

Hasted 1798      Edward Hasted, The history and topographical survey of the county of Kent, 2nd ed., vol. 4 (Canterbury, 1798), 45--191.

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THE  
CITY AND LIBERTY  
OF  
ROCHESTER.

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

/q see Reg. Roff. p. 49.

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

Antoninus, in his Itinerary, calls it by the name of Durobrivis, though it is corruptly spelt various ways in the different copies of it. In the Peutingerian military tables, in the decline of the Roman empire, it is 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,/s and here it is to be observed, that all places ending in chester, fashioned in the Saxon times, have arisen from the ruins of the old Roman castra, not that the former were always placed in the very same scite, though they were never very remote from it./t Hence the antient stations about the noted Roman wall, the ruins of many of which are still visible, are called chesters by the country people. It was accounted in the time of the Romans, one of their sti-

pendiary cities, of which sort they had twelve in this island./u

Most of our antiquaries agree in allowing it to be the station mentioned by Antoninus in his Itinerary, under the name of Durobrivis, situated twenty-seven miles from London. 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

/r Camd. Brit. p. 357.

/s Burt. Anton. p. 178.

/t Burt. Anton. p. 43.

/u Richard of Cirencester, p. 23.

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

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

The wall is still entire in some places, especially on the east **and south sides**, the north-east angle still retaining its antient form, height, and embrasures. It is in general about four feet in thickness, and on the east side where it is entire, the height is about 30 feet.

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

The city has no gates at present, but the names of several are on record, viz. Broadgate,/x afterwards called Eastgate, which stood in the high street, near adjoining to the present free school, part of the portal being still visible on the south side of the street; most part of it remained in the reign of king Henry VIII. when Leland wrote, who calls it a marvellous strong gate, and

adds, no more gates appeared here **than** were commonly used. South gate was near Bully-hill, in the road to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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on the same terms that the rest of the county did. This place suffered several times dreadfully by fire in the reigns of king Henry I. and II. From which mis-

fortunes it recovered but slowly, and the intestine commotions of the kingdom happening soon afterwards, Rochester suffered again considerably: but Henry III. getting possession of it, and knowing what advantage the preservation of this place would be, resolved to augment **its strength, for which purpose he** repaired and restored the walls to their former condition, and began a large ditch round the city.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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chard Head, bart. in whose house he resided till the 23d inst. when he privately withdrew, and taking with him only the duke of Berwick, and two others, embarked on board a tender in the river Medway./c

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

The city of Rochester, in the time of king Edward the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

King Richard I. directed his writ to the bailiff, and whole hundred of Rochester, **commanding** that no one, unless his servants, should buy any victuals in the city before the monks of **St. Andrew's priory** had bought theirs within it, **which** privilege was confirmed by king Richard I. who forbid even his own servants to buy before them. It was made use of by the monks of this priory till its dissolution; **the like privilege was exercised** by several of the great monasteries in France, **till their late dissolution**, to the great disgust and inconvenience of every one else.

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

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

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

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

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

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

King Henry VI. granted several liberties and privileges to this city; and that the bailiff of it, and the citizens, and their heirs, should have the passage called the Ferry, below the city and the town of Stroud, and from the town of Stroud to the city, the King's

bridge on the other side of the water being broken; and also the space of the bridge, together with the house called the Barbican; and that they should have one fair in the city yearly, on the feast of St. Dunstan the bishop, May 29; together with great liberties, &c./h

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

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John Lowe, bishop, together with the prior and convent of Rochester, came to an agreement with the bailiff and citizens of Rochester, concerning the bounds and privileges of the city and precincts of the church, anno 1440, 27 Henry VI. in which, among other matters, it was agreed, that the bailiff and his successors might cause to be carried before them, by their sergeants, their mace or maces, and the sword likewise, if the king should ever give them one, as well to and in the parish church as in the cathedral and cemetery, especially on festival days and processions, and solemn sermons, and at the reception and installation of the bishops, and at all other fit times; but that they should make no execution or arrest, or any thing belonging to the same, within the precinct of the monastery and palace of the bishop, unless the same should be specially required of the bishop or prior.

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

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

should be exempt from doing any office: And that they should have all manner of fines, trespasses, deodands, &c. and keep two law days or leets on the Bullie, and a court of pie-powders, and have a fair on St. Dunstan's day; and that they should have



pasturage of cattle in the city and Castle ditch, and liberty to build upon Eastgate bridge: That they should be justices of the peace within themselves, and direct their writs to their own ministers, and be exempt from the justices of the peace for the county: That no resident should be charged to bear office out of the city; and lastly, that they should have liberty to purchase twenty pounds per ann. to them and their successors.

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

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

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

At the synod held at Grately by king Athelstane, in the year 928, there was a law made respecting the coinage of money, that there should be but one uniform species of it throughout the whole realm. Much inconvenience had, no doubt, been found from so many different sorts of money as then passed among the king's subjects; for the remedy of which he ordained the above wise law, which entirely abolished

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

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

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

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

/l Madox's Exchequer, p. 198.

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

The state of Rochester, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, may be partly seen by the return to an order made by that princess, in her 8th year, for a survey of the several places in this county, where there were any boats, shipping, or the like; **by which it appears,** there were here, houses inhabited, 144; ships

and boats 7; one of two tons, one of six, one of ten, two of thirty, and one of seventy; a mayor, aldermen, customer, comptroller, &c. and a searcher of the custom house; four quays -- the Town quay, the Watering quay, the Town ditch and Strowde quay, belonging to the mayor and aldermen; and that there were persons in the place, occupied in merchandize and fishing, 27./m

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

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

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The castle, the church of St. Nicholas, and the 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, **especially in the times of peace with France.** The houses in it are in general well built, and are inhabited by people of wealth and condition, the whole of it having been greatly improved of late years, especially since the act passed in 1769, for new paving, lighting, and watching the city; all which has been some years since effectually carried into execution. The intercourse of the inhabitants with the royal dock, victualling office, navy, and other branches of the shipping, **proves** a continual source of wealth and employment to them, many of whom are induced to reside here on those accounts, and though there are no particular manufactures carried on here, **makes** it a very populous and busy town. There is an establishment of the customs here, as one of the out ports, under the direction of a collector, a deputy comptroller, surveyor, &c. and of the excise-office, under a supervisor, and other inferior assistants.

The town hall of this city stands on the north side of the High-street, and was first erected in the year 1687. It is a handsome brick structure, supported by coupled columns of stone of the Doric order. The under part of it is open to the street, and, as well as the room above it, is made use of by the judges, **when-ever** the assizes 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 the chief of the second a lion passant guardant or.

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD VI.

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

6th.    Parliament at West-      John Norton, knt.  
       minster.      Christopher Roper.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN MARY.

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

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

IN THE TIME OF PHILIP AND MARY.

1st and 2d.    At Westmin-      William Roper,  
       ster.      Edward Bashe.

2d and 3d.    At Westmin-      George Howard, knt/n  
       ster.      William Cobham, knt.

4th and 5th.    At Westmin-      Hugh Cartwright,  
       ster.      Thomas Page, esq.

/n Browne Willis calls him Haywood.

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IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

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

5th.    At Westminster.      Edward Bashe, esq.  
       Richard Watts, gent

13th.    At Westminster.      William Holstock,  
       George Catlyn, esqrs.

14th.    At Westminster.      George Catlyn,

William Partridge, esqrs./o  
 27th. At Westminster. Wm. Brook, alias Cobham  
 George Bing, gents.  
 28th. At Westminster. William Brook, esq.  
 William Lewin, LL. D.  
 31st. At Westminster. John Stanhope, esq.  
 William Lewin, LL. D.  
 35th. At Westminster. George Chowne, esq.  
 William Lewin, LL. D.  
 39th. At Westminster. Edward Hobbye,  
 Tho. Walsingham, knts.  
 43d. At Westminster. The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES I.

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

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES I.

1st. At Westminster. Henry Clerk, esq.  
 Thomas Walsingham, knt.

/o Samuel Cox, esq. was chosen in his room.

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

IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES II.

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

IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES II.

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

IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

1st. At Westminster 1688 Sir John Banks,  
Sir Roger Twisden, barts.  
2d. Ditto 1690 Sir Joseph Williamson, knt.  
Francis Clerk, esq./q  
7th. Ditto 1695 Sir Joseph Williamson,  
Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knts.

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

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

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10th. Ditto 1698 Sir Joseph Williamson,  
Sir Cloudesley Shovel, knts.  
12th. Ditto 1700 The same.  
13th. Ditto 1701 Francis Barrel,  
William Bokenham, esqrs.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE.

1st. At Westminster 1702 Edward Knatchbull,  
William Cage, esqrs.  
4th. Ditto 1705 Sir Cloudesley Shovel,/r  
Sir Staffd. Fairborne, knts.  
7th. Ditto 1708 Sir Stafford Fairborne,  
Sir John Leake, knts.  
9th. Ditto 1710 Sir John Leake, knt.  
William Cage, esq;  
12th. Ditto 1713 The same.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE I.

1st. At Westminster 1714 Sir Thomas Palmer, bart.  
Sir John Jennings, knt.  
7th. Ditto 1722 Sir Thomas Palmer, bart./s  
Sir John Jennings, knt.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE II.

1st. At Westminster 1727 Sir John Jennings, knt.  
David Polhill, esq.  
7th. Ditto 1734 David Polhill,  
Nicholas Haddock, esqrs.

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

/r On his decease, in 1707, Sir John Leake was chosen.  
/s On his decease, in 1723, Sir Thomas Colby was chosen.  
/t On his death, in 1746, Sir Chaloner Ogle, was chosen.  
/u Edward Vernon made his option for Ipswich, and David Polhill was chosen in his room.

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21st. Ditto 1747        Sir Chaloner Ogle,/w  
                         David Polhill, esq./x  
28th. Ditto 1754        Hon. John Bing,/y  
                         Nicholas Haddock, esq.

IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE III.

1st. At Westminster 1761    Hon. Thomas Parker, com-  
                         monly called Lord Parker/z  
                         Isaac Townsend, esq./a  
7th. Ditto 1768        John Calcraft,/b  
                         William Gordon, esqrs./c  
14th. Ditto 1774        George Finch Hatton,  
                         Robert Gregory, esqrs.  
20th. Ditto 1780        The same.  
24th. Ditto 1784        Sir Cha. Middleton, bart.  
                         Nathaniel Smith, esq.  
30th. Ditto 1790        George Best, esq.  
                         Sir Rich. Bickerton, bart./d  
36th. Ditto 1796        Sir Richard King, bart./e  
                         Hon. Henry Tufton./f

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

/w On his decease, in 1750, the Hon. John Bing was chosen.  
/x In 1754, Nicholas Haddock was chosen on his decease.  
/y In 1757, Isaac Townshend was chosen on his decease.  
/z On his succeeding his father, as earl of Macclesfield, in 1764, Sir Charles Hardy was chosen in his room.  
/a On his death, in 1765, Grey Cooper was chosen in his room.  
/b On his decease, in 1772, George Finch Hatton was chosen.  
/c He vacated his seat, in 1771, and vice admiral Pye was chosen in his room.  
/d He died in Feb. 1792, being rear admiral of the White; and on March 7, Nathaniel Smith was elected in his room. He died in June, 1794, and Sir Richard King was chosen in his stead.  
/e Now admiral of the Blue.  
/f Brother to the earl of Thanet.

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Rochester, from its having been a station, situa-



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

This castle was much damaged by the Danes, at the several times they besieged this city, as has been already mentioned; after which it seems to have lain a long time desolate and neglected, but William the Conqueror repaired it, and put it in a defensible condition, after which he garrisoned it with five hundred soldiers./h

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

/g Hist. of Roch. p. 21. Text. Roff. p. 76, 86, 88, **et seq.**  
(w) MSS. Cott. Lib. Vesp. A. 5. fol. 68, No. 22.

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

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

The castle is situated on an eminence adjoining the river Medway, just above Rochester bridge, at the

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

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

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ing over to England, though the king retained the greatest part of his estates, yet he confirmed him in the possession of his earldom of Kent, as well as in many of his former places of trust, among which was the castle of Rochester. But when Odo found he had not the whole sway and disposal of every thing, as formerly, he raised an insurrection in Kent, and having pillaged and destroyed many places in this county, **he** carried the whole of his plunder to Rochester, from whence he went to Pevensey castle, in Sussex, which he was forced, for want of food, to surrender up to the king, and to bind himself, among other conditions, to deliver up Rochester castle, where the chief of the Norman lords were shut up, under the command of Eustace earl of Bologne. For this purpose he was conducted hither, where he feigned to persuade the go-

vernor to deliver up the castle; but Eustace, guessing his meaning, detained him, and the soldiers who conducted him, prisoners; upon which the king, enraged at his deceit, immediately marched with his army to Rochester, **having** issued a proclamation, declaring every one a Niding (a nickname of reproach given to those who were guilty of the worst of crimes) who did not come to his assistance, by which means the people flocked to his army in great abundance; and **besieging** it so vigorously, that those within were compelled to surrender it to him. He afterwards permitted them to depart the kingdom with the forfeiture of their estates, but Odo himself he sent prisoner to Tunbridge castle, and stripped him of all his honours; after which he abjured the realm for ever, and was permitted to go into Normandy.

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

/k Sommer's Gavelkind, p. 65. Hist. of Rochester, p. 29, et seq.

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

It is almost certain, as well from the largeness of this building, the few years that this bishop lived afterwards, and the smallness of the sum laid out by

him, that he did not near finish the building of it. It is a quadrangular of upwards of seventy feet square at the base, the walls of which are twelve feet thick; adjoining to the east angle of this tower is a small one, about two thirds the height of the large tower, and twenty-eight feet square. There were in the large tower three stories of large and lofty apartments, and underneath a vault or dungeon for the safe keeping of the prisoners; and in the partition wall in the center of the building a well, two feet nine inches in diameter, neatly wrought in the walls, which well as-

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

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cends, through all the stories to the top of the tower, with each of which it has a communication. This great tower, with its embattlements, is about one hundred feet from the ground, and at each angle of it is another small tower, twelve feet square, and as many high, with floors, and battlements above them. Considering how long this fabric has been neglected, there are few 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.

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

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

/1 Regist. Eccles. Christi. Cart. 31. Rapin, vol. i. p. 207.

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

King John, in his 3d year, is said to have restored this castle to Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, with whom it continued till the 17th year of that reign, when the king, by his writ, required the archbishop to give up the custody of it to him, and it seems never afterwards to have returned to **that** see. Notwithstanding the archbishop's acquiescence in the king's demand of it, the discontented barons contrived to get possession of it, and committed it to the custody of William de Albini, a valiant and expert commander; upon which the king immediately marched thither, and having invested the castle, carried on the siege against it vigorously for the space of three months; when the governor and his **assistants** finding no hope of relief, and their provisions exhausted, surrendered themselves at discretion. The next year Lewis, the French king's son, being invited over to the assistance of the barons, landed at Sandwich, and immediately marched with his army hither, and invested the castle, which having suffered so considerably the year before, was soon reduced.

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

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

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of Rochester and Canterbury during life, with the fee of one thousand marcs per annum for the custody of them, to be paid out of the exchequer. But the

king's favour towards him declining, he was in the 16th year of that reign displaced from his great office of chief justice, and from the custody of this castle, among others; in all which trusts he was succeeded by Stephen de Segrave, who was displaced from them in the 20th year of that reign; and John de Cobham was appointed constable of Rochester castle in his room.

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

In the year 1264, **being the 49th of his reign**, the king greatly increased the fortifications of Rochester castle, which he entrusted to Roger de Leyborne, as chief constable of it, who had with him John earl of Arundel, Henry Delamaine, John earl of Warren, and others; and it was furnished with men, arms, and provisions, necessary to sustain a siege. Shortly after which, Simon earl of Leicester, who was one of the principal confederate barons, marched with a large army into Kent, to besiege this castle, and on his arrival on the western banks of the Medway, found his passage overt he 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

/n Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. i. p. 511, 619, 671, 672.

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

it was near being taken, the earl suddenly raised the siege, and returned to London./o

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These records do not very materially differ from each



other, they contain a curious account of the bridge, the number of its piers, the materials with which it was built, and the method by which it was kept in constant repair./q

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

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

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which made ten intermediate spaces in the length of the bridge, and from one end to the other was about twenty-six rods and an half, equal to four hundred and thirty-one feet, which corresponds nearly to the 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, **which** duty grew either by tenure or custom, or perhaps by both, and it seems, that according to the quantity and proportion of the land to be charged, the materials found were either more or less./r

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

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

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

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

/r Lambarde's Perambulation, p. 426.

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

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

Notwithstanding which care, after the taking of Calais in 1347, this wooden bridge **being** found continually subject to the want of repairs, as well on account of its being old and badly constructed, as from the depth of the river, and rapidity of the stream and tides, and **being** very unsafe for so considerable a traffic, as must necessarily pass over it, it was resolved, that a new bridge of stone should be built, and placed nearer the castle, where the tide would not run so strong. This is the present bridge, a noble and useful work, which appears to have been completed about the 15th year of king Richard II.

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

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

portions and repairs of the contributory lands should continue so, according to the proportions therein mentioned; and that they might yearly choose from among themselves, two wardens, as had been accustomed, who might receive and purchase lands and tenements to the yearly value of five hundred marcs, and to be impleaded, all which was granted, saving that they should

purchase but to the value of three hundred marcs yearly, and it appears that the old bridge was then standing, though in a very ruinous state, the use of which whilst the other was building, might be one of the reasons why the place of its situation was changed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

King Richard II. by his writ under his privy seal, in his 22d year, confirmed all these privileges; and further granted, that the persons and landholders of the contributory lands, should be reputed a community by themselves, for the governance of it; and that they might always yearly chuse two persons, that were con-

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

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

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

ceeding times being turbulent, it remained in that state till the reign of queen Elizabeth, as will be mentioned hereafter.

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

/t History Rochester, p. 53. Rot. Cart de Reg. Hen. VI.

/u Weever, p. 231, says, the iron work was made by archbishop Deane, Warham's predecessor.

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

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

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

When queen Elizabeth was at Rochester, in her re-

turn from a tour she had made round the counties of Sussex and Kent, in the 16th year of her reign, Sir

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

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

Soon after which, the queen granted a commission to several great officers of state and nobility, as well as to several knights and gentlemen of this county, to examine into these defects, and the causes of them, and devise means for their remedy. In the execution of this commission, though the lord treasurer, the lord admiral, the lord warden, and others of the great nobility, gave their constant attendance and endeavours, yet the 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 fraudulently obtained, cancelled, and having thus improved the revenues, afterwards contrived a plan, with no small pains, for the perfect reformation and future conduct of both officers, and matters relating to it. And lastly, to perfect his scheme for its present and future preservation, he procured the statute of the 18th year of queen Elizabeth, for the perpetual maintenance of Rochester-bridge, in which it was enacted, that on the morrow after the general quarter-sessions for this county next after Easter (which day being found inconvenient, it was altered by parliament, in the 1st year of queen Anne, to Friday in the week next following the week of Easter) yearly, the wardens and commonalty of the lands contributory to the repair of the bridge, as many as conveniently might, should assemble at the castle of Rochester, and choose two persons of their commonalty to be wardens of the bridge, commonly resident, and housekeeping within the county, and twelve persons of their commonalty, to be assistants to the wardens for one year, after the first day of Pentecost next ensuing, and thus to assemble, and elect in the said place annually for ever. That every year on the Thursday

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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, and that no assistance should be demanded from the contributory lands, unless the new fund, or lands proper proved insufficient to defray the expence.

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

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

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

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pair, and greatly ornamented, without any further assistance from the contributory lands, but a fund has been accumulated against any sudden accident, or damage that might happen to the fabric./x The yearly value of the lands proper are **now** about 1000l. per annum. Within these **thirty** years the bridge was much disfigured by a temporary wooden bridge at the east end of it, where three of the stone arches had been broken, but these have since been rebuilt, and the co-

ping, and iron work made equally handsome with the other parts of it. Both the entrances have been widened, and within these few years further improvements have been made to it at a very considerable expence, which renders it much more commodious and safe for the repassing of travellers than it was before.

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

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

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

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

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

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



What became of this chantry in the reigns of king Henry VIII. and king Edward VI. I have not learned, but in the year 1575, anno 18 queen Elizabeth, there was an arrear of five hundred pounds or more, depending in the court of exchequer, and probably due to the crown from the wardens and commonalty of **the** bridge, for the salary of the priests of this suppressed chantry. This suit Sir Roger Manwood brought to an issue, and the cause being tried at the assizes, and judgment given in the exchequer, it was for ever discharged.

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

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

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

An account of the river Medway has already been given in the General History of this county, it only remains therefore for some account **to be given** of the oyster fishery on this river, carried on in the several creeks and branches of it within the liberties of this city, for the conducting of which there is a Company of Free-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 king George II. when an act passed for the better ordering and governing this fishery; for making them secure under the protection of the mayor and Citizens, and for confirming and settling their power and jurisdiction over that and the free-dredgers belonging to it. By it the mayor and citizens have power once or oftener in every year to hold a court of 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/z and shut, and the quantity of oysters which shall be taken on each day of dredging,

and also for the preservation of the brood and spat of oysters, and for otherwise regulating the fishery, with power for the jury to impose fines for the breach of all such orders as shall have been approved and confirmed by the mayor and citizens, to whose use all fines are to be applied. Every person is free of this company, after having served an apprenticeship of seven years. Any person catching oysters in this river, not free of

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

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

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

About the year 600, Ethelbert, king of Kent, at the instance of St. Augustine, began to build a church at Rochester, in honour of St. Andrew, and a monastery adjoining to it, of which church St. Augustine in 604, appointed Justus to be bishop, and placed secular priests in the monastery; for the maintenance of whom the king gave a portion of land to the south of the city, called Prestefelde, to be possessed by them for ever, and he added other parcels of land, both within and without the walls of the city./a And notwithstanding in after times the gifts to this church were many and extensive, yet by the troubles which followed in the Danish wars, it was stripped of almost all of them, and at the time of the conquest it was in such a state of poverty, that divine worship was entirely neglected in it, and there remained in it only five secular priests, who had not sufficient for their maintenance.

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

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

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

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

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

#### A LIST OF THE PRIORS OF ROCHESTER.

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

Arnulph, originally a monk of Christ church, was

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

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

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

Letard presided here under the same bishop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ralph de Ros, who presided in 1199, was the next

prior, and whilst he was sacrist built the brewhouse, and the prior's great and lesser chamber, the stone houses in the church yard, the hostiary, stable, and the barn in the vineyard, and caused the church to be covered and most of it leaded.

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 cloisters next the dormitory, and made the laundry and door of the refectory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simon de Clyve, sacrist of this church, who growing infirm, resigned this office of prior in 1622, and was

the same year succeeded by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Cardone was prior, in 1448.

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

Thomas Bourne, who was prior in 1480, to whom William Bishop probably succeeded; he occurs prior in 1496, and seems to have been succeeded by William Frysell, who was elected to this office in 1509. His successor in it was probably

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

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

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

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

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

/h Tan. Not. Mon. p. 202. History of Rochester, p. 85.

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

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

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 the full power of nominating the dean and six preben-



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

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

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thought fit, to allot the whole of it, and to assign to the dean and canons separate and fit stalls in the choir, and separate places in the chapter there, and to allot to the dean the new lodging, containing two parlours, a kitchen, four bedchambers, the gallery, the study over the gate, with all other buildings leading to the house of John Symkins, one of the residentiaries, together with the garden adjoining, on the north side of the king's lodging. The hay, barn in the woodyard of the dean under the vestry, a stable for the dean adjoining the gate of the tower, and the pidgeon-house on

the wall adjoining the ponds; and also to the prebendaries and minor canons and other ministers, and persons above-mentioned, and to each of them, according to their degree, convenient houses, and places about the church to be divided and assigned to each of them, as far as the buildings and ground of the scite would allow, so that the said dean and canons might have separate houses for their convenient habitation, and that the rest of the ministers and persons, **that is**, minor canons, deacon and subdeacon, scholars, choiristers, and upper and under master, should have smaller houses, in which they and their families should inhabit, and further, that they should put the dean, canons and other ministers in possession of the houses and premises so assigned as aforesaid, provided always, that the said minor canons, and other ministers (except the dean and prebendaries) should eat at one common table, according to the statutes to be prescribed to them, and that they should certify under their seals to the chancellor and court of augmentation what they had done in **it**.

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

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

In these statutes, besides the members already mentioned, there is named a porter, who was likewise to be a barber, a butler, a cook and an under-cook: all the members still subsist in this church, except the deacon and subdeacon, the butler, cook and under-cook; the two first have been disused ever since the reformation, or at least very soon afterwards, and the other three are not necessary, as there is not any common table kept, nor indeed does there appear 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 five pounds to be paid to four scholars, two at each university. By the statutes they were to be more than fifteen, and under twenty years of age, to be chosen from this school in prefer-

ence, and if none such were here, then from any other, so that they were neither fellow or scholar in either university; the pension of five pounds to continue till they commenced bachelor, and that within the space of four years; after which they were to enjoy the same for three years; when commencing master of arts they were to be allowed six pounds per annum, and after that 6l. 13s. 4d. The college to be at the option of the dean, or vice-dean, and chapter, who nominate the scholars, and forty pounds was directed to be laid out yearly in charity, and the repairing of highways and bridges.

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

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letters patent under his great seal, and presented to the bishop. The dean continues to be nominated by the king, four of the prebends are in the gift of the lord-keeper of the great seal, one is annexed by letters patent, and confirmed by act of parliament, anno 12 queen Anne, to the provostship of Oriel college in Oxford, and confirmed by parliament the same year, and another was by letters patent, anno 13 king Charles I. annexed to the archdeaconry of Rochester. The crown likewise nominates the six poor bedesmen, who are admitted by warrant under the sign manual; these are in general old and maimed sailors, who are pensioners of the chest at Chatham.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/k He was afterwards translated to Carlisle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Mew, S. T. P. succeeded in 1670. He had been canon of Windsor, archdeacon of Berks, and pre-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/p He was afterwards translated to Winchester.

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

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

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

William Bernard, S. T. P. prebendary of Westmin-

ster,/t succeeded in 1743, but next year was promoted to the see of Raphoe in Ireland./u

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/x Brother to lord Thurlow, late lord chancellor.

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

The cathedral church of Rochester is situated at a small distance from the south side of the middle of the High-street, within the antient gate of the priory.

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

The cathedral consists of a body and two isles, the length of it from the west door to the steps of the choir is fifty yards; at the entrance of the choir is the lower or great cross isle, the length of which is one hundred and twenty-two feet; from the steps of the choir to the east end of the church is fifty-two yards; at the upper end of the choir is another cross isle of the length of ninety feet. In the middle of the western cross isle, at the entrance of the choir, stands the steeple, which is a spire covered with lead, being one hundred and fifty-six feet in height, in which hang six bells. Between the two cross isles, on the north side without the church, stands an old ruined tower, no higher than the roof of the church. This is generally allowed to have been erected by bishop Gundulph, and there is a tradition of its having been called the bell tower, and of its having had five bells hanging in it; yet the better conjecture is, that it was first intended as a place of

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

The choir is upwards of five hundred and **seventy** years old, being first used at the consecration of Henry de Sandford in 1227. It is ornamented, as well as other parts of the church, with small pillars of Petworth marble, which however, as well as many of those in a neighbouring cathedral, have been injudiciously covered

with whitewash, and several of them with thick coats of 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 Wilcocks.

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

At the north end of the upper cross isle, near the pulpit, is a chapel, called St. 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.

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At the south-east corner of the opposite cross isle is an arched door-way, richly carved and ornamented with a variety of figures, which formerly led to the chapter-house of the priory, in the room of which there is erected a small mean room, which is made use of as a chapter-house and library; for the increase of this library, the same as was intended at Canterbury; every new dean and prebendary gives a certain sum of money at their admission towards the increase of books in it, instead of making an entertainment, as was formerly the custom. In this library is that well known and curious MSS. called the Textus Roffensis, compiled chiefly by bishop Ernulfus in the 12th century, which was published by Thomas Hearne, from a copy in the Surrenden library. During the troubles in the last century, this MSS. was conveyed into private hands, nor could the dean and chapter after the restoration, for two years, discover where it was; and at last they were obliged to solicit the court of chancery for a decree to recover it again. Since which they have been once more in great danger of being deprived of it; for Dr. Harris, having borrowed it for the use of his intended history of this county, sent it up to London by water, and the vessel being by the badness of the weather overset, this MSS. lay for some hours under water before it was discovered, which has somewhat damaged it.

There is also another antient MSS. here, entitled Custumale Roffense, thought by some to be more antient than the other. Great part of this MSS. has been pub-



lished by Mr. Thorpe in a volume under that title.

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

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

In this front 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. Dean Newcombe left one hundred pounds towards the finishing of it. Against **the lower part** of this tower was the figure of bishop Gundulph, with his crozier in his hand; on the rebuilding of **which** it was replaced, but **the**

tower remains unfinished, at not half the height it was before, to the great disfigurement of the front of this church. Since which the tower at the opposite, or south-west corner, being ruinous, has likewise been taken down even with the roof of the church.

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

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

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

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

After the restoration dean Hardy took great pains to repair the whole of it, which was effected by means of the benefactions of the gentry of the county, and 7000l. added by the dean and chapter; notwithstanding which, time has so corroded and weakened every part

of this building, that its future existence for any length of time has been much feared, but this church has lately had every endeavour used, and great repairs have been made which it is hoped will secure it from the fatal ruin which has threatened it, the inside has been beautified, and being kept exceeding clean, it makes at this time a very pleasing appearance.

In this cathedral, among other monuments, inscriptions, &c. are the following: -- In the choir, within the altar rails on the south wall, under three small arches, are pictures of three bishops with their mitres and crosiers, now almost defaced, on the outside these arms, first, the see of Rochester; second, the priory of Canterbury; third, a cross quartier pierced azure; within the rails, under the north and south windows, are several stone coffins and other remains of bishops monuments, but no inscriptions or arms; on the north side the choir a large altar monument for bishop Lowe, on the south side of it, these arms on a bend, three wolves heads erased, and the same with the addition of those of the see of Rochester in the sinister chief point. In the chapel, north of the choir, under an arch in the north wall, a tomb, with the figure of a bishop, for Walter de Merton, put up in 1598, by Merton college, and having been demolished in the civil wars, after the death of Charles I. again repaired by them in 1662, on it are his arms, or, three chevrons party per pale argent and gules. At the east end a beautiful marble tomb for bishop Warner, obt. 1666; another for John Lee Warner, S. T. P. archdeacon, and the bishops nephew and heir, obt. 1679, put up by his son Henry Lee, arms, Lee and Warner quartered; a tablet for Lee Warner, esq. eldest son of the archdeacon, obt. 1698. In the chapel south of the choir, are three several defaced tombs of the antient bishops of Rochester; a memorial for Daniel Prat, A. M. son of dean Prat, and rector of Harrietsham, obt. 1723. In the nave, memorials for Christopher Allen, gent. John Gilman, A. M. prebendary, rector of Kingsdown, and vicar of St. Nicholas, Rochester, obt. 1710, Christopher, son of Richard Fogge, of Tilmanstone, esq. obt. 1708, being captain of the Rupert, and Mary

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his wife, obt. 1714, for Isaac Rutton, gent. and Mary his wife, obt. 1665; a monument and memorial for Francis Barrell, serjeant at law, obt. 1679, Anne his wife, 1707; another for Francis Barrell, esq. obt. 1724, Anne his wife, obt. 1717; a memorial for Anne, widow of Edmund Barrell, obt. 1710, on them the arms of Barrell ermine, on a chief sable, three talbots heads erased of the field, langued gules, with different quarterings and impalements. In the south isle, a monument for Richard Somers, gent. obt. 1682, erected by John his eldest son, arms, Somer, with impalements and quarterings. In the south cross isle, memorials for James Thurston, attorney at law, son of Hearne, and grandson of George, obt. 1695, and Mary his wife, obt. 1724, erected by his son Morrell Thurston; on the east wall a monument with his bust in an oval, for Sir Richard Head, bart. obt. 1689, put up by Sir Francis Head, bart. a hatchment for Mary, wife of captain Robert Wilford, obt. 1683, in the middle window

argent, a lion passant gules, between two cotizes azure, and the date 1664. In the north cross isle, memorials for Margaret, widow of John Pymm, gent. and daughter of Finch Dering, gent. of Charing, obt. 1684; for Augustine Cæsar, M. D. obt. 1683; on the east wall a monument for Augustine Cæsar, M. D. obt. 1677; on the east wall a monument for William Streaton, nine times mayor, and a good benefactor to this city, obt. 1609; in one of the north windows these arms, Barry of eight, or, and sable, eight martlets of the first. In the chapel of the Virgin Mary, south of the nave, a memorial for John Crompe, esq. eldest son of Benjamin Crompe, prebendary. obt. 1718; a monument for Benjamin Crompe, A. M. rector of Halstow, and prebendary, obt. 1663; a memorial for Frances, wife of Daniel Hill, prebendary, obt. 1706, arms, azure, a book expanded argent, garnished, or, between three cherubims of the 3d, with impalements; on a small brass plate in our lady's chapel, for Frances Hill, obt. 1729, placed by Daniel Hill, S. T. P. a monument for Robert Hill, third son of Daniel and Frances Hill, obt. 1729, erected by Thomas, his brother. In the nave, memorials for Ann and Frances, wives of Francis Barrell, esq. the former died 1734, the latter 1736; for Henry Barrell, son of Francis Barrell. serjeant at law, and chapter clerk, obt. 1754; for Catherine, daughter of William Upcott, esq. obt. 1727; for Jane, wife of Thomas Faunce, esq. and daughter of Edmund Barrell, prebendary, obt. 1759; for Francis, only son of Francis Barrell, esq. obt. 1755. In the south isle, memorials for John Benson, A. M. rector of Halstow, obt. 1753; for Robert Unitt, obt. 1738; Elizabeth, his wife, 1739, Robert, their son, 1754; for Edmund Strange, esq. obt. 1756; and Mary, his wife, 1760. In the south cross isle, a memorial for John Denne, D. D. archdeacon and prebendary, and rector of Lambeth, obt. 1767; a marble tablet for Morrell Thurstone, obt. unmarried, 1747; memorials for George Prat, A. M. curate of

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

At the south west corner of the precincts of the cathedral, bishop Gundulph separated a portion of ground for an habitation for himself and his successors; and though there is no particular mention of a palace for near eighty years after his death, yet there is the strongest reason to think he built himself one here at the time he re-edified the church and priory, with the offices belonging to it, when he separated his own maintenance from that of the monks, and lived

no longer in common with them, as one family. Bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, who came to the see in 1185, is recorded to have rebuilt all that had been burned down of this palace by one of those dreadful fires which laid waste the greatest part of this city. What situation it remained in till the time of bishop Lowe, I have not discovered; but he seems to have rebuilt it, one of his instruments being dated from his new palace at Rochester, in the year 1459. But whether the building was not so substantial as it ought to have been, or that the six succeeding bishops being translated to better sees, the repair of it was neglected; it appears to have been but a cold and uncomfortable habitation when bishop Fisher resided here, in 1524; for Erasmus of Rotterdam, in his letter to him that year, complains of the bishop's want

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

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

This learned prelate and cardinal was the last who resided here; and after the Reformation, which soon followed, not only this house, but those belonging to the see at Halling and Trotescliffe, were let for terms of years, and forsaken for the palace at Bromley, in this county, as a pleasanter spot, and more convenient habitation for the bishops of this see. The tenements which are now standing on this scite, on the south side of the College-green, were erected, as is supposed, by those who obtained a grant of it during the civil wars, before which it must have been in a deplorable situation, as appears by the return of the survey made by the parliamentary commissioners in 1647, as follows -- The scite of the palace, containing one great messuage, called the palace, where the bishop's court is held; four rooms in the tenure of Bathe; a gallery, divided into two rooms and four chambers; the ward, a prison, wash-house, kitchen, three rooms, an orchard, and one garden, John Walter, steward, with the office of bailiff and beadle to all the manors, except Bromley and the keeping of the gaol, granted by patent for life: **The extended rents of all which were only 12l. 13s. 4d.** The prison, which was formerly

a part of these buildings, at the west end of them, has been disused for more than **thirty** years; and near the spot where it stood, an office for the register of the diocese was erected, at the charge of bishop Pearce, in 1760.

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

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

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

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

This bishopric is not only distinguished from almost every other in the kingdom, by the narrowness of its district, but likewise for the slenderness of its revenues. Before the conquest the revenues of it were not a sufficient maintenance for the bishop and four or five secular priests; and after bishop Gundulf had received from archbishop Lanfranc, the manors and lands, part of the antient possessions of this see, which had been recovered from Odo, **the great** bishop of Baieux, at the famous assembly at Pinenden, and had gained others back again of which it had been deprived, he allotted so large a part of the revenues of his church to the priory, when he separated his own from those of the monks, that his successors were much impoverished by it, and would have been more so, had not bishop Gilbert de Glanvill disputed their title to them, and recovered many of these manors and churches to his see, for the use of himself and his successors: and yet after all this, the income of the bishop of Rochester was so slender, that the bishops were compelled to retire for good part of the

year to some of their palaces in the country, with a few attendants, nor could they afford to attend the

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

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

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

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

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

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on his performing his fealty to him, as the archbishop in his turn did the like for this bishopric to the king. In **these** times the archbishops and bishops of

this realm usually kept their kennels of hounds, as did the bishop of Rochester; at whose death, as appears by antient records, **this** kennel of hounds was rendered to the archbishop as a mortuary, so likewise was his palfrey, saddled and well caprisoned, and his silver cup; and to the king, sede vacante, under the name of, muta canum et multura.

For many years, though the monks of Rochester made some shew of electing a bishop, yet their choice was almost always made in conformity to the archbishop's Congé de liré till the year 1235, when the archbishop refusing to confirm the election of Richard de Wendover, as not being nominated by him, the monks appealed to Rome, and the pope confirmed their choice, and prohibited the archbishop from interfering any more in the elections of the bishops of this see. This did not however secure to the monks that freedom of election they contended for, though the archbishop could not interfere, yet the pope assumed the privilege he had deprived the archbishop of; and from the time above mentioned, for the space of one hundred years and upwards, there were only two bishops of this see that were not advanced to it by the plenitude of the papal power, the succession to it being provided for by the usual method of the bull of papal provision. In which situation the patronage of it continued till the 25th year of king Henry VIII. when, by an act then passed, the election of this bishop, as well as the others in this realm, was to be made by the dean and chapter, on receiving the king's Congé de liré, with which a letter was to be sent, containing the name of the person they should elect and choose; in which method the election of the bishops of this see continue to be made at this time.

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#### A LIST OF THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER.

Justus, one of the companions of St. Augustine, at his first coming hither, was made by him the first bishop of this church, in 604, soon after the building of it, and he seems to have been a person eminent for his holiness and integrity of life. On the death of king Ethelbert, which happened in 616, Eadbald his son succeeded him in the kingdom of Kent, and immediately forsook the Christian religion; after which the torrent of infidelity ran so high, that Justus was obliged to abdicate his see, and retire to France,



from whence he came back on the conversion of king Eadbald again to Christianity, and exercised his pastoral office here till 624, when, on the death of Mellitus, he was translated to the see of Canterbury./c He appointed

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

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

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

Ithamar, a Kentish man born, and the first of this nation that had been made a bishop, was advanced by archbishop Honorius to this see, one who was not at all inferior to any of his predecessors, either in piety or learning. He died in 655, and was buried in the body of this church, whence on account of the many miracles said to be wrought at his tomb, his relics were removed and enshrined by bishop Gundulph; this shrine was afterwards repaired and much ornamented by bishop John, who believed himself cured of a distemper in his eyes by touching these relics; on these accounts he was canonized.

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

Putta was ordained bishop by archbishop Theodore, who, though well skilled in the discipline of the church, was contented with a private station, for which he was more fit than to encounter the times in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dioran succeeded him, and was bishop in 778.

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

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

Tadnoth, and to him again

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

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

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

Cutherwulf was bishop in 868.

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

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

Cheolmund probably succeeded, and to him

Chineferth, who died before the year 955.

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

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

Godwyn III. was the next bishop, and seems to have been the same who was taken prisoner with archbishop Alphege, when Canterbury was surren-

dered to the Danes, in 1011, and who is mentioned in a letter of king Edward the Confessor, as bishop of

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

Siward, abbot of Chertsey, was consecrated bishop in 1058; before which, from the death of Godwyn, this see being impoverished by a variety of misfortunes continued destitute of a pastor. This bishop was present at the synod begun at Winchester, in 1072, and is reported to have died in 1075; whenever that event happened, he certainly left his church in a miserable state of poverty, and in want of every thing, as well within as without; for there were at that time only four secular canons in it, who were forced to live on scanty food, each meal of which was either begged or bought at the time, and were clothed in a common lay habit.

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

Gundulph, a monk of the same monastery of Bec, was by archbishop Lanfranc's means advanced to **the** bishopric in 1077, who turned the secular priests out of this priory, and filled it with monks of the Benedictine order./e (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 archbishop rebuilt the church from the foundation, and enlarged the priory, both which at that time were hastening to ruin, and though he did not live to finish them, yet the future greatness and prosperity of both were owing to him.

/e See Harl. MSS. No. 261-5. Hist. Rochester, p. 116.

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He removed the bodies of his predecessors, which had been buried here, into some part of his new fabric; he inclosed the remains of his predecessor, St. Paulinus, in a shrine of silver, at which such considerable of-

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

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

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

<sup>/f</sup> Vita Gundulfi in Bib. Cott. Nero, A viii. Ang Sacr. p. 333.

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

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

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

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

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

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Walter, archdeacon of Canterbury, succeeded him, being consecrated in 1147. He was brother to archbishop Theobald, who being present, nominated and presented him to the monks of Rochester, assembled in the chapter house of Canterbury, to be by them elected bishop, according to ancient custom, by which the new bishop was likewise obliged, before his consecration, to swear fealty to the church and archbishop of Canterbury, and that he would not endeavour or consent that they should be deprived of their rights over this church, and that the pastoral staff of the deceased bishop ought to be brought to the altar of Christ church by the monks of Rochester, and that during the vacancy of the see of Canterbury, or absence of the archbishop, the bishop of Rochester ought to perform the episcopal services in the church of Canterbury, as the right and peculiar chaplain of the said church, whenever he should be called upon by the convent for that purpose. In 1170, he was present with other bishops, and assisted at the coronation of Henry, eldest son of king Henry II. for which he was excommunicated by archbishop Becket. He was much addicted to hunting; and when he was

in his eightieth year, Peter Blesensis wrote his fifty-sixth Epistle to him, to persuade him to leave it off. He died, when he had sat almost thirty-five years, in 1182.

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

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

Gilbert de Glanvill, archdeacon of Lisieux, for their bishop, who was **accordingly** consecrated. Soon after his coming to the see, he demanded from them many of the manors and possessions which his predecessor, bishop Gundulph had given to them, which he alleged had belonged to his see, which was greatly impoverished by his granting them away from it. This occasioned a dispute, which was carried on with uncommon heat and violence for some years; but the monks were in the end obliged to submit to his clemency, and award in every thing they had 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 per-

haps with less reluctance, as this saint began now to be not so much regarded in comparison of St. William, who having undertaken a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, had been, as they termed it, martyred on **the 23d of May, 1201**, on the high road beyond Chatham, in his journey towards Canterbury, and his body having been brought back to Rochester, was solemnly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, in 1229. But a great dispute arose concerning the right of performing this ceremony, the bishop of Rochester claiming it, as chaplain of the church of Canterbury, and the bishop of Bath, as the senior bishop of the province. After much altercation they compromised the matter; the bishop of Rochester consecrated the archbishop, and the bishop of Bath the other two. King Henry III. and many of the nobility being present at the ceremony. He died in 1235, and was buried in his own church.

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

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holiness of life was buried in the abbey church of Westminster, by the king's especial command./1

Laurence de St. Martin, chaplain and counsellor to king Henry III. and archdeacon of Coventry and Litchfield, was elected bishop by the monks in 1250, and was consecrated accordingly. In 1256 he was at Rome, and then obtained the canonization of St. William the Martyr, at whose tomb many miracles had been said to be wrought, from the time of his being buried in this church. Probably William's body was at this time removed into the north end of the upper cross isle, and a suitable tomb erected over it. What remains of it at present near the tomb of bishop Merton, consists of a large coffin of Petworth marble, decorated with ancient ornaments. The pope likewise granted indulgences to all such as should offer at this tomb, which so

increased the numbers of pilgrims and devotees, that the church reaped a **good** harvest from them, even to the time of the dissolution of the priory.

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

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

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

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

/m He had been prebendary of St. Paul's and of Exeter. **New-combe's** Repert. vol. i. p. 159.

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

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

monks elected John de Kyrkeby, archdeacon of Coventry, but he renounced it by an instrument **soon afterwards**, on which they elected

Thomas de Inglethorp, dean of St. Paul's, London, who was confirmed and afterwards consecrated by the archbishop at Canterbury that year. He had the character of being worthy, mild and affable, of a cheerful disposition, and given to hospitality. He died **in** 1291, and was buried with all due solemnity in his own church, near the high altar, on the south side./n

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

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

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

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

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probably exceeded his whole yearly income, greatly distressed him; it appears he was not able to discharge the debt of it for near a year and an half after his consecration, nor was this the only difficulty he had to struggle with; the buildings of his palaces and manor-houses were not only ruinous, but were despoiled of the stock, implements of husbandry and furniture, which ought to have remained in them. Thus embarrassed, he retired, with a very small family, and not having a sufficiency for the support of his few domestics, the clergy of his diocese supplied him with provisions and money, the proportion of which amounted to twelve pence in every marc of the annual value of their 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 one hundred and twenty pounds, the lofty front of the palace, and **and** great part of the walls, the chapel and dining-room, and likewise the neighbouring mill at Holborough, and that at Borstall; and at Trottescliff he built a dining-room for himself, another for his clerks, and a kitchen, and surrounded the whole with walls; he endowed and augmented several vicarages, and was a good benefactor to this church, to the several buildings of the convent, to the re-edifying of which he gave large sums at different times; and what they esteemed more than all, presented them with a costly mitre of St. Thomas Becket, which he had purchased of the executors of the bishop of Norwich. He founded an hospital for ten poor persons at Hith, the place of his birth, and endowed it with rents of twenty marcs per annum. Being grown old and decrepit, and weighed down with numberless afflictions, he requested the pope to take the resignation of his bishopric, but this seems to have been refused; for he died in possession of it three years afterwards, and was buried in this church, by the north wall.

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John de Shepey, prior of Rochester, was nominated

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

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

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

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

/o Godwin, p. 532. Wharton, p. 378. Hist. Rochester, p. 148.

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Thomas de Brinton to this bishopric. He was doctor of the decretals, and had been some time a benedictine monk at Norwich. He had travelled much, and arriving at Rome he preached several learned sermons in Latin before the Pope; for which and other exercises, in which he discovered great abilities, he was much admired, and became very famous. Pope Urban made him his penitentiary, and afterwards advanced him to this see as above-mentioned; after which he became confessor to king Richard II. and a great benefactor to the English hospital at Rome. He died in 1389, and

was buried, according to some, near his predecessor in St. Mary's chapel in this church; but according to others, in the church of Seal in this county. On his death the monks elected John Barnet, but the pope rejected him, and in his room appointed by his bull of provision

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

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

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

/p Godwin, p. 533. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 378, 379.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



built his palace at Rochester; he died in the latter end of the year 1467, and was buried under a marble tomb near that of bishop Walter de Merton in his own church.

Thomas Scot, LL. D. surnamed afterwards Rothe-ram, from the place of his birth in Yorkshire, was the

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

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next bishop of this see, he was educated at King's college, and was master of Pembroke-hall, and prebendary of Lincoln. King Edward IV. gave him the provostship of Beverly, made him keeper of his privy seal, and bishop of Rochester in 1468, in which year he was one of the king's ambassadors to France. He was translated from hence to Lincoln in 1471./r

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Fisher, S. T. P. succeeded him. He was born of a gentleman's family at Beverly, in Yorkshire, where he received his first education, and was sent from thence to St. Michael's-hall, Cambridge, now part of Trinity college, and succeeded at length to the government of it, and in 1504 and 1514, was chancellor of **the** university, in which first year, he had been deservedly for his care in that office, promoted to the mastership of Queen's college. The fame of his singular erudition increasing, Margaret, countess of Richmond, made him her chaplain, and it was through his means that she founded those two magnificent colleges, Christ's and St. John's, in Cambridge, and endowed them liberally, and settled a yearly stipend for ever on the divinity professor in both universities. He was nominated by the king in 1504, to this bishopric, the pope's bull of provision bearing date that year, **as well as** his licence for consecration without the church of Canterbury. He was a man of uncommon learning, far beyond most other divines of his time, and of a sanctity of life which approached near that of the apostolic

times. In 1508 he resigned his mastership of Queen's college, on the death of **the** countess of Richmond, who left the whole care of finishing her foundation of St. John's college to him; this he happily completed, and not only increased its revenues himself, but gave it afterwards one of the best furnished libraries of the

time, which, however, it was deprived of. He had formed likewise a design of founding at his own proper cost, a third college at Cambridge. In 1512, he was deputed by the English bishops to the council of Lateran. Bishop Fisher is thought to have been the principal composer of that refutation of the tenets of Luther, which king Henry VIII. is supposed to have written, and which in 1521 was presented in his name to the pope; as a reward for which, the pontiff dignified him with the title of defender of the faith. About the year 1530, the bishop and his whole family nearly escaped being poisoned, one John Rouse, his cook, having thrown some poison into a pot of gruel, which was prepared not only for the bishop and his family, but the neighbouring poor; seventeen persons were poisoned, of which, however, all recovered except two, who died of it. This occasioned the act, passed that year, to punish those who were guilty of the crime of wilful poisoning, by throwing them into boiling water./s

**The bishop** warmly opposed the king's divorce, and his marriage afterwards with Anne Bullen; and what was amazing for a man of his learning and abilities, he in 1534 countenanced, though with others of superior rank and equal abilities, the imposture of Elizabeth Barton, the nun, commonly called the holy maid of Kent; but he made his peace with the king, by presenting him with what was then thought to be one year's produce of his bishopric, viz. three hundred pounds. Next year, refusing to swear to the act of the king's supremacy, he was, together with Sir Thomas More,

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

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the chancellor, sent to the tower, and an act of attainder passed against him, and being cast in a præmunire, his bishopric was declared vacant. In the mean time the bishop was hardly used; for his goods being seized, he had little left but rags to cover him, and was as ill supplied with diet and other necessaries. At last, to make an example that should make the boldest tremble, the king resolved to give both bishop Fisher and Sir Thomas More up to the rigor of the law. To this end the bishop was required again to take the oath of supremacy, which he refused, as it was supposed he would: about the same time pope Paul III. to reward his fidelity to the church of Rome, raised him to the dignity of a cardinal. This, in all likelihood, might hasten his death, and being condemned he was beheaded on

Tower-hill, on June 22, 1535, a month after his being made cardinal, and some days before the hat sent by the pope arrived in England. He suffered in the 80th year of his age; his head was afterwards set on London bridge, and his body buried in Barking church-yard, and afterwards removed to the tower./t Far unlike many of his predecessors, as well as successors in this see, but following the rule of the primitive church, he would never change this bishopric for a better, saying frequently, his church was his wife, and he would never part with her, because she was poor.

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

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

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

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

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

Nicholas Ridley, S. T. P. was a native of Northumberland, and became first fellow, and afterwards master of Pembroke-hall, in Cambridge, after which he was prebendary of Canterbury and Westminster, vicar of

Herne, and of Soham in Cambridgeshire, and was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1547, and translated to London in 1550. He was afterwards in the reign of queen Mary, in 1555, burnt at Oxford, at the same stake with bishop Latimer./y

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and discourses in divinity.

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

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

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

John Bowle, S. T. P. formerly fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and then dean of Salisbury, was his successor in this see, being consecrated in 1629.



He died **in** 1637, and was buried in St. Paul's cathedral, London.

John Warner, S. T. P. was elected bishop of Rochester, **that year**, and was consecrated **accordingly**. He had been fellow of Magdalen college, Oxford, **rector** of St. Michael, Crooked-lane, and of St. Dionis Backchurch. Archbishop Abbot gave him a prebend at Canterbury, by which means he afterwards became rector of Bishopsborne, and was **soon after** nominated to the deanry of Litchfield. At this period, he stood forth a zealous defender of the constitution, both **in church and state**; and he was the last bishop who exerted his eloquence to preserve the right of his order to sit in parliament. Not long before the death of king Charles I. bishop Warner, by the king's command, wrote a treatise against the ordinance for the sale of church lands, and he afterwards published several sermons against the murder of the king, at his

/d An account of his life was published at London, 8vo. 1712. Godwin, 539. History of Rochester, 165.

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own no small hazard: but what arguments or discourses could avail when justice, equity, and reason, were grown odious to the times; the tide of fanaticism and rebellion swept away all that was desirable by good men, and every thing submitted to superior force. In this general ruin the bishop and his brethren were despoiled not only of their spiritual dignities and revenues, but of much of their private fortunes, and the king himself fell a sacrifice to the merciless rage of enthusiasts, and the then wicked designs of the worst of men. **This** bishop was one of those nine **prelates** who lived to see the re-establishment of both church and state, being at that time about seventy-seven years of age. He does not seem to have held any benefice in commendam, yet as well before as after the Restoration he shewed the piety and munificence of his disposition, and few instances have of late times been found of persons devoting such large sums to pious and charitable uses; for before his re-establishment he distributed 8000l. among necessitous clergymen, who had been ejected from their preferments. He expended 700l. in making and repairing **the** beautiful and elegant font in the cathedral of Canterbury, of which church he had been a member; and he bequeathed 500l. more to the dean and chapter there for books in their new erected library. His gift and le-

gacy, towards the repair of his own cathedral, amount-  
ed to 1000l. and in his will he added 50l. to a like  
benefaction of 1000l. which he had formerly made to  
the repair of the church of St. Paul, London. He  
had before his death presented Magdalen college, Ox-  
ford, with 1300l. for books, and he left to that so-  
ciety 50l. more to be applied to the same use. He  
founded four scholarships in Baliol college; he be-  
queathed 2000l. for purchasing impropriations to-  
wards the augmentation of the smallest vicarages in  
it. He gave liberally towards the redeeming of cap-  
tives out of slavery in Barbary; and lastly, what will

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

John Dolben, S. T. P. was elected bishop of this see  
in 1666, and was consecrated at Lambeth. He was  
a native of Northamptonshire, and was a student of  
Christ church, of which he was deprived by the par-  
liamentary visitors, on the breaking out of the civil  
war. He afterwards served as ensign in the royal ar-  
my, at the battle of Marston-moor, and was much  
wounded at the siege of York. In 1656, he took  
orders, and on the Restoration was well rewarded by  
the king for his past sufferings and loyalty; for he was  
immediately appointed clerk of the closet, and was  
installed canon of Christ church, Oxford; then pre-  
bend of Caddington Major in the church of St. Paul;  
archdeacon of London; vicar of St. Giles's, Cripple-  
gate; and dean of Westminster; he was also almoner  
to the king, and rector of Newington, in Oxfordshire.  
After his advancement to this see, he held his dean-  
ry above mentioned in commendam with it, and in  
1683, he was translated to the archbishopric of York.  
He was a person of genius and abilities, and left be-  
hind him the character of being a worthy good man.

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

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

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

Thomas Spratt, S. T. P. was his successor, being elected **that same year**. He was a native of Dorsetshire, and became fellow of Wadham college, **then prebendary** of Carlton cum Thurleby, in the church of Lincoln **and** of Westminster; **he was** afterwards presented to the living of St. Margaret's, Westminster; and made canon of Windsor. These preferments he quitted on his promotion to the deanry of Westminster, and had on his election to this see licence to hold it in commendam. After the accession of king James he was appointed clerk of the closet, and dean of the chapel royal. About the latter end of the year 1692, the bishop and several other persons of distinction were charged with treason, by three men, who had forged an association under their hands, and then one of these villains contrived to drop it in one of the bishop's parlours at Bromley, that it might be found there by the king's messengers. He then laid an information against him, and the paper being discovered, he was put under confinement; but the forgery appeared so gross, that the bishop was immediately discharged. He died of an apoplexy, at his palace of Bromley, **in 1713, aged** seventy-seven, and was interred in Westminster abbey, where there is a monument, with an elegant inscrip-

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tion by bishop Smalridge, erected to his memory. He was a person of great sharpness of wit, and had

that elegance of 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 sufficient proof.

Lewis Atterbury, S. T. P. was his successor in this see, being elected **in** 1743, and consecrated **soon afterwards**. He was a younger son of Dr. Lewis Atterbury, prebendary of Lincoln and rector of Milton Keynes, in Buckinghamshire, in which parish he was born. He was elected from Westminster school to Christ church, where he distinguished himself as an able and strenuous advocate for **the** present church establishment. His fine genius, improved by study, with a noble spirit to exert his talents, could not remain long unnoticed; and he was, soon after his leaving the university, appointed chaplain to king William and queen Mary. He was afterwards appointed preacher at Bridewell and lecturer of St. Bride's. In 1700 he was presented to the archdeaconry of Totness, and **then** made a canon residentiary of the church of Exeter; which preferments seem to have been in reward for his 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 queen Anne, he was appointed one of her chaplains, **then** installed dean of Carlisle, and presented to the rectory of Shepperton; he was **afterwards** made preacher of the Rolls, and the next year chosen speaker of the Lower House of Convocation; in 1711 he was promoted to the deanery of Christ church, and two years afterwards was ad-

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vanced to this see, as has been **before**-mentioned, and had licence to hold the deanry of Westminster in commendam with it, as his predecessor had done before; and had a vacancy happened during the queen's life, it is generally imagined, he would have been translated to the see of Canterbury.

From the personal marks of disrespect which were shewn to the bishop by king George I. immediately on his accession, his resentment was stimulated to oppose the measures of the court constantly in the house of

lords. His uncommon abilities, joined to an unceasing assiduity, had rendered him a troublesome antagonist to the ministry, at the time when he was accused of holding a treasonable correspondence, and as no punishment could be inflicted on him by the laws then in being, it was resolved to make a special law to deprive him of his preferments, and to sentence him to perpetual banishment. The bill to inflict these pains and punishments on the bishop of Rochester, received the royal assent **in 1723**, and **within a month afterwards** he embarked and landed at Calais. While in exile the bishop resided principally at Paris, and died **there in 1732**. His body was brought over to England, and privately interred in a vault, which he had prepared before his banishment, in Westminster-abbey. On the urn which contained his bowels was inscribed, In hac urna depositi sunt cineres Francisci Atterbury, Episcopi Roffensis; but there is no memorial over his grave./f

Samuel Bradford, S. T. P. was on the above deprivation translated from the see of Carlisle hither, being elected **in 1723**, and as his predecessor had done, held the deanry of Westminster in commendam with it. He was a native of London, and was of Benet college, but quitted the university without taking a degree, intending to follow the profession of physic; the design of which he soon relinquished, and afterwards procured,

/f Godwin, p. 541. Hist. Rochester, p. 185 et seq.

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by means of archbishop Sancroft, a royal mandate for the degree of master of arts. After the revolution he took orders, and in the beginning of the year **1691**, was appointed minister of the church belonging to St. Thomas's hospital, Southwark, and was collated by the archbishop to the rectory of St. Mary le Bow. He was nominated preacher of Boyle's lecture, **and on** queen Anne's visiting the university of Cambridge, in 1705, he was, with several others, created doctor of divinity; he was made a prebendary of Westminster, and in 1710 nominated to the bishopric of St. David's, and he was given to understand that he should keep his prebend in commendam with that see; but by a change of times, which soon after followed, this favor was not only refused, but he was not even to be permitted to keep his rectory of Bow, and this, from the circumstances of his family, obliged him to decline the bishopric; **after which** he was elected master of Benet college, advanced to the see of Carlisle, and in 1723 to this of Ro-

chester, as has been **before**-mentioned. He died at the deanry of Westminster **in** 1731, in his 79th year, and his remains were deposited in Westminster abbey. On the west wall of the north cross of that church, not far from the place of his interment, there is a monument erected to his memory./g

Joseph Wilcocks, S. T. P. succeeded to this see, being translated from the bishopric of Gloucester **in** 1731, and at the same time appointed dean of Westminster, and allowed to hold **it** in commendam. He was of Magdalen college, Oxford, after which he became chaplain to the factory at Lisbon, and on his return from thence was appointed chaplain to king George I. and preceptor to the Prince of Wales's daughters, and in 1721 was made a prebendary of Westminster, and advanced to the bishopric of Gloucester, where he repaired the episcopal palace, which had been uninhabited for a consi-

/g Godwin, p. 542. Hist. Rochester, p. 191 et seq.

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derable time before. The magnificent western front of Westminster abbey, which was finished chiefly under his care, may be considered as a splendid monument of his zeal in promoting the welfare of that church. Though the revenues of this bishopric were so small, yet he declined any higher promotion, though he was offered the archbishopric of York, frequently using the expression of his predecessor, bishop Fisher: This church is my wife, and I will not part with her because she is poor.

He was a person endowed with many virtues, both public and private, of great innocence and cheerfulness of manners, and of a disposition ever desirous of doing good to all. He was a continual patron to Bromley college, whilst he lived, and constantly resided at Bromley palace, where he laid out much money in the repair and improvement of it. The fatigue of his last visitation of his diocese probably shortened his days, for he died quickly afterwards, **in** 1756, being then about eighty-two years of age,/h and was buried **at** Westminster abbey, where an elegant monument is erected to his memory.

Zachary Pearce, S. T. P. was his successor, as well in his bishopric as his deanry. He was fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and was presented to the rectory of Stapleford Abbats, in Essex, and next year to that of St. Bartholomew, behind the Exchange, which he resigned in 1723, **for** the vicarage of St. Martin in

the Fields. He was afterwards made dean of Winchester, and was elected prolocutor of the lower house of convocation; in 1747 he was advanced to the see of Bangor, and held the vicarage of St. Martin's in commendam with it, till his translation to this bishopric.

In 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;

/g Godwin, p. 542. Hist. Rochester, p. 195 et seq.

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but his request was not thought proper to be complied with. Neither the request, nor the refusal can be well accounted for. The bishop died, advanced in years, at his house at Ealing, in Middlesex, where he chiefly resided in winter, in 1774, and was buried at Bromley, having been in his life-time a good benefactor to the college there. He was a person of much learning, and of distinguished taste and judgment, and his numerous publications, both as a divine and a critic, have sufficiently proved the truth of this assertion.

John Thomas, LL. D. rector of Blechingley, in Surry, who had succeeded bishop Pearce, in his deanry of Westminster, in 1768, likewise succeeded him in this bishopric in 1774. He died at Bromley palace, on August 22, 1793, having bequeathed by his will, among other benefactions, one thousand pounds to Christ church, and the like sum to Queen's college, in Oxford. He was buried in a vault at Blechingley, in Surry.

Samuel Horsley, S. T. P. succeeded him in this bishopric, as well as in the deanry of Westminster, in the October following, being at that time bishop of St. David's, and vicar of South Weald, in Essex, which he held in commendam with it, but then resigned. <+> He is the present bishop of this see, and the 91st in succession from the first erection of it by St. Augustine, in the year 604.

The arms of the see of Rochester are, Argent, on a saltier gules, an escallop shell or.

The diocese of Rochester has in it one archdeaconry, stiled, the Archdeaconry of Rochester, which is valued in the king's books at 34l. 14s. 9½d. and the yearly tenths at 3l. 9s. 5¾d./i

/i Ect. Thes. p. 381. See Le Neve's Fasti, p. 253. Registrum Roffense, p. 7.

## A LIST OF THE ARCHDEACONS OF ROCHESTER.

Anschtillus, who enjoyed this dignity about the year 1089.

Herewyse, in the reign of king Henry I.

Robert Pull was admitted to it about the year 1140.

Paris was archdeacon in 1176/k, on the resignation of the former.

Roger de Weseham, about 1238; he was also dean of Lincoln, and resigned this archdeaconry in 1245, on being made bishop of Litchfield and Coventry./l

William de Trippolaw, about 1245.

William de Sancto Martino, about 1267. He died in 1274.

John de Sancto Dionysio, in 1280. He was one of the king's chaplains, master of the rolls, and rector of Bodiham, in the diocese of Norwich.

Roger Lovel enjoyed this dignity in 1307.

William Read was archdeacon of this diocese, and was made bishop of Chichester, in 1369.

Roger Denford possessed it in 1395.

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

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

Henry Sharpe, LL. D. in 1486.

Henry Edyall was archdeacon in 1495. He had been collated to the prebend of Gala Minor, in the church of Litchfield, in 1480./m

Nicholas Metcalfe, S. T. P. succeeded him. He was prebendary of Lincoln, and rector of Woodham Ferrers; he was master of St. John's college, Cambridge, at the time of his death in 1537.

/k He was the pope's nephew. /l Willis's Cath. v. i. p. 387.

/m He was one of the executors of archbishop Morton's will. Somn. Cant. part ii. p. 158.

Maurice Griffith succeeded **that year**, and resigned this preferment in 1554, on his being made bishop of this see.

John Bridgewater succeeded **in** 1560, being then rector of Wotton Courtney; he was afterwards rector of Lincoln college, rector of Luccomb, canon 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.

John Calverly, of All Souls college, succeeded in 1574, and dying in 1576, was buried at Beckenham, of which church he was rector.

Ralph Pickover, S. T. P. of Christ-church, Oxford, was installed **in** 1576. He was sub almoner to the queen, and in 1580 was preferred to a canonry of Christ-church, Oxford, and afterwards to the archdeaconry of Salisbury, on which he resigned this dignity, and was succeeded by

Thomas Staller, S. T. P. and rector of Alhallows, Lombard-street, was installed **in** 1593. He died in 1606.

Thomas Sanderson, S. T. P. of Baliol college, Oxford, was installed **in** 1606.

Richard Tillesley, S. T. P. and rector of Stone and of Cookstone, was the next archdeacon. He died in 1721, and was buried in Rochester cathedral.

Elizeus Burgess, S. T. P. was installed **in** 1621, during whose time king Charles I. by his letters patent **in** 1636, annexed the sixth stall, or prebend of the church of Rochester, to this archdeaconry; of which, as well as his other preferments, he was deprived in the time of the troubles by the fanatics. He was also prebendary of Ely, vicar of Canewdon, in Essex, and rector of Southfleet. He died in 1652, and was probably buried at Southfleet./n

/n Willis's Cathedrals, vol. ii. p. 382.

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John Lee, S. T. P. had this dignity conferred on him in 1660. He was the son of Thomas Lee, of London, by Anne, **sister** of John Warner, bishop of Rochester, and wrote himself afterwards Lee, alias Warner. He died **in** 1679.

Thomas Plume, S. T. P. was installed **in** 1679. He was likewise vicar of East Greenwich. He died **in** 1704, æt. 74, and lies buried in Longfield church-yard, having bequeathed the greatest part of his considerable property to charitable uses. /o

Thomas Spratt, A. M. succeeded in 1704. He was son of the bishop of this see of the same name. He was likewise prebendary of the churches of Winchester and Westminster, rector of Stone, and vicar of Boxley. He died **in** 1720, and was buried near his father in Westminster abbey.

Henry Brydges, S. T. P. brother of James, duke of

Chandos, was appointed his successor in 1720, and died in 1728. He was rector of Agmondesham.

Samuel Bradford, A. M. son of the bishop of this see, succeeded him, being appointed the same year. He was rector of Newcastle upon Tyne, and died within a month afterwards.

John Denne, S. T. P. was appointed his successor. He was rector of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and afterwards of Lambeth; both which he held at his decease. He died in 1767, æt. 74, and lies buried in this cathedral.

John Law, S. T. P. was his successor, and is the present archdeacon of this diocese. He was vicar of Shorne, in this county, which he resigned in 1776, and now holds the rectory of Westmill, with that of Much Easton, and the perpetual curacy of Chatham, in this diocese.

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

/o See vol. 1st of this History, p. 411. vol. ii. p. 391, 442.

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las'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 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 Horsecwash-lane. The east end, or chancel, is visible; the south wall, or part of it, is now the front of three houses almost in a line northward from Bridge-lane, and the north wall forms the back of these houses. The width of the church does not appear to have been above forty feet. There was in it a row of pillars and arches, extending from east to west, at about fourteen from the north wall, making a narrow isle; two of these pillars and one arch are still to be seen, in one of the houses above-mentioned. Adjoining to the north wall of the church was the church-yard, which in 1580 was become private property, as appears from an entry in the court-roll; and according to another minute in the same, the garden of the parsonage was situated at no great distance from the mill-ditch and the north wall of the city.

This church was a rectory, of which John Harrope was the last rector. He died in 1538; after which there does not seem to have been another rector collated to it, the parish being served by different curates.

The income of this rectory was become so trifling at the reformation, by the abolishing of masses, obits, and such other profits, which before perhaps made up a considerable part of the rector's slender maintenance, that it was no longer worth any one's while to accept of it. It never was in charge for first-fruits or tenths, nor was it, as far as appears, ever subject to an assessment, except of 1s. in 1533, towards defraying the

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expence of a proctor in convocation./p In these circumstances it was united to the adjoining parish of St. Nicholas, by the act of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. passed for this purpose.

The parish of St. Mary was situated without the eastern gate of the city. The church was in being in the time of the Saxons, anno 850; for that year Ethelwulf, king of the West Saxons, and Ethelstan, king of Kent, gave to duke Ealhere, a small piece of land, called Healve Aker, in the eastern district, without the wall of the city of Rochester, in the southern part of it; in which land there was a church, dedicated in honor of St. Mary the Virgin.

When this church was desecrated, I have not found, nor any further mention of it; but am informed there is a part of the suburb of Eastgate which claims to be extra-parochial; most probably it was part of the parish of St. Mary.

The parish of St. Nicholas, the only one at present within this city, appears to have been a parochial district before the conquest. It certainly was so in the time of bishop Gundulph, who came to this see in 1076, though there was no church belonging to it for some centuries after; but in lieu of it, the parishioners resorted to an altar in the cathedral, called the parochial altar of St. Nicholas; the officiating priest at which was appointed by the convent, and presented to the bishop./q

Walter, bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 1147, confirmed to the monks of the priory this parochial altar, together with the church of St. Margaret, which belonged as a chapel to it, and he **appropriated to them** all profits and obventions, as well of the altar as the chapel. This was certainly set aside by bishop

Gilbert de Glanvill, in the reign of king Richard I.

/p History of Rochester, p. 207, 209.

/q Reg. Roff. p. 6. History of Rochester, p. 201.

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who divested them of all profits and emoluments belonging to this altar. However, he reinstated them in their old accustomed pension of forty shillings yearly from it. By this means, the bishop recovered the patronage of this parish to the see of Rochester, where it has ever since remained.

This altar is supposed by many to have been placed in the large recess on the east side of the north great cross isle of the cathedral. It was certainly below the choir, and was removed from the place where it before stood by the monks, as appears by the judicial act made in 1312, by which the parishioners were allowed to perform their services at it, and they agreed, that whenever the prior and chapter should cause a proper church to be built for them elsewhere, they should then resort to it, as to their parish church, without any further claim in that, or any other place in the cathedral.

Notwithstanding this, the prior and chapter were so well satisfied at the altar's remaining in the cathedral, that for more than one hundred years no steps were taken towards it; but at length, in the reign of king Henry V. by the endeavours of bishop Richard Young, and by the interposition of archbishop Chicheley, the inhabitants were, by a composition, in 1421, suffered to finish a parochial church for themselves on the north side of the cemetery of the cathedral, the walls of which had been raised several years before, and the bishop by his instrument for this purpose further decreed, that the altar of St. Nicholas should be transferred to the church, when finished, as well as all parochial right, belonging to it; and that the church, when finished, from that time should be called the parish church and rectory of St. Nicholas, and not the vicarage, to the disburthening of his church, and of the prior and chapter; so that for the future all burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, especially as to the reparation and maintaining of the church, should belong to the rector and the parishioners of it, and not to the cathedral church,

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or the prior and chapter; to whom he reserved their accustomed yearly pension of forty shillings from the

vicar of the said altar; and he decreed, that the rector should take institution for it; and he reserved to himself the collation to it, whenever it should become vacant, &c.

From this decree the prior and chapter appealed to the archbishop, and alledged, that to the said altar united and annexed to the religious, there was one vicar received and admitted, who used to undergo and bear the care of the parishioners of it; and that the right of taking all parochial ecclesiastical rights, and especially all and all manner of tithes of every sort of corn, of mills and pastures, belonging to it, from the first foundation of the cathedral church did, and ought to belong to the prior and chapter, as rectors of the said altar, and as the superiors, and having the pre-eminence of the vicar in the right and name of their church, in which the altar was situated, of all which rights, parochial and ecclesiastical, they had been in possession beyond the memory of man; and that at all times the chaplain of it had been admitted under the name and stile of vicar, and in no wise as rector, nor had he ever carried himself as such; and lastly, that the ground on which the church was built was the proper soil belonging to them. **Upon which,** the archbishop, in 1421, decreed, with their consent, among many other regulations, that the parishioners should have leave to build their church, and should entirely finish it within three years, and from time to time to repair it afterwards; that they should renounce all right and title to the aforesaid altar, or to any other thing in the cathedral; and that the vicar of the said church, and the parishioners should for ever have free liberty to bury, without any interruption from, or leave asked of the prior and convent, either in the church, or in the cemetery south of it, and between that and the cathedral, vulgarly called Greenchurch Haw, or in the other ce-

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metry contiguous to the church, westward of the cathedral, as **it** was bounded by the walls and gates of the prior; and that the vicar, who before obtained institution, by the name of vicar of the altar, **before-mentioned,** should perform divine offices in this new-built church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, and should sustain the care of the parishioners, and by the name of the vicar of the church of St. Nicholas, within the precinct of the priory of Rochester, should be instituted and so nominated for the future, and that the parishioners

should repair the walls of the cemeteries at their own proper expence; and he decreed, that **the** vicar, and his successors, should pay for ever to the prior and convent the annual pension of forty shillings, and as to the taking of the tithes of gardens, rushes, mills, and other titheable things, arising within this parish, and the profits and commodities for **their** support, by which they might be enabled to support the burthens incumbent on them, the archbishop, on account of various and arduous matters by which he was then hindered, deferred determining the same, but reserved it to himself to make his decree concerning them, at his future leisure./r

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

No description is left of this church, which appears to have remained near two hundred years; but the building becoming ruinous, and in 1620 being judged incapable of being repaired, it was taken down, and a new one, which is now standing, was erected on the same spot.

This building was consecrated **on** Sept. 24, 1624, (as was an additional burying-ground the day following) by Dr. John Buckeridge, bishop of Rochester. It extends in length one hundred feet, and in breadth sixty

/r Registrum Roffensis, p. 560 et seq.

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feet; it consists of a nave and two isles. It is a substantial spacious church, **handsomely fitted up and ornamented**, and extremely well constructed for public worship; at the north-west angle of it is a tower steeple containing two bells.

The present altar-piece was given by Edward Bartholomew, esq. in 1706; he likewise gave for the use of the church two silver flaggons, and a patten of thirty pounds price. Edward Harlow, in 1609, gave a gilt cup. Francis Brooke, esq. in 1703, gave a large silver plate for the offerings at the sacrament; and Henry Austen, gent. gave two handsome large common-prayer books to be placed on the **altar**.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following -- In the chancel, a brass plate for Alice, daughter and heir of John Williams, of Stroud, first married to John Tucke, alderman; and secondly, to Thomas Robinson, regist. ob. 1574; a memorial for Robert Bayley, late minister of this parish, obt. 1701; in the north window, gules on a chevron, 3 crescents sable, and inscription, that the window was set up at the charge of

John Cobham, esq. and alderman in 1624; on a gravestone, south of the altar, are the arms of Austen, and under it a vault for that family, made by a faculty; a monument, arms, sable three fishes argent in pale, Barry, with the figures of a man and his three wives, for Thomas Rocke, gent. alderman, and four times mayor, obt. 1625; a monument, arms, three wolves heads coupéd, within a bordure sable, with the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a desk, for George Wilson, esq. twice mayor, obt. 1629, and Anne his wife, obt. 1630. In the nave, memorials for Elizabeth, first wife of Sir Robert Fane, only daughter of Norton Halke, gent. obt. 1661, and for Elizabeth, his second wife, eldest daughter of Richard Head, esq. obt. 1663; for Henry, son of Richard Head, esq. obt. 1673; for Barbara, wife of William Head alderman, obt. 1703; a monument for George Robinson, four times mayor, obt. 1657. In the south isle, against the south wall, a brass plate for Thomasine, daughter of William Watts, wife of Robert Hall, mayor, obt. 1575. In the north isle, a monument for Robert Conny, M. D. only son of John Conny, surgeon, and twice mayor, the son of Robert Conny, of Godmanchester, in Huntingdonshire, gent. he married Frances, daughter of Richard Manley, esq. of Holloway-court, they both died in 1723; a monument, arms, or, three goats heads erased sable, for Philip Bartholomew, gent. and Sarah his wife, who

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both died in 1696, placed by Leonard, their only surviving son; in the north window, sable, a chevron between three tuns argent, and a little lower Philpot./s

This parish is situated within the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The vicarage of St. Nicholas in 1291 was valued at five marcs. It is valued in the king's books at 20l. 8s. 9d. per annum, and the yearly tenths at 2l. 0s. 10½d. In 1649 the yearly value of it was returned at 59l. 6s. 8d. per annum./t

The bishop of Rochester continues patron of this vicarage.

A house was allotted to the vicars of it some centuries ago; it is situated not far from the free-school, and a piece of ground belonging to it extends to the north wall of the city. Some part of the old house was rebuilt by the late vicar, Mr. John Vade.

The pension of forty shillings due from the vicar of the parochial altar of St. Nicholas continued to be paid to the prior and convent till **their** dissolution, when it was granted by king Henry VIII. to his new-founded D\ dean and chapter, who now possess **it**.

Patrons, Vicars.  
or by whom presented.

Bishop of Rochester Thomas Chamberlayn, in 1421./u

Edward Pulter, 1460./w  
Patricius Stanes, 1476./x  
Richard Sewster, alias Hewster,  
A. M. 1501./y  
James Deyer, A.M. 1624./z  
Elizeus Burgis, S. T. P. 1628./a  
Allen Atworth, 1649./b

/s See the monuments and inscriptions in this church at large in Reg. Roff. p. 721.

/t Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

/u Reg. Roff. p. 563. He was the first vicar, on the building of the church.

/w Regist. Prerog. Cant.

/x Official of the Archdeacon. Reg. Roff. p. 406.

/y Reg. Roff. p. 418, 426.

/z Ibid. p. 725.

/a Archdeacon of Rochester, and rector of Southfleet, by dispensation in 1628. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 56.

/b Parl. Surveys, Lambeth library, vol. xix.

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Bishop of Rochester .... Dixon, S. T. P./c

Robert Bayley, obt. October 8,  
1701./d

John Gilman, A. M. obt. Nov.  
17, 1710./e

Samuel Doyley, A. M. obt. May  
1748./f

.... Boyce, induct. May 16,  
1748, obt. Nov. 1751.

John Vade, A. M. obt. June  
1765./g

Charles Allan, obt. 1795.

William Wrighte, <+> 1795, the present vicar.

/c Preb. of Rochester.

/d He lies buried in this church.

/e Preb. of Rochester, and rector of Kingsdown. He lies buried in the cathedral.

/f He lies buried near the west door of the cathedral, but without any inscription.

/g In Jan. 1755, a dispensation passed for his holding this with Croydon.



There is a manor in this parish, called the manor of Ambree, Manerium Amberiæ, which is now part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, and formerly belonged to the priory. It was called the cellerer's court, and was held at le Ameribenche, i. e. the almonry bench, of the priory whence it acquired its present name.

In this parish, at a small distance southward of the castle, is a large mount, thrown up in antient times, called Bully-hill, on which there are several **genteel** houses built; the principal of which is situated on the summit of the mount, commanding a most delightful view of the river, both above and below the bridge, the navy, docks, &c. the cathedral, castle, and 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

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Gordon, esq. late M. P. for this city, and sheriff for this county in 1763. He resided here, and died possessed of it in 1776, leaving an only daughter and heir, and his widow, Mrs. Gordon, surviving, who is the present possessor of it./h

Satis is a seat which lies westward from that last-mentioned, nearer the river, **on the edge of the cliff**, at a considerable height from it. In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was the property and residence of Mr. Richard Watts,/i who represented this city in parliament, in the 5th year of that reign. He had the honour of entertaining the queen at his house here, in the year 1573, and the last day of her continuance in this city, as she was on her return from one of her excursions round the counties of Sussex and Kent. It is said that when Mr. Watts, at her departure, apologized for the smallness and inconvenience of his house, but ill suited for the reception of so great a princess; the queen, in return, made use of the Latin word Satis only; signifying by it, that she was very well contented with it; since which this house has acquired the name of Satis. After **his** death, his widow became possessed of it, and about six years afterwards married Mr. Thomas Pagitt, who enjoyed it in her right. She died **possessed** of it; after which, in pursuance of Mr. Watts's will, it was sold, and the money arising from the sale of it applied

towards the support of the alms-house, now called Watts's hospital, in this city. Who were the possessors of it afterwards, I have not found; but in Charles II's reign, it was owned by Mr. alderman George Wood-  
yer, who resided here./k His widow, Mrs. Martha Woodyer, of Shorne in this county, together with William Woodyer, her son, by deed, in 1698, conveyed this seat to Mr. Francis Brooke, and he at his

/h See the third volume of this history, p. 447.

/i He died here in 1579, and was buried in the cathedral, as has been already mentioned.

/k See more of the Woodyers, under Shorne, vol. iii. p. 447.

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death devised it to his son, Mr. Philip Brooke, who was succeeded in it by his son, Joseph Brooke, esq. late recorder of this city, who rebuilt the greatest part of it, he resided in it till the death of his uncle, Francis Brooke, esq. when succeeding to his seat at Town-Malling, he removed thither, <+> where he died in 1792, as did his widow Mrs. Brooke, in 1795. It is now the residence of John Longley, esq. recorder of this city.

Walker Weldon, of Swanscombe, owner of Rochester-castle, in 1722, conveyed to Mr. Philip Brooke, that part of the castle-ditch and ground, as it then lay uninclosed, on Bully-hill, being the whole breadth of the hill and ditch without the walls of the castle, extending from thence to the river Medway; under which title it descended, with Satis, to Mr. Joseph Brooke, who about fifty years ago filled up the ditch, within a few yards of the river, and planted it with trees, and it now forms a lawn to the front of the house. When the hill was levelled for the above purpose, many Roman urns, pateræ, lachrymatoræ, and other remains of that nation were found by the workmen; most of which were given to Dr. Thorpe, of this city.

The large mount or hill of earth, on which Mrs. Gordon's house and gardens are situated, in all 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, though it is not quite so large, and stands somewhat further from that castle.

By king 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,

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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./l (b).

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

The parish of St. Margaret is of large extent, and contains all the lands without the walls on the south side of the city, that are within the bounds of its jurisdiction. It is stiled in some records, St. Margaret's in Suthgate,/m (c), and in those of the city, the Borough of Suthgate./n (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 at some distance from it called St. Margaret's-bank, being a long row of houses, situated on a high bank at the north-east boundary of the parish, on the south side of the great London road to Dover, between St. Catherine's hospital in Rochester, and the Victualling-office, in Chatham. **These houses are within the manor of Larkhill. <+>**

There are several manors within the bounds of this parish, the most eminent of which is that of

Borstall, which was given to the church of Rochester and bishop Beornmod, in the year 811, by Cænulf, king of Mercia, as three plough lands.

This manor seems to have continued part of the possessions of the church of Rochester, without any interruption, till the time of the conquest. It is thus described in the general survey of Domesday, taken in

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

In the hundred of Rochester, the same bishop (of Ro-

chester ) holds Borchetelle. In the time of king Edward the Confessor it was taxed at two sulings, and now for one suling and an half. The arable land is four carucates. In demesne there are two carucates, and six vil-  
leins with three carucates. There are 50 acres of meadow, and two mills of 20 shillings. In the time of king Edward, and afterwards, it was worth six pounds, and now 10 pounds.

In Rochester the bishop had, and yet has, 24 plats of ground, which belong to Frindsbury and Borstal, his own manors. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, they were worth three pounds, now they are worth eight pounds, and yet they yield yearly 11 pounds and 13 shillings and four-pence.

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

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in 1255, it **appears** that the bishop had in the manor of Borstalle one hundred and forty acres of arable, estimated each acre at 4d. forty acres of salt meadow at 8d. each, and fourteen acres of salt pasture, each at 6d. **which, with** the rents of assise, **made the** total value of the whole manor 9l. 10s. 3d. the repair of the buildings yearly **amounting** to twenty shillings./o

This manor still continues in the possession of the bishop of Rochester; but the demesne lands are leased out by him to Mrs. Vade, of Croydon, in Surry.

By the agreement made between John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, and the bailiff and citizens of Rochester, in the 27th year of king Henry VI. concerning the

/o Reg Roff. p. 10, 64, 65, 133.

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limits of the jurisdiction of the city, according to the charter then lately made to them, this borough and manor of Borstall was declared to be exempt from the precinct of the hundred of Rochester, and **the** law-day of **it**, and from all payments, fines, suits, forfeitures and amer-ci-ments due **on that account**, as being within the liberty of the bishop, and his church./p

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

Robert Ernulf and Eadric **de** Borstalle, gave the tithes

of their lands in Borstalle to the priory, which were confirmed to it by several bishops of Rochester, and others./q (1). In **which** confirmations they are described, **as** the whole tithe of Borstalle of corn, and two parts of the tithes of the land of Ralph de Borstalle./r Eadric de Hescenden, with his wife and two sons, entered into the society of the monks of this priory, upon condition, that when they died, the monks should say a service for them, as for their brethren; and the monks were to have for ever the tithes of their lands in Borestealle and Freondesberie, but in corn only.

Several parcels of land, &c. lying within the manor or hamlet of Borstall, were likewise at times given to these monks. All these premises continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution of it, in 1540, when they were surrendered into the king's hands, and were settled by him, three years afterwards, on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they remain at present.

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

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

/p Reg. Roff. p. 575. /q Text. Roff. p. 166.

/r See Registrum Roffense, p. 481, and 482.

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stall. In the Textus Roffensis it is called Hescenden, and in Domesday, Essedene.

This manor was part of those vast possessions, with which William the Conqueror enriched his half-brother Odo, the great bishop of Baieux; accordingly it is thus entered, under the title of that prelate's lands, in the general survey of Domesday:

Rannulf de Columbels holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Essedene. It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is . . . . In demesne there is one carucate, and 19 villeins, with three borderers having three carucates. There are three servants, and 8 acres of meadow. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth three pounds, when he received it four pounds, now five pounds. Earl Leuvin held it.

It appears by the red book of the exchequer, that this estate in the reign of king Henry II. was held by Thomas de Nessingden of Daniel de Crevequer, as

one knight's fee of the old feoffment.

In the reign of king Edward I. this manor was become the property of Jeffry Haspale, whose descendant, John de Aspale, for so the name was then spelt, died possessed of Nashenden in the 31st year of that reign, holding it of the king in capite. After which it appears to have come into the name of Basing, and from thence quickly after into that of Charles.

Richard Charles, as appears by the inquisition taken after his death, anno 1 Richard II. died possessed of the manor of Naseden, which he held of the king in capite by knight's service, excepting forty acres of pasture and wood, which he held of the lord Grey, as of his manor of Aylesford; whose nephew, Richard, son of his brother Roger Charles, died possessed of it in the 11th year of that reign, holding it of the king in capite, as of his honor of Peverel and Hagenet, by knight's service.

Nicholas Haut afterwards possessed this manor, in right of his wife Alice, who was a descendant of the

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above-mentioned family. She held it for the term of her life with remainder to James Peckham, who on her death, in the 1st year of king Henry IV. came into the possession of it. He obtained the king's licence two years afterwards, to give and amortize to the wardens of Rochester-bridge, and their successors, this manor, and also one hundred acres of pasture, with their appurtenances in Ellesford, the manor then being worth yearly, and above all reprises 6l. 13s. 4d. per annum./s Since which it has continued part of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of the said bridge, for the support and repair of it. The present lessees of this manor are Leonard Bartholemew and Phil. Boghurst, esqrs. <+>

An account of the tithes of this manor will be given, with those of Little Delce in this parish./t

There was a chapel at this place, dependent on the parish church of St. Margaret./t

Great Delce is a manor which, with the estate now called Lower Delce, lies on the eastern side of this parish, about half a mile southward from Eastgate, in Rochester. It was formerly called Much Delce and Delce Magna, or Great Delce, and was given by William the Conqueror to Odo, bishop of Baieux, his half-brother, under the title of whose lands it is thus entered in the general survey of Domesday:

In the lath of Aylesford, in Rochester hundred, the son of William 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 king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, it was worth three pounds, and now 70 shillings. Godric held it of king Edward.

This manor afterwards came into the possession of a family, to which it gave name. Herebert, Gosfrid,

/s Archives of Rochester bridge. /t See p. 173.

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and Hugo de Delce possessed it in successive generations. After which it passed to Buckerel, and the heirs of Thomas Buckerel, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry III. held it as two knight's fees and a half, of Bertram de Criol./u After which this estate seems to have been separated into parcels, for Geoffry de Haspale held this manor as the fourth part of a knight's fee only, at the time of his death, in the 15th year of king Edward I. as appears by the inquisition taken for that purpose.

The next family who succeeded, as appears by the original deeds of this estate, was that of Molineux, descended from those of Sefton, in Lancashire; but they did not keep possession of it long, for by the evidence of an antient court-roll, Benedict de Fulsham was lord of it in the 30th year of king Edward III. His descendant, Richard Fulsham, held it of the king in capite, as the fourth part of a knight's fee, at his death in the 5th year of king Henry V. Soon after which this name seems to have become extinct here; for in the 9th year of that reign, Reginald Love died **possessed** of it, and his successor held it till the latter end of king Henry VI's reign, when it passed by sale to William Venour, **whose arms were**, Argent, on a fess sable five escallops or, three and two, **and** who died **possessed** of this manor in the 1st year of king Edward IV. After which it was within a few months conveyed by sale to Markham, descended from an antient family of that name in Nottinghamshire, in which name it staid but a very short time before it was sold to Tate, who passed it away to Sir Richard Lee, citizen of London, and grocer, who served the office of lord-mayor in the 39th year of king Henry VI. and the 9th year of king Ed-

ward IV./w He was the eldest son of John Lee, of Wolksted, in Surry, and grandson of Symon Lee, who

/u Book of Knight's Fees in the Exchequer.  
/w Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p\_ 122, 123.

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was descended of ancestors in Worcestershire, and bore for his arms, Azure, on a fess cotized or, three leopard's faces gules. He lies buried in the church of St. Stephen, Walbrook, his arms are remaining in East-Grinsted church, and in that of St. Dionis Backchurch, in London, with those of several marriages of his posterity; his son Richard Lee, seems to have had this manor of Great Delce by gift of his father during his life-time, and kept his shrievalty at this mansion in the 19th year of the latter reign, his son Richard Lee, who was both of Delce and of Maidstone, left two sons, the youngest of whom, Edward, was archbishop of York,/x and the eldest, Richard, was of Delce, whose only surviving son, Godfrey, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. procured his lands to be disgavelled, by the general act passed for this purpose,/y after which his descendants continued to reside here for several generations, but Richard Lee, esq. about the latter end of queen Anne's reign, passed away the whole of this estate, excepting the manor, and forty acres of land, to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, in this county, from which time this seat and estate acquired the name of Lower Delce.

Thomas Chiffinch, esq. died in 1727, and was succeeded by Thomas Chiffinch, esq. his only son and heir, who died without issue in 1775, and by his will bequeathed this, among his other estates, to his niece and heir-at-law, Mary, the daughter of his sister Elizabeth Comyns, who afterwards carried them in marriage to Francis Wadman, esq. of the Hive, in Northfleet, and he is the present possessor of Lower Delce. <+>

The manor of Great Delce, and the forty acres of land above-mentioned, together with a farm, called King's Farm, continued in the possession of Richard Lee, esq. who died possessed of them in 1724, and his grandson, Richard Lee, esq. of Clytha, in Wales, now

/x See his life in Biog. Brit. vol. i. p. 215.  
/y The descent of Lee is in Vist. co. Kent, 1619.

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possesses this manor; but in 1769, he alienated all



the demesnes of it, together with King's farm, to Mr. Sampson Waring, of Chatham, who died **possessed** of them in 1769, leaving his brother, Mr. Walter Waring, and his sister, Mrs. Smith, of Lower Delce, his executors, who are at this time entitled to the profits of them. The court for the manor of Great Delce has not been held for some years. <+>

The manor is held by castle-guard rent of Rochester castle; **but** when the mansion and most part of the lands were sold, as above mentioned, from Lee to Chiffinch, the former expressly charged the whole of that rent on the premises bought by Chiffinch, and entirely exonerated that part which he reserved to himself from paying any portion of it.

An account of the tithes of this manor, given to the priory of Rochester, may be seen under the **following** description of Little Delce manor.

Little Delce, or Delce Parva, now known by the name of Upper Delce, is a manor in this parish, situated in the high road between Rochester and Maidstone, somewhat more than a quarter of a mile from the former. This likewise, as well as that of Great Delce, was given by William the Conqueror to his half brother Odo, bishop of Baieux; under the general title of whose lands it is thus described in the book of Domesday:

In Rochester hundred, Ansgotus de Roucestre holds Delce of the bishop (of Baieux). It was taxed at one suling. The arable land is two carucates, and there are in demesne ..... with one villein, and five borderers, and six servants. There are 12 acres of meadow, and 60 acres of pasture. In the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards, and now, it was, and is worth 100 shillings. Osuard held it of king Edward.

This estate, on the disgrace of bishop Odo, most probably reverted again into the king's hands; and seems afterwards to have been in the possession of a

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family, who assumed their name, De Delce, from it, and held it of William de Say, as one knight's fee./z

In the reign of king John, this manor was in the possession of Jeffry de Bosco, a Norman; but when that province was seized by the king of France, the lands of the Normans, in this kingdom, became vested in the crown, by way of escheat or seizure, under

the title of, Terra Normanorum; thus the manor of Little Delce was seized by king John, in the 5th year of his reign, who gave it to William de Ciriton, the sheriff, for two hundred pounds, two palfreys, and two goss hawks,/a on condition, that if the said Jeffry should return to his allegiance, he should, without delay, again possess the same./b But this never happened, and this manor continued in the descendants of William de Ciriton. Odo de Cirinton died **possessed** of it in the 31st year of king Henry III. holding it of the king in capite, by the service of one knight's fee./c This family was extinct here before the middle of the reign of king Edward I. for in the 9th year of that reign, as appears by Kirkby's Inquest, Richard Pogeys held this manor. At the latter end of the reign of king Edward III. it was possessed by the family of Basing, from which name it went into that of Charles. Richard Charles died **possessed** of the manor of Little Delce, in the 1st year of king Richard II. leaving his brother's sons, Richard and John, his next heirs; the former of whom died **possessed** of it, anno 11 Richard II. and left a son, Robert Charles, who dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs, viz. Alice, married to William Snayth, and Joane to Richard Ormeskirk; and on the division of their estates, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, in right of his wife, Alice, the eldest of them. Soon after

/z Book of Knights Fees in the Exchequer. /a Austuris.

/b Madox's Exchequer, p. 295, note e.

/c Philipot, p. 294. Rot. Esch. anno 1 and 11 Richard II.

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which, Charles and William Snette, for so the name is spelt in the bridge archives, gave and amortized this manor of Little Delce, of the yearly value of six marcs, above all reprises, to the wardens of Rochester bridge and their successors, for the support and repair of the same. Since which it has acquired the name of Upper Delce, by which it is now only known, and it continues at this time part of the possessions of the wardens and commonalty of the said bridge, for the purposes above mentioned. The present lessees of this manor are Leonard Bartholomew and Philip Boghurst, esqrs. <+>

The tithes of Great and Little Delce, Borstal, and Nashenden, were given, in the time of bishop Gundulph, to the priory of Rochester.

Gosfrid de Delce, together with his wife and children, on their being admitted to be partakers of the benefits received from the prayers of the monks, gave the whole of the tithes of Little Delce, both great and small, to the priory of St. Andrew.

Ansgotus de Rovecestre accepted of the like benefit from the church of St. Andrew, and the monks there, in the time of bishop Gundulph, and gave to the church and monks **there**, all his tithes, both great and small, of Great Delce, and in like manner the whole **of his tithe** mill, and **of** a certain piece of land included within the wall of the monks, towards the south, and five acres of land near Prestefelde, and at **their** request, gave them, on his death bed, cloathing, and they performed service for him as for a monk.

Uulmer, the tenant of Arnulf de Hesdine, by the advice of Adelold, brother of Baldwin, monk of St. Andrew, accepted the benefit of that society, and gave to it his whole tithe worth ten shillings yearly. Robert de St. Armand gave his tithes of Neschen-dene and Borstelle to St. Andrew's priory. These several tithes were confirmed to the priory by **various** bishops of Rochester; by Theobald, archbishop, and

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Ralph, prior, and the convent of Canterbury. They remained part of the possessions of the priory till their dissolution in 1540; three years after which they were settled on the new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they still remain. <+>

The parish of St. Margaret, in Rochester, is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese and deanry of Rochester. The church is situated at the south extremity of St. Margaret's-street; it consists of one nave and two chancels on the south side of much later date than the church. That towards the east end was built and long supported by the family of Lee, of Great Delce, whose remains lie in a large vault under this chancel; but since the alienation of their mansion here, the repair of this part of the fabric has devolved on the parishioners. The chancel, at the east end of the church, belongs to the appropriator, who consequently repairs it. At the west end of the church is a tower, containing five bells; **it** is entirely covered with ivy to the top of it, which makes a most beautiful and picturesque appearance. Against the east wall, in the south chancel, is the ancient bust of a man in robes, with a co-

ronet on his head./d In the reign of king Charles II. a coronet, set round with precious stones, was dug up in this church yard; and the report of the parish has been, that one of our Saxon kings was buried here.

Among other monuments and inscriptions in this church are the following: In the chancel, a brass for Syr James Roberte Preest, obt. Sep. 24, 1540. A monument, arms, Head, impaling quarterly a chevron between three hawks belled or, for Francis Head, esq. eldest son of Sir Richard Head. bart. obt. 1678; he married the only daughter of Sir George Ent. In the north window, Argent, three crosses bottony fitchee sable, and argent on a bend quarterly, an escallop gules. In a pew, partly in the chancel and partly in the nave, Argent on a bend gules, between two pellets, three swans proper. In the nave, a brass for Tho. Cod, vicar, a benefactor to the steeple of this church, obt. Nov. 1465.

/d History of Rochester, p. 237. Harris's History of Kent, p. 196.

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In the chancel, south of the rectors, a monument, arms, Argent, a right hand couped sable, impaling Lee, for Thomas Manly, esq. the third son and heir of George Manly, of Lach, esq. he married Jane, second daughter of Richard Lee, esq. of Delce, and left one only son and two daughters, obt. 1690. In the east window, arms of Lee, Azure on a fess cotized, or three leopards heads gules. In a chapel, west of the Lee chancel, in the east wall, a bust of a person with a crown on his head, much defaced./e

At the time of bishop Gundulph's coming to the see of Rochester, and for almost a century afterwards, this church or chapel of St. Margaret, for it is frequently mentioned by both names, was accounted only as an appendage to the parochial altar of St. Nicholas in the cathedral, and the one underwent the same changes as the other;/f and Walter, bishop of Rochester, in 1147, confirmed the above mentioned parochial altar, together with this church of St. Margaret, which belonged as a chapel to it, to the monks of this priory, and appropriated it to them. This grant was set aside by bishop Gilbert de Glanville, in the beginning of the reign of king Richard I. who not only separated this church from the altar of St. Nicholas, and divested the monks of all manner of right to it; but on the foundation of his hospital at Stroud about the same time, he gave, in pure and perpetual alms, among other premises, this church of St. Margaret to the master and brethren of it, and appropriated it to them, reserving only half a marc yearly to be paid to the priory, in lieu of the oblations which the monks used to receive from it./g

The monks by no means acquiesced in this gift, but seized every opportunity of asserting their right to this church, and after several appeals to the pope from time to time, and confirmations and decrees made in favour of each party, /h the dispute seems to have

/e See the monuments and inscrip. at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 726.

/f See the account of St. Nicholas's parish above.

/g Reg. Roff. p. 631. This was confirmed by Pope Cœlestine III. in his 3d year.

/h Reg. Roff. p. 104. Wharton's Ang. Sacr. vol. i. p. 349.

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been finally settled in 1255, when the pope adjudged, that this church of St. Margaret, with all its appurtenances, should for the future belong to the prior and chapter of Rochester. Accordingly from the above time they kept possession of it.

From the time of bishop Walter's appropriation of the profits of the parochial altar of St. Nicholas, with this church appendant to it, to the prior and convent, to the divesting them of it by bishop Glanville, it is likely, instead of a curate being appointed, the duty of this parish was discharged by some member of the society, as it was probably afterwards, whilst in the possession of the hospital, by one of the priests of that foundation; however, within a few years after the convent recovered the permanent possession of St. Margaret's, a vicar was certainly appointed, for William Talevez occurs by that title in 1272.

The vicars seem to have had only a yearly stipend 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 appurtenances, to be assigned for the vicarage of it, and the accustomed and entire altarage of it, and all the small tithes of the three manors of Nessenden and Great and Little Delce, and of all goods and lands, except the tithes of mills, within the parish, and except the tithes, great, small, and mixed, arising from the lands, cattle, and other things belonging to the religious; and that he and his successors should have three quarters of wheat with three heaps, and three quarters of barley with three heaps, to be taken yearly at their barn, at the times therein mentioned, and the tithes

of sheaves, which should arise in gardens not cultivated with the plough; and that the vicar and his suc-

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cessors, content with the above portion, should not demand any thing further of the religious or their successors; and further, that he and they should undergo, at their own proper costs and charges, the burthens of repairing, maintaining, and new building, as often as need should be, the buildings, with their appurtenances, and all other things belonging to the said mansion, with its appurtenances, as well as all things belonging to the celebration of divine services, and the administration of the sacraments and sacramentals to the parishioners, and the finding of bread and wine, lights, books, vestments, and other ornaments necessary to the celebration of divine services, which of custom or right ought to belong to the secular rectors of this church; and also the procurations and subsidies, according to the taxation of his and their portion; but all other things whatsoever, belonging or which in future should belong to this church, as well as all tithes whatsoever, arising or to arise from the lands and possessions of the prior and convent within the parish, even though they should be let or sold to laymen, they the said prior and convent should take and have, who should likewise maintain and repair the chancel, except as before excepted, at their own proper costs and charges. Notwithstanding the stipulation of the vicar for himself and **his** successors, not to require any increase of their portion from the prior and convent, Edmund Hatefelde, vicar of this church, did not consider this clause as obligatory upon him; for in 1488, he petitioned the bishop for an augmentation of his vicarial portion, who decreed, that the vicar and his successors should yearly receive, as the portion of his vicarage, from the prior and convent, five marcs **in** money; and out of the tithes and profits of this church, appropriated to the prior and convent, four quarters of wheat with four heaps, and four quarters of barley with four heaps, to be taken yearly at their barns of the Upper court, in

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Harreat, with liberty of entry and distress on the parsonage on non-payment; and he decreed, that the endowment of the vicarage, over and above the por-

tion above mentioned, should be as follows, that the vicar for the time being should have the mansion of the vicarage of this church, with the garden adjoining, for his habitation, which they used to have of old time there, and then had; and all manner of oblations whatsoever within the bounds of the parish, and all manner of tithes whatsoever, as of hay, lambs, wool, mills, calves, chicken, pigs, geese, ducks, eggs, bees, honey, wax, cheese, milk, the produce of the dairy, flax, hemp, pears, apples, swans, pigeons, merchandizes, fisheries, pastures, onions, garlicks, and saffrons whatsoever arising and coming; and also the tithes of sheaves in gardens, whether cultivated with the plough or dug with the foot, increasing within the parish; and the tithes also of firewood, woods, thorns, silva cedua, as well as of all billets, faggots and fardels whatsoever, within the limits of the parish; and he further decreed, that the burthens of repairing, amending, and new building the mansion, with every appurtenance belonging to it, and the celebration and ministration of the sacraments and the sacramentals to the parishioners, of the finding of bread and wine, and lights to the church, either of right or custom due, should belong to and be borne by the vicar and his successors, as well as all episcopal burthens of the said church, according to the taxation of his portion. But that the burthen of repairing and amending the chancel of the church, as well within as without, as also the finding and repairing of books, vestments, and other ornaments, for the celebration of those divine rights, which of old, either by right or custom, belonged to the rectors of the church, should in future be borne by the prior and convent and their successors, at their own proper charge and expence; and that all other burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, of the

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vicarage, and to the vicar belonging, by reason of the same, except as before excepted, should belong to him and his successors, to be borne and supported at his and their own proper costs and charges; saving to the bishop and his successors, a right of augmenting and diminishing this vicarage, and of correcting, amending, and explaining the above decree, whenever he or they should think it expedient so to do; and saving to himself and his successors, all episcopal right, /i &c.

The appropriation of this church, and the patron-

age of the vicarage, continued part of the possessions of the prior and convent till the dissolution of the monastery, in 1540, when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who three years after, by his dotation charter, settled this appropriation and vicarage on his new-founded dean and chapter of Rochester, where they remain at this time. <+>

Adjoining to the north wall of the church yard is a piece of ground, which has probably belonged to the vicars of this parish ever since their first institution here; an antient court roll mentions their being possessed of it in the year 1317.

In the 5th year of king Edward III. John de Folkstan, vicar of St. Margaret's, held a messuage, with its appurtenances, adjoining to the church yard, by the assignment of the prior and convent, with the ordination of the bishop, as belonging to the portion of his vicarage; which messuage, with its appurtenances, was held of the master and brethren of the hospital of Stroud, by fealty, and the service of two shillings yearly, and also the payment of twelvecence to them, after the death of each Vicar./k

/i This instrument is dated on the feast of the Purification, in the year above mentioned, 1488. Reg. Roff. p. 578.

/k To both parts of which indenture the master and brethren put their common seal, as did the vicar, the bishop of Rochester, and the prior and convent theirs. Reg. Roff. p. 548.

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The vicars, I am told, now hold this piece of land of the dean and chapter, as of their manor of Ambree, on their paying a small acknowledgment.

The vicarage house being from age become irreparable, was taken down, with an intention of erecting a convenient and substantial dwelling in the room of it; for which purpose Mr. Lowth, the late vicar, for several years deposited an annual sum with the dean and chapter, towards defraying the charges of it; and about 1781, erected on this spot a neat and convenient house, built of brick and sashed, with proper offices adjoining, for the use of himself and his successors, vicars of this parish. By an agreement between John Ready, vicar of it, and the dean and chapter, the former, in consideration of several benefits and benevolences done to him by the latter, consented to take an annual payment of 5l. 6s. 8d. instead of the pension in money and corn, granted by the composition made in 1488. Some recompence



indeed has since been made for this unjust bargain by the dean and chapter, who have settled on it a larger augmentation than on any other church in their patronage. <+> The vicarage of St. Margaret is valued in the king's books at 10l. and the yearly tenths at 1l./l

In the survey, taken after the death of Charles I. in 1649, of the church livings within this diocese, by the powers then in being, on the intended abolition of deans and chapters, it was returned, that there were belonging to this rectory or parsonage, a parsonage-house, two barns, one stable, and other housings, and also certain tithes, profits, &c. belonging to it, together with certain glebe land, called Court-hill and Cour thill 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

/l Hist. Rochester, p. 237. Ect. Thes. p. 385.

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that piece of ground called Upper court, alias Hogshaw, containing one acre; in all seventeen acres, worth together 130l. per annum, viz. the house and lands, 12l. per annum, and the tithes 118l. per ann. all which were let, among other premises, by Henry King, late dean of the cathedral church of Rochester, by his indenture, in 1639, to George Newman, esq. for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent, for Preestfield and Stroud marsh, of 4s. 4d. per annum, and for all the other premises twelve quarters of wheat, heaped, making together the yearly rent of 31l. 1s. 8d. Next the vicarage was, in like manner surveyed, and returned at the yearly value of 30l./m

Patrons, Vicars.  
or by whom presented.

Prior and Convent of Rochester. William Talevaz, in 1272./n  
John de Folkstan, 1330./o  
John Eastgate, 1401./p  
Thomas Cod, obt. Nov. 1460./q  
Edmund Hatefelde, 1488./r  
John Wryte, 1535.  
Dean and Chapter of Rochester John Symkins, clerk, July 16,  
1555./s  
Christopher Dale, S. T. P. about  
1627./t  
..... Selvy, 1644.  
Wm. Sandbrooke, LL.B. 1644,

obt. March 1659./u  
Daniel Hill, S. T. P. 1726, obt.  
June 1729./w  
John Denne, S. T. P. instituted  
1729, resig. 1731./x

/m Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth  
library, vol. xiv.  
/n History of Rochester, p. 235.  
/o Reg. Roff. p. 548.  
/p Ibid. p. 559.  
/q He lies buried in this church.  
/r Reg. Roff. p. 578.  
/s One of the prebendaries of Ro-  
chester cathedral, he had been the last  
prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, and  
is said to have been deprived of his  
preferments by queen Mary, for being  
married.  
/t MSS. Twysden.  
/u Parliamentary Surveys, Lambeth  
library, vol. xix.  
/w And prebendary of Rochester.  
/x Archdeacon of Rochester, and  
vicar of St. Leonard, Shoreditch. He  
resigned this vicarage of St. Marga-  
ret's, on being presented to the rec-  
tory of Lambeth.

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Dean and Chapter of Rochester      William Lowth, A. M. Novem.  
1731, obt. Feb. 1795./y  
Arnold Carter, A. M. 1795. Pre-  
sent Vicar./z

/y Vicar of Lewisham, and preben-  
dary of Winchester, where he died;  
he was elder brother to the late bishop  
of London.

/z Vicar of West Peckham and mi-  
nor canon of Rochester; the former he  
resigned for this vicarage.

#### CHARITIES.

Excepting the share of Mr. Watts's charity, which this pa-  
rish enjoys, the donations to it appear to have been very few.

John Wryte, clerk, vicar of this parish, by deed, anno 28th  
Henry VIII. invested in trustees a piece of land in this parish,  
called Culverhawe, containing half an acre, adjoining to the old  
church yard northward, and to the highway eastward, for the  
use of the parishioners for ever, as a place of exercise and recre-  
ation.

Robert Gunsley, clerk, by will, in 1618, bequeathed to

the poor of this parish a piece of land in the parish of Hoo, containing six acres and one rood, now let at 5l. 5s. per annum.

John Manley, esq. by will, in 1687, gave to the poor windows of this parish 10s. per ann. to be given in wheaten bread.

On the east side of St. Margaret's-street is a poor house, erected in 1724, for the reception of the needy and indigent belonging to this parish; towards the building of which 200l. were appropriated, out of the 750l. given by Sir Thomas Colby and Sir John Jennings.

Rochester has given title to several families.

Sir Robert Carr, or Kerr, K. B. the favourite of king James I. was first created by letters patent, in 1611, Viscount Rochester, afterwards installed Knight of the Garter, and created Earl of Somerset. He died in 1645, leaving an only daughter Anne, who married William earl of Bedford, /a so that his titles became extinct.

Henry Wilmot, only son of Charles viscount Wilmot of Athlone, in Ireland, and lieutenant general of the king's horse, was, out of regard to his military

/a Dugdale's Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 425, et seq.

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conduct, first created, by king Charles I. in 1643, Lord Wilmot of Adderbury, in Oxfordshire; and afterwards, by king Charles II. for his faithful services during those unhappy times, Earl of Rochester, by letters patent, dated at Paris, in 1652. He died at Dunkirk in 1659, and his body was brought over and buried in Spellesbury church, in Oxfordshire. He left an only surviving son, John, who succeeded his father as earl of Rochester, &c. and for his bright parts and excellent wit, was usually styled, The witty earl of Rochester. He died in 1682, leaving three daughters his coheirs, so that for want of male issue, his titles became extinct./b

Laurence Hyde, 2d son of the great earl of Clarendon, lord chancellor in the reign of Charles II. was a person highly favoured and honoured by that prince, who being then viscount Hyde, was, by letters patent, in 1682, further advanced to the title of Earl of Rochester; after which he was made President of the Council; and on king James's accession, Lord High Treasurer and knight of the Garter. In the last year of king William's reign, he was made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and by queen Anne again Lord President of the Council. He died in 1711, and was

buried in Westminster abbey, leaving one son, Henry, and four daughters./c Henry, the son, succeeded as earl of Rochester, &c. as he did to the earldom of Clarendon on the decease of his first cousin, Edward earl of Clarendon, without male issue, in 1723. He left one son, Henry, viscount Cornbury, who died but a small time before him, and both of them without male issue, in 1753; so that this title became extinct.

Our herbalists have taken notice of the following rare plants in and near Rochester:

/b See his life, *Biog. Brit.* vol. vii. p. 193. *Bolton's Peer.* p. 242.

/c *Collins's Peerage*, 2d edit. vol. ii. p. 332.

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French mercury, close to the bishop's palace here./d -- Anchusa, alknott, or Spanish bugloss, found near and about Rochester. -- Piperitis, pepperwort, or dittander, found upon Rochester common. -- Chamæpitys vulgaris, or common ground pine, found near Rochester. -- Carylophylus sylvestris flore simplici suave rubens, the single red pink, growing on the castle walls.

CHARITIES, belonging to the City of ROCHESTER.

Few towns of so small an extent have been benefitted by so many and considerable donations for the relief of the poor as have been made to this city. As early as the reign of king Edward II. Symond Potyn, a man of no small account, who had several times represented this city in parliament, and dwelt at the inn, called the Crown, in Rochester, by his will, in 1316, bequeathed a house for an hospital, to be called the Spital of St. Catharine of Rochester, in the suburb of Eastgate, for such poor men or women of this city, lepers, or otherwise diseased, impotent, and poor, to be received therein, and there to abide on the alms of charitable people. This hospital escaped dissolution at the Reformation, and continued to be used as such, according to the will of the founder; but towards the end of the last century, abuses having been practised in the management of it, a complaint was lodged against the persons concerned, by the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of St. Nicholas; who alledged, that this hospital was become ruinous, and likely to go to decay, from the revenue of it being reduced by the mayor of this city, and the vicar of St. Nicholas letting the leases for small sums, and for a long term of years. On this representation, a commission of enquiry was granted by the court of chancery, which was held in this city, in 1704; when full proof being made of these iniquitous practices, the commissioners decreed, that the lessees should de-

liver up their leases, and accept of them for a shorter term, and should pay 100l. towards putting the hospital in proper repair, and for defraying the charges of the commission; and in order to prevent such like and other abuses in the management of this charity for the future, they decreed, that all leases of the possessions belonging to the hospital should be

/d Johnson's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 332. Merrett's Pinax, p. 23.

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let by the mayor and citizens, under their common seal, with the consent of the above mentioned vicar, as one of the patrons of it, for not more than twenty-one years; and that the yearly reserved rent, for the use of the hospital, should be at least two full thirds of the real and improved value of the premises demised; and further, that the dean and chapter, with the mayor and the vicar of St. Nicholas, should be the patrons and visitors of the hospital; and that the provider of the other charitable estates of this city should account for the revenue and disbursements of it. This hospital is situated in the High-street of the suburb of Eastgate, almost at the east end of it. It was rebuilt in 1717, and contains twelve apartments, which are occupied by the like number of aged people, beside their habitation, are allowed twelve chaldrons of coals and six dozen of candles yearly among them, and they are paid about 1l. 6s. a year each, out of the profits of the estates, after a deduction of the repairs of the hospital.

Alderman Bailey, of the city of Rochester, by his will, in 1579, gave 300l. in trust, for the poor of St. Catherine's, as an addition to their former allowance; which, with some further private contributions, enabled the trustees to purchase 400l. 3½ per cent. Bank annuities, the dividend arising from which is equally distributed among twelve poor inhabitants above mentioned.

Mr. Richard Watts, of Rochester, by his will, proved in 1579, ordered, that after the marriage or death of his wife, his principal dwelling house, called Satis, on Bully-hill, with the house adjoining the closes, orchards and appurtenances, his plate and furniture should be sold, and after some legacies paid thereout, the residue should be placed out at interest by the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the perpetual support of an alms-house, then erected and standing near the Market cross in Rochester, and that there should be added thereto six rooms, with a chimney in each, for the comfort and abiding of the poor within the city; and that there should be made therein convenient places for six good mattresses or flock beds, and other good and sufficient furniture for poor travellers or wayfaring men to lodge in, being no common rogues nor proctors, for no longer time than one night, unless sickness should detain them; and that the above mentioned poor folk dwelling therein should keep the same sweet and neat, and behave themselves civilly to the said poor

travellers; each of whom, at their first coming in, should have 4d. and should warm themselves at the fire of the poor

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dwelling in the said house, if need be. And further, to purchase flax, hemp, yarn, wool, and other necessary stuff, to set the poor of the city to work, he gave to the mayor and citizens all other his lands, tenements, and estates for ever, the annual rents of which at that time amounted to 36l. 16s. 8d. His widow and sole executrix, having married about si years afterwards, and doubts arising about the above will, it was agreed, that she should keep Satis, the furniture, &c. in consideration of which she should pay 100 marcs towards repairing the alms-house, and also all the monies bequeathed by her husband, and clear the land willed of all claims, and convey other lands of the yearly rent of 20l. and the mayor and citizens agreed to purchase hemp, &c. to set the poor to work, and to provide for travellers as directed; and it was agreed, that the succeeding mayors should provide a sufficient citizen to receive and disburse the yearly profits, under the name of provider, who should deliver an annual account to the dean and chapter or the Bridge wardens; and that the poor residing in the house should be put in by the mayor for the time being. In the above state this charity continued until the year 1672, when the parishes of St. Margaret's and Stroud exhibited a complaint in chancery, that they had no share in this charity, left to the poor of the city of Rochester, although part of their parishes was within the precincts and liberties of the same; that the estate in London was leased by Mr. Watts for ninety-nine years, at 8l. per annum, which lease expired in 1658; that by improvements it then yielded 200l. per ann. that the estates in Chatham brought in yearly 50l. above the original value, which was 20 marcs; in consequence of which a decree was made, that St. Margaret's parish should receive 30l. per annum till the lease of ninety-nine years of the estate at Chatham expired; that afterwards they should receive six parts out of thirty, which should from time to time be made by any improvements, over and above the said 30l. And that the parish of Stroud should receive 20l. on the same condition; and when the said lease expired, four parts out of thirty of the improved rents, together with the 20l. per annum; and the remaining twenty parts were decreed to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the relief of travellers and other charitable uses. The estates of this charity are now so much improved that they amount to near 500l. per annum. The house appointed for the reception of poor travellers is situated on the north side of the High-street, and is probably the original building. It was repaired by the mayor and citizens in

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1771, at no inconsiderable expence. Agreeable to the be-

nevolent 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 **Dorsetshire**, minister of the word of God, by a deed of gift, **in** 1613, gave to the mayor and citizens the sum of 50l. to be lent by them to two decayed citizens, tradesmen, living in this city; two other antient commoners there, being householders; and two poor maidens born within the same, for the term of four years, with such security, and in such manner as is therein mentioned.

Robert Gunsley, clerk, by his will, **in** 1618, gave in trust the rectory and parsonage of Broadhempston in Devonshire, and all lands, tithes, and commodities thereto belonging, to the intent, that presently after his decease, a licence of mortmain should be procured, and the same should be conveyed and assured to such persons as should be thought adviseable for the relief and comfort of the poor people, inhabiting in the parishes of Maidstone and Rochester, by equal portions, to be bestowed in bread every sabbath day to feed them, and in cloaths to cover them, according as the rents would allow, every year. The licence of mortmain was afterwards procured, and the rectory, with its appurtenances, conveyed accordingly. The half part of the present rents and profits of it, amounting to 15l. 15s. is yearly distributed among the poor people of Rochester, agreeable to the will of the donor; **which** makes a portion of the bread distributed in St. Nicholas's church, after sermon, every Sunday in the afternoon.

The trustees of the estate of Sir John Hayward, by the direction of his will, **in** 1635, settled by indenture, **in** 1651, 50l. per annum, for the benefit of the poor of St. Nicholas's parish, to be paid out of the manor of Minster, and certain other messuages, lands, &c. in the isle of Shepey. This was for the sole purpose of erecting a workhouse, or otherwise setting to work and employing the poor inhabitants of the said parish, and raising and continuing a stock of money and provisions for that purpose. These Shepey estates increasing in their rents and profits, Francis Barrell, esq. residuary trustee of Sir John Hayward's estates, in 1718, purchased 636l.

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South Sea stock, which he transferred to the mayor and citizens of Rochester, for the perpetual support of three charity schools, to be called, Sir John Hayward's charity schools. Two of these were directed to be in St. Nicholas's parish, for teaching 20 poor boys of that parish; the master to have 12l. per ann. the other for 20 poor girls of the said parish, the mistress to have 8l. per ann. The other school to be in

Stroud, the master or mistress to have 10l. per annum, for teaching thirty poor children of that parish and Frindsbury; and if any surplus of the dividends of the above sum should afterwards remain, he directed the same to be laid out in books or otherwise, to the advantage of the schools. The mayor, recorder, late mayor, senior alderman, and town clerk, and the ministers of the respective parishes, to be perpetual governors of this charity. There are no buildings erected for these schools, but the children are taught in the respective houses of the masters and mistresses. The above mentioned 636l. has since increased to the sum of 1100l. by additions, in lieu of dividends, and by others, made by Francis Barrell, esq. above mentioned.

Arthur Brooker, esq. by his will, in 1675, gave to the mayor and citizens an annuity of 4l. per annum, issuing out of a messuage and lands, in the parish of Alhallows, in the hundred of Hoo, 20s. thereof to be paid yearly to the minister of St. Nicholas, for an annual sermon in that church, on the day of his burial; the remaining 3l. to be distributed among the poor people of the same parish, 1s. per week in bread every Sunday in the afternoon; and the residue of 8s. to be given among such poor people as should be present the day whereon the sermon should be preached.

Dr. Lamplugh, bishop of Exeter, and sometime dean of Rochester, by a deed of gift, in 1678, gave 50l. to the mayor, the dean, and other trustees therein mentioned, for ever, in trust, to be lent to such young men, being freemen, tradesmen and inhabitants within the city of Rochester, as should be by them nominated, in sums not less than 5l. nor more than 10l. on such security as they should approve of, to be repaid within four years, according to the terms and conditions therein mentioned.

Sir Richard Head, bart. by his will, in 1689, gave several houses and lands, in the parish of Higham, to the mayor and citizens, to bestow the rents, first in keeping the premises in repair, and the residue in providing bread, to be weekly distributed on every Sunday in the afternoon, in St.

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Nicholas' church, among the most necessitous poor of that parish, by 2s. per week in bread, and the overplus to be divided at the year's end, among four of the most ancient poor men, and the like number of the most ancient poor women, of the same parish. These premises now bring in a clear yearly sum of 10l.

Francis Brooke, gent. town clerk of this city in 1697, forgave the mayor and citizens a debt of 50l. owing to him, in consideration of their paying an annuity of 4l. for ever out of their estates, to be distributed by their committee of charitable uses, which sum is now annually distributed to poor persons inhabiting this city.

Sir Joseph Williamson, one of the representatives in



parliament for this city, by his will, proved in 1701, gave 5000l. to be laid out by his executors, in purchasing lands and tenements, towards the building, and perpetually maintaining of a free school at Rochester, for the instructing and educating the sons of freemen of this city, in the mathematics and other things that might fit and encourage them to the sea service, or arts and callings relating thereto. This legacy was to be appropriated to the intended charity after the sale of the testator's Kentish estates, which was directed to be as soon as convenient, after his decease, before which the claimants were not entitled to any interest in the same. The mayor and citizens, on the delay of the executors to put this part of the will in execution, made many applications to them, but to no purpose, as they availed themselves of the discretionary power for the time of selling the estates vested in them, during which time the freemen's sons were in a worse situation than before Sir Joseph's decease, he having for many years employed a schoolmaster to instruct them at his own expence. In the latter end of the year 1703, the mayor and citizens exhibited their complaint in chancery against the executors for this delay. This cause was long depending in the court of chancery, but in 1708, a decree was obtained, by which it was ordered, that some small portions of Sir Joseph Williamson's estates, lying in Frindsbury, Shorne, and Higham, being appraised and valued with the approbation of both parties, should be immediately transferred to certain trustees, mentioned in the decree, and that the residue of the legacy should be paid at stated times to the said trust. This was at last complied with, but not without great trouble to those who prosecuted this affair on behalf of the city. The court of chancery likewise confirmed certain orders and con-

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stitutions for the settling and perpetual governing the school, wherein it is appointed, that the mayor of Rochester, the dean, the recorder, the master of the Trinity house, the commissioner of Chatham dock-yard, the two representatives for the city, the senior resident prebendary of the cathedral, the two wardens of the bridge, the late mayor, the senior aldermen, and the town clerk, should be for ever the ordinary governors of the same (five of whom at the least should be requisite to act) with power to choose the masters, and make and alter such rules, orders, and constitutions, as they should find necessary and convenient, so that the same should be approved of by the extraordinary governors, for which purpose they should have an annual meeting on the Tuesday next after Midsummer day; and that the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord high chancellor, or lord keeper, the bishop of Rochester, the lord or proprietor of Cobham-hall and park, and their successors for ever, should be the extraordinary governors and visitors of this charitable foundation, and should have power to act in any case, where the ordinary governors fail

in their duty, and finally to determine any differences that might arise between the ordinary governors and other the subordinate officers of this foundation. If the revenue of the estates will permit, the upper master was to be allowed 100l. per annum, and the under-master or usher, 40l. per annum. The school, with the master's house, is a handsome sashed brick building, well accommodated to the purpose. It is situated on the north side of the High-street, without the city wall, close to the spot where the east gate of the city formerly stood; but unfortunately a great part of the foundation of the building being laid in the rubbish that filled up the ditch of the city wall, the fabric from time to time gave way, which was attended with no small expence to the charity: But the estates and school are now in so flourishing a condition, that the masters receive their full salaries, and the charity is cleared of every incumbrance. Mr. John Colson, afterwards mathematical professor at Cambridge, was the first master of this school; and the celebrated actor, Mr. Garrick, whilst under his tuition here, shewed the early dawnings of his great genius; several instances of which are still remembered by several in Rochester.

Exclusive of the above benefactions for the education of youth, there is a voluntary subscription subsisting, for the educating several children of poor parents, who are not en-

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titled to the above free school. The number at present, who receive the benefit of them, is twenty-two.

Thomas Plume, archdeacon of Rochester, by will, in 1704, gave to the city of Rochester, 50l. to be lent on good security, by the mayor and aldermen, to five poor tradesmen, for ever, gratis.

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CATHEDRAL.

Page 150. Samuel Horsley, the present bishop of Rochester, was confirmed Dec. 7, 1793.

ST. NICHOLAS, in ROCHESTER.

Page 161. William Wrighte, the present vicar of St. Nicholas is A. M.

Page 162. Satis. Joseph Brooke in 1785 sold Satis to John Longley, esq. the present possessor of it.

Mrs. Gordon's house is at present unoccupied, and is to be sold.

Page 164. The houses in this parish are about 377, and there are about the same number of houses in St. Nicholas.

ST. MARGARET.

Page 168. The present lessee of Nashenden manor is Benjamin Hubble, by an assignment of the lease from Mark Hubble.

Page 170. Lower Delce has been alienated to Thomas Raikes, esq. who now owns it.

Page 171. Great Delce, with King's farm, is still possessed by the descendants of the family of Waring. Mrs. Dorothy Waring, and some children of it are now entitled to this estate.

Page 173. Richard Boghurst, sen. is the present lessee of Little Delce.

Page 174. The portion of tithes is now charged in the parsonage.

Page 179. The present lessee of the parsonage is Mrs. Jemima Bridges, in trust for Mrs. Campbell, Elizabeth Lill, James Roper Head, esq. and Miss Frances Mary Head.

Page 180. There is besides the payment of 5l. 6s. 8d. a large augmentation of 29l. paid by the lessee of the parsonage.