buried here, into some part of his new fabric. He enclosed 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 (r).

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 (s).

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 32 years, in the reigns of the Conqueror, William Rufus and K. Henry I; he died March 7, 1107 (t), and was buried in his own church before the cross of the high altar, perhaps on the south side near the confessional in a chest without any effigies (u). He was succeeded by

Ralph, Abbat of Seez in Normandy, who was consecrated August 11, 1108. This prelate, though he was sickly and infirm, yet 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 (v).

Ernulf, a native of France, was the next Bishop of this see. By the persuasions of Abp. Lanfranc, he came over to England, and continued sometime a Monk in Christ Church, Canterbury, till he became Prior there, after which he was made Abbat of Peterborough, and lastly he was sent for by the King, who obliged him to accept of this bishopric (w), and accordingly he was consecrated on Dec. 26, 1115. He was ever active, and industrious for the benefit of the churches over which he presided, and left noble monuments of this 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 (x). To him the famous Mss. called the Textus Roffensis, being a collection of records, gifts, and antient privileges of the church of Rochester, owes its birth (y). He died March 15, 1124, æt. 84 years.

John, Archdeacon of Canterbury, was consecrated Bishop on May 28, 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

(n) Ang. Sacr. p. 332.

(o) Godwin, p. 525. Hist. Rochester, p. 116.

(p) Ibid. and Ang. Sacr. p. 333.

(q) See Harl. Mss. No. 261-5.

(r) Godwin, p. 525. Hist. Rochester, p. 116.

(s) See above, p. 13.

(t) Vita Gundulfi in Bib. Cott. Nero A viii 2. Ang Sacr. p. 333.

(u) Godwin ibid. Hist. Rochester, p. 121. Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. i, p. 287.

(v) Godwin, p. 526. Hist. Rochester, p. 122.

(w) Madox's Exchequer, p. 8, note k.

(x) Reg. Roff. p. 120.

(y) Text. Roff. præf. p. xiv and xviii.

35

it, insomuch that the Monks were forced to disperse themselves in different abbies, whilst the monastery was repairing. He died June 20, 1137, on the 3d of which month, the city of Rochester had been again almost consumed by fire (z). 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 (a).

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 ac-

count, he repaired in person to the court of Rome (b). He died Jan. 24, 1147.

Walter, Archdeacon of Canterbury, succeeded him, being consecrated March 14, 1147. He was brother to Abp. Theobald, who being present, nominated and presented him to the Monks of Rochester, assembled in the chapter-house at 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 Abp. 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 K. Henry II, for which he was excommunicated by Abp. Becket.

He was much addicted to hunting, and when he was in his eightieth year, Peter Blesensis wrote his 56th epistle to him, to persuade him to leave it off.

He died when he had sat almost 35 years, on July 26, 1182 (c).

Gualeran, Archdeacon of Baieux, and domestic chaplain to Archbishop Richard, was elected Bishop of Rochester in the usual manner, in the presence of the Abp. on Nov. 9, 1182, 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 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 August 29, 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 (d).

The Abp. being at his palace at Otford, the Monks of Rochester went thither to him, and there on his nomination, on July 16, 1185, they elected

Gilbert de Glanvill, Archdeacon of Lisieux, for their Bishop, who was consecrated Sept. 29 following.

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 alledged 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 contested 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 May 23, 1201, on the high road beyond Chatham, in his journey towards Canterbury, and his body having been brought back to Rochester, was solemnly 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

(z) Godwin, p. 527. Hist. Rochester, p. 122. Decem Script. col. 1343.

(a) Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 343.

(b) It was this Bishop to whom St. Bernard wrote his 205th

epistle.

(c) Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 344. Godwin, p. 527. Hist. Rochester, p. 124.

(d) Godwin, p. 528. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 345. Hist. Rochester *ibid*.

36

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 certain 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 (e).

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 June 24, 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 (f).

Benedict, Precentor of St. Paul's, London, was elected Bishop in his room, in the Chapter-house at Rochester, Feb. 22, 1214; on the 22d of Nov. preceding which, K. John, by his let. pat. had granted and confirmed to Christ Church, Canterbury, and Stephen, Archbishop of the same, and his successors, the patronage of this bishopric, with all its appurts. immunities, liberties, and free customs, and also the custody and management

of the church during the vacancy of the see, as patrons of the same; 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, plenary 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 of the same; 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 (g).

The year following K. 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 (h).

He died Dec. 21, 1226, and was buried in his own cathedral (i).

Henry de Sandford, Archdeacon of Canterbury, stiled the great philosopher, was elected Bishop of Rochester on Dec. 26, 1226, and was consecrated on April 25th following.

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.

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 negotiation. On his return Richard Wetherside, the successor of Langton, was consecrated, together with the Bishops of London and Ely, at Canterbury, on June 10, 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. K. Henry III, and many of the nobility being present at the ceremony.

He died Feb. 24, 1235, and was buried in his own church.

Richard Wendover, Rector of Bromley in Kent, was elected by the convent March 26, 1235, 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 ap-

(e) Godwin, p. 528. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 346. Brit. Sanct. vol. i, p. 312. Hist. Rochester, p. 125 et seq. In the 6th and 7th years of K. Richard I.'s reign, it appears, that he was one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer. Madox's Excheq. p. 744.

(f) Godwin, p. 528. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 346. Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. i, p. 287. Hist. Rochester, p. 130.

(g) Wharton, vol. i, p. 386. Rot. Cart. anno 16 K. John, m. 6.

(h) Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 347. In the 9th and 10th years of K. Henry III, Bishop Benedict appears to have been one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer. Madox's Excheq. p. 747.

(i) Godwin, p. 528.

37

pealed 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, Nov. 21, 1238. After which it does not appear that the Archbp. 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 Nov. 5, 1240, he, together with the Bishop of Bangor, performed the dedication of the church of Rochester (k). He died in Oct. 1250, and from a regard to his piety and holiness of life was buried in the abbey church of West-

minster, by the King's especial command (l).

Laurence de St. Martin, Chaplain and Councillor to K. Henry III, and Archdeacon of Coventry and Litchfield, was elected Bishop by the Monks on Oct. 19, 1250, and was consecrated the 9th of April following. 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 (m). 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 liberal harvest from them, even to the time of the dissolution of the priory.

In 1264, in the contests between K. 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 on June 3, 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 (n).

Walter de Merton was elected Bishop of this see in July 1274, and was consecrated the

21st of October following. He was a person of great abilities, and was Lord Chancellor at the time of his election (o). About the year 1264, he had laid the foundation of a college at Maldens in Surry; but afterwards changing his mind, he gave that design over, and turned his thoughts to Oxford, where he, in 1270, began the foundation of Merton College, which he finished in 1274, about the time of his becoming Bishop here, and liberally endowed the same.

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 on Oct. 27, 1277 (p), 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 Fellows of Merton College, in 1598 (q).

John de Bradfield, Monk and Precentor of this priory, succeeded him, and was consecrated May 29, 1278. 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 April 23, 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, dated June 16, 1283; on which they elected

Thomas de Inglethorp, Dean of St. Paul's, London, who was confirmed and afterwards consecrated by the Archbishop at Canterbury Sept. 26th that year. He had the character of being worthy, mild and affable, of a cheerful disposition, and given to hospitality. He died the 12th of May, 1291, and was buried with all due solemnity in his own church, near the high altar, on the south side (r).

(k) Four years after which, a council of the British Bishops was held at Rochester. Rapin, vol. i, p. 353.

(l) Godwin, p. 529. Wharton's Ang. Sacr, vol. i, p. 348. Hist. Rochester, p. 135.

(m) What remains of it at present near the tomb of Bishop Merton, consists of a large coffin of Petworth marble, decorated with antient ornaments.

(n) Godwin, p. 530. Wharton's Ang Sacr. p. 350. Hist. Rochester, p. 136. Willis's Mitred Abbeys, vol. i, p. 287.

(o) He had been Prebendary of St. Paul's and of Exeter. Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 159.

(p) Kilburne, p. 228, says, the Bishop, passing over the river Medway here in a boat, there being then no bridge, was unfortunately drowned. He had made his will with the King's licence, but owing several debts to the King and Queen, the King seized on all his goods and chattels, till his executors had put in good security into the Exchequer to

satisfy the same; on which they were restored, and his executors had the King's protection, and all persons were summoned by the King's writs and patents, to pay the several debts they owed to the Bishop into the Exchequer, to enable

his executors to perform his will. Prynne's Antient Records, p. 220.

(q) This monument was defaced and nearly destroyed by the Fanatics in the great rebellion, and was again repaired and restored to its former state by the same society in 1662. It was cleaned and beautified in 1770, by the direction of the above society, who judiciously freed it from its thick covering of whitewash. On this tomb, which is of black and white marble, lies the effigies of the Bishop in his pontificals; in the middle of the wall, under the arch, are his arms, from which also hangs his purse, denoting his office, as Lord Chancellor. Godwin, p. 530. Wharton, p. 351. Hist. Rochester, p. 138 and 68.

(r) Godwin, p. 531. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 352. Hist. Rochester, p. 139.

38

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 (t).

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, Jan. 6, 1291. He died Feb. 28, 1316, and by his last will left 10l. to the finishing of St. William'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 recommendations, which Hamo de Heth, 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 (u), a cell to this monastery of St. Andrew, and by that means secured a large majority in his favor; for on the election, March 18, 1316, of 35 Monks present on this occasion, 26 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 Heth was consecrated at Avignon in Aug. 1319; but the expences of this suit, the journey, his consecration and fees, amounted to more than 1441 florins viz. 2161. This sum, which 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 12 pence in every marc of the annual value of their benefices. 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 1201. the lofty front of the palace, and great part of the walls, the chapel and the 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 10 poor persons at Hith, the place of his birth, and endowed it with rents of 20 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, on May 4, 1352 (v), and was buried in this church, by the north wall (w).

John de Shepey, Prior of Rochester, was nominated to this see, at the King's recommendation, by bull of papal provision, dated Oct. 22, 1352, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester, at the priory of St. Mary Overies, on the 10th of March following. 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 (x). He died at his house, called The Place, at Lambeth, on Oct. 19, 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, dated Sept. 21, 1360, he bequeathed 100 marcs for defraying his funeral expences, the same sum towards the reparation of his church, and 100l. to the Cellarer's office for providing necessaries (y).

(t) See vol. i, p. 554.

(u) Roger Bigod, in the time of K. William Rufus, gave the church of St. Felix at Walton to the Monks of Rochester, who quickly after settled therein a cell of their order, which continued till 1528, when it was suppressed towards the endowment of Cardinal Wolsey's colleges.

(v) Among the Harleian Mss. in the British Museum, mention is made of an antient register, entitled Registrum

Hamonis, and dated anno 1330; probably the register of this Bishop. Harl. Mss. No. 247-45.

(w) Godwin, p. 532. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 357 ad 377. Weever, p. 314. Hist. Rochester, p. 140.

(x) There are some discourses remaining which pass under his name, by which he appears rather to have been a collector than an author.

(y) Godwin, p. 532. Wharton, p. 378. Weever, p. 314. Hist. Rochester, p. 147.

William Wittlesey, LL. D. Master of Peter House in Cambridge, and Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and Vicar General to the Archbishop, was elected Bishop of Rochester on Oct. 23, 1360,

and consecrated the 10th of Feb. following. He was afterwards made Dean of the Arches, and was Rector of Croydon in Surry, and Cliff near Rochester. He was translated to the see of Worcester by the Pope's bull on March 6, 1363 (z).

Thomas Trilleck, Dean of St. Paul's, London (a), and brother to John, Bishop of Hereford, was appointed to this see by the Pope's bull of provision, dated May 6, 1364, before he was elected by the Monks, and was consecrated the 26th of 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, on Dec. 27, 1372, 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, dated Jan. 31, appointed

Thomas de Brinton to this bishopric. He was Doctor of the Decretals, and had been sometime 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 above-mentioned; after which he became Confessor to K. Richard II, and a great benefactor to the English hospital at Rome. He died in the year 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 (b). 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 this Bishopric by papal provision Aug. 27, 1389. He died in the beginning of February in the year 1400, and was buried in the Dominican church

in London.

John de Bottlesham, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, was consecrated Bishop of Rochester July 4, 1400, in his room. He had been Prebendary of Brampton in the church of Lincoln, Master of Peter House in Cambridge, and Vicar General to the Archbishop of York. He died April 17, anno 1404, and lies buried in this church (c).

Richard Yong, Bishop of Bangor, was his successor, being translated to this see by papal provision, dated July 28, 1404; and Pope Boniface dying within two months before the bull was completed, Pope Innocent, his successor, confirmed the same. The Bishop, being detained at Bangor by the Welsh, and the bull of confirmation not arriving, the Archbishop, in whose hands the revenues of this see were, refused to deliver them to his agents, and Pope Innocent, dying in the interim, the Bishop was necessitated to apply to Pope Gregory XII. for the confirmation of his translation, and at last had possession of this see, in spirituals as well as temporals, delivered to him at Lambeth by the Archbishop, on May 2, 1407. He died before Oct. 28, 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 Jan. 1419, and consecrated in Sept. following. He was at the time of his election Keeper of the privy seal. He was translated to the see of Chichester on Feb. 28, anno 1421 (d). On this the Monks elected John Spofford, Abbat of St. Mary's, York, whom the Pope translated to the see of Hereford before his consecration, and the same day, viz. Nov. 17, 1421, by his bull of provision, advanced

John Langdon, a Monk of Christ church Canterbury, and Master of Canterbury college in Oxford, to this see, who was consecrated on the Trinity Sunday following. He was born in this county and educated at Oxford, where having commenced Batchelor of Divinity in 1400, 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 abovementioned.

In the 10th year of K. Henry VI, he was sent the King's Ambassador to France, and afterwards to the council of Basil (e), and had 100l. paid him for the expences of his journey. He died there on Sept. 30, that year, and his body being brought over to England, was honourably entombed in the Carthusian monastery in London.

(z) He was afterwards translated to London, and lastly to the metropolitical chair of Canterbury. Godwin, p. 532. Wharton, p. 378. Hist. Rochester, p. 148.

(a) He had been Prebendary and Dean of Hereford. Willis's Cath. p. 584 and 533.

(b) Kilburne, p. 241. See vol. i. of this history, p. 338.

(c) Godwin, p. 533. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p.

378, 379. Hist. Rochester, p. 148, 149.

(d) Whence he was translated 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. Godwin, p. 534. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 379. Hist. Rochester, p. 150.

(e) Rym. Fœd. vol. x, p. 514 and 519.

40

This Bishop was a good benefactor to the new bridge at Rochester.

Thomas Brown, LL. D. first Subdean, then Prebendary of Lincoln (f), and Dean of Salisbury, and for many years Vicar General to the Archbishop, succeeded to this see, being consecrated May 1, 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, dated Sept. 19, 1436 (g).

William Wells, Abbat of St. Maries, York, was his successor, being consecrated on March 24, 1436. He was employed by the King as Ambassador both to the Pope and the Emperor (h). The register, which passes under his name, shews the great attention he paid to the business of his diocese. He died at Trottescliff in Feb. 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 got his Doctor's degree by the fame of his superior abilities; after which he became Prior of the Au-

gustines 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. K. 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, dated April 22, 1444, to this see (i). He is said to have rebuilt 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 Scot, LL. D. surnamed afterwards Rotheram, from the place of his birth in Yorkshire, was the next Bishop of this see, he was educated at King's college Cambridge, and was Master of Pembroke-hall there, and Prebendary of Lincoln. King Edward IV, whose chaplain he was, gave him the Provostship of Beverly, made him Keeper of his Privy Seal (k), and Bishop of Rochester in 1468, in which year he was one of the King's Ambassadors to France (l). He was translated from hence to Lincoln in 1471 (m).

John Alcock, LL. D. succeeded him in this see. He was a very temperate and pious man,

born at Beverly in Yorkshire, and educated at Cambridge; he was first Dean of the Royal chapel of St. Stephen, Westminster, and Prebendary of Salisbury; in 1462 he was made Master of the Rolls, and in 1472 was advanced to the see of Rochester, and on Sept. 20, next year he had the custody of the Great Seal, and in 1476 was translated to Worcester, and from thence to Ely.

John Russel (n), 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 the University of Oxford, and was consecrated Bishop of Rochester in Sept. 1476, after which he became tutor to Edward, Prince of Wales, and was translated to Lincoln in 1480 (o).

Edmund Audley, A.M. second son of James, Lord Audley, Prebendary of St. Paul's, Canon of

York, and Archdeacon of the East Riding (p), succeeded to this see, and was consecrated Oct. 1, 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 Dec. 3, 1492, but he was not consecrated till after the 13th of April next year, on which day he obtained licence for that ceremony to be performed elsewhere than in the church of Canterbury (q). He was translated to London Oct. 13, 1496, and afterwards to York.

Richard Fitzjames, LL. D. Prebendary of St. Paul's, Vicar of Minehead and Rector of Aller in the co. of Somerset, Canon of Wells, Warden of Merton college, Oxford, Master of St. Leonard's hospital Bedford, and Almoner to K. Henry VII, was appointed Bishop of this see March 20, 1496. He obtained the like licence that his predecessor had done for his consecration May 17, 1497; he was translated to Chichester in the beginning of the year 1504, and afterwards to London (r).

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 that university, in which first year, he had been deservedly for

(f) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 97, 146, 199.

(g) Godwin, p. 534, 535. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 380. Hist. Rochester, p. 150.

(h) Rym. Fæd. vol. x, p. 841.

(i) See Rym. Fæd. vol. xi, p. 59. (k) Ibid. p. 737, 740.

(l) Rapin, vol. i. p. 604.

(m) He was made Lord Chancellor in 1474, and afterwards succeeded to the archbishopric of York. Godwin, p. 535. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 380. Weever, p. 314. Hist. Rochester, p. 152.

(n) On his tomb in Lincoln cathedral it is spelt Roscel.

(o) Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 179.

(p) Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 99, 137. Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 180.

(q) 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.

(r) Godwin, p. 536. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 381. Hist. Rochester, p. 152, 153.

41

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, for the advancement of learning and piety, 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 Oct. 14th that year, and his licence for consecration without the church of Canterbury Nov. 22d following. 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 times. In 1508, he resigned his Mastership of Queen's College, on the death of Margaret, 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 his brethren 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 K. 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 (s). He 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; for this he was adjudged to forfeit all his goods,

and to suffer imprisonment; 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. 300l. Next year, refusing to swear to the act of the King's supremacy, he was, together with sir Thomas More, the Chancellor, sent to the Tower, and an act of attainder passed against him, and being cast in a Præ-

munire, his bishopric was declared vacant, from the 2d of January that year. 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 (u). 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 (v).

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 Sept. 18, 1535. He was head of the Dominican convent in London, which he held till Nov. 10, 1538, when he resigned it into the King's hands. 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 (w).

Nicholas Heath, S. T. P. Fellow of Clare Hall, the King's Almoner, and Archdeacon of

Stafford, was his successor, and was consecrated on April 4th, 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 the diocese of Canterbury, in commendam (x). In 1543 he was translated to Worcester, and afterwards to York.

Henry Holbeach, alias Rands (y), S. T. P. first Prior and afterwards Dean of Worcester, having been consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Bristol in

(s) About the year 1530, anno 22 Henry VIII, 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; 17 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. Barrington's antient Stat. p. 406.

(u) Among the Harleian Mss. in the British Museum, are several Mss. of the life of Bishop Fisher, by different persons.

(v) Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 382. Godwin, p. 536. Rapin, vol. i, p. 749, 801, 803, 806.

(w) Wharton, p. 383. Godwin, p. 537. Hist. Rochester, p. 154.

(x) Licence to hold the same until Christmas 1548. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv, p. 18.

(y) His family name was Rands, but being a native of Holbeach, he assumed that name according to the custom of the ecclesiastics of that time. See Guillim's Heraldry, p. 121. His son again assumed the name of Rands. Harl. Mss. No. 1422.

42

1537, was elected Bishop of Rochester in April 1543 (z), and confirmed June 18th following. He held the rectory of Bromsgrove, with the chapel of Norton, in Worcestershire, in commendam (a), 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 in this county, and of Soham in Cambridgeshire (b), and was consecrated Bishop of Rochester on the 23d of Sept. 1547, and translated to London April 12, 1550. He was

afterwards in the reign of Q. Mary, Oct. 16, 1555, burnt at Oxford, at the same stake with Bishop Latimer (c).

John Poynt, S. T. P. succeeded to this see. He was nominated to it by the King's letters, March 8, 1549, and consecrated at Lambeth the 29th of June, 1550. He was born in Kent, and finished his education at Queen's College, Cambridge. He is said to have been a man of learning, well skilled in different tongues; and an excellent mathematician, and to have been frequently consulted by Archbp. 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 in Kent, the rectories of Towyn in Merionethshire, and of St. Michael's, Crooked-lane, London, with the 9th stall in the church of Canterbury (cc). He was translated to Winchester in 1551, and afterwards, on the accession of Q. Mary fled from England, and died at Strasburgh, April 11, 1556, æt. 40 (d).

John Scory, B. D. one of the Six Preachers of Canterbury cathedral, was appointed his successor in this see, the King's letters for this purpose bearing date April 26, 1551, and was consecrated Aug. 30th following, he was translated to Chichester on May 23, 1552, and afterwards by Q. Elizabeth to Hereford.

The Bishopric of Rochester continued vacant for almost three years after this; but on March 19, 1554, the Queen granted her conge de lire to the Dean and Chapter, with her letter recommending

Maurice Griffith, frequently styled Dr. Mores, for their choice, who was consecrated April 1, 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 (e).

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 13 Bishops died within twelve months; one of this number was Bishop Griffith, who died Nov. 20th that year, in his palace of Southwark, and was interred with much solemnity in his parish church of St. Magnus in London (f).

Edmund Allen, B. D. was nominated on his death to this bishopric. He was a native of Norfolk, and on Q. 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 Aug. 1559, and was buried in the church of St. Thomas Apostle, London.

Edmund Guest (g), S. T. P. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and Archdeacon of Canterbury, was next consecrated Bishop of Rochester March 24, 1559, at which time he was made Almoner to Q. Elizabeth. He held his archdeaconry and the rectory of Cliff near Rochester in commendam, and was translated to Salisbury Dec. 24, 1571.

Edmund Freake, S. T. P. originally a Monk at Waltham in Essex, in which county he was born, and afterwards Prebendary of Westminster, Canon of Windsor, Archdeacon of Canterbury, Dean of Salisbury, and then of Rochester (h), was consecrated Bishop of this see on March 13, 1571. He was Almoner to Q. Elizabeth, and 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 April 10, 1576, and consecrated the 15th following at Lambeth. He was first a Fellow of

(z) Rym. Fœd. vol. xv, p. 22.

(a) To hold till the feast of St. Philip and St. James 1550. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv, p. 37.

(b) K. Edward VI, in his 1st year, anno 1547, granted licence for his holding his two vicarages and two prebends in commendam, until Christmas 1552. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv, p. 165,

(c) Godwin, p. 537. Hist. Rochester, p. 155. His life is among those in the Biog. Brit. vol. vii, supplement, printed in 1766.

(cc) This licence was dated July 4, anno 4 Edw.VI, 1550. to hold till Lady Day 1555. Rym. Fœd. vol. xv, p. 70, 241.
(d) Bayle's Dict. vol. iv, p. 692.

(e) 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 sun-beams; 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.

(f) Godwin, p. 538. Hist. Rochester, p. 157.

(g) Spelt also Gheast.

(h) Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 647.

43

Magdalen College in Oxford, and in 1570 made Master of Baliol College there; in 1567 he was appointed Dean of Chester, both which preferments he probably resigned, on his being admitted to the Deanry of Christ Church, on Feb. 28, 1571, 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 he had licence to hold the livings of Laingdon and Fillingham, and was many years Almoner to the Queen. 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 in 1577, and afterwards to York (i).

John Yonge, S. T. P. was nominated his successor. The conge de lire was dated Jan. 29, 1577. He was elected Feb. 18th, and consecrated at Lambeth March 16th following. He was a native of London, and the rectory of St. Margaret, New Fish street, in that city was probably the first benefice he enjoyed. He was afterwards collated to the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate; in 1567 he was elected Master of Pembroke Hall in Cambridge, on the recommendation of his patron, 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 220l. clear yearly income (k). He died at his palace of Bromley April 10, 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 May 23, 1605, and consecrated June 30th following. He was a native of Lancashire, and became Fellow of Trinity Hall in Cambridge. He was Chaplain to Q. Elizabeth, and to Archbishop Whitgift, who collated him to the rectory of St. Dunstan's in the East, and he occurs likewise a Prebendary of St. Paul's; he was installed Prebendary of Westminster in 1601, and the next year Dean of Chester, and in 1605 a Prebendary of Canterbury. He continued Bishop of this see near three years, and was translated

to Lincoln May 21, 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 Jan. 14, 1603, and the two following days, before K. James. He published several books and discourses in divinity (l).

Richard Neile, S. T. P. of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Dean of Westminster (m), was consecrated Bishop of Rochester Oct. 9, 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 (n).

John Buckeridge, S. T. P. was elected Bishop of this see Dec. 29, 1610, but not confirmed till June 8th next year. He was elected from Merchant Taylor's School to St. John's College, Oxford, in 1578, where he became Fellow, and had been chosen President in 1605. He appears to have been possessed at times of the rectories of Tanbridge in Essex, North Kilworth in the co. of Leicester, 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, July 15th, 1628, and dying May 23, 1631, was buried the 31st following, at Bromley in this coun-

ty (o), to which parish he bequeathed the sum of 20l. 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 wrote a book against the Pope's power in temporal matters (p).

Walter Curle, S. T. P. was nominated his successor, and consecrated Bishop of Rochester, Sept. 7, 1628. He was a native of the co. of Hertford, and became Fellow of Peterhouse College in Cambridge, and afterwards Vicar of Plumsted in this diocese in 1608, which he resigned that year, probably on his being promoted either to the rectory of Bemerton in the co. of Wilts, or of Mildenhale in the co. of 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 which he was installed March 24, 1620. In 1629 he was translated to the see of Bath and Wells, and afterwards to Winchester.

(i) Godwin, p. 538. Hist. Rochester, p. 159.

(k) In the Lord Treasurer Burleigh's books his preferments are thus valued: Bishopric, clear 280l.; St. Muge and Woulstan, 115l.; two Prebends, Westminster and Southwell, 45l.; total 440l. besides perquisites of corn, parks and woods. Strype's Annals, vol. ii, p. 530. By the Bishop's own letter to the Treasurer, it appears the whole was over-rated 100l. per annum; 60l. of which was in the bishopric. Ibid, vol. iv, p. 226.

(l) Godwin, p. 539. Hist. Rochester, p. 162.

(m) He had been first Prebendary, then Treasurer of Chichester, Vicar of Cheshunt in the co. of Hertford, Master of the Savoy, and Clerk of the Closet.

(n) He was afterwards advanced to Lincoln, Durham, Winchester, and York, where death put a stop to his further translation on this side the grave.

(o) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 363.

(p) Godwin, p. 539. Hist. Rochester, p. 163.

He was, on the breaking out of the rebellion, very active in the royal cause, and remarkably so during the siege of Winchester. After which he was deprived by the ruling powers of all his ecclesiastical preferments, and refusing to take

the covenant, he was not allowed to compound for his private estate; he must therefore have been reduced to great straits before his death, which happened at Subberton in Hampshire, about the year 1650 (q).

John Bowle, S. T. P. formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and then Dean of Salisbury, was his successor in this see, being consecrated Feb. 7, 1629. He died Oct. 9, 1637, and was buried in St. Paul's cathedral, London.

John Warner, S. T. P. was elected Bishop of Rochester on Nov. 13, 1637, and was consecrated on the 15th January following. He had been Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and the first benefice he seems to have possessed was the rectory of St. Michael, Crooked-lane, to which he was admitted in 1614, as he was to that of St. Dionis Backchurch in 1625. Archbp. Abbot in 1616 gave him a Prebend at Canterbury, by which means he afterwards became Rector of Bishopsborne in Kent, with Barham annexed to it; and in 1633 he was nominated to the deanry of Litchfield. At this period, when the most violent attacks were made against the church, as well as the state, he stood forth a zealous defender of the constitution in both; and he was the last Bishop who exerted his eloquence to preserve the antient and undoubted right of his order to sit in parliament. Not long before the death of K. 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 own no small hazard: but what arguments or discourses could avail anything, 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.

Bishop Warner was one of those nine Bishops, who lived to see the happy re-establishment of both church and state, being at that time about 77 years of age. He does not seem to have held any benefice in commendam with his bishopric,

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 that beautiful and elegant font still to be seen 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 legacy 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, with an allowance of 20*l.* yearly to each, for natives of Scotland, with an intent to encourage episcopacy in that kingdom; and the Bishop did not forget the clergy of his own diocese among his benefactions; for 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 ever reflect the greatest honor on his name and memory, he was the munificent founder of Bromley College, for the support of 20 widows of loyal and orthodox clergymen, of whom those of his own diocese were to have the preference (r). This charitable institution was the first of its kind, not only in England, but perhaps in Europe. It has been since followed by endowments of a similar nature, though on a smaller plan, at Winchester and Salisbury.

Bishop Warner died in an advanced age at his palace at Bromley, Oct. 14, 1666, and was interred, at his own desire, in his cathedral at Rochester, where his executors erected a handsome monument to his memory, in the chapel where his predecessor, Bishop Merton, lies (s).

John Dolben, S. T. P. was elected Bishop of

this see Nov. 13, 1666, and was consecrated at Lambeth on the 25th. He was a native of Northamptonshire, and was a student of Christ Church, Oxford, of which he was deprived by the parliamentary visitors, on the breaking out of the civil war. He afterwards served as an 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

(q) An account of his life was published at London, 8vo. 1712, in which he is said to be Almoner to K. Charles I. Godwin, p. 539. Hist. Rochester, p. 165.

(r) See an account of this college, under Bromley, vol. i, p. 94, and Life of Somner, before his Roman Ports, p. 95. Bishop Warner's life is published in the Biog. Brit. vol. vii, printed in 1766.

(s) Godwin, p. 540. Hist. Rochester, p. 167 et seq.

45

Christ Church, Oxford, July 27, 1669; on April 29, 1661, he was collated to the Prebend of Cadington Major in the church of St. Paul; next year he was admitted Archdeacon of London; on Nov. 15th that year he was presented to the vicarage of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and on the 3d of Dec. following was installed Dean of Westminster, and he was also Almoner to the King, and Rector of Newington in the co. of Oxford. After his advancement to this see, he held his deanry above-mentioned in commendam with it, and on Aug. 16, 1683, he was translated to the Archbishopric of York. He was a person of genius and abilities, and left behind him the character of having been a worthy good man. He died April 11, 1686.

Francis Turner, S. T. P. Dean of Windsor, and Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, was elected Bishop of Rochester in his room, Sept. 15, 1683, and was consecrated Nov. 11th following. 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 became Fellow; after which he became Rector of Therfield in Herts,

and was a considerable benefactor to that parish. In 1669 he 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 in 1670 he was elected Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, and was afterwards made Chaplain to James, Duke of York, and was long in the family of that Prince, who had a great esteem for him. He had, after his advancement to this see, a dispensation to hold in commendam with it the deanry of Windsor, in which he had been installed but a few months before, as well as the rectory of Hassely in Oxfordshire, which was then vacant; but he possessed these preferments, but a very short time, for he was translated to Ely Aug. 23, 1684 (t).

Thomas Sprat, S. T. P. was his successor, being elected Oct. 7, 1684. He was a native of the co. of Dorset, and became Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford. In 1660 he was presented to the Prebend of Carleton cum Thurleby in the church of Lincoln, which was his first preferment; in 1668 he was installed a Prebendary of Westminster, and afterwards presented to the living of St. Margaret's, Westminster; and in 1680 he was made Canon of Windsor. These preferments he quitted on his promotion to the deanry of Westminster in 1683, and had on his election to this see licence to hold it in commendam.

After the accession of K. James, he was appointed Clerk of the Closet, and in 1685 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 immediatly discharged.

He died of an apoplexy, at his palace of Bromley, May 20, 1713, æt. 77, and was interred in Westminster Abbey, where there is a monument, with an elegant inscription by Bishop Smalridge,

erected to his memory. He was a person of great sharpness of wit, and had that elegance of stile, 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 a sufficient proof (u).

Lewis Atterbury, S. T. P. was his successor in this see, being elected June 24, 1713, and consecrated the 5th of July following. He was a younger son of Dr. Lewis Atterbury, Prebendary of Lincoln, and Rector of Milton Keynes in the co. of Bucks, in which parish he was born. He was elected from Westminster school to Christ Church College in Oxford, in 1680, where he distinguished himself as an able and strenuous advocate for our 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 K. William and Q. 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 in 1707 was made a Canon Residentiary of the church of Exeter; which preferments seem to have been, in reward for his endeavors 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 Q. Anne in 1702, he was appointed one of her Chaplains, in 1704 installed Dean of Carlisle, and in 1707 was presented to the rectory of Shepperton in the co. of Middlesex (w); in 1709 he was made Preacher of the Rolls, and the next year chosen Speaker of the Lower House of Convocation; in 1711 he

(t) Godwin, p. 540. Hist. Rochester, p. 177.

(u) Godwin, p. 541. Hist. Rochester, p. 180.

(w) Vacant by the deprivation of the last incumbent, for not taking the oaths. Harl. Mss. No. 2263 77.

was promoted to the deanry of Christ Church, and two years afterwards was advanced to this see, as has been above-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 K. 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 May 27, 1723, and on June 18th following, he embarked on board the Aldborough man of war, and landed the Friday following at Calais. While in exile the Bishop resided principally at Paris, and died in that city Feb. 17, 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 12th of May following. 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 (x).

Samuel Bradford, S. T. P. was on the above deprivation translated from the see of Carlisle hither, being elected June 22, 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 Bennet College, Cambridge, but quitted the university without taking a degree, intending to follow the profession of physic; the design of which he however soon relinquished, and afterwards procured, by means of Archbp. Sancroft, a royal mandate for the degree of Master of Arts. After the revolution he took orders in 1690, and in the beginning of the following

year was appointed Minister of the church belonging to St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, and in 1693 was collated by the Archbishop to the rectory of St. Mary le Bow, London. He was successively Chaplain to K. William and Q. Anne, and in 1699 was nominated Preacher of Boyle's lecture. Q. Anne visiting the university of Cambridge in 1705, he was, with several others, created Doctor of Divinity; in 1707 he was

made a Prebendary of Westminster, and in 1710 nominated to and accepted of by the Queen for 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; in May 1716 he was elected Master of Bennet College, and in April 1718 advanced to the see of Carlisle, and in June 1723 to this of Rochester, as has been above-mentioned. He died at the deanry of Westminster May 14, 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 (y).

Joseph Wilcocks, S. T. P. succeeded to this see, being translated from the bishopric of Gloucester hither, on Aug. 20, 1731, and at the same time appointed Dean of Westminster, and allowed to hold the same in commendam. He was of Magdalen Coll. Oxford, after which he became Chaplain to the Factory at Lisbon, and on his return from thence was appointed Chaplain to K. Geo. 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 considerable 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, on Feb. 21, 1756, being then about 82 years of age (z), and was buried in 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

(x) Godwin, p. 541. Hist. Rochester, p. 185 et seq.

(y) Godwin, p. 542. Hist. Rochester, p. 191 et seq.

(z) Godwin, p. 542. Hist. Rochester, p. 195 et seq.

47

Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1719 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, on being promoted to the vicarage of St. Martin in the Fields. In 1739 he was made Dean of Winchester, and was that year 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 of Rochester.

In June 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 July 1774, and was buried at Bromley in this county. 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 the co. of Surry, who had succeeded Bishop Pearce in his deanry of Westminster in 1768, likewise succeeded him in this bishopric in Sept. 1774; of whom all that can be further added is, that he is the present Bishop of this see, and the 90th 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 saltire gules, an escallop shell or.

The Diocese of Rochester has in it one Archdeaconry, styled The Archdeaconry of Rochester, which is valued in the King's Books at 34l. 14s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 9s. 5¾d. (a)

A LIST OF THE ARCHDEACONS OF ROCHESTER (b).

Anschtillus, who enjoyed this dignity about the year 1089.

Herewyse possessed this dignity in the reign of K. Henry I. (c)

Robert Pull was admitted to it about the year 1140 (d).

Paris was Archdeacon in 1176 (e), on the resignation of the former.

Roger de Weseham, about 1238; he was also Dean of Lincoln, and resigned this archdea-

conry in 1245, on being made Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry (f).

William de Trippolaw, about 1245 (g).

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 Bodiam in the diocese of Norwich (h).

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 (g).

Richard Broun, alias Cordon, died possessed of this dignity in 1452.

Roger Rotheram was possessed of in 1472, having been a Prebendary of the church of Lincoln, which he seems to have resigned on taking

this preferment (i).

Henry Sharpe, LL. D. in 1486 (g).

Henry Edyall was Archdeacon in 1495.

He had been collated to the Prebend of Gala Minor, in the church of Litchfield, in 1480 (k).

Nicholas Metcalfe, S. T. P. succeeded him.

He was Prebendary of Lincoln, and Rector of Woodham Ferrers in Essex; he was Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, for 20 years, and at the time of his death, July 4, 1537 (l).

Maurice Griffith succeeded in 1537, and resigned this preferment in 1554, on his being made Bishop of this see.

John Bridgewater succeeded Jan. 1, 1560, being then Rector of Wotton Courtney; he was afterwards Rector of Lincoln College, Rector of Luccomb, Canon Residentiary 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 (m).

John Calverly, of All Souls College, succeeded in 1574, and dying in July 1576, was buried at Beckenham in this county, of which church he was Rector.

Ralph Pickover, S. T. P. of Christ Church, Oxford, was installed July 5, 1576. He was Subalmoner to the Queen, and in 1580 was preferred to a Canonry of Christ Church, Oxford; and afterwards to the archdeaconry of Salisbury (n), on which he resigned this dignity (o), and was succeeded by

Thomas Staller, S. T. P. and Rector of Allhallows, Lombard street, was installed July 5, 1593. He died in 1606 (p).

Thomas Sanderson, S. T. P. of Baliol College, Oxford, was installed Aug. 1, 1606.

(a) Ect. Thes. p. 381.

(b) See Le Neve's Fasti, p. 253.

(c) Reg. Roff. p. 7. (d) Ibid. p. 8, 9.

(e) Ibid. p. 8. He was the Pope's nephew.

(f) Willis's Cath. vol. i, p. 387.

(g) Reg. Roff. p. 165--130.

(h) Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 338.

(i) Willis's Cath. vol ii_ p. 202. Reg. Roff. p. 7.

(k) Willis, vol. i, p. 447. He was one of the executors of Archbp. Morton's will. Somn. Cant. part ii, p. 158.

(l) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 239.

(m) Wood's Ath. vol. i, p. 274.

- (n) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 457.
- (o) Wood's Ath. vol. i, Fasti, p. 142.
- (p) Newc. Rep. vol. i, p. 254.

48

Richard Tillesley, S. T. P. and Rector of Stone and of Cookstone in this diocese. was the next Archdeacon. He died in Nov. 1721, and was buried in Rochester cathedral.

Elizeus Burgess, S. T. P. was installed Nov. 24, 1621, during whose time K. Charles I, by his let. pat. Dec. 6, 1636, annexed the 6th 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 in this county. He died in 1652, and was probably buried at Southfleet (r).

John Lee, S. T. P. had this dignity conferred on him in 1660. He was the son of Thomas Lee, of London, by Anne, daughter of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, and wrote himself afterwards Lee, alias Warner. He died about the month of June 1670.

Thomas Plume, S. T. P. was installed June 10, 1679. He was likewise Vicar of East Greenwich. He died Nov. 20, 1704, æt. 74, and lies buried in Longfield church-yard in this county (s).

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, in this county. He died May 10, 1720, æt. 41, and was buried near his father in Westminster Abbey.

Henry Bridges, S. T. P. brother of James, Duke of Chandois, was appointed his successor, May 20, 1720, and died May 10, 1728, æt. 54. He was Rector of Agmondesham in the co. of Bucks.

Samuel Bradford, A. M. son of the Bishop of this see, succeeded him, being appointed June 13th the same year. He was Rector of Newcastle upon Tyne, and died July 13th following.

John Denne, S. T. P. was appointed his successor July 18th following. He was Rector of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and afterwards Rector of Lambeth; both which he held at his decease.

He died Aug. 5, 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 in the co. of Herts, with that of Much Easton in the co. of Essex, by dispensation.

PARISHES.

There were formerly two parishes within the walls of this city, St. Clement's and St. Nicholas's, 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.

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 40 feet. There was in it a row of pillars and arches, extending from east to west, at about 14 feet 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 churchyard, 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 Feb. 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 expence of a Proctor in Convocation (t).

In these circumstances it was united to the adjoining parish of St. Nicholas, as I think, by the act of the 2d and 3d of K. Edward VI, passed for this purpose.

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

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

(r) Willis's Cath. vol. ii, p. 382.

(s) See a further account of him and his charities, vol. i. of this history, p. 34, 254, 273.

(t) Hist. of Rochester, p. 207, 209.

49

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 (u).

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 extraparochial; most probably it was part of the parish of St. Mary.

ST. NICHOLAS'S PARISH.

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 (v).

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, with all its appurts. and he granted, that they should have all profits and obventions, as well of the altar as the chapel, and convert the same to their own proper uses (w). This grant was certainly set aside by Bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, in the reign of K. Richard I, on the compromise of his great dispute with the Monks, when he divested them of their claim, not only of appointing a priest, but of all profits and emoluments belonging to this altar. However, he reinstated them in their old accustomed pension of 40s. yearly from it, which probably they used to receive, before it was appropriated to them. By this means, the Bishop recovered the patronage of this parish to the see of Rochester, where it has ever since remained (x).

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, to compromise the difference which then subsisted between the Prior and Chapter and the Parishioners of St. Nicholas. The latter complaining that the former had removed their parochial altar against their will. In this agreement, the parishioners were allowed to perform their services at the altar, then standing in the upper part of the body

of the church, below the choir; and they agreed, that whenever the Prior and Chapter should cause a proper church to be built for the parishioners elsewhere, they should then resort to it, as to their parish church, to hear divine service, receive the sacraments, &c. without any further claim for the future of any right or possession, which they had, or might have below the choir,

or in any other place within the cathedral (y).

Notwithstanding the above-mentioned licence, for the Prior and Chapter to erect a church for the parishioners of St. Nicholas, the former were so well satisfied at the altar's remaining in the cathedral, that for more than 100 years no steps were taken towards it; but at length, in the reign of K. Henry V, by the endeavors of Bishop Richard Young, and by the interposition of Abp. Chicheley, to whose arbitration all parties consented to submit: the inhabitants were, by a composition, dated March 7, 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. The instrument of the Bishop for this purpose bore date in May 1418, by which, after giving licence to the parishioners to finish their church, with the consent of the Prior and Chapter, he further decreed, that the altar of St. Nicholas should be transferred to the church, when finished, and also the care of it and the parishioners, and all parochial right, and other matters belonging to it; and that the church, when finished, from that time should be called the parish church and rectory of St. Nicholas for ever, 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, and all other matters, especially as to the reparation and maintaining of the church for ever, should belong to the Rector and the parishioners of it, and not to the cathedral church, or the Prior and Chapter; and he reserved to the Prior and Chapter their accustomed yearly pension of 40s. from the Vicar of the said altar, which he was bound to pay for ever; and he decreed, that the Rector of the said church, for the time being, should take institution for it; and he reserved to himself the collation to it, and the right of conferring the same, whenever it should become vacant, &c. (z).

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 used to be, and was then one Vicar received and admitted, who used to undergo and bear the care of the parishioners of it; and that

(u) Reg. Roff. p. 23.

(v) Reg. Roff. p. 6. Hist. Rochester, p. 201.

(w) Reg. Roff. p. 528. (x) Ibid. p. 53, 529.

(y) This agreement was dated April 16, 1312, and one part of the cyrograph was sealed by the Prior and Convent,

under their common seal; and the parishioners procured the common seal of the city of Rochester to be put to the other part, the whole community of the city being present, and consenting to it. Reg. Roff. p. 545.

(z) Reg. Roff. p. 560.

50

the right of taking all parochial ecclesiastical rights, and especially all and all manner of tythes of every sort of corn, of mills and pastures, accruing and belonging to it, from the first foundation of the cathedral church did, and ought in future 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 <e> of beyond the memory of man; and that at all times the Chaplain of it had been admitted under the name and style 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. Whereupon the Archbishop, having heard all parties, 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 repair the same 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 cemetery contiguous to the church, westward of the cathedral, as the same was bounded by the walls and gates of the prior; and that there should be given to the servant of the cathedral, who should make

the grave, for the corpse of every one to be buried in Greenchurch Haw, of more than the age of 10 years, 4d. and for every boy within that age 2d. and that no one else should be permitted, without his consent, to make the same; and that the Vicar, who before obtained institution, and a title by the name of Vicar of the altar of St. Nicholas, 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 intitled, and should be 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 Thomas Chamberlayn, Vicar of the said church, and his successors, should pay for ever to the Prior and Convent the annual pension of 40s. by four equal quarterly payments; and as to the taking of the tythes of

gardens, rushes, mills, and other tytheable things, arising within this parish, and the profits and commodities for the support of him and his successors, and by which he and they might be enabled to support the burthens incumbent on them, the Archbishop, on account of certain various and arduous matters of the public and the King, 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 (a).

This church was afterwards consecrated by John, Bishop of Dromore, in the absence of the Bishop of Rochester, on Sunday Dec. 18, 1423 (b).

Some time afterwards a difference arose between the convent and the parishioners of St. Nicholas, who, notwithstanding they were bound by the above decree in no wise to enlarge their church beyond the walls then erected, had begun to build a porch at the west end of it. This would have been a great annoyance to the monks, and have obstructed their passage from the cemetery gate to the cathedral, and to the entrance of the priory. They therefore appealed to the Bishop, who ordered it immediately to be removed (c).

No description is left of this church, which appears to have remained near 200 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 Sept. 24, 1624, (as was an additional burying-ground the day following) by Dr. John Buckeridge, Bishop of Rochester. It extends in length 100 feet, and in breadth 60 feet; it consists of a nave and two isles. It is a substantial spacious church, and extremely well constructed for public worship; at the north-west angle of it is a tower steeple containing two bells.

The present handsome 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 30l. 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 communion table (d).

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. (e) In 1649 the yearly value of it was returned at 59l. 6s. 8d. per annum (f).

(a) This decree was dated in the Chapter-house of Rochester, March 7, 1421, and it was ratified soon afterwards by the Prior and Chapter, the parishioners, and the above-named Vicar. Reg. Roff. p. 560 et seq.

(b) Reg. Roff. p. 570.

(c) Hist. Rochester, p. 205.

(d) Hist. Rochester, p. 206.

(e) Ect. Thes. p. 385.

(f) Parl. Surveys, Lambeth libr. vol. xix.

51

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 40s. due from the Vicar of the parochial altar of St. Nicholas continued to be paid to the Prior and Convent after the building of this church and till the dissolution of the priory, when it was granted by K. Henry VIII. to his new-founded Dean and Chapter, who now possess the same.

Patrons, Vicars.
or by whom presented.

Bishop of Rochester. (g) Thomas Chamberlayn, in
1421
(h) Edward Pulter, 1460.
(i) Patricius Stanes, 1476.
(k) Richard Sewster, alias
Hewster, A. M. 1501.
(l) James Deyer, A.M. 1624.
(m) Elizeus Burgis, S. T. P.
1628.
(n) Allen Atworth, 1649.
(o) ---- Dixon, S. T. P.
(p) Robert Bayley, obt. Oct.
8, 1701.
(q) John Gilman, A. M. obt.
Nov. 17, 1710.
(r) Samuel Doyley, A. M. obt.
May 1748.
---- Boyce, induct. May
16, 1748, obt. Nov. 1751.
(s) John Vade, A. M. obt.
June 1765.
Charles Allan. Present Vicar.

THE MANOR OF AMBREE.

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 here. It was called the Cellarer's Court, and was held at le Ameribenche (t), i. e. the Almonry Bench, of the priory whence it acquired its present name.

BULLY HILL.

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 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 adjoining 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 Gordon, esq; late Member of Parliament for this city, and High Sheriff for this county in 1763. He resided here, and died possessed of it in March 1776, leaving issue an only daughter and heir, and his widow, Mrs. Gordon, surviving, who is the present possessor of it (u).

SATIS

is a seat which lies westward from that last mentioned, nearer the river, though at a considerable height from it. In the reign of Q. Elizabeth it was the property and residence of Mr. Richard Watts (v), who represented this city in Parliament in the 5th year of that reign. He had the honor 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; signifying by it, that she was very well contented with it; since which this house has acquired the name of Satis. After Mr. Watts's death, which happened in 1579, his widow became possessed of it, and about six years afterwards married Mr. Thomas Pagitt, who enjoyed it in her right. She died seised of it; after which, in pursuance of Mr. Watts's will, it was, with the closes, orchards and appurts. belonging to it, sold, and

(g) Reg. Roff. p. 563. He was the was first Vicar, on the building of the church of St. Nicholas.

(h) Regist. Prerog. Cant.
(i) Official of the Archdeacon. Reg. Roff. p. 406.
(k) Reg. Roff. p. 418, 426. (l) Ibid. p. 725.
(m) Archdeacon of Rochester. June 17, 1628, a dispensation passed for his holding this with Southfleet. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix, p. 56.
(n) Parl. Surveys, Lambeth libr. vol. xix.
(o) Prebendary of Rochester.
(p) He lies buried in this church.
(q) Prebendary of Rochester, and Rector of Kingsdown. He lies buried in the cathedral.

(r) He lies buried near the west door of the cathedral, but without any inscription.

(s) In Jan. 1755, a dispensation passed for his holding this with Croydon.

(t) Reg. Roff. p. 585.

(u) See vol. i. of this history, p. 508.

(v) He died at his house here Sept. 10, 1579, and was buried in the cathedral, near the entrance into the choir, where a monument was erected to his memory by the Mayor and Citizens in 1736, in gratitude for his benefactions to them. There is a neat bust of him on it, which stood in the hall of this house, and was given to them for this purpose by Joseph Brooke, esq;

52

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 K. Charles II.'s reign, it was owned by Mr. Alderman George Woodyer, who resided here (x). His widow, Mrs. Martha Woodyer, of Shorne in this county, together with William Woodyer her son, by deed, dated March 10, 1698, conveyed this seat to Mr. Francis Brooke (y), and he at his death devised it to his son, Mr. Philip Brooke (z), who was succeeded in it by his son, Joseph Brooke, esq; Recorder of this city (a), the present owner, who has rebuilt the greatest part of it, and now resides in it.

The large mount or hill of earth, on which Mr. Gordon's house and gardens are situated, in all likelihood was thrown up by the Danes in the year 885, at the time they besieged this city, a circumstance mentioned by most of our antient historians. There is one similar to it at Canterbury, thrown up probably by the same people, tho' it is not quite so large, and stands somewhat

further from that castle.

By K. Edward IV.'s charter to the citizens of Rochester, 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, which is annually held on the Monday after St. Michael, 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 (b).

The charities belonging to this parish will be mentioned hereafter, in the list of those given in general to the city of Rochester.

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH.

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 styled in some records, St. Margaret's in Suthgate (c), and in those of the city, the Borough of Suthgate (d).

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 called St. Margaret's bank, being a long row of houses, situated on the south side of the great London road, between St. Catherine's Hospital in Rochester, and the Victualling-office in Chatham.

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 Cænulf, K. of Mercia, as three plowlands (e).

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 the year 1080, under the general title of Terra Epi Rovecestre, i. e. The lands of the Bishop of Rochester:

In Hund' de Rovecestre.

Isde' eps' ten' Borchetelle. T. R. E. p. 2. Solins. se defd. & mo p uno Solin & dimid. Tra' e'. 4. Car'. In dnio sunt. 2. Car'. & 6. Villi cu'. 3. Car'. Ibi. 50. ac'. pti. & 2. molini de 20. Solid. T. R. E. & post valeb. 6. lib. & modo 10. lib.

In Rouecestre habuit eps' & ht adhuc qt' 20ti. mansuras træ' quæ ptin' ad Frandesberie & Borestele ppria ejus maneria. T. R. E. & post' valebant. 3. lib. mo valent. 8. lib. & tam' p annu' reddunt. 11. lib & 13. Sol' & 4. dennar'.

Which is: In the Hundred of Rochester, the same Bishop (of Rochester) holds Borchetelle. In the time

(x) See more of the Woodyers, under Shorne, vol. i, p. 508.

(y) He was son of Mr. William Brooke, of Maidstone, who was a great loyalist during the troubles of K. Charles I, and <e> distinguished himself much in that sharp skirmish fought in that town in 1648, against General Fairfax, with the whole strength under his command.

(z) Walker Weldon, of Swanscombe, owner of Rochester Castle, on April 11, 1722, conveyed to Mr. Philip Brooke and his heirs, all 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, and extending from thence to the river Medway; under which title it descended, with Satis, to the present possessor, Mr. Joseph Brooke, who about 40 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 Roman urns, pateræ lachrymatories, and other remains of that na-

tion were found by the workmen; most of which were given by Mr. Brooke to Dr. Thorpe, of this city.

(a) He bears for his arms -- Gules, on a chevron argent a lion rampant sable, crowned or, langued and unguled gules; being the same coat as was borne by the Brookes, Lord Cobham, and those now of Suffolk; from the former of which, it is not improbable, these of Rochester were descended. See more of the family of Brooke, vol. i. of this history, p. 270.

(b) Hist. Rochester, p. *281 et seq.

(c) Reg. Roff. p. 546.

(d) Hist. Rochester, p. 5.

(e) The bounds of it in the grant are said to be, -- the public highway towards the east; Woldham towards the south; the river Medway towards the west, and to the north, Mearateag. To this gift the King added, as was usual, certain Denberies in the Weald, viz. Otanhurst, Fræcynghyrct, Sceorfestede, Crangabyras, Witherincfaladsto, and Hæseldaen. Text. Roff. p. 96.

53

of K. 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 K. 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 K. 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 4 pence.

When Bishop Gundulph was elected to this see in the time of the Conqueror, and after the example of his patron, Archbp. Lanfranc, separated his own revenues from those of his convent, this manor in the division was allotted to the Bishop and his successors.

Walter, Bishop of Rochester, in the reign of K. Henry II, purchased certain land at Borstal, which he added to this manor for the benefit of his see (f).

On a taxation of the Bishop of Rochester's manors, in the year 1255, anno 40 K. Henry III, it was returned, on oath by a jury, that the Bishop had in the manor of Borstalle 140 acres of arable, and they estimated each acre at 4d.; 40 acres of salt meadow at 8d. each, and 14 acres of salt pasture, each at 6d.; that the rents of assise amounted to 6l. 9s. 7d. Total value of the whole manor 9l. 10s. 3d. And that the repair of the buildings yearly would amount to 20s. (g)

And again, at the latter end of the same reign, Thomas de Mepeham, Sacrist of the church of Rochester, and others, being examined concerning the value of the Bishop's manors, on oath af-

firmed, that the Bishop had but six manors belonging to his table, one of which was this of Borstalle, the annual revenue of which, viz. in money, hens, eggs, and plowshares, amounted to 43s. that there was in it full one plowland, which, together with the pasture, was worth 70s. and 4d. that there was one mill there, of which there was received 40s. per annum. The total value 7l. 13s. 4d. (h)

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 K. Henry VI, concerning the 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 law-day of the same, and also from all payments, fines, suits, forfeitures and amerciaments due by reason thereof, as being within the liberty of the Bishop, and his church (i).

The Monks of Rochester priory had several grants of tythes, and other premises made to them within this manor and hamlet.

Robert de Borestealle granted all the tythe of his land to St. Andrew's priory for ever (k). Ernulf and Eadric, of Borstalle, gave the tythes of their lands in Borstalle to the same priory, which were confirmed to it by several Bishops of Rochester, and others (l). 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 tythes of their lands in Borestealle and Freondesberie, but in corn only (m).

Several parcels of land, &c. lying within the manor or hamlet of Borstall, were likewise at times given to these Monks (m).

All these premises continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it, in the year 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 pre-

sent.

This manor, with others in this neighbourhood, was bound antiently to contribute to the repair of the first pier of Rochester Bridge (o).

NASHENDEN

is a manor in this parish, which lies about three-quarters of a mile south-eastward from Borstall. 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

(f) Reg Roff. p. 10. (g) Ibid. p. 64.

(h) Reg. Roff. p. 65. There is an account in a Mss. in the Cotton library of the stock, which ought to remain on the several manors of the bishopric, on the decease of each Bishop, which says, that at Borstalle there ought to remain 4 stallions, 6 oxen of the price of 10s. one cart-horse of the price of 10s. 1 bull, 3 heifers of the price of 20s. 2 sows, 1 young boar, 1 cart, and 1 waggon; and that the seed also ought to be found out of the assets of the deceased, and that 2 plowmen and 1 carter ought to be maintained out of them, and one servant likewise to the time of the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula; and

further, that there ought to remain there 2 tables and a trussel. Reg. Roff. p. 133.

(i) Reg. Roff. p. 575.

(k) Text. Roff. p. 166.

(l) Reg. Roff. p. 47, 59, 481, 528. In the confirmations of these tythes they are thus described, viz. the whole tythe of Borstalle of corn, and two parts of the tythes of the land of Ralph de Borstalle. See Reg. Roff. p. 481, and 482.

(m) Text. Roff. p. 182. (n) Ibid. p. 183, 185, 186, 198.

(o) Lamb. Peramb. p. 420.

54

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 Colubels ten' de epo' Essedene. p uno Solin se defd. Tra' e' In dnio e' una Car'. & 19. Villi cu. 3 bord. hnt. 3. Car. Ibi. 3. Servi. & ac. pti. T. R. E. Val. 3. lib. Qdo recep'. 4. lib. modo. 5. lib. Leuvin' \Com'./ tenuit.

Which is: 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 villeins, with three borderers having three carucates. There are three servants, and 8 acres of meadow. In the time of K. 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 K. 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 K. Edward I, this manor was become the property of Jeffry Haspale, who died possessed of it in the 15th year of that reign (p). Roger Haspalle died seised of it in the 5th year of K. Edward II, holding it of the King in capite, by the service of half a knight's fee (q). In the 20th year of K. Edward III, John de Aspale, for so the name was then spelt, paid respective aid at the making Edward the Black Prince a Knight, for half a fee, and one quarter of a fee, which he held in Nessingden of the King, and also for one quarter of a fee in the Hundred of Larkfield, which he likewise held of the King; so that he answered in the whole for one entire fee. He died seised of Nashenden in the 31st year of that reign (r). 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 seised of the manor of Naseden, which he held of the King in capite by knight's service, excepting 40 acres of pasture and wood, which he held of the Lord Grey, as of his manor of Aylesford; and it was likewise found, that Richard, æt. 18, and John, æt. 10, sons of Roger Charles, his brother, were his next heirs. Alice, wife of Richard Charles the elder, first above-mentioned, at the time of her death, anno 9 Richard II, held this manor in dower, excepting certain lands of the tenure of gavelkind, of which she was not endowed, of the King in capite (s). After which it came into the possession of Richard Charles, the nephew above-mentioned, who died seised of it

two years afterwards, holding it of the King in

capite, as of his honor of Peuerel and Hagnet, by knight's service (t).

Nicholas Haut afterwards possessed this manor, in right of his wife Alice, who was a descendant of the above-mentioned family, but whose daughter she was, I do not find. She held it for the term of her life with remainder to James Peckham, who on her death, in the 1st year of K. Henry IV, came into the possession of it (u). He obtained the King's licence, dated November 5, anno 3 Henry IV, to give and amortize to the Wardens of Rochester Bridge, and their successors, for the use of the same, this manor, and also 100 acres of pasture, with their appurts. in Ellesford (v), the manor then being worth <+> 10l. yearly, and above all reprises 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum (v). 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.

An account of the tythes of this manor will be given, with those of Little Delce in this parish, underneath.

There was a Chapel at this place, dependent on the parish church of St. Margaret (w).

GREAT and LOWER DELCE.

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 Lest de Eilesford.

In Rovecestre Hund'.

Filius Willi tahu' ten de epo' Delce p uno Solin. & uno jugo se defd. Tra'. e' In dnio. e'. una Car'. & 5. Villi. hnt. 2. Car. Ibi 12 ac' pti'. Silva. 1. porc'. T. R. E. & post. valuit 3. lib. & mo 70. Sol. Godric' tenuit de rege E.

Which is: In the Lath of Aylesford, in Rochester Hundred, the son of William Tahum 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 K. Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth three pounds, and now 70 shillings. Godric held it of K. Edward.

This manor afterwards came into the possession of a family, to which it gave name. Herebert, Gosfrid, and Hugo de Delce possessed it in

(p) Rot. Esch. ejus an. (4) Ibid. N. 64. (r) Ibid.
(s) Ibid. (t) Ibid. an. 11 Rich. II.
(a) Rot. Esch. ejus an.

(v) Archives of Rochester Bridge.
(w) Text. Roff. p. 231.

55

successive generations (x). After which it passed to Buckerel, and the heirs of Thomas Buckerell, in the latter end of the reign of K. Henry III, held it as two knight's fees and a half, of Bertram de Criol (y).

After which this estate seems to have been separated into parcels, for Geoffry de Haspale held this manor as the 4th part of a knight's fee only, at the time of his death, in the 15th year of K. Edward I, as appears by the inquisition taken for that purpose (z).

The next family who succeeded, as appears by the original deeds of this estate, was that of Molineux, descended from those of Sefton in the co. of Lancaster; 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 K. Edward III. (a) His descendant, Richard Fulsham, held it of the King in capite, as the 4th part of a knight's fee, at his death in the 5th year of K. Henry V. (b) Soon after which this name seems to have become extinct here; for in the 9th year of that reign, Reginald Love died seised of it, and his successor held it till the latter end of K. Henry VI.'s reign, when it passed by sale to William Venour (c), who died seised of this manor in the 1st year of K. Edward IV. (d) After which it was within a

few months conveyed by sale to Markham, descended from an antient family of that name in the co. of Nottingham, in which name it staid but a very short time before it was sold to Tate, who passed it away to sir Richard Lee, knt. Citizen of London, and Grocer, who served the office

of Lord Mayor in the 39th year of K. Henry VI, and the 9th year of K. Edward IV. (e) In whose descendents it continued in direct succession to Richard Lee, esq; who about the latter end of Q. Anne's reign passed away the whole of this estate, excepting the manor, and 40 acres of land, to Thomas Chiffinch, of Northfleet in this county, esq; 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 last will bequeathed this, among his other estates, to his niece and heir-at-law, Mary, the daughter of his sister Elizabeth Comyns, who since his death has carried them in marriage to Francis Wadman, of the Hith in Northfleet, esq; and he is the present possessor of Lower Delce (h).

The Manor of Great Delce, and the 40 acres of land above-mentioned, together with a farm, called King's Farm, continued in the possession of Richard Lee, esq; who died seised of them in 1724, and his grandson, Richard Lee, of Clytha in Wales, esq; now possesses this manor (i); but in 1769 he alienated all the demesnes of it, together with King's Farm, to Mr. Sampson Waring, of Chatham, who died seised 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.

(x) Reg. Roff. p. 533.

(y) Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.

(z) Rot. Esch. N. 25. Philipott, p. 293.

(a) Philipott ibid.

(b) Rot. Esch. N. 17. Philipott ibid.

(c) He bore for his arms -- Argent, on a fess sable 5 escallops or, 3 and 2.

(d) Rot. Esch. N. 24.

(e) Strype's Stow's Survey, book v, p. 122, 123. He was the eldest son of John Lee, of Wolksted in the co. of Surry, and grandson of Symon Lee, who was descended of ancestors in the co. of Worcester. He bore for his arms -- Azure, on a fess cotized or 3 leopard's faces gules.

Sir Richard Lee, lies buried in the church of St. Stephen Walbrook, London, the advowson of which he gave to the Grocers Company. His arms are remaining in the church of East Grinsted in Surry, as they are in that of St. Dionis Backchurch, London, with those of several marriages of his posterity. He left issue by Lettice his wife, a Spanish lady, in the service of the Queen, two sons and three daughters; of whom, Richard Lee, esq; the eldest son, 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 K. Edward IV. By his wife, daughter and coheir of Ottwell Worceley, Lieutenant of Dover Castle, he left issue one son, Richard Lee, who was of Delce and of Maidstone in this county, esq; and married Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Darlington, by whom he had two sons; Richard, who was of Delce, and Edward, who was Lord Archbishop of York; and a daughter.

Which Richard Lee, the son, was of Delce, esq; and by his wife, daughter of ---- Burgoigne, had two sons; Richard, who died without issue, and Godfrey Lee, who was of Delce, esq; and in the 31st year of K. Henry VIII, procured his lands to be disgavelled, by the act passed for this purpose that year. He married Agnes, daughter and heir of Christopher Conyers, of Pinchinthorp in the co. of York, by whom he had issue three sons and one daughter; of the sons, Richard was of Delce, Reginald was of Southwell in the co. of Nottingham, and Thomas was M. D. Richard Lee, of Delce, esq; the eldest son, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Crispe, of Thanet, esq; by whom he had four sons and three daughters. Richard Lee, the eldest son, was of Delce, esq; and died anno 1618, leaving issue by Anne, daughter of William Clarke, of Ford in Wrotham, esq; two sons; Richard and Alexander, and six daughters. Which Richard Lee was of Delce, esq; and by his wife Mary, daughter of John Shirley, Serjeant at Law, had an only son and heir Richard, and three daughters. Richard Lee, esq; succeeded his father in this manor, and married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of sir John Honeywood, of Elmsted in this county, and their grandson, Richard Lee, esq; about the latter end of Q. Anne's reign, sold the greatest part of this estate to Mr. Chiffinch, as above-mentioned.

This descent of Lee is in great part taken from the Visitation of the co. of Kent, 1619, and a Mss. pedigree of Lee in the possession of Mr. Thorpe, of Bexley.

(h) See Northfleet, vol. i, p. 442.

(i) There is a chancel and a vault at the south-east corner of St. Margaret's church, belonging to this family.

The manor is held by castle-guard rent of Rochester Castle (k).

An account of the tythes of this manor, given to the priory of Rochester, may be seen below, under the description of Little Delce manor.

UPPER or LITTLE DELCE.

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 Rouecestre Hund.

Ansgot' de Rouecestre ten de epo' Delce. p uno Solin se defd. Tra'. e. 2. Car'. & ibi sunt in dnio. . . . cu' uno Villo & 5. bord' & 6. Servis. Ibi. 12. ac' pti. & 60 ac' pasturæ. T. R. E. & post. & modo' Val' 100. Solid. Osuard' tenuit de rege. E.

Which is : In Rochester Hundred, Ansgotus de Rouecestre 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 K. Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was, and is worth 100 shillings. Osuard held it of K. 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 (m).

In the reign of K. John, this manor was in the possession of Jeffry de Bosco, a Norman; but when that province was seised 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 (n). Thus the manor of Little Delce was seised by K. John, in the 5th year of his reign, who gave it to Wm. de Ciriton, the Sheriff, for 200l. two palfreys and two goss hawks (o), on condition, that if the said Jeffry should return to his allegiance, he should without delay again possess the same (p). But this never happened, and this manor continued in the descendants of Wm. de Ciriton. Odo de Cirinton died seised of it

in the 31st year of K. Henry III, holding it of the King in capite by the service of one knight's fee (q). This family was extinct here before the middle of the reign of K. Edward I, for in the 9th year of that reign, as appears by Kirkby's inquest, Richard Pogeys held this manor (r).

At the latter end of the reign of King Edw. III, it was possessed by the family of Basing, from which name it went into that of Charles. Richard Charles died seised of the manor of Little Delce in the first year of King Richard II, leaving his brother's sons, Richard and John, his next heirs (s). But after his death Alice his wife held this manor, (excepting such lands belonging to it as were of the tenure of gavelkind, of which she was not endowed) of the King by the service of 12s. to the ward of Rochester castle and died possessed of it in the 9th year of that reign (t). On which it came to Richard Charles, the nephew abovementioned, who died seised of it two years afterwards (u). His son, Robert Charles, dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs, viz. Alice, married to William Snayth, and Joane to Richard Ormeskirk. On the division of their estates, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette. Soon after 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, or 4l. 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 tythes 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 tythes of Little Delce, both great and small to, the Priory of St. Andrew (v).

Ansgotus de Rovecestre accepted of the like benefit from the church of St. Andrew, and the monks there, in the time of Bishop Gundulph, and gave to the said church and monks, all his tythes both great and small, of Great Delce, and in like manner the whole tythe of his mill, which he afterwards made there, and also a certain piece of land included within the wall of the monks,

(k) 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.

(m) Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.

(_) See vol. i. of this History, p. 214.

(o) Austuris.

(p) Madox's Exchequer, p. 295, note e.

(q) Rot. Esch. N. 17.

(r) Philipott, p. 294.

(s) Rot. Esch. ejus an.

(t) Inquis. post mort.

(u) Rot. Esch. ejus an.

(v) Text. Roff. p. 179.

57

towards the south, and five acres of land near Prestefelde, and at the request of the monks, he gave them, on his death bed, cloathing, and they performed service for him as for a monk (w).

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 tythe worth 10s. yearly (x).

Robert de St. Armand gave his tythes of Neschendene and Borstelle, to St. Andrew's priory (y). These several tythes were confirmed to the priory by Gilbert, Henry, and Walter, Bishops of Roches-

ter, by Theobald, Archbishop, and 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 (z). Against the east wall in the south chancel is the ancient bust of a man in robes, with a coronet on his head (a). In the reign of K. Charles II, a coronet set round with precious stones was dug up in this churchyard (b), and the report of the parish has been that one of our Saxon kings was buried here (c).

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 (d). During which time Walter, Bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 1147, confirmed to the Monks of this priory the above-mentioned parochial altar, together with this church of St. Margaret, which belonged as a chapel to it; and he also granted that they should possess all profits and obventions, as well of the said altar as the chapel, and convert them to their own proper uses (e). This grant was set aside by Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, in the beginning of the reign of K. Richard I, who not only separated this church from the altar of St. Nicholas,

and divested the Monks of all manner of right and title 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, to be held by them, with all its appurts. to their own proper uses; reserving only half a marc yearly to be paid by the Master to the priory, in lieu of the oblations, which the Monks used to receive from it (f).

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 favor of each party (g), the dispute seems to have been finally settled by Pope Alexander IV, who by his bull, dated March 11, in the 2d year of his pontificate, anno 1255, adjudged, that this church of St. Margaret, with all its appurts. should for the future belong to the Prior and Chapter of Rochester. Accordingly from the above time they kept possession of it (h).

(w) Text. Roff. p. 193. (x) Ib. p. 166.

(y) Reg. Roff. p. 47, 58, 87, 528.

(z) The tower of this church is entirely covered with ivy to the top of it, which makes a most beautiful and picturesque appearance.

(a) Hist. Rochester, p. 237.

(b) Harris's Hist. of Kent, p. 196.

(c) Wood's Ath. vol. ii, p. 23.

(d) See the account of St. Nicholas's parish above, and Reg. Roff. p. 6, 40, 50.

(e) Reg. Roff. p. 528.

(f) Reg. Roff. p. 631. This was confirmed by Pope Celestine III, in his 3d year. Reg. Roff. p. 642.

(g) The Bishop having procured a bull from Pope Innocent III, to Archbp. Hubert, to hear all parties concerned, he confirmed this church to the Hospital, with the consent of the Monks, who made no further stir about it during the remainder of Bishop Glanville's time, nor in that of his two successors, Bishop Benedict and Bishop Henry de Sandford; the

latter of whom confirmed to the Monks their pension of half a marc from it. But soon after his decease, they again began a dispute with the Hospital, concerning the right of the latter to it, and having in 1239 procured Pope Gregory IXth's letters for referring the matter to arbitration; after a solemn hearing of both parties, a decree was given in favor of the Monks, and the composition made between Bishop Gilbert

and the Prior and Convent, was set aside, as having been obtained by force.

The Master and Brethren of the Hospital, being dissatisfied with this determination, appealed in their turn to Pope Innocent IV, who appointed Richard, Cardinal Deacon Sancti Angeli, with the Bishop of Præneste, to enquire further into the merits of this contest; who by his instrument, dated in 1250, confirmed the first agreement made by Bishop Glanville with the Monks, which again brought on the dispute which was finally settled by Pope Alexander IV, as above-mentioned. Reg. Roff. p. 104, 59, 69. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i, p. 349.

(h) Reg. Roff. p. 560.

58

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 Talevaz occurs by that title in the year 1272 (i).

The Vicars seem to have had only a yearly stipend from 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 appurts. to be assigned for the vicarage of it, and the accustomed and entire altarage of it, and all the small tythes of the three manors of Nessenden, and Great and Little Delce, and of all goods and lands, except the tythes of mills, within the parish, and except the tythes, great, small and mixt, 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 tythes of sheaves, which should arise in gardens not cultivated with the plow; and that the Vicar and his successors, 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 appurts. 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 tythes 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 (k).

Notwithstanding the stipulation of the Vicar for himself and successors, not to require any increase of their portion from the Prior and Convent, Edmund Hatefelde, Vicar of this church, did not consider this clause as obligatory upon him; for in the year 1488, he petitioned the Bishop for an augmentation of his vicarial portion; who decreed and ordained, that the Vicar and his successors should yearly receive and have, as the portion of his vicarage, from the Prior and Convent and their successors, five marcs of legal money, at the four most usual and principal feasts of the year; and also, out of the tythes 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 Harreat, four times in each year, 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; viz. 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 also all manner of oblations whatsoever within the bounds of the parish, and all manner of tythes whatsoever, as follows; viz. hay, lambs, wool, mills, calves, chicken, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, bees, honey, wax, cheese, milk, the produce of the dairy, flax, hemp, <+> peas, apples, swans, pigeons, merchandizes, fisheries, pastures, onions, garlicks and saffrons whatsoever arising and coming; and also the tythes of sheaves in gardens, whether cultivated with the plow, or dug with the foot, increasing within the parish, without fraud or deceit, and the tythes also of firewood, woods, thorns, silvacedua, 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 said mansion, with all and every appurtenance belonging to it, as often as need should be, and also the celebration and ministration of the sacraments, and sacramentals to the parishioners, of the finding of bread and wine, and lights, to the church of St. Margaret, either of right or custom due, should belong to and be borne by the Vicar and his successors, as well as all episcopal bur-

(i) Hist. Rochester, p. 235.

(k) Reg. Roff. p. 59.

59

thens 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 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. (l).

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, to the use of him and his heirs, successors and assigns forever. Three years after which the King, 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 K. Edward III, anno 1330, John de Folkstan, Vicar of St. Margaret's, held a messuage with its appurts. 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 appurts. was held of the Master and Brethren of the hospital of Stroud, in right of their hospital, by fealty, and the service of 2s. yearly, in lieu of all other services and secular demands whatsoever; at which time they agreed to let it to him and his successors for ever, on the terms above-mentioned, and also the payment of 12d. to them, after the death of each Vicar (m).

The Vicars, I am told, now hold this piece of land of the Dean and Chapter, as of their manor of Ambree, on their paying a small acknowledgment.

The vicarage-house being from age become ir-

reparable, was lately taken down, with an intention of erecting a convenient and substantial dwelling in the room of it. For which purpose the Rev. Mr. Lowth, the present Vicar, having for a number of years past deposited an annual sum with the Dean and Chapter, towards defraying the charges of it, last year 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.

This church antiently paid 9d. chrisms rent to the mother church of the diocese (n).

In the 15th year of K. Edward I, it was valued at 12 marcs (o).

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 (p).

The vicarage of St. Margaret is valued in the King's Books at 10l. and the yearly tenths at 1l. (q).

In the survey, taken after the death of K. 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 of St. Margaret's, a parsonage-house, two barns, one stable, and other housings, and also certain tythes, profits, &c. belonging to it, together with certain glebe land, called Courthill and Courthill-marsh, containing together nine acres, 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 that piece of ground called Upper-court, alias Hogshaw, containing one acre; in all 17 acres, worth together 130l. per annum, viz. the house and lands 12l. per annum, and the tythes 118l. per annum; all which were let, among other premises, by Henry King, late Dean of the cathedral church of Rochester, by

his indenture, dated Nov. 26, 1639, to George Newman, esq; for 21 years, at the yearly rent, for Preestfield and Stroudmarsh, of 4s. 4d. per annum, and for all the other premises 12 quarters

(l) This instrument is dated on the feast of the Purification in the year above-mentioned, 1488. Reg. Roff. p. 578.

(m) 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.

(n) Text. Roff. p. 229.

(o) Stev. Mon. vol. i, p. 455.

(p) Hist. Rochester, p. 237.

(q) Ect. Thes. p. 385.

60

of wheat heaped, making together the yearly rent of 31l. 1s. 8d. (r)

Next year, the vicarage was in like manner surveyed, and returned at the clear yearly value of 30l. (s)

Patrons, Vicars.
or by whom presented.

Prior and Convent (t) William Talevaz, in 1272.

of Rochester. (u) John de Folkstan, 1330.

(v) John Eastgate, 1401.

(w) Thomas Cod, obt. Nov.
1460.

(x) <+> John Hatefelde, 1488.
John Wryte, 1535.

Dean and Chapter (y) John Symkins, Cl. July
of Rochester. 16, 1555.

(z) Christopher Dale, S. T. P.
about 1627.

----- Selvy, 1644.

(a) Wm. Sandbrooke, LL. B.
1644, obt. March 1659.

(b) Daniel Hill, S. T. P.
1726, obt. June 1729.

(c) John Denne, S. T. P. in-
stituted 1729, resig. 1731.

(d) William Lowth, A. M.
Nov. 1731. Present Vicar.

CHARITIES.

Excepting the share of Mr. Watts's charity, which this parish enjoys, the donations to it appear to have been very few.

John Wryte, Cl. Vicar of this parish, by his deed, Feb. 12, anno 28 Henry VIII, invested in trustees, a certain 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, Cl. by his last will, dated June 30, 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 Manley, esq; by his will, Nov. 10, 1687, bequeathed to the poor widows of this parish 10s. per annum, to be given in wheaten bread.

On the west 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 (e).

TITLES.

Rochester has given title to several families.

Sir Robert Carr, or Kerr, Knight of the Bath, the favorite of K. James I, was first created by let. pat. dated March 25, anno 1611, Viscount Rochester, and in May following installed Knight of the Garter, and two years afterwards created Baron of Branspath in the co. of Durham, and Earl of Somerset. In 1616, he, and his lady, Frances, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, the divorced wife of Robert, Earl of Essex, were tried for the murder of sir Thomas Overbury, knt. and being found guilty, had sentence of death passed upon them Nevertheless, their lives were spared through the King's favor to them. He died in 1645, leaving issue an only daughter Anne, who married William, Earl of Bedford (f), so that his titles became extinct.

Henry Wilmot, only son of Charles, Viscount Wilmot, of Athlone in the kingdom of Ireland,

and Lieutenant General of the King's Horse, was, out of regard to his military conduct, created by let. pat. June 29, 1643, a Baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Wilmot, of Adderbury in the co. of Oxon; and continuing faithful both to K. Charles I, and after his death to his son, K. Charles II, during the whole series of those unhappy times, was for his services to them, advanced to the degree of an Earl, by the title of Earl of Rochester, by let. pat. dated at Paris Dec. 13, 1652. He died at Dunkirk in 1659, and his body was brought over and buried in Spellesbury church in the co. of Oxford, in a vault belonging to the Earl of Litchfield's family there. By Anne his wife, eldest daughter of sir John St. John, of Lyddiard Tregoze, knt. and bart. He had issue two sons; Charles, who died young, and John (g), 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 married Elizabeth, daughter of John Mallet, of Enmore, in the co. of Somerset, esq; by whom he had a son, Charles, who died before him in 1680,

(r) Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xiv.

(s) Ibid. vol. xix.

(t) Hist. Rochester, p. 235.

(u) Reg. Roff. p. 548. (v) Ibid. p. 559.

(w) He lies buried in this church.

(x) Reg. Roff. p. 578.

(y) One of the Prebendaries of Rochester cathedral, he had been the last Prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, and is said to have been deprived of his preferments by Q. Mary, for being married.

(z) Mss. Twysden.

(a) Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xix.

(b) And Prebendary of Rochester.

(c) Archdeacon of Rochester, and Vicar of St. Leonard, Shoreditch. He resigned this vicarage of St. Margaret's, on being presented to the rectory of Lambeth.

(d) Vicar of Lewsham, and Prebendary of Winchester.

He is elder brother to the Bishop of London.

(e) Hist. Rochester, p. 240.

(f) Dugd. Bar. vol. ii, p. 425. (g) Ibid. p. 467.

young and unmarried, and also three daughters (h). The Earl dying in 1682 without male issue, his titles became extinct (i).

Laurence Hyde, second son of the great Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chancellor in the reign of K. Charles II, was a person highly favored and honored by that Prince, who made him first Commissioner of the Treasury, and a Privy Counsellor, and further, on April 13, 1681, created him Baron of Wotton Bassett in the co. of Wilts, and Viscount Hyde of Kenilworth in the co. of Warwick, and on the 29th of Nov. 1682, Earl of Rochester. Two years after which he was made Lord President of the Council, and on K. James's accession Lord High Treasurer, and Knight of the Garter. In the last year of K. William's reign, he was made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and by Q. Anne again Lord President of the Council. He died May 2, 1711, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, leaving by the Lady Henrietta his wife, fifth daughter of Richard, Earl of Burlington, who died before him, one son, Henry, and four daughters (k). Which Henry succeeded his father 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, on March 31, 1723. He married Jane, daughter of sir William Leveson Gower, by whom he had issue one son, Henry, Lord Viscount Cornbury, who died but a small time before him, and both of them without male issue, in 1753; so that this title became extinct (l).

He bore for his arms -- Azure, a chevron between 3 lozenges or.

BOTANY.

Our herbalists have taken notice of the following rare plants in and near Rochester:

French mercury, close to the Bishop's palace here (m).

Anchusa, alknott, or Spanish bugloss, found near and about Rochester.

Piperitis, pepperwort, or dittander, found upon Rochester Common.

Chamaepitys vulgaris, or common ground pine, found near Rochester (n).

Carylophyllus sylvestris flore simplici suave rubens, the single red pink, growing on the castle-walls (o).

CHARITIES belonging to the CITY OF ROCHESTER.

Few towns of so small an extent have been benefited by so many and considerable foundations for the relief of the poor, as have been made to this city.

As early as the reign of K. 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 last will, dated in 1316, bequeathed a certain house for an hospital, to be called the Spital of St. Katherine 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 Jan. 29, 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 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 21 years; and that the yearly reserved rent for the use of the hospital, should be at least two

full third parts 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

(h) Viz. Anne, married to Francis, son of Fulk, Lord Brooke; Elizabeth, to Edward, Earl of Sandwich; and Mallet, to John, Viscount Lisburne.

(i) Bolton's Peerage, p. 242.

(k) Viz. Anne, married to James, Duke of Ormond; Henrietta, to James, Earl of Dalkeith; Mary, to Francis, Lord Conway; and Catherine, who died unmarried. Coll. Peer. edit. 2d, vol. ii, p. 302.

(l) The above-mentioned Henry, Earl of Clarendon and Rochester, had issue likewise five daughters; Henrietta, and Anne, who died unmarried; Jane, married to William, Earl of Essex; Catherine, to Charles, Duke of Queensbury; and Charlotte, who died unmarried. Coll. Peer. 2d edit. vol. ii, p. 306.

(m) Johnson's Gerard's Herbal, p. 332.

(n) Raii Synopsis, p. 244.

(o) Merrett's Pinax, p. 23.

62

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 12 apartments, which are occupied by the like number of aged people, who, beside their habitation, are allowed 12 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 Baily, of the city of Rochester, by his will, dated Sept. 14, 1579, bequeathed 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. three and a half per cent. Bank annuities, the dividend arising from which is equally distributed among the 12 poor inhabitants above-mentioned (p).

Mr. Richard Watts, of Rochester, by his will, dated Aug. 22, 1579, and proved Sept. 20th following, 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 appurts. 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 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 6 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 moneys 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 99 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 99 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 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 the co. of Gloucester, Minister of the Word of God, by a deed of gift Dec. 9, 1613, gave to the Mayor and Citizens the sum of 50l. to be lent by them

(p) Hist. Rochester, p. 211 et seq.

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, Cl. by his will, dated June 30, 1618, gave in trust the rectory and parsonage of Broadhempston in the co. of Devon, and all lands, tythes 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 person or persons, as should be thought adviseable to and 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 appurts. conveyed accordingly. The half part of the present rents and profits of it, amounting to 15l. 15s. 0d. is yearly distributed among the poor people of Rochester, agreeable to the will of the donor.

This makes a portion of the bread distributed in St. Nicholas's church, after sermon, every Sunday in the afternoon (q).

The trustees of the estate of sir John Hayward, knt. by the direction of his last will, dated Aug. 15, 1635, settled by indenture Nov. 28, 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 annum; the other for 20 poor girls of the said parish, the Mistress to have 8l. per annum.

The other school to be in Stroud, the Master or Mistress to have 10l. per annum for teaching 30 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, dated May 25, 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 three pounds to be distributed among the poor people of the same parish, one shilling 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, dated June 20, 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 free-men, 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 dated Sept. 10, 1689, gave several houses and lands in the

parish of Higham, to the Mayor and Citizens, to bestow the rents thereof, first in keeping the premises in repair, and the residue in providing bread to be weekly distributed upon every Sunday in the afternoon in St. 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, knt. one of the representatives in Parliament for this city, by his will, dated August 16, 1701, and proved October 17 following, bequeathed 5000l. to be laid out

(q) Hist. Rochester, p. 221 et seq.

64

by his executors in purchasing lands and tenements, for and towards the building, and perpetual 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 by the testator, during which time, the freemen's sons were in a worse situation than before Sir Joseph's decease, he hav-

ing 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 July 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 constitutions 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 for the time being, 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 Archbp. 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 estates will permit, the upper Master was to be allowed 100l. per annum, and the

Under-master or Usher, 40l. per ann.

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 Eastgate 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 fabrick 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 the early dawns of his great genius; several instances of which are still remembered by many 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 entitled to the above free school. The number at present, who receive the benefit of them, is 22.

Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester, by his last will, dated Oct. 20, 1704, bequeathed to the city of Rochester 50l. to be paid within a month after his decease, to be lent on good security by the Mayor and Aldermen to five poor tradesmen, for ever, gratis (r).

(r) Hist. Rochester, p. 226 et seq.

.
. .
.

<additions and corrections p 66>

12, col. 1, l. 18, add, 20th year, Parliament at Westminster, 1780, George Finch Hatton -- Robert Gregory, esqrs.

15, col. 2, l. 20. Robert Child, esq; died on July 28, 1782, and his widow Mrs. Child is now by his will entitled to it

28, col. 2. After Dean Thurloe, add, He vacated this deanry in May 1779, on being made Bishop of Lincoln, and was succeeded by

Richard Cust, S.T.P. Canon of Christ Church in Oxford, which he resigned on this promotion. He was younger brother of the late sir John Cust, of the co. of Lincoln, bart. Speaker of the House of Commons, and uncle to the present Right Hon. Lord Brownlow. He resigned this deanry in Dec. 1781, on being made Dean of Lincoln, and Residentiary of that cathedral. On which

Thomas Dampier, S. T. P. was made Dean on March 30, 1782, and remains Dean of this cathedral at this time

30, col. 1, l. 15. 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

54, col. 2, l. 16, dele 101.

* 58, col. 2, l. 40, for peas read pears

60, col. 1, for John Hatefelde, Vicar, read Edmund

.
. .
.

<errata p 72>

Page 2 (f), l. 11, for the burial-place r. a burial-place.
P. 4, col. 2, l. 35, for -- where r. were. P. 13, col. 2, l. 12, for -- prelates r. prelate. P. 18, col. 2, l. last, for -- side the water r. side of the water. P. 20, col. 2, l. 23, for -- frabric r. fabric. P. 23, col. 1, l. 34, for -- the appointed r. appointed the first. P. 30, note (f), add p. 27. P. 50, col. 1, l. 11, dele of. P. 52, col. 2, note (y), for -- distringished r. distinguished.